

## GENERAL AWARENESS-CURRENT AFFAIRS

### MONTH OF DECEMBER-2020

#### List of Important Days

- December 01 - Border Security Force (BSF) observing its 56th Raising Day.
- December 01 - World AIDS Day. (Theme - "Global solidarity, shared responsibility")
- December 02 - International Day for the Abolition of Slavery.
- December 02 - National Pollution Control Day.
- December 02 - World Computer Literacy Day.
- December 03 - International Day of Persons with Disabilities. (Theme - "Not all Disabilities are Visible")
- December 04 - International Day of Banks.
- December 04 - Indian Navy Day. (Theme - "Indian Navy Combat Ready, Credible & Cohesive")
- December 05 - International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development. (Theme - "Together We Can Through Volunteering")
- December 05 - World Soil Day.
- December 06 - Mahaparinirvana Divas.
- December 07 - Armed Forces Flag Day.
- December 07 - International Civil Aviation Day. (Theme - "Advancing Innovation for Global Aviation Development")
- December 09 - International Anti-Corruption Day.
- December 09 - International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of the Crime of Genocide and of the Prevention of this Crime.
- December 10 - International Human Rights Day. (Theme - "Recover Better-Stand Up for Human Rights")
- December 11 - International Mountain Day.
- December 11 - UNICEF Day.
- December 12 - International Universal Health Coverage Day. (Theme - "Health For All: PROTECT EVERYONE")
- December 12 - International Day of Neutrality.
- December 14 - National Energy Conservation Day.
- December 16 - Nation observes 49th Vijay Diwas (also called Victory Day).
- December 18 - Arabic Language Day.
- December 18 - International Migrants Day. (Theme - "Reimagining Human Mobility")
- December 19 - Goa Liberation Day.
- December 20 - International Human Solidarity Day.
- December 22 - National Mathematics Day.
- December 23 - India Observes National Farmer's Day.
- December 24 - National Consumer Rights Day. (Theme - "The Sustainable Consumer")
- December 27 - International Day of Epidemic Preparedness.

## Reserve Bank of India

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued an order to **HDFC Bank** with regard to certain incidents of outages in the **internet banking**, mobile banking and payment utilities of the lender over the past 2 years, the private sector bank informed to the stock exchanges.
- The six-member Monetary Policy Committee of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), headed by Governor **Shaktikanta Das**, has decided to maintain the status quo on policy rate amid sticky rate of inflation.
  - Repo rate - 4 per cent.
  - Reverse repo rate - 3.35 per cent.
- Recently, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to **extend liquidity adjustment facility (LAF)** to **Regional Rural Banks (RRB)** to make liquidity management more efficient.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to set up an **Automated Banknote Processing Centre (ABPC)** in **Jaipur** for the receipt, storage and dispatch of currency notes.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a monetary **penalty** of Rs 50.00 lakh on The **Urban Co-operative Bank Ltd** in **Kerala**.
  - This fine is imposed for non-compliance with directions issued on Income Recognition and Asset Classification (IRAC) norms and on Management of Advances-UCBs.
- Reserve Bank of India has further extended the **restrictions** on crisis-ridden **Punjab and Maharashtra Co-operative (PMC) Bank** by **three** months till 31 March 2021.
- The Reserve Bank of India has **cancelled** the **banking licence** issued to **Subhadra Local Area Bank Ltd.**, Kolhapur, Maharashtra to carry on banking business in India.

## Other Banks

- The private lender **ICICI Bank** has launched a new version of its mobile payment app called **iMobile Pay**, to offer payment and banking services to customers of any bank.
- The India Post Payments Bank (**IPPB**) along with Department of **Posts (DoP)** launched a digital payment application called '**DakPay**' on 15 December 2020, in an effort to provide Digital Financial inclusion at the last mile across India.
- **Canara Bank** has launched **FX 4 U** that enables its **entire internet banking** users to handle forex transactions hassle free.
- **ICICI Bank** has launched an online platform '**Infinite India**' to support foreign companies to establish or expand business in India.

## Central Government

- The Union Cabinet has approved a scheme called the Prime Minister's **Wi-Fi Access Network Initiative (PM-WANI)**, to improve wireless connectivity and pave the way for free wireless internet in public spaces across the country.
- The Cabinet approved the merger of **four** government-run film and media units – the Films Division, the Directorate of Film Festivals, the National Film Archives of India and the autonomous body Children's Film Society, with the National Film Development Corporation.

## States

- **West Bengal** Chief Minister, Mamata Banerjee has launched a massive campaign titled '**Duare Sarkar**' (government at doorsteps) to aware people about the 11 state-run welfare schemes and help them avail its benefits.
- The Union Territory of **Lakshadweep** has been declared as **Organic Agricultural Area** by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer's welfare.
  - The UT is second after **Sikkim** to achieve the status of 100% organic region.

- The Government of **Maharashtra** has approved the Unified Development Control and Promotion Regulations, (**UDCPR**), to strengthen and bring uniformity in the **real estate** construction laws of the state.
- **Karnataka** government has unveiled the Farmer Registration and Unified beneficiary Information System (**FRUITS**), an e-governance portal, to create a repository of farmland information and farm loan details on a single platform.
- **Punjab** Chief Minister Captain, Amarinder Singh has launched Mobile Application and web portal called '**PR Insight**', to improve the delivery of citizen-centric services, based upon the feedback of its citizens on government policies.

#### Place in the News

- **Odisha** Chief Minister, Naveen Patnaik has announced that **India's biggest hockey stadium** is being set up in Rourkela city of Odisha.
  - The stadium will be constructed in the **Biju Patnaik University of Technology campus**, Rourkela.

#### Personalities

- UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson has accepted the invitation to be the **Chief Guest** for 2021 **Republic Day parade**.
  - Johnson, on his part, has invited PM **Modi** to the **G-7 summit** in the United Kingdom next year.

#### Defence and National Security

- The **Indian Navy** (IN) and the **Russian Federation Navy** (RuFN) are undertaking **Passage Exercise** (PASSEX) in the Eastern Indian Ocean Region (IOR).
- **Himgiri**, which is the first of the three Project 17A ships being built at Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited (**GRSE**), Kolkata was launched.
  - The launch of 'Himgiri' has showcased GRSE's commitment towards the building of three state-of-the-art warships of P17A for Indian Navy.
- Indian Coast Guard's (ICG) Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV) '**Sujeet**', which is second in the series of 5 OPVs was commissioned at the **Goa Shipyard Limited** (GSL) in Vasco Town, Goa by Raj Kumar, Secretary (Defence Production).
- The 35th edition of **India-Indonesia** Coordinated Patrol (IND-INDO CORPAT) between the Indian Navy and the Indonesian Navy was conducted from 17 to 18 December 2020.
- The **Myanmar Navy** has officially inducted the submarine **INS Sindhuvir**, which was handed over by the Indian Navy to the country in October 2020.

#### Committees/Commissions

- The Parliamentary Standing Committee under the leadership a senior congress leader, **Anand Sharma** recently submitted its report, "Management of COVID-19 pandemic and related issues".
- Khadi and the Village Industries Commission (**KVIC**) has commissioned the **Monpa hand-made paper mill** in Tawang, Arunachal Pradesh.
  - Monpa handmade paper in Arunachal Pradesh is a traditional art that has been passed down and extinct.

#### Schemes/Initiatives

- Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas and Steel, **Dharmendra Pradhan** launched India's first indigenously developed '**100 Octane premium petrol**' through video conferencing.
  - The high-octane premium grade petrol will be marketed under the brand 'XP-100'.
  - It has been developed by Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) at its Mathura refinery in **Uttar Pradesh**.

- The Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, **Nitin Gadkari** has inaugurated the 1.5 km long **Koilwar** bridge over **Sone** river in **Bihar** through Video Conferencing.
- The Union Cabinet has given its approval for **Atmanirbhar Bharat Rojgar Yojana** (ABRY) to boost employment in the formal sector by encouraging the businesses to do fresh hiring amid the pandemic.
- The Union Minister of state for tourism and culture Shri **Prahlad Singh Patel** inaugurated the **Association of Buddhist** our operators International Convention in **New Delhi**.
- Bombay Stock Exchange (**BSE**) Ltd. has launched an electronic spot platform, “**BSE E-Agricultural Markets Ltd** (BEAM)”, for agricultural commodities through its subsidiary BSE Investments Ltd.
- The first **Maritime Theatre Command** (MTC) of India is to be launched in 2021.
  - This is important to counter Chinese ever-expanding naval foot-print in the Indian Ocean Region.
- Chief Minister of **Odisha**, Naveen Patnaik through a video conference, launched ‘**Pareshram Portal** along with 22 online services of Labour and Employees State Insurance Department.
  - The Portal and the Online Services shall be helpful in “Ease of Doing Business” and contribute significantly to the industrial development of the State.
- The Minister of State for Skill Development, **Raj Kumar Singh** has inaugurated the first Centre of Excellence (CoE) for ‘skill development in the power sector’ in **Gurugram**.
- The **Uttar Pradesh** government has launched a special campaign ‘**Varasat**’ (natural succession) to curb property & land-related disputes in rural areas.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will launch ‘**SEHAT**’ - Health Insurance Scheme for the entire Union Territory of **Jammu and Kashmir** on 26th December.
- Union Minister of Defence, **Rajnath Singh** has inaugurated the advanced **Hypersonic Wind Tunnel** (HWT) test facility of the DRDO in Hyderabad, **Telangana**.
- **NITI Aayog** has launched indigenously developed India’s first Digital Asset Management and Storage platform, called ‘**DigiBoxx**’.
  - The initiative will give a boost to Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s vision of ‘**Atmanirbhar Bharat**’, as India now has its own cloud storage platform.
- **Himachal Pradesh** Chief Minister **Jai Ram Thakur** has unveiled an 18-foot tall statue of late former Prime Minister Atal **Bihari Vajpayee** on the occasion of his 96th birth anniversary at the historic Ridge in the state capital.
- The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs on December 25, 2020, launched a new web portal and mobile app, **e-Sampada** to boost transparency and accountability while ensuring ease of living for the citizens of India.
- PM Modi launched the Social Endeavour for Health and Telemedicine- **SEHAT scheme** in UT of Jammu & Kashmir on December 26, 2020.

#### Summit/Conference

- The **World Economic Forum** (WEF) has decided to host its 2021 annual meeting in **Singapore**, which earlier was scheduled to take place in Lucerne-Burgenstock, Switzerland from 13-16 May 2021. The decision to shift the annual forum from Switzerland has been taken in view of the Covid-19 situation in Europe.
- **India** and **Uzbekistan** held virtual summit to discuss bilateral relations. The summit mainly focused on extremism, terrorism and radicalism.
- The first India **Water Impact Summit** began on December 10, 2020.
  - Theme - Comprehensive analysis and Holistic management of rivers and water bodies with a focus on Arth Ganga.

- The 9th edition of Sustainable Mountain Development Summit (SMDS) held in **Dehradun**, Uttarakhand.
  - Theme - 'Emerging Pathways for Building a Resilient Post COVID-19 Mountain Economy, Adaptation, Innovation and Acceleration'.
- Prime Minister Narendra **Modi** laid the foundation stone of the 30,000-megawatt (MW) capacity hybrid renewable energy park in **Kutch** district of **Gujarat**.
  - It will be the largest renewable energy park of its kind in the world.
- PM Modi held a virtual summit with the Prime Minister of **Vietnam**, Nguyen Xuan Phuc on December 21, 2020, to discuss the future development of the comprehensive strategic partnership between the two nations.
- The Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently addressed the sixth **India-Japan Sanwad** Conference through video conferencing.

### Agreement/Deal/Signed

- The Government of **India** and the United States of America (**USA**) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in the field of **Intellectual Property Cooperation**.
  - As a part of this MoU, the two sides will develop **Biennial Work Plan** to implement.
- **Bangladesh** has signed its first Preferential Trade Agreement (**PTA**) with **Bhutan**, which will allow duty-free access to a range of goods between the two countries and hence boost bilateral trade between them.
- **RBL Bank** and **ICICI Prudential** have joined hands under a **bancassurance** partnership.
- The SoftBank-backed mobility platform, **Ola** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Tamil Nadu** government, to set up its first factory in the state, at an investment of Rs 2,400 crore.
- A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between **India** and **Austria** on Technology Cooperation in **Road Infrastructure** Sector in **New Delhi**.
- **Bank of Baroda** (BoB) has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with **Indian Navy** and **Indian Coast Guard** under which the bank would offer customized services along with a host of facilities to account holders.
- The **UN Women** and **Kerala** government have collaborated to establish India's first **Gender Data Hub**.

### Meet/Visit

- General Wei Genghe of the People's Liberation Army visited the **Pakistani** army headquarters located at Rawalpindi.
  - They also discussed about the China Pakistan Economic Corridor in which the Pakistani army has a greater role.
- The Narcotics Control Bureau (**NCB**), India and the Central Committee on **Drug Abuse Control**, **Myanmar** conducted the 5th edition of the India- Myanmar Bilateral Meeting on Drug Control Cooperation.
  - The Indian delegation was led by the Director-General Narcotics Control Bureau, **Shri Rakesh Asthana**.
- **Indian** Prime Minister Narendra Modi and **Uzbekistan** President Shavkat Mirziyoyev co-chaired the **virtual Summit** held between the two countries, to strengthen strategic partnership among them.
  - The Government of India also approved a US **\$448 million** Line of Credit for four developmental projects in Uzbekistan in the fields of road construction, sewerage treatment and information technology.

- The **Norwegian** Institute of Bioeconomy Research (**NIBIO**) has signed an MoU with **cGanga**, a think-tank of National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) for development of sludge management framework in **India**.

### Bills

- The **Gujarat Land Grabbing Prohibition Act** came into force in the state on December 16, 2020.
  - A special committee will be formed to ensure comprehensive scrutiny of complaints received under the Act. The committee will comprise seven officers and will be chaired by the District Collector.
- The Union Ministry of Power recently drafted the **Electricity (Rights of Consumers) Rules, 2020**.
  - These rules are being drafted for the first time in the Indian history.
- The **Assam** Cabinet recently approved the bill to make **Bodo** an official language of the state.
- The **Madhya Pradesh** cabinet recently approved the **Religious Freedom Bill, 2020**.
  - Under the bill, forcing religious conversions will attract fine of Rs 25,000 and one to five years of imprisonment.
- The **Assam** Government recently tabled a **bill** that will **abolish** all the state-run Madrassas and will convert them into schools from April 1, 2021. The bill is called Assam Repealing Bill, 2020.

### Fund

- The Government of **India** recently signed **133 million** USD loan Agreement with the **Asian Development Bank**.
  - Agreement was signed to strengthen the power distribution sector in the state of **Meghalaya**.
  - Also, the loan is to be supplemented with a 2 million USD grant from the Asian Development Bank **Japan** fund for **poverty reduction**.
- The Asian Development Bank (**ADB**) and the Government of **India** have inked **\$50 million** policy-based loan agreement to improve financial management procedures and operational efficiencies in **West Bengal**.
  - Titled as the 'West Bengal Public Finance Management Investment Programme'.
- **Asian Development Bank** (ADB) has approved a **USD 2.5 million** (about Rs 18 crore) technical assistance to support advanced **biofuel development** in India.
- The Manila-based **Asian Development Bank** (ADB) has launched an initiative called, the **Asia Pacific Vaccine Access Facility** (APVAX), for its developing member countries.
  - The bank has allocated **USD 9 billion** for APVAX.
- The Government of **India** and the **World Bank** have signed a **\$400 million** project to protect vulnerable groups in urban and peri-urban areas across the country impacted by COVID-19.
- The Government of **India** and the **New Development Bank** (NDB) have signed a loan agreement worth **\$1,000 million** for 'supporting **India's economic** recovery from COVID-19'.
- The **Asian Development Bank** (ADB) has signed **\$300 million** loan agreement with the Government of India to upgrade rural power distribution networks in **Uttar Pradesh**.
- The Asian Development Bank (**ADB**) has announced to provide **Rs 2,100 crore** loan to the **Tripura** government for the development of urban areas and tourism in the northeastern state.
- The Indian government on December 22, 2020, signed a loan pact of **\$500 million** with the **World Bank** for the development of safe and green national highway corridors in Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Himachal Pradesh.
- The United States International Development Finance Corporation (**DFC**) has announced to invest **\$54 million** in **India** to support the development of critical infrastructure projects in the country in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

## Companies/Industry

- The Union Cabinet recently approved revised guidelines for **Direct to Home (DTH) broadcasting services**.
  - The guidelines allow **100%** Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in DTH.
- **Adani Ports** and Special Economic Zone Limited crossed Rs. **1 trillion** in market capitalization after its shares hit a record high, up more than 34% so far this year.
  - This is the **second Adani Company** after **Adani Green Energy** to have crossed the mark.
  - Adani Ports also recently acquired **Krishnapatnam Port** for an enterprise value of Rs. 12,000 crore.

## Space

- **China** has become the **second** country in the world to **unfurl** its **national flag** on the **moon** surface.
  - China achieved the historic feat when 'Chang'e 5' probe of China.
- Indian Space Research Organization (**ISRO**) launched a communication satellite **CMS-01**, formerly named **GSAT-12R**, on December 17, using its Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) rocket's XL variant numbered as **PSLV-C50**.
- **NASA** and the **European** Space Agency (ESA) have selected Indian-American **Raja Chari** to be the Commander of the SpaceX Crew-3 mission to the International Space Station.
- The Indian Space Research Organization (**ISRO**) has set up a dedicated Space Situational Awareness (**SSA**) Control Centre named "**NETRA**", at its ISTRAC campus at Peenya, **Bengaluru**.
- **USA's** plan to set up the **first nuclear reactor** on the **moon** by the end of **2026**.

## Science and Technology

- The **HL-2M Tokamak** reactor is **China's** largest and most advanced nuclear fusion experimental device.
  - Located in southwestern Sichuan province, the reactor is often called an "**artificial sun**" because of the enormous heat and power it produces.
- The **Total Solar Eclipse** on December 14, 2020 was the last solar eclipse of this year.

## Health/Diseases/Drugs

- The **European Union** has approved the use of **Pfizer** and **BioNTech's** **COVID-19 Vaccine** for individuals 16 years of age or above.
- The **Serum** Institute of India recently unveiled the first indigenously developed **Pneumococcal Vaccine** called **Pneumosil**.

## Energy/Gas/Oil

- The **Azad Pattan** project is a hydropower project that is to be constructed in **Pakistan** occupied Kashmir.
  - It is to be built on the **Jhelum** River and will have the capacity to generate 700 MW of hydroelectricity.
  - This is a 1.35 billion USD project that is to be jointly undertaken by China and Pakistan as a part of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).
- India's first **Lithium refinery** is soon going to be set up in **Gujarat**.
  - Manikaran Power Limited, one of the country's largest power trading and renewable energy company will invest around Rs 1,000 crore to set up this refinery.

## Environment

- The world's highest mountain peak '**Mount Everest**' has become taller by **86 cm**, as per a survey conducted jointly by **Nepal and China**.

### Transport/Cars/Scooters

- The **Indian Railways Authority** issued a **Draft National Rail Plan** to address the deficiencies in capacity restrictions and increase its modal share.
- The **first driverless train** operations in **India** were initiated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on December 28, 2020. The train is operated on the **Delhi Metro's Magenta Line**.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagged off the 100th **Kisan Rail** from **Sangola** in Maharashtra to Shalimar in West Bengal through video conferencing.

### Festival

- The 9th edition of the **International Sand Art Festival** and the 31st edition of the **Konark Festival** has kicked-off in **Odisha**.
  - The world-renowned sand artist and Padmashree Awardee, Sudarsan Pattnaik, has been appointed as Chief Curator of the festival.
- **Bihar** is planning its first ever **migratory bird festival** this year. This is a three-day festival to be organized in **Bhagalpur** District.

### Media/I.T/Telecommunication

- Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (**BSNL**) has partnered with **Skylotech India** (Skylo), a global machine connectivity solutions company, to launch satellite-based narrow band-Internet of things (NB-IoT).
  - This initiative is the world's first satellite-based NB-IoT network.

### Appointments/Election (or) Latest who is who?

- The Government of India has appointed IAS officer **Varsha Joshi** as the new Chairperson of National Dairy Development Board (**NDDB**).
- Lok Sabha Speaker **Om Birla** has appointed senior IAS officer **Utpal Kumar Singh** as Secretary-General of the Lok Sabha and Lok Sabha Secretariat.
  - He will succeed incumbent **Snehlata Shrivastava**.
- Footwear major **Bata** Shoe Organization has appointed **Sandeep Kataria** as the new global Chief Executive Officer (CEO).
  - He takes over from **Alexis Nasard**, who has stepped down after almost five years in the role.
- Lt Gen **Rajeev Chaudhary** has been appointed as the 27th Director General of Border Roads Organization (BRO).
  - Lt Gen Chaudhary succeeds Lt Gen Harpal Singh who has been appointed as the new Engineer-in-Chief of the Indian Army.
- Srinagar born **Wushu coach** and the first Dronacharya Awardee from the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, **Kuldeep Handoo** is appointed as the **Ambassador** of **Fit India** movement.
- The Athletics Federation of India (**AFI**) appointed **Radhakrishnan Nair** as the full-time coach of **athletics**.
- US-based Indian-origin health expert, **Anil Soni** has been appointed as the first Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the newly-created "The World Health Organization (WHO) Foundation".
- **Zena Wooldridge** from **England** has been elected as the **World Squash Federation President**.
- The International Golf Federation (**IGF**) elected **Annika Sorenstam** as its new president effective January 1, 2021.
  - IGF President, **Peter Dawson**, is stepping down after 10 years of leadership and service.
- **Kuwait** Emir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah has re-appointed **Sheikh Sabah Al-Khalid Al-Sabah** as **prime minister**.

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the re-appointment of **Uday Kotak** as Managing Director of **Kotak Mahindra Bank** for a further period of three years, with effect from January 1, 2021.
- The CEO of Prasar Bharati, **Shashi Shekhar Vempati** has been elected as the Vice President of **Asia Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU)** for a period of three years.
- Managing Director of logistics major Transport Corporation of India Limited, **Vineet Agarwal** has taken over as the new President of The Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (**Assocham**).
- Senior IPS officer, **Satyendra Garg** has assumed Andaman and Nicobar DGP charge.

#### Resignation/Dismissed/Retired/Quit

- India's wicketkeeper-batsman **Parthiv Patel** has announced his retirement from all forms of cricket.

#### Deaths

- Senegal's professional footballer, **Papa Bouba Diop**, who helped the country win the FIFA World Cup match in 2002, has passed away.
- Renowned physicist, businessman and Sikh activist **Narinder Singh Kapany** passed away.
  - He was called the 'father of fiber optics' and had more than 100 patents in his name.
- Telangana Rashtra Samithi party's senior leader **Kamatham Ram Reddy** passed away.
- **Ravi Patwardhan**, a popular face in Marathi entertainment industry, has passed away.
- Eminent Hindi writer, **Madhukar Gangadhar** passed away.
- **Paolo Rossi** of Italy, who scored 6 goals in the 1982 World Cup, passed away.
- Noted Indian wrestler, **Sripati Khanchanale**, who had won the prestigious 'Hind Kesari' title in 1959, passed away.
- Eminent aerospace scientist and Padma Vibhushan awardee **Roddam Narasimha** died of brain haemorrhage at a private hospital in Bengaluru.
- Former Australia Test all-rounder, **Eric Freeman** has passed away.
- Eminent aerospace scientist and Padma Vibhushan awardee, **Roddam Narasimha** has passed away.
- Senior Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) ideologue, **MG Vaidya** has passed away.
- Renowned poet and activist, **Sugathakumari** passed away.
- Former English first-class batsman **John Edrich** has passed away.
- Legendary Urdu poet and critic, **Shamsur Rahman Faruqi** has passed away, a month after recovering from COVID-19.
- Former professional wrestler **Jon Huber**, who was popularly known by his ring name 'Luke Harper' in the WWE has passed away.

#### Awards/Honours

- The Indian-American young scientist and inventor, **Gitanjali Rao**, has been named as the first-ever '**Kid of the Year**' by the iconic **TIME** magazine.
  - This is the first time that the TIME magazine has launched the '**Kid of The Year**' award.
- US President-elect, **Joe Biden** and Vice President-elect **Kamala Harris** have been jointly named Time magazine's 2020 "**Person of the Year**".

- **Ranjitsinh Disale**, a government teacher from Zilla Parishad Primary School, in Paritewadi village, Solapur district of **Maharashtra**, has won the 2020 **Global Teacher Prize**.
- An indigenous **Karen** activist who spearheaded establishing a sprawling conservation zone in eastern **Myanmar** has been awarded the 2020 **Goldman Environmental Prize**.
- **Adar Poonawalla**, the Chief Executive of the Pune-based Serum Institute of India (SII), has been named among **six** “The Straits Times **Asians of the Year**” for 2020, by Singapore’s leading daily, The Straits Times, for their work in fighting the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Journalist-author, **Raj Kamal Jha** has won the 3rd **Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize** for his novel, “The City and The Sea”.
  - Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the winner was announced online in Copenhagen, **Denmark**.
- The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (**ICAR**), has won the prestigious International King Bhumibol **World Soil Day Award** for 2020.
  - The award was presented annually by the Food and Agriculture Organization (**FAO**).
- The year 2020 **Ramanujan Prize for Young Mathematicians** was awarded to **Dr Carolina Araujo**, Mathematician from the Institute for Pure and Applied Mathematics (IMPA), Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.
- The United Nations Conference on Trade & Development – **UNCTAD** recently announced “**Invest in India**” as the **winner** of the 2020 United Nations Investment Promotion Awards.
- The historical fort cities of **Gwalior** and **Orchha** in Madhya Pradesh have been included in the list of **UNESCO’s world heritage** cities under its The World Heritage Cities Programme.
- Indian actor, **Sonu Sood** has **topped** the first-of-its-kind ‘**50 Asian Celebrities in The World**’ 2020 list, published by UK based Eastern Eye newspaper.
- **Ashraf Patel**, the founder member and Board member of Pravah and ComMutiny – The Youth Collective (CYC) has been declared as the winner of the **Social Entrepreneur of the Year (SEOY)** Award – India 2020.
- Steel Authority of India Limited (**SAIL**) has been awarded with the prestigious **Golden Peacock Environment Management Award** for the year 2020 in the Steel Sector by the Institute of Directors.
- The United Nations Environment Programme on December 15, 2020, named **seven** young engineers, scientists, activists, and entrepreneurs from all over the world as its **Young Champions of the Earth 2020**.
  - The list of the winners also includes **Vidyut Mohan**, a 29 years old entrepreneur from India and co-founder of ‘Takachar’, an enterprise that enables farmers in preventing the open burning of waste farm residues.
- Veteran industrialist, **Ratan Tata** honoured by the **Indo-Israel Chambers** of Commerce for promoting innovation that supports sustainability and peace in the region, including with the Palestinians.
- **Nehru Zoological Park**, Hyderabad, with its standard working procedures, has acquired ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management Standards Certification from ASCB, UK.
- The UNESCO (United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization) has recently recognized “**Hawker**” culture of **Singapore** and has included it under the list of intangible cultural heritage.
  - The list also includes Chinese Calligraphy, Yoga and Flamenco.
- **Singapore’s street food** has been added to the **UNESCO list** of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.
- The week-long Associated Chambers of Commerce of India (ASSOCHAM) Foundation Week was organized from 15 to 19 December 2020.
  - Theme - ‘India’s resilience: Atmanirbhar roadmap towards \$5 trillion economies.’

- **Ratan Tata** honoured with “ASSOCHAM Enterprise of the Century Award”
- US President **Donald Trump** has presented America’s highest military decoration, ‘**The Legion of Merit**’, to Prime Minister **Narendra Modi**.
- Country’s largest power producer, National Thermal Power Corporation Limited (NTPC) has been conferred “**Excellence**” in the prestigious **CII-ITC Sustainability Awards 2020** in Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Domain.
  - NTPC has been honoured in the Corporate Excellence Category, Commendation for Significant Achievement.
- Srinagar based **Amar Singh** College has been recognized with the ‘**Award of Merit**’ in the 2020 UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation.
- The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has selected **Vishakhapatnam Municipal Corporation** as the **best performing civic body**.
  - Vishakhapatnam was placed under the Annual Awards for Excellence that recognizes outstanding contribution of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban in 2019.
- Swedish pole vaulter **Mondo Duplantis** and Venezuelan triple jumper **Yulimar Rojas** are the 2020 Male and Female **World Athletes of the Year**.
- Indian athletes, **Bajrang Punia** (Freestyle-Wrestling) and **Elavenil Valarivan** (Shooting), bagged the top honours at the virtually held **FICCI India Sports Awards 2020** on the back of the 10th Global Sports Summit.
- The Bayern Munich striker, **Robert Lewandowski** has been named The **Best FIFA Men’s Player 2020**, beating off competition from last year’s winner Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo.
- Formula One champion **Lewis Hamilton** was named as **BBC’s Sports Personality of the Year**.
- **M S Dhoni** won the **ICC Spirit of Cricket Award of the Decade** for his gesture of calling back England batsman Ian Bell after a bizarre run out in the Nottingham Test in 2011.
  - The incident won the **ICC Spirit of Cricket Award** in 2011.

#### Sports/Game

- **Lewis Hamilton** (Mercedes-Great Britain) has won the 2020 **Bahrain Grand Prix** at Bahrain International Circuit, Bahrain.
- **Jehan Daruvala** created history by becoming the first-ever Indian to win a **Formula 2** race during the **Sakhir Grand Prix** in Bahrain on December 6, 2020.
- **Sergio Perez** (Mexico-Racing Point-BWT Mercedes), won the 2020 **Sakhir Grand Prix** at the Bahrain International Circuit in Sakhir, Bahrain.
  - **Esteban Ocon** (Renault-France) secured the **second** position, followed by and **Lance Stroll** (Racing Point-BWT Mercedes-Canada) at third place.
- **Max Verstappen** (Red Bull - Netherlands) won the season-ending **Abu Dhabi Grand Prix 2020**, held in **Abu Dhabi**, United Arab Emirates.
- The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has registered ‘**Breakdancing**’ as the newest entry into **Olympics** and an official Olympic sport, with the aim to attract a new and younger audience.
- Indian Tennis player, **Ankita Raina** clinched her third doubles title of the season after she won the 2020 **Al Habtoor Tennis Challenge** jointly with her Georgian partner **Ekaterine Gorgodze** in **Dubai**.
- The **Sports** Ministry has formally recognized **Yogasana** as a **competitive sport**.
- The Sports Ministry has approved the inclusion of **four** indigenous Games to be a part of **Khelo India Youth Games 2021**, scheduled to take place in **Haryana**.
  - The games include, **Gatka, Kalaripayattu, Thang-Ta** and **Mallakhamba**.

- **Virat Kohli** became the fastest to reach 12,000 runs in One-day International cricket.
  - He got to the milestone in his 242nd inning thus bettering the previous record set by Sachin Tendulkar, who got his 12000th run in his 300th inning.
- **Dawid Malan** of England has attained the highest-ever rating points for batsmen in the **MRF Tyres ICC Men's T20I Player Rankings**.
- The ICC released the latest rankings for **Test batsmen**. **New Zealand** captain **Kane Williamson** dropped one place to be ranked **third**, while Team India vice-captain **Ajinkya Rahane** jumped one place to enter into the **top 10**.
  - Rahane (tenth), Cheteshwar Pujara (seventh) and **Virat Kohli** (**second**) are the three Indians in the top 10.
- Indian Captain **Virat Kohli** won two prestigious awards at the ICC Awards of the **Decade**.
  - The two awards are Sir Garfield Sobers award for **ICC Male Cricketer** of the Decade and **ICC Men's ODI Player of the Decade**.
- **Madagascar** has replaced the **Maldives** as the host of the **2023 Indian Ocean Island Games** due to concerns over the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The **International Hockey Federation** (FIH) had announced that the **2023 FIH Men's Hockey World Cup** will be hosted in **Odisha**, for a second consecutive time.
  - The tournament will be held at two venues, Bhubaneswar and Rourkela.
- The **2030 Asian Games** were awarded to **Doha**, Qatar and the **2034** event went to **Riyadh**, **Saudi Arabia** after a deal was struck between the rival nations.
- Indian wrestler, **Anshu Malik** has become the first wrestler of the country to finish on the podium position at the **Individual Wrestling World Cup** in Belgrade, Serbia.
  - The 19-year-old won a **silver** medal in the women's 57kg category to claim first international medal of the tournament for the country.
  - She lost to Moldova's **Anastasia Nichita** in the final.
- **Sri Lanka** will host the **Asia Cup** in June 2021 while **Pakistan** has earned the rights to host the tournament in 2022.
  - As per the original schedule, the tournament was supposed to be hosted by Pakistan in 2020, however, it got postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

## Report

- According to the recently released **US Air Quality Index**, **Lahore** has once again topped the list of world's **most polluted cities** in the world. The report says that the particulate matter rating of Lahore was 423.
  - Lahore was followed by **New Delhi** with a particulate matter rating of 229.
  - **Kathmandu**, the capital city of Nepal ranked third with a particulate matter rating of 178.
- Mukesh Ambani-led **Reliance Industries** has **topped** the **Fortune India-500** list for the second straight year, accounting for seven per cent of cumulative revenues and 11 per cent profit of the companies featured.
  - This year, **ICICI Bank**, ranked **nine** and **Larsen & Toubro** at **10** made it to the top 10.
  - Top 5: Reliance Industries, Indian Oil Corporation, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation, State Bank of India, & Bharat Petroleum Corporation.
- HCL Tech's Chairperson **Roshni Nadar Malhotra** is India's **richest woman** with a net worth of Rs. 54,850 crore, according to 'Kotak Wealth Hurun - Leading Wealthy Women' list.
  - Biocon Chairperson **Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw** is India's second-richest woman with Rs. 36,600 crore wealth, followed by USV Chairperson **Leena Gandhi Tewari** with Rs. 21,340 crore wealth.
  - Divi's Laboratories' **Nilima Motaparti** came in fourth.

- The Ministry of Home Affairs recently released the annual ranking of police Stations in India.
  - The annual ranking is being done since 2015.
  - **NongpokSekmai police** station in Thoubal district of **Manipur** was ranked as the **best** performing police station in the country.
  - The All-Women Police Station of **Suramangalamin** Salem city of Tamil nadu was ranked **second** in the list.
  - **Kharsangh police station** of Changlang district of Arunachal Pradesh ranked third.
- In the **Global Terrorism Index (GTI) 2020**, **India** has been ranked at **8th** spot globally in the list of countries most affected by terrorism in 2019.
- The United Nations Development Programme recently released the **Human Development Report**.
  - According to the report **India** slipped to **131st** rank among 189 countries in the Human Development Index.
- The Global **Climate Change Performance Index** was recently released by the New Climate Institute, German watch and CAN (Climate Action Network).
  - In 2020, **India** slid a position to the **tenth**.
  - According to the index, only two G20 countries India and UK were among the high rankers.
  - None of the countries were in top three ranks.
  - Sweden was at fourth place followed by UK, Denmark, Morocco, Norway, Chile.
- The Union environment minister, Prakash Javadekar has released a report titled the '**Status of Leopard in India 2018**'.
  - As per the report, the population of leopard in India has **increased** by **60 per cent** in four years since 2014.
- **HDFC Bank** is the top-ranked company among the 100 Banking, Financial Services and Insurance (BFSI) companies in the country, as per the BFSI Movers and Shakers 2020 report by Wizikey.
- **India** is expected to become the world's **5th** largest **economy** by **2025**, by again overtaking the United Kingdom, as per the annual report published by the Centre for Economics and Business Research (CEBR) on December 26, 2020.
- Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** has grabbed the **41st** spot in the 2020 list of Forbes 100 most **powerful women** in the world.
  - India's leading Businesswomen, **Kiran Mazumdar-shaw**, Chairman of Biocon Limited also featured in the list at **68th** position.
  - The list also saw the biggest jump in ranking to **3rd** position by **Kamala Harris**, Vice President-Elect of USA, and Prime Minister of Bangladesh, **Sheikh Hasina Wajed** is ranked at **39**.
- American media personality and reality TV star, **Kylie Jenner** has been crowned the **highest-paid** celebrity of 2020 by Forbes.
- A worldwide ranking of civil, economic and personal freedom, the **Human Freedom Index 2020** was released.
  - **India** was placed at the **111th** spot out of 162 countries.
  - The first three spots have been bagged by **New Zealand**, Switzerland and Hong Kong.
  - The **United States** and the **United Kingdom** are tied at the **17th** spot on the index. War-torn **Syria** ranked the **last** on the list.

#### General- National

- The Foreign Minister of **Bangladesh**, Dr. A K Abdul Momen has informed that '**Swadhinata Sarak**' between Bangladesh and India will be opened on March 26, 2021.
- **Mega Leather Park** to come up in Ramaipur village of **Kanpur** with an investment of Rs 5,850 crores.
- The Forest Minister of **Madhya Pradesh** recently launched the first **hot air balloon safari** of India in the Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve of India in MP.

- The **SahiFasal campaign** was initiated by the **National Water Mission** in 2019 that aims to promote farmers in water-scarce areas to plant crops that do not consume water but use water very efficiently.

#### General - International

- The **Singapore Food Agency (SFA)** has approved the sale of a **lab-grown meat** product.
  - This is the 1st time that cultured meat can be sold anywhere in the world.

#### Books and Authors

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has released a new book titled '**Future of Regional Cooperation in Asia and the Pacific**'.
- A booklet titled '**PM Modi and his Government's** special relationship with **Sikhs**' was released, on the occasion of birth anniversary of Shri Guru Nanak Dev Ji.
- The Vice President of India, M Venkaiah Naidu has released the book titled "**40 Years with Abdul Kalam- Untold Stories**", a book on the life of the former President of India Dr APJ Abdul Kalam.
  - The book was authored by **Dr A.Sivathanu Pillai** and the foreword was written by Pranab Mukherjee, former president of India.
- The 2nd non-fiction book by author **Amish Tripathi** is titled "**Dharma: Decoding the Epics for A Meaningful Life**". It is co-authored by his sister Bhavana Roy.
- Lok Sabha Speaker **Om Birla** has released a book on the occasion of the 19th anniversary of the Parliament attack on 13 December.
  - He released the book '**The Shaurya Unbound**' (English Version) and '**Samundar Samawe Boond Mein**' (Hindi Version) was released on the 2001 incident.
- Maharashtra former Chief Minister and present leader of Opposition in the Legislative Assembly, Devendra Fadnavis has released the book '**Ayodhya**' written by **Madhav Bhandari**.
- Union Minister of State (I/C) for AYUSH and Minister of State for Defence Shripad Naik released a Konkani book "**Sutranivednachi sutra- ek anbay**", by **Dr Roopa Chari** on 26 December, 2020.

-- x --

#### TO THE POINTS : DECEMBER-2020

- International Civil Aviation Day was observed on **December 7**.
- Ravi Patwardhan who passed away at 84 was a veteran **Actor**.
- Theme of the 7th WASH Conclave being organized in Hyderabad - **Hygiene Matters**.
- **Debendranath Sarangih** has been elected as the Vice president of WSF.
- Bangladesh signed its maiden preferential trade agreement (PTA) with **Bhutan** to boost bilateral trade between the two countries.
- Asian Development Bank has approved a **190** million loan to upgrade the power distribution system in Bengaluru.
- **Axis** bank has partnered with Rupifi to launch credit card for MSMEs.
- International Armed Forces Flag Day was observed on **December 7**.
- Manu Mukherjee who passed away at 90 on December 6 was a veteran **Actor**.
- RTGS is all set to be Made 24X7 from **December 14**.
- RBI has announced the Introduction of LAF and MSF for Regional Rural Bank and has mandated the CRAR of **9** per cent to be eligible for the scheme.
- Joe Biden has picked **Vivek Murthy** as the Surgeon general.

- **Venkiah Naidu** has released the Book '40 Years with Abdul Kalam'.
- **Anita Anand** has won the PEN Hessell-Tiltman history prize.
- Corey Anderson who retired from international cricket played for **New Zealand**.
- **China** has unfurled a flag on the Moon and has become the second country to achieve this feat after America.
- **Adar Poonawalla** has been among "Asians of the Year" by Singapore's leading daily.
- **Pixxel** company is all set to launch remote-sensing satellites on Isro rocket in early 2021.
- International Anti-Corruption Day was observed on **December 9**.
- **Gwalior** has been included in the list of UNESCO's world heritage cities.
- **Mt. Everest** has recently been remeasured and now has a new height more than the previous measurement.
- **UK** has become the first country to roll out Covid 19 Vaccine.
- ICICI has launched iMobile Pay.
- International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of the Crime of Genocide and of the Prevention of this Crime was observed on **December 9**.
- DivyaBhatnagar who passed away at 34 years was a popular **Actor**.
- **Kotak** has launched India's first international REIT fund of funds.
- ADB has approved USD **2.5** million in technical assistance for advanced biofuel development in India.
- **NTPC** has inked an MoU with IIFM-Bhopal for Narmada Landscape Restoration Project.
- **Narendra Modi** inaugurates the virtual India Mobile Congress (IMC) 2020.
- PwC India has announced the launch of a strategic collaboration with UNICEF and YuWaah (Generation Unlimited in India) to help bridge the digital gap and help upskill **300** million young people in India over the next 10 years.
- **Raj Kamal Jha** has won the Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize 2020.
- India has been ranked **10th** in the Climate Change Performance Index.
- KirenRijju has launched the **2nd** edition of the Fit India Cyclothon virtually.
- MadhukarGangadhar who passed away at 88 was a veteran **Writer**.
- **IIT Bombay** has released the Urban Quality of Life Index.
- **Anil Soni** has been appointed as CEO for WHO Foundation.
- Narinder Singh Kapany who passed away at 94 was the father of **Fiber optics**.
- **Narendra Modi** has virtually inaugurated construction of the Agra Metro project in UP.
- **ICAR** has won the King Bhumibol World Soil Day Award 2020.
- **Invest India** has won the United Nations Investment Promotion Award for 2020.
- The **2nd** Cancer Genome Atlas (TCGA) 2020 Conference has recently been inaugurated in New Delhi.
- The Quarterly Return filing & Monthly Payment Scheme has been launched for GST Payers with Turnover Up To Rs **5** Crore.
- **PNB** has launched the LenS-The Lending Solution to speed up and maintain accuracy in online loan processing and sanctioning of credit proposals.

- PM Modi will share his thoughts in 'Mann Ki Baat' programme on **December 27**.
- **Sergio Perez** has won the Sakhir Grand Prix 2020.
- **Sri Lanka** will host the Asia Cup in 2021.
- **JehanDaruvallah** has created history by becoming the first Indian to win an F2 race at Sakhir.
- World Human Rights Day was observed on **December 10**.
- WEF 2021 will now be held in **Singapore** instead of Switzerland.
- Cricketer **Parthiv Patel** has announced retirement from all forms of cricket.
- Government has announced **CO-WIN** mobile app for COVID-19 vaccine delivery.
- **Narendra Modi** address the International Bharati Festival 2020 on December 11.
- Prime Minister Modi will lay the foundation stone of the new Parliament House building on **December 10**.
- Agricultural scientist from **Punjab** has declined an award being presented to him by a Union Minister to express his solidarity with the farmers agitating against the Centre's farm laws.
- As per the New School Bag Policy 2020 Proposed by Union Education Ministry, the maximum weight of the school bags has been not more than **10** per cent of the student's weight.
- **Uttarakhand** has constructed the first eco-bridge for small animals.
- The government of **Uttar Pradesh** has launched scheme to take the unique culture of the Tharu tribes across the world.
- RBI has cancelled the licence of **KaradJanataSahakari Bank**.
- Nomura Expects **India** to be the fastest growing Asian economy in 2021.
- PM Modi is all set to inaugurate PravasiBharatiya Divas Convention on **9th** of January.
- Fitch has raised India's GDP forecast to **-9.4** percent in the current fiscal year to March 2021.
- Kuwait emir has reappointed **Sheikh Sabah Al-Khalid** as the Prime minister.
- **Mondo Duplantis** has been named the best male World Athlete of the year at World Athletics Awards 2020.
- **Bank of Baroda** has launched the Atmanirbhar Women Gold Scheme.
- **SJVN** has signed an MoU with IREDA for green energy projects.
- **Indian** bank has signed an agreement With SIDBI to use the latter's asset restructuring module for MSME borrowers.
- World AIDS day was observed on **December 1**.
- S&P has retained India's GDP forecast at **9** per cent contraction in current fiscal Year.
- **Janet Yellen** has been named as the Treasury Secretary by US President-elect Joe Biden.
- **Moderna** company will apply for U.S. and European emergency authorization of its COVID-19 vaccine.
- Mumbai-based fintech start-up Mahagram has decided to deploy **12** lakh wireless Bharat ATMs by March 2021.
- Nagaland Statehood Day 2020 was observed on **December 1**.
- Footballer Papa Bouba Diop who passed away recently played for **Senegal**.
- **Narendra Modi** participated in the Dev Deepawali Mahotsav in Varanasi.

- The BSF was celebrating its **56th** raising Day and has always lived up to its motto 'Duty for Life'.
- **Arjun Munda** has launched 'Áadi Mahotsav' in a virtual format.
- India, which has the highest average monthly mobile data traffic per smartphone, is expected to surpass 350 million 5G subscriptions by **2026**.
- The beneficiaries of the National Food Security Act (NFSA), as covered under the Antyodaya Anna Yojana and the priority household cards, totaling around one crore cards, will be given 5 kg of 'chana'.
- International Day of Persons with Disabilities Celebrated on **December 3**.
- **Amit Shah** has addressed the inaugural session of Annual DGsP/IGsP Conference.
- World Computer Literacy Day was observed on **December 2**.
- India got **8th** rank of the Global Terrorism Index 2020.
- **IOCL** has launched India's first 100 Octane petrol.
- **7th** edition of the India-Suriname Joint Commission Meeting has been held virtually.
- **Harsh Vardhan** has inaugurated the India Sweden Healthcare Innovation Centre - Annual Conference.
- **UK** has become the first one in the world to approve the coronavirus vaccine.
- Agricultural Education Day was celebrated on **December 3**.
- Union Minister of State for Communication Sanjay Dhotre has Launched the Five-star village postal scheme in **Uttarakhand**.
- **Madras** High Court has 10 additional judges been appointed by the President.
- Mahashay Dharampal Gulati who passed away recently was the owner of **MDH**.
- Foundation stone for a 11.5-megawatt power plant run on municipal waste has been laid down by the chief minister of **Karnataka**.
- National Pollution Control Day was observed on **December 2**.
- The chief minister of **Assam** has launched the Orundoi scheme, a direct benefit transfer scheme to provide financial assistance to poor families in the state by providing money to female members.
- ADB and India have signed a **50** million loan to boost West Bengal's digital platforms for public finance reforms.
- International Day for the Abolition of Slavery was observed on **December 2**.
- RBI has asked **HDFC** bank to stop new digital business launches and avoid adding new Credit Card customers.
- **Lt. Gen Rajiv Chaudhry** has assumed charge as Director General Border Roads.
- **Amazon** is in exclusive talks to acquire the podcasting company Wondery Inc.
- Amul has entered into milk procurement business in **Andhra Pradesh**.
- **Pandemic** word has been chosen as Word of the Year 2020 by Dictionary.com and Merriam Webster.
- Giscard d'Estaing who passed away due to COVID-19 complications was the president of **France**.
- International Day of Banks Observed was observed on **December 4**.
- Judge G.R Udhwani who passed away due to COVID-19 was the sitting judge of **Gujarat** high court.

- World Soil Day was observed on **December 5**.
- Ayush ministry has announced that the upcoming new campus of the National Institute of Naturopathy in **Pune**.
- International Volunteer Day was observed on **December 5**.
- Government has recently announced the List of 10 best performing police stations in India 2020. **NongpokSekmai** police station, Manipur has been ranked as the best.
- Passage Exercise between Indian Navy and the navy of **Russia** was held from 4 to 5 December 2020.
- **TRS** has emerged as the single largest party in the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation election.
- **Narendra Modi** virtually inaugurate the Agra Metro Rail project on December 7.
- **KuldeepHandoo** has been appointed as Fit India Movement Ambassador.
- **RoshniNadarMalhotra** has topped the list of the richest women in the country with a net worth of Rs.54,850 crore.
- ZafarullahJamali who passed away at 76 was the former prime minister of **Pakistan**.
- **GitanjaliRaoh** has become TIME's first-ever kid of the year.
- RanjitsinhDisale, a teacher at ZillaParishad Primary School has been awarded the 2020 Global Teacher Prize of 1 million.
- Dineshwar Sharma who passed away at 66 was the administrator of **Lakshadweep**.
- **Rajiv Gauba** has chaired the National Crisis Management Committee (NCMC) meeting through video conferencing.
- The First Mobile CNG Dispensing Unit has been launched in **Pune**.
- **Piyush Goyal** will chair a meeting of the Board of Trade (BOT) through a Video Conference.
- **Singapore** has become the First Country to Approve sale of Lab Grown Meat.
- **US** has imposed sanctions on Chinese firms over Venezuela internet curbs.
- India has held talks with **US** on counternarcotics and has agreed to boost collaboration on regulation.
- Abhay Bhardwaj who passed away due to Covid19 was a **Politician**.
- The Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly in Response to the Coronavirus Disease (Covid-19) Pandemic will take place on **December 3 and 4** at the UN Headquarters.
- **NRIs** may soon get to vote remotely with e-ballots.
- The Government of India has signed an MoU for loan with **ADB** in order to strengthen Meghalaya's power distribution Sector.
- GST Collection in November hovered around Rs. 1.05 lakh crores which is estimated to be **1.4** percent higher than the corresponding period last year.
- Majerhat Bridge based in **Kolkata** has been renamed as "Jai Hind".
- **Andhra Pradesh** has passed a Bill that bans online gaming, betting.
- **Pfizer's** COVID-19 vaccine has been approved by UK.
- **Instagram** has launched the 'Live Rooms' feature.
- Indian Navy has successfully fired the BrahMos Supersonic Cruise Missile in AntiShip mode. It was first launched in **2001**.

- **Virat Kohli** has beaten Tendulkar's record to score 12,000 ODI runs.
- The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) is celebrating its **63rd** Founding Day on 4th of December, 2020.
- The Reserve Bank of India has decided to keep the benchmark interest rate unchanged at **4** per cent.
- Phase 8 of the Vande Bharat Mission has been extended till **December 31, 2020**.
- Olympic Gold Medalist Rafer Johnson Passes who passed away recently belonged to **US**.
- Indian Navy Day was observed on **December 4**.
- Vocal for Local – Hunar Haat Invites for artisans and craftsmen organized from 18th to 27th of December in **Lucknow**.
- **9th** edition of International Sand Art Festival has recently begun in Odisha's Puri.
- RBI has directed **HDFC** to stop issuing new credit cards as well as halt the launch of new digital businesses.
- Maharashtra's First Child Friendly Police Station has been opened up in **Pune**.
- **Nitin Gadkari** inaugurate & lay foundation stones of 15 National Highway projects of Nagaland.
- **West Bengal** has launched the 'Duare Sarkar' programme for doorstep delivery of government schemes.
- India has signed an MoU with **US** on Intellectual Property cooperation.
- Bata has promoted **Sandeep Kataria** as the global CEO of the company.
- **Varsha Joshi** has been Appointed as Interim Chairperson NDDB.
- **No Dorai and Fagun Hawayfilms** have jointly won the Bangladesh best films award of 2019.
- **AR Rahman** has been named as the ambassador for BAFTA.
- **Narendra Modi** delivers a keynote address at IIT-2020 Global Summit.
- **RIL** has topped the 'Fortune India 500' list of India's largest companies.
- The **49th** edition of the Vijay Diwas was observed on 16 December 2020.
- Eric Freeman who passed away at 76 was a former **Cricketer**.
- GRSE Kolkata has launched **Himgiri** which is the first of the three Project 17A ships being built.
- **Maharashtra** Government has introduced Unified Development Control Rules expected to bolster real estate development.
- **Norway's** Institute of Bioeconomy Research has signed an MoU with cGanga, a think-tank of National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG).
- UNEP has announced **6** winners of the 2020 Champions of the Earth Award for their pioneering initiatives aimed at healing the planet amid natural and man-made threats.
- **Paul Seintwaha** has received the Goldman Environmental Prize 2020.
- The Prime minister of **UK** is all set to be Chief Guest at Republic Day of India.
- S&P has revised India's FY21 GDP contraction forecast to **7.7** percent from 9% earlier.
- Amish Tripathi's second non-fiction book, **Dharma** was released on December 28.
- Indigenously-built Coast Guard Interceptor Boat built by **Larsen and Toubro** has recently been Commissioned.

- The State of the Education Report for India 2020: Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET), was launched virtually by **UNESCO**.
- Srikant who passed Away due to covid-19 served in **Navy**.
- **Raja Chari** has been selected by NASA for SpaceX Mission.
- **IPPB** bank has unveiled a new digital payment app 'DakPay'.
- RBI approves re-appointment of **Uday Kotak** as MD of Kotak Mahindra Bank.
- Shripati Khanchanale who passed away at 86 was a veteran **Wrestler**.
- Goa Liberation Day was observed on **December 19**.
- NHAI chairman Sukhbir Singh Sandhu has received a second extension of **6** months in his central deputation.
- Government Finalizes GPS based Technology toll collection across India which will ensure India becomes toll booth free in the next **2** years.
- **Nehru Zoological Park** has received an ISO certification from the UK.
- The Chief Minister of **Odisha** has launched the Pareshram portal.
- On the **125th** birth anniversary of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose, the Union Culture Ministry has dedicated a Museum in Kolkata.
- Nitin Gadkari is all set to inaugurate and lay the foundation stone for 33 highway projects in **Karnataka**.
- The Foodie 'Hawker' Culture of **Singapore** has recently been given the UNESCO Recognition.
- ICRA Says India's GDP will contract to **7.8** per cent in FY21.
- Indian Navy to conduct coordinated patrol with the Navy of **Indonesia** on December 17-18.
- ADB and India have signed a **300** million loan to upgrade power projects in Uttar Pradesh.
- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has handed over **3** indigenously developed systems to Army, Navy and Air Force at a function held in Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) Bhawan.
- The World Bank has come out with Corrected Doing Business Rankings and India has been ranked at **63** position.
- **SAIL** has received the Golden Peacock Environment Management Award 2020.
- **Ratan Tata** will be honoured with Global Visionary of Sustainable Business and Peace award.
- The Best FIFA Football Awards 2020 was announced on 17th December 2020, during a virtual event held at **Zurich**.
- The Ministry of AYUSH and Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports announced the formal recognition of **Yogasana** as a Competitive Sport.
- International Migrants Day was observed on **December 18**.
- **Doha** will host the 2030 Asian Games.
- UN Arabic Language Day was observed on **December 18**.
- **Narendra Modi** has inaugurated the World's Largest Renewable Energy Park opens in Kutch.
- The Minorities Rights Day was observed in India every year on **December 18**.
- Cabinet has approved the assistance of Rs **3500** crore for sugarcane farmers.
- **QCI** has launched a Recognition Scheme for Hygiene Rating Audit Agencies.

- India and **Bangladesh** have decided to reopen the Chilahati-Haldibari rail link after nearly 55 years.
- CCEA has approved the revised cost of Rs **6700** crores for power transmission project.
- **ISRO** has decided to set up a dedicated control centre for Space Situational Awareness.
- British PM has invited Prime Minister Modi to attend a UK hosted **G-7** summit next year.
- India and Bangladesh have signed **7** MoUs and agreements recently.
- **S Jaishankar** has launched a dedicated economic diplomacy website.
- **Shashi Shekhar Vempati** has been named VP of Asia Pacific Broadcasting Union.
- Defence Acquisition Council has approved proposals worth Rs **27,000** crore to procure equipment from domestic industry.
- According to the Union Minister for Road Transport, the National Infrastructure Pipeline Projects Worth Rs. **44** Lakh Crore under implementation.
- AICTE has decided to release **Rs 20,000** Maintenance Allowance for Jammu And Kashmir, Ladakh Students.
- India has signed a **1-billion-dollar** loan agreement with NDB for Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan.
- **Andhra Pradesh** has rolled out a free crop insurance scheme.
- Indian Coast Guard (ICG) ship **Sujeet**, the second in the series of five Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV) built by Goa Shipyard Limited, was commissioned at Goa on December 15.
- FY21 GDP to contract at **7.4** per cent on better recovery as per SBI report.
- The Government of India and the World Bank have signed a **400-million-dollar** project to protect India's poor from COVID-19.
- India has ranked **131** in the recently released UN's Human Development Index.
- Satyadev Singh who passed away at 75 was a former leader belonging to **BJP**.
- International Human Solidarity Day was observed on **December 20**.
- PM Modi to address India-Japan Samvad Conference on **December 21**.
- **Narendra Modi** delivers the inaugural address at IISF 2020.
- **Uttar Pradesh** government has launched the Special Varasat campaign to curb property and land-related disputes in rural areas.
- Mega Leather Park with Rs. 5850 crore investment is all set to come up in **Kanpur**.
- MG Vaidya Passes who passed away at 97 in Nagpur was the first spokesperson of **RSS**.
- **Narendra Modi** will be the chief guest at virtual centenary celebrations of Aligarh Muslim University.
- Skill India has established the first Centre of Excellence for Skill Development in Power Sector in **Haryana**.
- Mohammad Amir who announced his retirement from international cricket played for **Pakistan**.
- India has ranked **111** in the Human Freedom Index 2020 released by the Cato Institute.
- The World Bank has approved a **\$800** million project to improve education quality.
- RBI has slapped 50 lakh rupees fine on Urban Co-operative Bank in Kerala.
- PM Modi has presented the ASSOCHAM Enterprise of the Century Award to **Ratan Tata**.
- **Ravi Shankar Prasad** presented the Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Telecom Skill Excellence Awards.

- **Vidyut Mohan** won the Young Champions of the Earth winners by the UN environment agency from India.
- International Mountain Day 2020 was observed on **December 11**.
- Breakdancing has received Olympic status to debut at Paris in **2024**.
- **Madagascar** has replaced Maldives as host of 2023 Indian Ocean Island Games.
- As per the recently approved PM- WANI Scheme App Providers will get themselves registered with DoT through an online registration portal with the registration being granted in 7 days of application.
- UNICEF Day was observed on **December 11**.
- **G Kishan Reddy** has inaugurated the National Centre for Divyang Empowerment in Telangana.
- The Ministry of AYUSH and AIIMS have decided to initiate work on setting up a Department of Integrative Medicine at **AIIMS**.
- **Kamala Harris** has been named as the Time magazine's Person of the Year.
- Nitin Gadkari has inaugurated a three lane 1.5 km long Koilwar bridge over Sone river in **Bihar**.
- The Prime Minister of **Romania** has quit over his ruling centre-right National Liberal Party, PNL's poor showing in parliamentary elections.
- India has held its first bilateral virtual summit with **Uzbekistan**.
- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has been ranked at **41** on Forbes 2020 list of 100 most powerful women.
- Cabinet has approved the Atmanirbhar Bharat Rojgar Yojana with an expenditure of **1584** crores.
- **Sonu Sood** has been featured among the tops'50 Asian Celebrities in the World' 2020 list.
- **Annika Sorenstam** has been elected as the president of the International Golf Federation.
- HAL-IISc Skill Development Centre has launched its first training programme in **Karnataka**.
- **Zena Wooldridge** has been elected as World Squash Federation President.
- National Energy Conservation Day was observed on **December 14**.
- NITI Aayog has released a white paper Vision **2035** for public health surveillance through the integration of the three-tiered public health system into Ayushman Bharat.
- **UNESCO** is set to launch an international prize in the name of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib.
- All the states except **Tamil Nadu** have availed benefits of the newly announced scheme for Special Assistance to States for Capital Expenditure.
- Paolo Rossi who passed away recently was a famous **Footballer**.
- **BSE** has launched an e- agricultural spot market platform.
- **Indian Railways** has launched the Hospital Management Information System.
- **Ashraf Patel** has been named as the Social Entrepreneur of the year.
- Joint Statement has been signed between India and **Uzbekistan** on December 11, 2020.
- **Chuck Yeager** was known as the First Man to Travel Faster Than Speed of Sound and has died at 97.
- India has inked a pact with **Austria** on tech cooperation in the road infrastructure sector.
- **Max Verstappen** has won the 2020 Abu Dhabi.
- **Ankita Raina** has won the ITF doubles title in Dubai.

- The **5th** edition of the India- Myanmar Bilateral Meeting on Drug Control Cooperation was held Virtually.
- Narendra Bhide who passed away at 47 was a **Music composer**.
- Govindacharya who passed away recently was a renowned **Scholar**.
- International Universal Health Coverage Day was observed on **December 12**.
- ADB launches a **9-billion-dollar** Covid-19 vaccine scheme called the Asia Pacific Vaccine Access Facility (APVAX).
- **DRDO** has conducted Joint Venture Protective Carbine trials.
- **Carolina Araujo** has won the Ramanujan Prize for Young Mathematicians.
- **Lakshadweep** has been declared the first UT to become 100% organic.
- The **5th** edition of the India Water Impact Summit has begun virtually on 10th December.
- **Narendra Modi** delivers the inaugural address at FICCI's 93rd Annual General Meeting and Annual Convention.
- The Assembly of **Karnataka** has adopted a Bill against cow slaughter.
- International Day of Neutrality was observed on **December 12**.
- Ladakh Lieutenant Governor R K Mathur has virtually inaugurated the **2nd** edition of Ladakh Literature Festival 2020.
- ADB expects Indian economy to contract at a slower pace of 8 percent against its earlier estimate of 9% in FY21.
- USFDA has given nod for generic Precedex injection of **Aurobindo Pharma**.
- **BSNL** has tied-up with Skylotech India for Satellite based network.
- **Rajnath Singh** has addressed the ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting Plus online.
- **Bajrang Punia** has bagged the top honour at FICCI India Sports Awards.
- International Tea Day was observed on **December 15**.
- Deputy Governor of Kabul **MahbubullahMuhibbi** was killed in a bomb blast attack in the capital city on December 15.
- Health minister has released the **5th** National Family Health Survey for 17 states & 5 UTs.
- RBI has decided to set up Automated Banknote Processing Centre in **Jaipur**.
- IFSCA has notified the IFSC Authority (Bullion Exchange) Regulations, 2020 for setting up an International Financial Services Centre in **Gandhinagar**.
- The **9th** edition of Sustainable Mountain Development Summit has begun in Dehradun.
- Ambrose Dlamini who passed away due to covid-19 was the prime minister of **Eswatini**.
- Handicraft and GI Toys have been exempted from Quality Control Order and it will come into effect from **1st January 2021**.
- Ola will invest Rs **2400** crore for the world's largest e-scooter factory in Tamil Nadu.
- ISRO will launch Communication Satellite **CMS-01** on December 17.
- **Narendra Modi** has addressed the Climate Ambition Summit 2020.
- The **1st** edition of the TWG Meeting between India, Iran, Uzbekistan on joint use of Chabahar Port has been held virtually.
- **Odisha** will host the 2023 FIH Men's Hockey World Cup.

- ICC has announced the Women's World Cup Schedule which is scheduled to be held in **New Zealand**.
- **Durga Shanker Mishra** has launched a programme of Socio-Economic Profiling of PM SVANidhi beneficiaries and their families.
- Radhika Ranjan Pramanik who passed away at 88 belonged to **CPI-M** (political party).
- Roddam Narasimha who passed Away At 87 was an eminent **Scientist**.
- National Farmers Day was observed on **December 23**.
- The Centre and World Bank have signed a **500** million project to build Green National Highway Corridors.
- **Amit Shah** head the High-Level Committee constituted to commemorate the 125th birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.
- IMD has released the End of the Season Report for Southwest Monsoon 2020 and the report noted that seasonal rainfall for June-September was **109%** of the long period average in 2020.
- UN Women has signed a pact with **Kerala's** Gender Park to initiate gender equality activities.
- The US President has conferred Legion of Merit award to **Narendra Modi**.
- **Dharmendra Pradhan** has dedicated Bengal's First Oil and Gas Reserve to Nation.
- NCAER has projected the GDP contraction of **7.3** per cent in Fiscal Year 21.
- **MPEDA** has launched India's first aquafarmers call centre.
- Department of Information Technology, Electronics and Communication and **Haryana** signs MoU with India Accelerator to build Startup Ecosystem.
- Prime Minister to launch **SEHAT**, health insurance scheme for Jammu-Kashmir on December 26.
- **ICICI** has launched an Online Portal Called Infinite India for foreign firms.
- ADB has announced to give **2100** crore as loan to Tripura.
- The **12th** edition of the GRIHA Summit was recently concluded with the awards ceremony.
- Good Governance Day was observed on **December 25**.
- US financial body The US International Development Finance Corporation (DFC) will invest USD **54** million in India to support critical infrastructure projects.
- India has successfully test-fired **Banshee** medium range surface-to air missile off Odisha coast.
- **NTPC** has won the Prestigious CII-ITC Sustainability Awards 2020.
- **Ajay Kumar** has launched the DGNCC Digital Forum in New Delhi.
- India's largest hockey stadium will be set up at **Rourkela** which will host 2023 World Cup Games.
- **Himachal Pradesh** government has decided to frame an integrated Drug Prevention Policy.
- **Harsh Vardhan** has inaugurated the Global Indian Scientists & Technocrats (GIST) meet at IISF2020.
- RBI has cancelled the licence of **Subhadra Local Area Bank**.
- Madan Lal Sharma who died at 68 belonged to **Congress**.
- Ind-Ra has revised India's FY21 GDP contraction to **7.8** per cent from 11.8% earlier.
- **Novak Djokovic** has won player of the year at ATP awards 2020.
- **6** books have been shortlisted for the Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay NIF Book Prize 2020.
- **PayU** has tied up with Google Pay to introduce tokenized payments flow for merchants.

- **Venkaiah Naidu** has released the book 'Oh Mizoram' by Mizoram Governor Sreedharan Pillai.
- **HDFC** Bank has featured among the 100 BFSI firms.
- National Mathematics Day was observed on **December 22**.
- The Union environment Minister has released the Status of Leopards in India 2018 report. **Madhya Pradesh** has topped in the report.
- MotilalVora who passed away at 93 belonged to **Congress**.
- India and **Vietnam** have signed seven agreements during the virtual summit.
- **Uttar Pradesh** has launched a P2P trading platform for rooftop solar power.
- **SIDBI** has inked a MoU with the Assam government to develop the MSME ecosystem.
- India's first hypersonic wind tunnel test facility has been inaugurated in **Hyderabad**.
- **20th** edition of the IORA Council of Ministers meeting has been held in UAE, Virtually.
- **Central Bank of India** has tied up with NPCI to launch RuPay Select.
- Indian Navy has signed an MoU with **INCOIS** to sign MoU to share ocean services data.
- **Lewis Hamilton** has won the BBC Sports Personality of the Year award.
- Government has approved the inclusion of **4** indigenous sports in Khelo India Youth Games 2021.
- Indian boxers have bagged nine medals including three golds, two silver and four bronze at the Cologne Boxing World Cup held in **Germany**.
- National Consumer Rights Day was observed on **December 24**.
- **Ministry of Environment** has launched the Firefly bird diverter initiative.
- NITI Aayog launches India's first indigenous digital storage platform **Digi Boxx**.
- Sugatha Kumari who passed away was a renowned **Poet**.
- Cabinet has given nod to merger of **4** Film Media Units with NFDC.
- **Narendra Modi** has released the Postal Stamp to Mark Centenary Celebrations Of AMU.
- PM Modi will release Rs. **18,000** crore under PM-Kisan scheme to more than 9 crore farmers.
- Cabinet has approved **59,048** crore of the post matric scholarship scheme of more than four crore SC students.
- **UNICEF** has launched the COVID-19 vaccine market dashboard.
- **Aditya Nath Das** has been appointed as the next new chief Secretary of AP.
- **Satyendra Garg** has assumed charge as DSP of Andaman and Nicobar.
- **S Jaishankar** has held a virtual meet with Spanish counterpart Arancha Gonzalez Laya.
- Indian Army and **Bank of Baroda** have signed an MoU for 'Baroda Military Salary Package'.
- **Help Age** has won the 2020 UN Population Award.
- **Karnataka** Government has inaugurated the 1st Fruits Portal.
- **Amar Singh College** has recently received an award for cultural heritage protection by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Asia-Pacific in 2020.
- **China's** new space carrier rocket has successfully launched five satellites.
- **Vineet Agarwal** has taken over as new Assocham President.
- Devendra Fadnavis releases book 'Ayodhya' written by **Madhav Bhandari**.
- Indian men will finish 2020 in **4th** position while women in 9th in FIH rankings.

- - x - -

## MODEL QUESTIONS

1. International Civil Aviation Day 2020 was observed on \_\_\_\_.  
(1) December 9 (2) December 4 (3) December 6 (4) December 7 (5) None of these
2. When is Armed Forces Flag Day observed?  
(1) December 6 (2) December 7 (3) December 3 (4) December 9 (5) None of these
3. What is the theme for International Volunteers Day 2020?  
(1) Global Applause – give volunteers a hand  
(2) Volunteers build Resilient Communities  
(3) Volunteer for an inclusive future  
(4) Together We Can Through Volunteering  
(5) None of these
4. What is the theme of Human Rights Day 2020?  
(1) Youth Standing Up for Human Rights  
(2) Let's stand up for equality, justice and human dignity  
(3) Working for your rights  
(4) Recover Better – Stand Up for Human Rights  
(5) None of these
5. When is UNICEF Foundation Day celebrated?  
(1) December 14 (2) December 10 (3) December 12 (4) December 11 (5) None of these
6. What is the theme of International Mountain Day 2020?  
(1) Mountains matter for Youth (2) Mountain Biodiversity (3) Mountain Farming  
(4) Mountains under Pressure (5) None of these
7. When is International Human Solidarity Day celebrated?  
(1) December 20 (2) December 22 (3) December 24 (4) December 19 (5) None of these
8. When is National Mathematics Day celebrated in India?  
(1) December 24 (2) December 20 (3) December 21 (4) December 22 (5) None of these
9. When is National Consumer Rights Day observed in India?  
(1) 26 December (2) 24 December (3) 21 December (4) 23 December (5) None of these
10. In December 2020, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) opened liquidity adjustment facility (LAF) and which other monetary policy for regional rural banks (RRBs)?  
(1) Marginal standing facility (2) Cash Reserve Ratio (3) Bank Rate  
(4) Statutory Liquidity Ratio (5) None of these
11. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has cancelled the licence of Karad Janata Sahakari Bank to conduct banking business. Where is the Karad Janata Sahakari Bank situated?  
(1) Odisha (2) Maharashtra (3) Rajasthan (4) Gujarat (5) None of these
12. Where has the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) decided to set up an Automated Banknote Processing Centre (ABPC) for receipt, storage and dispatch of currency notes?  
(1) Surat (2) Noida (3) Bhopal (4) Jaipur (5) None of these
13. With which bank is the Corporation Bank amalgamated?  
(1) United Bank of India (2) Bank of Maharashtra (3) Union Bank of India  
(4) Bank of India (5) None of these

14. Which bank has launched 'iMobile Pay' - a mobile banking app that provides payments and banking services to customers of any bank?  
 (1) ICICI Bank (2) HDFC Bank (3) DCB Bank (4) IndusInd Bank (5) None of these
15. Which bank unveiled a new digital payment application "DakPay" to provide digital financial inclusion across the country?  
 (1) India Post Payments Bank (2) Airtel Payments Bank (3) Fino Payments Bank  
 (4) NSDL Payments Bank (5) None of these
16. Which bank has launched a new online platform 'Infinite India' looking to set up or expand their business in India?  
 (1) Yes Bank (2) HDFC Bank (3) ICICI Bank (4) Axis Bank (5) None of these
17. Which bank launched its Digital Lending Platform (DLP), which will allow prospective retail loan seekers to get loans digitally through a paperless process?  
 (1) Punjab National Bank (2) ICICI Bank (3) Bank of Baroda  
 (4) IndusInd Bank (5) None of these
18. Which state government launched Free Crop Insurance scheme for the benefit of farmers in the state?  
 (1) Odisha (2) Haryana (3) Assam (4) Andhra Pradesh (5) None of these
19. Central government announced third stimulus package worth how much amount for the Mission COVID Suraksha- The Indian COVID-19 Vaccine Development Mission?  
 (1) Rs 1200 crore (2) Rs 800 crore (3) Rs 900 crore  
 (4) Rs 1000 crore (5) None of these
20. Which app has been unveiled by the central government that will let Indians self-register for COVID-19 Vaccine?  
 (1) Re-WIN (2) Co-WIN (3) So-WIN (4) Do-WIN (5) None of these
21. By when central government is going to set up proposed Centralized "Investment Clearance Cell"?  
 (1) 15 April 2021 (2) 31 March 2021 (3) 31 January 2021  
 (4) 15 June 2021 (5) None of these
22. Which state government launched the biggest-ever Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) scheme called 'Orunodoi'?  
 (1) West Bengal (2) Uttarakhand (3) Bihar (4) Assam (5) None of these
23. Madhya Pradesh government has aimed to completely eliminate AIDS by which year?  
 (1) 2030 (2) 2028 (3) 2025 (4) 2035 (5) None of these
24. Where is the five-star village postal scheme launched to ensure the universal coverage of flagship postal schemes?  
 (1) Ranchi (2) Dehradun (3) Shimla (4) Ambala (5) None of these
25. Which state government launched one-time settlement scheme for power consumers?  
 (1) Andhra Pradesh (2) Maharashtra (3) Kerala  
 (4) Goa (5) None of these
26. Which state unveiled the State Disability Logo on the occasion of International Day of Persons with Disabilities?  
 (1) Meghalaya (2) Nagaland (3) Tripura  
 (4) Assam (5) None of these

27. Which state government approved the construction of a deep-sea port in Tajpur making it the state's first deep seaport?  
 (1) West Bengal (2) Odisha (3) Telangana (4) Goa (5) None of these
28. Which India Union Territory has been declared India's first Union Territory to become 100 per cent organic?  
 (1) Ladakh (2) Lakshadweep (3) Puducherry (4) Daman & Diu (5) None of these
29. Which state government launched a scheme to take the unique culture of its ethnic Tharu tribe across the world?  
 (1) Bihar (2) Jharkhand (3) Uttar Pradesh (4) Uttarakhand (5) None of these
30. Which state government launched a System for Health and Rehabilitation Assistance for distribution of assistive devices to lakhs of persons with disabilities?  
 (1) Kerala (2) Odisha (3) West Bengal (4) Maharashtra (5) None of these
31. Which state government is all set to implement uniform land and building development rules across the state?  
 (1) Goa (2) Maharashtra (3) Tamil Nadu (4) Karnataka (5) None of these
32. Which state government launched first of its kind campaign 'Varasat' to curb property & land-related disputes in rural areas of the state?  
 (1) Kerala (2) UP (3) Assam (4) Himachal Pradesh (5) None of these
33. Which state announced the construction of a new world class hockey stadium, being built as the largest one in the country?  
 (1) MP (2) Bihar (3) Haryana (4) Odisha (5) None of these
34. Which state government in collaboration with UNICEF has launched a 'Career Portal' for secondary and higher secondary students?  
 (1) Odisha (2) Rajasthan (3) Jharkhand (4) Bihar (5) None of these
35. Which state government launched Mobile Application and web portal called 'PR Insight' to improve the delivery of citizen centric services, based upon the feedback of its citizens on government policies?  
 (1) UP (2) Punjab (3) Karnataka (4) Goa (5) None of these
36. Which bridge has been named as "Jai Hind" bridge to commemorate the 125th birth anniversary of Subhas Chandra Bose?  
 (1) Jubilee Bridge (2) Majerhat Bridge (3) Matla Bridge  
 (4) Nivedita Bridge (5) None of these
37. Where will the new campus of National Institute of Naturopathy (NIN) be set up by the Ministry of Ayush?  
 (1) Kochi (2) Pune (3) Bengaluru (4) Bhopal (5) None of these
38. Where is the world's tallest rail bridge being built which is expected to be completed by 2021?  
 (1) UK (2) India (3) China (4) UAE (5) None of these
39. Where will be the headquarters of India's first Maritime Theatre Command (MTC), set to take concrete shape by next year?  
 (1) Hampi (2) Ballari (3) Karwar (4) Dharwad (5) None of these
40. Where will India's first Lithium refinery be set up?  
 (1) Bihar (2) Jharkhand (3) West Bengal (4) Gujarat (5) None of these

41. Which tiger reserve will witness the country's first hot air balloon wildlife safari in a tiger reserve?  
(1) Jim Corbett Tiger Reserve (2) Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve  
(3) Dudhwa Tiger Reserve (4) Sunderbans Tiger Reserve (5) None of these
42. Who has been invited as the chief guest for the Republic Day celebrations in January 2021 by the Indian Government?  
(1) Jacinda Ardern (2) Scott Morrison (3) Giuseppe Conte  
(4) Boris Johnson (5) None of these
43. With which country's navy, did the Indian Navy conducted a Passage Exercise (PASSEX) in the Eastern Indian Ocean Region (IOR) in December 2020?  
(1) Australia (2) France (3) Russia (4) Singapore (5) None of these
44. Which of the following launched fifth and final Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV) out of an order of five such vessels named ICGS Saksham?  
(1) Cochin Shipyard (2) Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers  
(3) Goa Shipyard Ltd (4) Hindustan Shipyard (5) None of these
45. In December 2020, 35th edition of Coordinated Patrol held between the navies of India and which other country?  
(1) Indonesia (2) Bangladesh (3) Thailand (4) Myanmar (5) None of these
46. Who is the chairman of the committee constituted by the Environment Ministry for Implementation of Paris Agreement (AIPA)?  
(1) D.C. Juneja (2) B.M. Joshi (3) P.K. Kataria (4) C.K. Mishra (5) None of these
47. Who is the chairman of the task force formed for preparing a roadmap on imparting technical education in Mother Tongue?  
(1) CK Mishra (2) DS Kumar (3) Vinod Bhawe (4) Amit Khare (5) None of these
48. Who launched the India Climate Change Knowledge Portal?  
(1) Piyush Goyal (2) Ravi Shankar Prasad (3) Ramesh Pokhriyal  
(4) Prakash Javadekar (5) None of these
49. Which state's Chief Minister inaugurated the Suryadhar lake in one of the districts?  
(1) Rajasthan (2) Himachal Pradesh (3) Uttarakhand  
(4) Madhya Pradesh (5) None of these
50. Where was the first "child-friendly" police station inaugurated in November 2020?  
(1) Lucknow (2) Pune (3) Hyderabad (4) Karnal (5) None of these
51. Where is the country's first memorial for organ donors inaugurated?  
(1) Jaipur (2) Lucknow (3) Faridabad (4) Noida (5) None of these
52. Where did Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari inaugurate the three lane 1.5 km long Koilwar bridge?  
(1) Himachal Pradesh (2) Haryana (3) Uttarakhand  
(4) Bihar (5) None of these
53. In which state is the National Centre for Divyang Empowerment at the CRPF Group Centre inaugurated?  
(1) Maharashtra (2) Karnataka (3) West Bengal (4) Madhya Pradesh (5) None of these

54. Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy virtually launched 'Jagananna Jeeva Kranthi' scheme. The scheme aims to distribute which of the following to women in the state?  
 (1) Horses (2) Sheep (3) Cows (4) Buffaloes (5) None of these
55. Which of the following launched an electronic spot platform for agricultural commodities called BEAM?  
 (1) Multi Commodity Exchange (2) Calcutta Stock Exchange  
 (3) Bombay Stock Exchange (4) National Stock Exchange (5) None of these
56. In which state is the Braille version of the Indian Constitution unveiled?  
 (1) Odisha (2) Maharashtra (3) MP (4) Karnataka (5) None of these
57. Which state government launched Kisan Kalyan Mission, a special program to double the income of farmers?  
 (1) Madhya Pradesh (2) Arunachal Pradesh (3) Himachal Pradesh  
 (4) Uttar Pradesh (5) None of these
58. In December 2020, Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan inaugurated an oil and gas producing field in which state?  
 (1) West Bengal (2) Tamil Nadu (3) Uttar Pradesh  
 (4) Odisha (5) None of these
59. NITI Aayog has launched a service called DiggiBoxx as part of the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative. DiggiBoxx, the made-in-India service works like which of the following?  
 (1) Whatsapp (2) SHAREit (3) TikTok (4) Google Drive (5) None of these
60. Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri launched which web portal and mobile app on Good Governance Day i.e. 25th December 2020?  
 (1) E-Sukriti (2) E-Shardha (3) E-Sampada (4) E-Sukanya (5) None of these
61. In December 2020, PM Narendra Modi launched the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) SEHAT scheme to extend health insurance coverage to all residents of which state/UT?  
 (1) Bihar (2) Gujarat (3) J&K (4) Puducherry (5) None of these
62. Where did the ninth edition of the Sustainable Mountain Development Summit (SMDS) held?  
 (1) Dehradun (2) Ranchi (3) Bhopal (4) Lucknow (5) None of these
63. Which country will hold a Global Media and Film Summit in 2021?  
 (1) UAE (2) India (3) France (4) USA (5) None of these
64. Which company partnered with global digital payments platform PayPal to facilitate international payments for small businesses and freelancers?  
 (1) Razorpay (2) Cashfree (3) Instamojo (4) MobiKwik (5) None of these
65. World Health Organization tied up with which of the following to implement the Emergency Medical Team (EMT) initiative?  
 (1) International Federation of Red Cross  
 (2) American Red Cross  
 (3) International Committee of the Red Cross  
 (4) Doctors Without Borders  
 (5) None of these

66. Research Institute from which country has signed an MoU with cGanga, a think-tank of National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) for development of sludge management framework in India?  
 (1) Poland (2) Mali (3) Norway (4) Slovakia (5) None of these
67. National Centre for the Performing Arts (NCPA) has tied up which bank to offer Hindustani music scholarships to young musicians?  
 (1) The Bank of Nova Scotia (2) Bank of America (3) Citi Bank  
 (4) Qatar National Bank (5) None of these
68. ISRO has signed an MoU with which institute to open a Regional Academic Centre for Space at the institute?  
 (1) IIT Ropar (2) IIT Chennai (3) IIT Kanpur (4) IIT BHU (5) None of these
69. Which bank has signed an MoU with the Indian Green Building Council (IGBC) to promote green buildings in the country?  
 (1) HDFC (2) YES (3) Axis (4) ICICI (5) None of these
70. Which country will host the G7 meeting in 2021, of which PM Narendra Modi will also be a part on invitation?  
 (1) Germany (2) UK (3) France (4) Canada (5) None of these
71. How much assistance is given by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to support advanced biofuel development in India?  
 (1) \$3.6 million (2) \$1.2 million (3) \$2.5 million (4) \$1.8 million (5) None of these
72. Worth how much amount Covid vaccine initiative is being launched by the Asian Development Bank to offer support to its developing member economies to procure and deliver COVID-19 vaccines?  
 (1) USD 9 billion (2) USD 5 billion (3) USD 6 billion  
 (4) USD 8 billion (5) None of these
73. In December 2020, India contributed how much amount to the UN Palestine refugee agency to support education, health care, relief and social services for Palestinian refugees?  
 (1) USD 2 million (2) USD 1 million (3) USD 4 million  
 (4) USD 5 million (5) None of these
74. Export-Import Bank of India (Exim Bank) extended a Line of Credit (LOC) of \$448 million to which country?  
 (1) Albania (2) Kyrgyzstan (3) Uzbekistan (4) Mozambique (5) None of these
75. How much amount has been approved as assistance for sugarcane farmers by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)?  
 (1) Rs.600 cr (2) Rs.300 cr (3) Rs.400 cr (4) Rs.500 cr (5) None of these
76. How much loan amount has been approved by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to upgrade rural power distribution networks to provide reliable electricity supply to consumers in the state of Uttar Pradesh?  
 (1) \$200 million (2) \$600 million (3) \$300 million  
 (4) \$800 million (5) None of these
77. Project worth how much amount has been signed between GOI and Asian Development Bank (ADB) to improve urban amenities and develop tourism infrastructure in Tripura?  
 (1) \$4.21 million@ (2) \$3.54 million (3) \$5.38 million  
 (4) \$2.78 million (5) None of these

78. How much amount has been released by All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) as maintenance grants to students enrolled under PMSSS (Prime Minister's Special Scholarship Scheme)?  
 (1) Rs. 40,000 (2) Rs. 10,000 (3) Rs. 30,000 (4) Rs. 20,000 (5) None of these
79. Four Indian projects worth how much amount have been approved by the World Bank to support development initiatives?  
 (1) USD 600 million (2) USD 800 million (3) USD 300 million  
 (4) USD 500 million (5) None of these
80. With which of the following has the central govt signed a USD 500 million project to build safe and green national highway corridors in Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh?  
 (1) World Bank (2) Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank  
 (3) New Development Bank (4) Asian Development Bank (5) None of these
81. Which bank has granted a \$40 million loan to Northern Arc Capital Limited (NACL) to support the livelihoods of microfinance borrowers and MSMEs in India?  
 (1) World Bank (2) Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank  
 (3) New Development Bank (4) Asian Development Bank (5) None of these
82. American financial corporation will invest what amount in India to support the development of critical infrastructure projects in the country in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic?  
 (1) \$46 million (2) \$54 million (3) \$65 million (4) \$38 million (5) None of these
83. S&P Global Ratings forecasted what per cent contraction in the Indian economy for the current fiscal?  
 (1) 7% (2) 9% (3) 10% (4) 8% (5) None of these
84. The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) forecasted what per cent contraction in 2020-21 (FY21)?  
 (1) 9.2% (2) 8.5% (3) 10.2% (4) 9.9% (5) None of these
85. S&P Global Ratings raised India's growth projection for the current fiscal to how much percent?  
 (1) - 9.6% (2) - 5.1% (3) - 8.2% (4) - 7.7% (5) None of these
86. Which company has launched international REIT Fund of Funds, which is India's first diversified Real Estate Investment Trusts (REIT) Mutual Fund?  
 (1) Reliance Asset Management Company  
 (2) Franklin Templeton Asset Management Company  
 (3) Kotak Mahindra Asset Management Company  
 (4) Motilal Oswal Asset Management Company  
 (5) None of these
87. Online payments solutions provider PayU collaborated with which of the following to introduce tokenised payments flow for merchants in India?  
 (1) Paytm (2) PhonePe (3) Google Pay (4) Mobikwik (5) None of these
88. China has become the second country to leave a flag on the moon. Which is the first country to do so?  
 (1) UK (2) Russia (3) Japan (4) USA (5) None of these
89. Which country launched a new remote sensing satellite, Yaogan-33, into space?  
 (1) Japan (2) China (3) Russia (4) Singapore (5) None of these

90. Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan launched India's first indigenously developed \_\_\_\_\_ Octane premium petrol?  
 (1) 100 (2) 50 (3) 200 (4) 300 (5) None of these
91. What is the new height of world's highest peak Mount Everest revised jointly by Nepal and China?  
 (1) 8,848.86 metres (2) 8,376.65 metres (3) 8,924.08 metres  
 (4) 8,562.27 metres (5) None of these
92. Dictionary.com and which other dictionary have chosen pandemic as the 2020 word of the year?  
 (1) Collins English Dictionary (2) Cambridge Dictionary (3) Macmillan Dictionary  
 (4) Merriam-Webster (5) None of these
93. The Chilahati-Haldibari rail link which was cut off during the 1965 India-Pakistan war will be reopened by India and which other country?  
 (1) Bangladesh (2) Nepal (3) Sri Lanka (4) Pakistan (5) None of these
94. With the Indian Railways operationalizing its first 12,000 hp electric locomotive, India has joined the club of how many countries producing high horsepower locomotives?  
 (1) 4 (2) 6 (3) 5 (4) 7 (5) None of these
95. Where was the second Bangladesh-India Cotton Fest 2020 held?  
 (1) Delhi (2) Dhaka (3) Tripura (4) Chittagong (5) None of these
96. Who has been elected as the president of Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) for 2020-21?  
 (1) Bhim Singh (2) Uday Shankar (3) Suresh Tripathi (4) Kanuj Sethi (5) None of these
97. Zena Wooldridge who has been elected as the new World Squash Federation (WSF) President, belongs to which country?  
 (1) UK (2) Australia (3) Russia (4) Denmark (5) None of these
98. RBI approved the re-appointment of whom as the managing director of Kotak Mahindra Bank (KMB)?  
 (1) Madhukar Parekh (2) Shankar Acharya (3) Prakash Apte  
 (4) Uday Kotak (5) None of these
99. Dave Prowse who passed away was related to which profession?  
 (1) Comedian (2) Actor (3) Singer (4) Dramatist (5) None of these
100. Aly Zaker, actor and liberation war fighter from which country passed away?  
 (1) Bangladesh (2) Russia (3) Afghanistan (4) Pakistan (5) None of these
101. Manu Mukherjee who passed away related to which profession?  
 (1) Artist (2) Actor (3) Author (4) Journalist (5) None of these
102. Ravi Patwardhan who passed away was related to which profession?  
 (1) Actor (2) Politician (3) Author (4) Businessman (5) None of these
103. S Ramakrishnan who passed away was the former director of which institute?  
 (1) Indian Space Research Organization  
 (2) Defence Research and Development Organization  
 (3) Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre  
 (4) Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology  
 (5) None of these

- 104.** Manglesh Dabral who passed away was related to which profession?  
(1) Politician (2) Businessman (3) Poet (4) Artist (5) None of these
- 105.** Astad Deboo who passed away was related to which profession?  
(1) Politician (2) Author (3) Businessman (4) Dancer (5) None of these
- 106.** Ram Lal Rahi who passed away was related to which profession?  
(1) Author (2) Journalist (3) Politician (4) Filmmaker (5) None of these
- 107.** Motilal Vora who passed away was related with which profession?  
(1) Filmmaker (2) Author (3) Politician (4) Activist (5) None of these
- 108.** Sugathakumari who passed away was related to which profession?  
(1) Poet (2) Sports person (3) Economist (4) Dancer (5) None of these
- 109.** Madan Lal Sharma who passed away was related to which profession?  
(1) Author (2) Sports person (3) Politician (4) Filmmaker (5) None of these
- 110.** Shamsur Rahman Faruqi who passed away was related to which profession?  
(1) Politician (2) Artist (3) Singer (4) Poet (5) None of these
- 111.** John Edrich who passed away was related to which sport?  
(1) Cricket (2) Hockey (3) Football (4) Basketball (5) None of these
- 112.** Ishwar Bidri, who passed away was related with which profession?  
(1) Actor (2) Dancer (3) Painter (4) Cinematographer (5) None of these
- 113.** Robin Jackman who passed away was related with which sport?  
(1) Hockey (2) Tennis (3) Cricket (4) Football (5) None of these
- 114.** Sunil Kothari who passed away was related to which profession?  
(1) Politician (2) Dancer (3) Artist (4) Filmmaker (5) None of these
- 115.** Which of the following cooperation has won the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Mutual Agreement Procedure 2019 Award for highest agreement ratio for a pair of jurisdictions for transfer pricing cases?  
(1) Indo-Russia (2) Indo-Denmark (3) Indo-Japan (4) Indo-Singapore (5) None of these
- 116.** Which Indian is placed first on the list among Indians by Fortune in its Businessperson of the Year 2020 list which is topped by Tesla CEO Elon Musk?  
(1) Ajay Banga (2) Shantanu Narayen (3) Jayashree Ullal  
(4) Satya Nadella (5) None of these
- 117.** Which railway station of Uttar Pradesh will now be named as Maa Barahi Devi Dham?  
(1) Akbarpur Junction railway station  
(2) Aunrihar Junction railway station  
(3) Khurja Junction railway station  
(4) Dandupur railway station  
(5) None of these
- 118.** Who won the Sports Person of the Year Award in female category at the FICCI India Sports Awards 2020?  
(1) Apurvi Chandela (2) Manu Bhaker (3) Anjum Moudgil  
(4) Elavenil Valarivan (5) None of these

- 119.** Who have been jointly named Time magazine's 2020 "Person of the Year"?
- (1) Narendra Modi and Scott Morrison  
 (2) Kamala Harris and Jacinda Ardern  
 (3) Joe Biden and Kamala Harris  
 (4) Joe Biden and Narendra Modi  
 (5) None of these
- 120.** Which player is chosen as BBC Sports Personality of the Year 2020?
- (1) Marcus Rashford (2) Lewis Hamilton (3) Novak Djokovic  
 (4) Cristiano Ronaldo (5) None of these
- 121.** Who has been given the first award under Telecom Skill Excellence Awards for the year 2018?
- (1) Subrat Kar (2) Sreenivas Karanam (3) Sushil Pandey  
 (4) Ramanujan Kumar (5) None of these
- 122.** With Ladakh's Tso Kar Wetland Complex added to India's list of Ramsar sites, what is the number of Ramsar sites in India?
- (1) 42nd (2) 56th (3) 38th (4) 64th (5) None of these
- 123.** Which state government was announced the winner of Digital India Awards, instituted by the central government, this year for innovative steps in e- governance?
- (1) Nagaland (2) MP (3) West Bengal (4) Bihar (5) None of these
- 124.** Who has been honoured with DRDO's 'Scientist of the Year Award' for his contribution in developing several herbal medicines?
- (1) Vishwar Kumar Pandit (2) Rauhul Srivastava (3) Kunal Kapoor  
 (4) Hemant Kumar Pandey (5) None of these
- 125.** Recently which cricketer scripted history by becoming the fastest to get 22,000 international runs?
- (1) Virat Kohli (2) KL Rahul (3) Rohit Sharma  
 (4) Mahendra Singh Dhoni (5) None of these
- 126.** Which country will host the qualifiers of the 2023 ODI World Cup which is scheduled in India?
- (1) South Africa (2) New Zealand (3) UAE  
 (4) Zimbabwe (5) None of these
- 127.** What is the rank of India in Global Terrorism Index of 2020 released by Institute of Economics and Peace?
- (1) 3rd (2) 5th (3) 8th (4) 10th (5) None of these
- 128.** According to a report titled "Ericsson Mobility Report" by Swedish gear maker Ericsson, by which year will India surpass 350 million 5G subscriptions?
- (1) 2026 (2) 2024 (3) 2028 (4) 2030 (5) None of these
- 129.** According to a study by IIT-Bombay researchers, which city has topped the list of cities those offer high quality of life in India?
- (1) Mumbai (2) Delhi (3) Bengaluru (4) Chennai (5) None of these
- 130.** What is the rank of India in 2020 Global Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI), which was released in Germany?
- (1) 3rd (2) 6th (3) 10th (4) 7th (5) None of these
- 131.** Which country topped the Bloomberg New Energy Finance's (BNEF) 2020 Climate scope survey ranking reflecting its strong clean energy policies?
- (1) Brazil (2) India (3) Mozambique (4) Chile (5) None of these

132. What is the rank of India in the personal freedom index released in December 2020?  
(1) 178 (2) 154 (3) 121 (4) 111 (5) None of these
133. The VGF scheme was notified by the Ministry of Finance under which various infrastructure projects will be selected for financial support to provide a boost to the sector. What does F stand for in VGF?  
(1) Financial (2) Foreclosure (3) Factor (4) Funding (5) None of these
134. Between which country and India will the 'Swadhinata Sarak' be opened in next year?  
(1) Nepal (2) Bangladesh (3) Sri Lanka (4) Myanmar (5) None of these
135. On December 16, 2020, PM Narendra Modi lit the 'Swarnim Vijay Mashaal' from the eternal flame of the National War Memorial to mark the beginning of the 50th anniversary year celebrations of India's victory over Pakistan in which year?  
(1) 1971 (2) 1965 (3) 1983 (4) 1976 (5) None of these
136. In December 2020, where did the Ministry of AYUSH approve 200 AYUSH Health and Wellness Centres?  
(1) Hilsa (2) Begusarai (3) Almora (4) Dumka (5) None of these
137. As per the govt data in December 2020, how many households have been provided tap water connections under Jal Jeevan Mission?  
(1) 245 lakh (2) 234 lakh (3) 278 lakh (4) 196 lakh (5) None of these
138. Which bird's picture will be used as the logo for the international airport to be constructed in Noida's Jewar?  
(1) Stork (2) Francolin (3) Goshawk (4) Asian Koel (5) None of these
139. In December 2020, centre approved Rs.90.60 cr for land acquisition for the Integrated Check Post (ICP) in which state?  
(1) Assam (2) Tripura (3) Arunachal Pradesh  
(4) Sikkim (5) None of these
140. Where did Skill India establish first Centre of Excellence for Skill Development in Power Sector?  
(1) Surat (2) Lucknow (3) Gurugram (4) Jaipur (5) None of these
141. To set up the Gujarat-Special Education Region (G-SER) at which place, has the state govt signed a pact with Cerestra Managers Pvt Ltd?  
(1) Dholera (2) Anand (3) Bagodara (4) Rajkot (5) None of these
142. UN Women has collaborated with which state in India to establish India's first Gender Data Hub in that region?  
(1) Goa (2) Odisha (3) MP (4) Kerala (5) None of these
143. Which country has become the first in the world to give approval to a company to sell its laboratory-grown chicken in the city-state?  
(1) Indonesia (2) Thailand (3) Singapore (4) Australia (5) None of these
144. Which country declared a climate emergency in December 2020, promising that its public sector would become carbon neutral by 2025?  
(1) Canada (2) Sweden (3) Ireland (4) New Zealand (5) None of these

145. Which country has become the first country in the world to approve the Pfizer-BioNTech coronavirus vaccine?  
 (1) Canada (2) USA (3) Singapore (4) UK (5) None of these
146. Which country joined IORA as its 23rd member state?  
 (1) UK (2) Japan (3) Italy (4) France (5) None of these
147. Which book by the author Anita Anand has won the PEN Hessell-Tiltman Prize for History 2020?  
 (1) The Patient Assassin: A True Tale of Massacre, Revenge and the Raj  
 (2) Kohinoor: The Story of the World's Most Infamous Diamond  
 (3) Sophia: Princess, Suffragette, Revolutionary  
 (4) Kabul Blogs: My Days in the Life of Afghanistan  
 (5) None of these
148. Who is the author of the book, titled "The Light of Asia: The Poem that Defined the Buddha"?  
 (1) Amish Tripathi (2) Sashi Tharoor (3) Neelakantan  
 (4) Jairam Ramesh (5) None of these
149. Who has authored the book titled 'Ayodhya'?  
 (1) Tej Pratap Verma (2) Madhav Bhandari (3) Rupesh Dholakia  
 (4) Keshav Ganguly (5) None of these
150. 'In Pursuit of Justice' is the autobiography of whom?  
 (1) Manish Tulli (2) Hemansh Rajput (3) Prem Prakash Kohli  
 (4) Rajindar Sachar (5) None of these

Ans: 1-4, 2-2, 3-4, 4-4, 5-4, 6-2, 7-1, 8-4, 9-2, 10-1, 11-2, 12-4, 13-3, 14-1, 15-1, 16-3, 17-3, 18-4, 19-3, 20-2, 21-1, 22-4, 23-1, 24-2, 25-4, 26-1, 27-1, 28-2, 29-4, 30-4, 31-2, 32-2, 33-4, 34-1, 35-2, 36-2, 37-2, 38-2, 39-3, 40-4, 41-2, 42-4, 43-3, 44-3, 45-1, 46-4, 47-4, 48-4, 49-3, 50-2, 51-1, 52-4, 53-2, 54-2, 55-3, 56-2, 57-4, 58-1, 59-4, 60-3, 61-3, 62-1, 63-2, 64-1, 65-1, 66-3, 67-1, 68-4, 69-1, 70-2, 71-3, 72-1, 73-1, 74-3, 75-4, 76-3, 77-1, 78-4, 79-2, 80-1, 81-4, 82-2, 83-2, 84-4, 85-4, 86-3, 87-3, 88-4, 89-2, 90-1, 91-1, 92-4, 93-1, 94-3, 95-2, 96-2, 97-1, 98-4, 99-2, 100-1, 101-4, 102-1, 103-3, 104-3, 105-4, 106-3, 107-3, 108-1, 109-3, 110-4, 111-1, 112-4, 113-3, 114-2, 115-3, 116-2, 117-4, 118-4, 119-3, 120-2, 121-2, 122-1, 123-4, 124-4, 125-1, 126-4, 127-3, 128-1, 129-1, 130-3, 131-4, 132-4, 133-4, 134-2, 135-1, 136-3, 137-3, 138-1, 139-2, 140-3, 141-1, 142-4, 143-3, 144-4, 145-4, 146-4, 147-1, 148-4, 149-2, 150-4.

-- x --