

## GENERAL AWARENESS-CURRENT AFFAIRS

### MONTH OF JANUARY-2021

#### List of Important Days

- January 01 - DRDO Celebrates 63rd Foundation Day.
- January 04 - World Braille Day.
- January 06 - Journalist Day Observed in Maharashtra.
- January 09 - Pravasi Bharatiya Divas.
- January 10 - World Hindi Day.
- January 14 - Armed Forces Veterans Day.
- January 15 - Indian Army Day.
- January 18 - National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) Celebrates its 16th Raising Day.
- January 23 - GoI celebrate Parakram Diwas.
- January 23 - Parakram diwas.
- January 23 - National handwriting day.
- January 24 - International Day of Education. (Theme - "Recover and Revitalize Education for the COVID-19 Generation")
- January 24 - National Girl Child Day.
- January 25 - National Tourism Day of India.
- January 25 - National Voters' Day. (Theme - "Making Our Voters Empowered, Vigilant, Safe and Informed")
- January 26 - India celebrates its 72nd Republic Day.
- January 26 - International Customs Day. (Theme - "Customs bolstering Recovery, Renewal and Resilience")
- January 27 - International Day of Commemoration in memory of the victims of the Holocaust (International Holocaust Remembrance Day).
- January 30 - 73rd Martyrs' Day.

#### Reserve Bank of India

- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has launched a **Digital Payments Index (DPI)** to capture the extent of digitization of digital/electronic payments across the country.
  - This RBI-Digital Payments Index (DPI) has **5 broad parameters** that will be used for the measurement of deepening and penetration of digital payments.
- The Reserve Bank of India has introduced **Legal Entity Identifier (LEI)** for all payment transactions of value **Rs50 crore** and above undertaken by entities (non-individuals) via Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS) and National Electronic Funds Transfer (NEFT).
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has **cancelled** the **licence** of Maharashtra-based **Vasantdada Nagari Sahakari Bank**, with immediate effect.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a **penalty** of **Rs 2 crore** on **Deutsche Bank AG** for non-compliance with certain provisions of directions concerning interest rate on deposits.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has set up a working group to **study digital lending activities** of the regulated and unregulated players, due to the growing instances of frauds in digital lending space.

- Uttar Pradesh-based, Shivalik Mercantile Co-operative Bank (**SMCB**) has become the first urban co-operative bank (**UCB**) in India to receive a licence from RBI to operate as a **Small Finance Bank (SFB)**.
- The **Export-Import Bank** has raised **US\$1 billion** through the sale of **US dollar bonds** to international investors.
- **IDFC Mutual Funds** has launched its latest pan-India investor awareness campaign titled **#PaisoKoRokoMat**.
  - With this new campaign, IDFC Mutual Fund aims to shift the conversation regarding wealth creation from the traditional to the contemporary.
- **Yes Bank** has announced its partnership with **Aditya Birla Wellness Private Limited** to launch the '**YES BANK Wellness**' and '**YES BANK Wellness Plus**' **Credit Cards** – aimed at the holistic health, self-care and wellness of consumers.
- To protect Airtel customers from the growing incidents of online payment **frauds**, **Airtel Payments Bank** has launched '**Airtel Safe Pay**', a safe way to pay digitally.
- **ICICI Bank** has launched a new mobile application '**InstaFX**' for authorized money changers to help customers of any bank get '**ICICI Bank Forex Prepaid Card**' swiftly.
  - ICICI is the bank is the first in the country to offer such facility to money changers.
- The RBI state-owned **SBI**, along with private-sector lenders **ICICI Bank** and **HDFC Bank** continue to be Domestic Systemically Important Banks (**D-SIBs**) or institutions which are 'too big to fail'.
- **Axis Bank** has unveiled a credit '**AURA**' exclusively loaded with **several health and wellness** benefits for its users at an affordable price.
  - Axis Bank has partnered with **Poshvineto** to offer benefits.
- **SEBI** has imposed a fine of **Rs.1 crore** on **HDFC Bank** for invoking securities pledged by stockbroker **BRH Wealth Kreators** and violating its interim order.
- Global financial services major **HSBC** has inaugurated its International Banking Unit (**IBU**) branch at **GIFT City** near **Gandhinagar city in Gujarat**.

### Central Government

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (**CCEA**) on January 7, 2021 approved an **industrial development scheme** for **Jammu and Kashmir**.
- The Central Government has approved the Rs 945-crore '**Start-up India Seed Fund Scheme**' (**SISFS**), which aims to provide **financial assistance** to start-ups for the product trials, market-entry, proof of concept, prototype development and commercialization.

### States

- **Delhi** government Department of Art, Culture, and Language has set-up a **Tamil academy** to promote the language and culture of the southern state of Tamil Nadu.
- The government of **Uttar Pradesh** will launch a special program named '**Kisan Kalyan Mission**' on January 6, 2021, to double the income of farmers of the state.
- The Chief Minister of **Karnataka**, B.S. Yediyurappa flagged off **40 Krishi Sanjeevani vans** in Bengaluru. These vans have been launched by the state Agriculture Department with Central assistance under National Krishi Vikas Yojana to take up this novel programme.
- **Arunachal Pradesh** can become India's **prime producer of Vanadium**.
  - It is a high-value metal that has been used in strengthening steel and titanium.
- **Kerala** has become the **8th State** in the country to successfully undertake "**Ease of Doing Business**" reform stipulated by the Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance.

- **Kerala** Governor Arif Mohammad Khan has inaugurated the '**One School One IAS**' scheme which has been rolled out under the Vedhik Erudite Foundations Scholarship Programme.
- The **Maharashtra** government has renamed **Gorewada International Zoo** in Nagpur as '**Balasaheb Thackeray Gorewada International Zoological Park**'.
- The first-of-its-kind **Labour Movement Museum**, in **India**, would be launched in Alappuzha in **Kerala**, to showcase the history of the world labour movement.
- **Uttarakhand** Chief Minister, **Trivendra Singh Rawat** will inaugurate the first **child-friendly police station** of **Uttarakhand**, which is meant to provide a friendly environment to children associated with crimes.
  - The child-friendly police unit has been set up in the **Dalanwala police** station with a budget of about Rs 5 lakhs on the recommendation of the Child Protection Committee of Uttarakhand.
- The Prison Department of **Maharashtra** has launched its **jail tourism** initiative starting with more than 150-year-old Yerawada Central Prison in **Pune**.

### Place in the News

- **Meghalaya** Chief Minister, Conrad K. Sangma has inaugurated India's longest road arch bridge "**Wahrew Bridge**" at Sohbar in East Khasi Hills district of Meghalaya .
- The **Kerala** government is all set to launch **Rs 300 crore** three-tower '**Gender Park**' in **Kozhikode**.
  - The park will become functional on the occasion of the second edition of the International Conference on Gender Equality (**ICGE-II**).

### Personalities

- US President **Donald Trump** became the first US President to be **impeached twice** by the House of Representatives.
- **Manish Kumar**, a sanitation worker in Delhi, became the **first person** to receive the **COVID-19 vaccine** in India after PM Modi flagged off the nationwide vaccination drive.
- Flight lieutenant **Bhawana Kanth** will become the **1st woman fighter pilot** to take part in the Republic Day parade.
  - She will be a part of the Indian Air Force's tableau in the 2021 Republic Day Parade that will showcase mock-ups of the light combat helicopter, light combat aircraft, and the Sukhoi-30 fighter plane.

### Defence and National Security

- **India** and **Israel** successfully tested a Medium-Range Surface-to-Air Missile (**MRSAM**) defence system.
- The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the proposal to **export** indigenously-developed **Akash Missile System**.
- The **Pakistan** Army successfully conducted the test flight of an indigenously developed Guided Multi Launch Rocket System, **Fatah-1**.
- The **second** edition of the coastal defence exercise '**Sea Vigil-21**' was held in January 12 and 13.
- The Union Cabinet chaired by PM Modi gave its approval for the purchase of **10 trainer aircraft** and **83 Tejas Light Combat Aircraft fighter jets** at the price of Rs. 45,696 crores.
- Women will be inducted as **pilots** in the **Army Aviation Corps** from 2022.
  - Till now, women have only been part of ground duties in the Army Aviation Corps.
- The **Indian Army** is to conduct a large scale joint military exercise **Kavach** in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

- The **DRDO** successfully conducted captive and release trial of indigenously developed Smart Anti-Airfield Weapon (**SAAW**) from Hawk-I aircraft of Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) off the **Odisha** coast.
- A large-scale tri-service joint amphibious exercise **AMPHEX - 21** was held in **Andaman & Nicobar** group of islands.
  - The exercise involved the participation of troops of Army, Navy as well as the Indian Air Force.

#### Schemes/Initiatives

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the 450-km **Kochi-Mangaluru natural gas pipeline** built at a cost of Rs 3,000 crore via video conferencing.
  - The event marks an important milestone towards the creation of One Nation One Gas Grid.
- Union Road Transport and Highways Minister **Nitin Gadkari** will be launching an innovative new paint developed by **Khadi and Village Industries Commission**.
  - The eco-friendly, non-toxic paint, called "**Khadi Prakritik Paint**" is a first-of-its-kind product, with anti-fungal, anti-bacterial properties.
- The **India Meteorological Department** has launched a **public outreach initiative** through a website where citizens will be able to record realized weather and can upload their local weather conditions.
- The Chief Minister of **Odisha**, Naveen Patnaik virtually inaugurated a first of its kind '**Fire Park**', to educate and bring awareness on basic fire safety measures among the people, particularly the students.
  - The 'Fire Park' is located inside the premises of the Odisha Fire and Disaster Academy in **Bhubaneswar**.
- The **Karnataka** Chief Minister, BS Yediyurappa recently launched **Avalokana software**.
- The 7th edition of '**MASCRADE 2021 - Movement against Smuggled & Counterfeit Trade**' was inaugurated by Dr Harsh Vardhan, the Union Minister of Health and Family welfare.
- The Union Minister of Tribal Affairs Shri Arjun Munda has launched a National Migration Support Portal "**ShramShakti**", during a virtual programme organized at Panjim, **Goa**.
  - The portal will help the government in **smooth formulation** of state and national level programs for migrant workers.
- **Uttar Pradesh** Chief Minister, **Yogi Adityanath** has launched the '**Udyam Sarathi App**' on the occasion of the 71st Foundation Day of the state.
  - The app will enable the youths to get every information related to self-employment and the job industry, across the state.
- In **Madhya Pradesh**, Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has launched a new scheme '**PANKH Abhiyan**' to mark the occasion of National Girl Child Day.
  - The scheme has been launched under the 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' scheme for the empowerment and growth of the girl child.
- **National Marine Turtle Action Plan** has been recently released by the Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change (**MoEF&CC**) in **New Delhi**.
  - The Ministry also released the '**Marine Mega Fauna Stranding Guidelines**' along with the Marine Turtle Action Plan.
- **Dhannipur Mosque** project was officially launched on the 5 acres of land in Dhannipur Village, Ayodhya, **Uttar Pradesh** on Republic Day.

#### Summit/Conference

- The Union Education Minister inaugurates Two-day Virtual **International Akhand Conference 'EDUCON-2020'**.

- The two-day international conference is organized by the Central University of Punjab (CUPB) in cooperation with the worldwide Educational Research Association (GERA).
- The **Startup India International Summit** is organized by Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal trade (DPIIT) and the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- The **India Digital Summit**, the flagship event of the Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI) is one of the biggest conferences for the digital industry.
  - Minister Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad, who is the **chief guest**, will deliver the inaugural address at the Summit.

#### Agreement/Deal/Signed

- The **Indian Navy** has signed a contract with the Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), to procure Light Amplification by Stimulated Emission of **Radiation Dazzlers** (Laser Dazzlers).
- **Indian Army** has inked a contract with **Goa Shipyard Limited** (GSL) to procure 12 Fast Patrol Boats for surveillance and patrolling of large water bodies, including those in high altitude areas like Pangong Tso lake in **Ladakh**.
- The **TRIFED** (Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India) operating under Ministry of Tribal Affairs signed a memorandum of understanding with **Akhil Bhartiya vanvasi Kalyan Ashram** to setup **TRIFOOD parks** in **Madhya Pradesh**.
- **Tata Power**, India's largest integrated power company, announced its partnership with **SIDBI** (Small Industries Development Bank of India) to offer easy and affordable financing scheme for **MSME customers** in the rooftop **solar segment**.
- **Punjab National Bank** has partnered with **IIT Kanpur** and the Foundation for Innovation & Research in Science & Technology (**FIRST**) to set up a '**Fintech Innovation Centre** (FIC)' at the institute's campus.
- **NHPC Limited** has signed an MOU with the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (**IREDA**) for providing assistance in setting up renewable energy (**RE**) projects for the next 5 years.
- The Union Cabinet chaired by PM Modi approved the Memorandum of Understanding on the scientific and technical cooperation between the Ministry of **Earth Sciences**, India and the National Centre of **Meteorology**, **UAE**.
- **Bharat Biotech** has signed an agreement with **Precisa Medicamentos** for the supply of **COVAXIN** to **Brazil**.
- **NITI Aayog** and **Flipkart**, have come together to launch the revamped **Women Entrepreneurship Platform**.
- The **Indian Army** has recently signed a contract with Mumbai-based drone manufacturing company, **ideaForge**, to procure high-altitude variant of **SWITCH** unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs). The total cost of the deal is approximately USD 20 million.
- **ICICI Bank**, a leading Indian private sector bank, and **Niyo**, a new age fintech company announced a tie-up to issue prepaid cards to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (**MSMEs**) workers.
  - MSMEs will now be able to get '**ICICI Bank Niyo Bharat Payroll Card**' powered by Visa, for their blue-collar workers.
- **India** and **Japan** signed a Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) a Basic Framework for Partnership for Proper Operation of the System Pertaining to Specified **Skilled Worker** (SSW), to promote the movement of skilled workers from India to Japan.
- The Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India- **TRIFED** and Indian Farm Forestry Development Co-Operative Ltd- **IFFDC** signed a Memorandum of Understanding to work together for the livelihood generation of the **tribal people**.

- **Infosys** has recently announced that it has been accredited with the **Google Cloud Partner** Specialization in the data and analytics space.
- The Union Cabinet was apprised of signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between **India** and **Uzbekistan** for cooperation in the field of **Solar Energy**.
- The 5th edition of the Defence Ministers' Dialogue (DMD) between **India** and **Singapore** was held through a video conference, in an effort to deepen military cooperation.
  - During the meeting, the 'Implementing Agreement on Submarine Rescue Support and Cooperation' was signed between the two Navies.
- The Defence Research and Development Organization (**DRDO**) signed an MoU with the Ministry of **Road Transport and Highways**.
  - The agreement is for promoting and strengthening the collaboration in the area of cooperation and technical exchange on sustainable geohazard management.
- The agreement between the Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (**POWERGRID**) and the Himachal Pradesh State Electricity Board Limited (**HPSEBL**) signed to utilize 500 kilometers of OPGW telecommunications network in **Shimla** (HP).
- **India** has inked a strategic partnership agreement with the International Energy Agency (**IEA**), the world's premier **energy monitor**.

#### Meet/Visit

- **India** and **France** held their annual strategic dialogue in **New Delhi**.
  - The countries mainly focused on COVID-19 vaccines, nuclear, Indo-Pacific, space, environment, maritime safety, digital economy, environment and defence sectors.
- Dr **Harsh Vardhan**, Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare **digitally chaired** the 148th session of **WHO Executive Board**, through Video Conference.
- **India** and the **European Union** held their first virtual **maritime security** dialogue 2021.
  - The maritime dialogue was chaired by the Joint Secretary **Sandeep Arya** from the Indian side and Director **Joanneke Balfoort** on the European Union External Action Service Side.
- The 14th meeting of the **India-United Kingdom** Joint Working Group on **Counter-Terrorism** was held virtually, under which both nations strongly condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has chaired the 35th **PRAGATI** meeting to review multiple projects, grievances and programmes.
  - In the meeting, ten agenda items were taken for review worth Rs. 54,675 crore, related to 15 states.
- The 5th joint meeting of the **India-Japan Act East Forum** (AEF) was held in **New Delhi**.
  - The meeting was co-chaired by Foreign Secretary Shri Harsh Vardhan Shringla, and Suzuki Satoshi, Ambassador of Japan to India.

#### Bills

- The **Assam** assembly recently passed the **Assam Ease of Doing Business** (Amendment) Bill, 2020.
  - The amendment will avail 0.25% additional borrowing from the centre.

#### Fund

- The **Asian Development Bank** (ADB) has signed a **\$231 million** loan with the Government of India to augment electricity generation capacity in the state of **Assam**.
  - This is the third tranche loan for the 'Assam Power Sector Investment Programme' that was approved by the ADB Board in July 2014.

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of India have signed a **\$10 million** project readiness financing (PRF).
  - This agreement aims to help finance piloting activities, and design and capacity building for an ensuing project that aims to expand **horticulture production** and farm household income in the hill state of **Himachal Pradesh**.
- The New Development Bank (NDB) has signed loan agreements worth USD **646 million** with the Government of **India** for two road projects in **Andhra Pradesh**.
- The Government of **Japan** has committed **Official Development Assistance** loan of **30 billion** Japanese Yen which is approximately Rs 2113 crore rupees.
  - This programme loan aims to support India's efforts to provide coordinated and adequate social protection to the poor and vulnerable across the country against the severe **impacts of COVID-19** pandemic.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched **Rs 1,000-crore 'Startup India Seed Fund'** while addressing the 'Prarambh: Startup India International Summit' 2021.
- **India** has announced a pledge of **USD 150,000** to the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) for the year 2021 to support the activities and programs this year.

### Economy

- **World Bank** has projected the **Indian economy** to contract by **9.6 per cent** in the fiscal year 2020-21, in its Global Economic Prospects report.
  - World Bank estimates Growth to recover to 5.4 per cent in 2021.
- **Union Budget 2021**, slated to be presented on February 1, is going to be completely **paperless** in the wake of the ongoing corona virus pandemic.
  - This will be the first time since independence that the budget papers will not be printed.

### Companies/Industry

- Elon Musk-owned electric vehicle (EV) company **Tesla** has registered a fully-owned subsidiary in **Bengaluru, Karnataka**.
- **Apple Inc** cornered nearly a quarter of the **global smartphone** market in the fourth quarter, making it the world's biggest seller, while shipments for Huawei plunged as U.S sanctions against it took effect.
- Tech major **Microsoft** has launched its new India Development Center (IDC) facility in Noida, **Uttar Pradesh**.
  - The new centre will serve as a leading hub for driving advanced engineering and innovation.
- The Larsen & Toubro (L&T) has bagged a contract worth Rs 1390 crore for the **Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train project**.
  - L&T has bagged the contract for the project from the National High-Speed Rail Corporation Limited (NHSRCL).

### Taxation/Trade

- The second session of the **7th Trade Policy Review (TPR)** of India concluded at the **World Trade Organization (WTO)**.
  - Trade Policy Review is a key mechanism under the monitoring function of WTO.

### Space

- A **Japanese** Company and **Kyoto** University have decided to collaborate to develop the world's first **wooden satellites** which will be made out of wood by **2023**.
- **Japan** Aerospace Exploration Agency- JAXA announced that it will launch its flagship rocket **H3** to pave the way for the next generation of transportation technologies.

- The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (**NASA**) is looking to carry out the eighth and final test in its “**Green Run**” test series.
  - This eighth stage termed “hot fire,” will bring to an end a series of tests which, NASA says, will gradually bring together the core stage of the Space Launch System (SLS) to life for the very first time.
- **SpaceX** has launched its **Transporter-1** mission with 133 commercial and government spacecraft, and 10 more Starlink satellites onboard, breaking ISRO’s record.
  - The launch is also SpaceX’s first dedicated **SmallSat Rideshare Program** mission.
- ISRO chairman K Sivan is likely to inaugurate the ‘**SriShakthiSat**’ ground station at Sri Shakthi Institute of Engineering and Technology in **Coimbatore**.

### Science and Technology

- Indian launched the **40th Scientific Expedition to Antarctica** on January 4, 2021.

### Health/Diseases/Drugs

- Union Minister Prakash Javadekar announced that the **Covishield** coronavirus vaccine has been approved for **emergency use in India**.
  - The Oxford University-AstraZeneca vaccine ‘Covishield’, the first to be approved in India, is being manufactured by the Serum Institute of India (SII) in **Pune**.
  - The Oxford University-AstraZeneca vaccine was approved for use in the **UK** on December 30.
- The Indian Council of Medical Research-**ICMR** announced on January 2, 2021, that the medical body has successfully isolated and cultured the **UK- variant of Coronavirus strain**.
- The **World Health Organization** along with partner agencies informed that they are establishing a global stockpile of **Ebola vaccines** to control future outbreaks.

### Energy/Gas/Oil

- The Union Cabinet gave its approval to an investment of **Rs. 5281.94 crores** for 850 MW **Ratle Hydro Electric Project**.
  - It is located on river **Chenab** in Kishtwar district, Jammu and Kashmir.

### Education

- National Informatics Centre and Central Board of Secondary Education, **CBSE** will jointly launch **CollabCAD Software** to provide a total engineering solution for students and Faculty of Engineering Graphics Curriculum.

### Transport/Cars/Scooters

- Union Defence Minister, Rajnath Singh has unveiled India’s first ‘**Driverless Metro Car**’ during a function held at **BEML’s Bangalore Complex**.
- The **Indian** government has supplied a consignment of **two** Mobile Harbour Cranes- **MHC** to **Chabahar Port** in **Iran**.
  - The total contract value of the consignment is over USD 25 million under a agreement signed for the supply of 6 MHC.
- The South-East Central Railways (**SECR**) zone in **Chhattisgarh** breaks its own previous record by successfully operating the **longest ever freight train** by amalgamating **five** rakes of goods trains as one unit of around 3.5 km.
  - Named as ‘**Vasuki**’, it covered the distance of **224 km** between the railway stations of Bhilai and Korba and took about seven hours.

### Films and Film Festival

- The 51st **International Film Festival of India** (IFFI) was opened on 16th January, with the Indian premiere of the movie ‘**Another Round**’ by Thomas Vinterberg.

- The movie starring Cannes Best Actor Award winner **Mads Mikkelsen** is among a star-studded line up of movies being showcased at IFFI.
- 51st IFFI was organized from 16th to 24th January in **Goa**.

### Festival

- In **Ladakh**, the inaugural edition of the **Khelo India Zaskar Winter Sport & Youth Festival 2021** kicked off on 18th January 2021.
  - The 13- Day Zaskar Winter Sports Festival aims to open a new arena in Ladakh for adventure and Nature loving tourists and a boost for local Youth to hone up their skills in winter sports to represent India.
- The Chief Minister of **Bihar** Nitish Kumar has inaugurated the first-ever **bird festival** of the state, '**Kalrav**', at Nagi-Nakti bird sanctuary, located in **Jamui** district.
- **Odisha** Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has inaugurated the annual **Toshali National Crafts Mela** in **Bhubaneswar**.

### Media/I.T/Telecommunication

- Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur has launched **Himachal Pradesh's** first **online youth radio station** "Radio Hills-Youngistan Ka Dil".
- **Bharti Airtel** announced that it has become the country's first telecom operator to successfully demonstrate live **fifth-generation** (5G) service over a commercial network in **Hyderabad** city.

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

- **Umesh Sinha** has been named as the **deputy election commissioner** in the Election Commission of India.
- The appointments committee of the Cabinet has approved **Suneet Sharma** appointment as Chairman & CEO of **Railway Board**, Ministry of Railways and ex-officio Principal Secretary to Government of India.
- **Soma Mondal** has taken over as the new Chairman of **Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL)** with effect from January 01, 2021.
  - She replaces **Anil Kumar Chaudhary**.
- The All India Gem and Jewellery Domestic Council (**GJC**), the national apex body of the gems and jewellery industry, has announced the appointment of **Ashish Pethe** as chairman and **Saiyam Mehra** as **vice chairman** for a period of two years.
- **Sanjay Kapoor** was elected president of the All India Chess Federation (**AICF**) while **Bharat Singh Chauhan** retained the **secretary's post**.
- Justice **Pankaj Mithal** has been appointed as the new Chief Justice (**CJ**) of the Common High Court for the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir and Union Territory of Ladakh in Jammu.
- Justice **Jitendra Kumar Maheshwari** was sworn in as the new Chief Justice of **Sikkim High Court**.
- Justice **Sudhanshu Dhulia** appointed as Chief Justice of the **Gauhati High Court** informed the Ministry of Law and Justice.
- **Arup Kumar Goswami** sworn in as CJ of **Andhra Pradesh High Court**.
- The senior-most judge of Delhi High Court, Justice **Hima Kohli** has been appointed as the new Chief Justice of **Telangana High Court**.
  - She is the first woman to be sworn in as CJ of Telangana HC.
- President-elect Joe Biden will nominate federal appeals judge **Merrick Garland** to be the next **U.S. attorney general**.

- **Alexander Ellis** has been appointed **British high commissioner to India**.
- **Google Cloud** has announced the elevation of **Karan Bajwa** as its new leader for the **Asia Pacific**.
  - He succeeds **Rick Harshman** who leaves the organization for a new opportunity.
- Lt Gen **Shantanu Dayal** has been named the new **Deputy Chief of Army Staff (DCOAS)**.
  - He will take the place of Lt Gen **SS Hasabnis** who superannuated on December 31 as soon as his replacement arrives.
- Indian-American **Dr Raj Iyer** has taken over as the first **Chief Information Officer** of the **US Army**, after the Pentagon created the position in July 2020.
- Former India striker **Abhishek Yadav** has been appointed as the first **deputy general secretary** of All India Football Federation (**AIFF**) after the sports body decided to create a new post in its hierarchy.
- President of the Central African Republic, **Faustin-Archange Touadera** has been reelected with more than 53% of the votes.
- **Jay Shah** has been named as the official representative of Board of Control for Cricket in India (**BCCI**) for the International Cricket Council (**ICC**) Board meetings.
  - He will replace BCCI president **Sourav Ganguly**.
- The frontrunner in **Kyrgyzstan's** presidential election, **SadyrJaparov**, has won by a landslide.
- **Intel** has appointed **Pat Gelsinger** as its new Chief Executive Officer, effective Feb. 15, 2021.
- The Telecom Equipment and Services Export Promotion Council (**TEPC**) has appointed **Sandeep Aggarwal** as the new Chairman.
- Incoming First Lady, **Jill Biden** has named Indian-American **Garima Verma** as her digital director and **Michael LaRosa** press secretary, the Biden transition team has announced.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has become the **President** of **Somnath Temple Trust**.
- The US-India Business Council (**USIBC**) has selected three top corporate leaders as the Vice-Chairs of 2021 Global Board of Directors of USIBC with immediate effect.
  - The three new appointees will now work with USIBC President **Nisha Biswal** and the Council's policy directors, for strengthening US-India commercial relationship for the future.
- The board of directors of **RBL Bank** has approved the re-appointment of **Vishwavir Ahuja** as the Managing Director and CEO of the bank for three years.
- **Uganda's** incumbent President **Yoweri Museveni** has been declared as the winner of the country's presidential election for 2021.
- Ministry for Sports and Youth Affairs, **Kiren Rijju** has been given the **additional charge** of the **Ayush Ministry**.
  - He will hold the fort till Shripad Yesso Naik recovers from an accident.
- United States President-elect **Joe Biden** and his deputy **Kamala Harris** was sworn in as the 46th President and 49th Vice-President of the **United States**.
- The US Senate has approved Joe Biden's nomination of **Avril Haines**, making her the **first woman** to be Director of **National Intelligence**.
- The board of **Sundaram Finance** has named **Rajiv Lochan** (director Strategy) as managing director with effect from April 1.
  - Current managing director **T.T. Srinivasaraghavan** will be retiring on March 31, 2020.
- **Portugal** President **Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa** secured a second term winning the presidential election by around 61% of the votes.

- **Kaja Kallas** is set to become the first **female PM** of **Estonia** after her Reform Party and Centre Party agreed to form a new coalition government.
- **Shristi Goswami**, a nineteen-year-old Haridwar-based student, become the **Chief Minister** of **Uttarakhand** for **one day** on National Girl Child Day.
- The incumbent President of **Portugal**, **Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa** has won a second five-year term after winning the 2021 Portuguese presidential election with a landslide victory.
- Lieutenant General **Chandi Prasad Mohanty** on February 1, 2021, will take over as the next vice-chief of **Army Staff**.
- The appointments committee (ACC) of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of **Swaminathan Janakiraman** and **Ashwini Kumar Tewari** as new Managing Directors (MDs) of State Bank of India (SBI) for a period of three years.

#### Resignation/Dismissed/Retired/Quit

- The Prime Minister of **Mongolia**, **KhurelsukhUkhnaa**, has resigned along with his entire government, following protests and public outrage over the government's handling of the COVID-19 pandemic.

#### Deaths

- Olympic bronze and World Cup-winning hockey player **Michael Kindo** passed away.
- Veteran Fashion designer **Satya Paul**, best known for reinventing the Indian saree for contemporary women, has passed away.
- Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's niece and eminent academican **Chitra Ghosh** has passed away.
- Veteran Congress leader **Madhavsinh Solanki**, who served as former External Affairs Minister of India and the Chief Minister of Gujarat, has passed away.
- Noted social activist and Padma Shri winner, **D Prakash Rao** has passed away.
- Legendary Indian classical musician and Padma Vibhushan awardee **Ustad Ghulam Mustafa Khan** passed away.
- Former Union minister and noted industrialist **Kamal Morarkah** has passed away.
- Padma Award winning renowned oncologist **Dr V Shanta** has passed away.
- Former Arunachal Governor **Mata Prasad** has passed away at the age of 95.
- Veteran Malayalam actor, **Unnikrishnan Namboothiri** has passed away while contracting COVID-19.
- The iconic Indian Bhajan singer **Narendra Chanchal**, who specialized in religious songs and hymns, has passed away.
- Noted historian, author, poet and retired bureaucrat **Narendra Luther** has passed.
- The iconic American radio and television host, and paid spokesman, **Larry King**, has passed away.
- Oscar winning-actor **Cloris Leachman** has passed away.

#### Awards/Honours

- The All India Institutes of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in **Bhubaneswar** has proved its mettle once again for promoting cleanliness, hygiene and creating sustainable practices in public health facilities by winning the **Kayakalp Award Scheme**.
- Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting Prakash Javadekar announced veteran actor, director and singer **Biswajit Chatterjee** as the recipient of the '**Indian Personality of the Year**' award.

- **Nikhil Srivastava**, a young Indian mathematician, has been named winner of the prestigious 2021 **Michael and Sheila Held Prize** along with two others for solving long-standing questions on the Kadison-Singer problem and on Ramanujan graphs.
- **Shyam Srinivasan**, managing director and chief executive officer (CEO) of Federal Bank, is the **Business Standard Banker of the Year** for 2019-20.
- The **Subhash Chandra Bose AapdaPrabandhanPuraskar2021** has been conferred upon **Dr Rajendra Kumar Bhandari** in the Individual category and Sustainable Environment and Ecological Development Society (SEEDS) in Institutional category.
- The **Ram Temple** tableau of Uttar Pradesh that was on display during the **Republic Day 2021** has bagged the **first prize** among all tableaux.
  - Theme - 'Ayodhya: Cultural Heritage of Uttar Pradesh'.

### Sports/Game

- Goa's 14-year-old **Leon Mendonca** has become India's 67th **chess Grandmaster** by winning the third and final norm at a tournament in **Italy**.
  - Chennai player **G. Akash**, had in July, become the country's 66th Grandmaster.
- Australia's **Claire Polosakis** set to become the first **female match official** in a men's Test match when she takes up the **fourth umpire's** role in the third Test between India and Australia.
  - The 32-year-old from New South Wales has already earned the distinction of being the **first woman on-field umpire in a men's ODI** match in ICC's Division 2 league between Namibia and Oman played at the Windhoek in 2019.
- **Khelo India Ice Hockey Tournament** organized at Chiktan in Kargil, **Ladakh**.
  - For the first time, the women team of Chiktan also participated in the Khelo India Games in Kargil district.
  - The Indo-Tibetan Border Police (**ITBP**) has won the Ice Hockey Association of India (IHAI) 10th **National Ice Hockey Championship** trophy after a win over **Ladakh** in the finals in Gulmarg.
- **Jigmet Dolma** from **India** secured the **fourth** position in the **Dhaka Marathon** 2021. Jigmet Dolma is an SPO of Ladakh police.
  - In the marathon, **Hicham Lakohi** of Morocco came **first** in the elite competition of the marathon in **men's category** while **Angela Jim Asunde** from Kenya won the **women's category** in the same event.
- Reigning Olympic champion **Carolina Marin** claiming the **Thailand Open** in Bangkok over top seed Tai Tzu-Ying.

### Report

- Indian multinational two-wheeler and three-wheeler manufacturing company, **Bajaj Auto** has become the **most valuable two-wheeler company** in the world, after it crossed a market capitalization of more than Rs. 1 lakh crore, on January 01, 2021.
- Rapidly digitalizing **India** was ranked **4th** in "**Break Out Economies**" in the third edition of the Digital Evolution Scorecard developed by Tufts University's Fletcher School in partnership with Mastercard.
  - **China** which leads the "Break Out Economies" group is more evolved digitally due mainly to its combination of rapidly growing demand and innovation.
- **Moscow** had the **highest traffic** congestion in the world in 2020, according to TomTom Traffic Index.
  - Moscow was followed by Mumbai, Bogota, Manila, Istanbul, Bengaluru, Kyiv, New Delhi, Novosibirsk and Bangkok in traffic congestion.

- **Bengaluru** has emerged as the **world's fastest growing mature tech ecosystem** since 2016, with **Mumbai** coming in at **sixth** place, according to Dealroom.co data analysed by London & Partners.
  - Bengaluru also ranked sixth for the most tech venture capitalist investments globally.
- **Karnataka** retained its position as the most innovative **major state** in the country in the **India Innovation Index 2020** released by NITI Aayog on January 20, 2021.
  - Karnataka scored 42.5, followed by **Maharashtra** at **second** place with a score of 38 and **Tamil Nadu** at **third** place with 37.91 score.
  - **Bihar** was ranked the **last** in the index with 14.5 score.
- India's richest man **Mukesh Ambani**, the chairman and Managing Director of Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) dropped down to **12th spot** in the **Bloomberg Billionaires Index 2021** (as on 2nd January 2021).
  - **Elon Musk** has become the **world's richest person**, surpassing Amazon founder **Jeff Bezos**.
- **IndiGo** is now the world's **seventh** biggest **airline** by capacity and the largest outside the US and China, according to data firm OAG.
- **China** overtook **Germany** as the country with the world's largest **current account surplus** in 2020, according to a survey by the Ifo Institute.
  - With a current account surplus of \$158 billion, **Japan** came third.
- **China** surpassed the **US** as the largest **recipient of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)** in 2020, with \$163 billion of inflows.
  - The **US** attracted \$134 billion in inflows last year, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) said.
- **India** has been placed among the top 10 most affected countries by climate change, in the **Global Climate Risk Index 2021** published by the Bonn-based environmental think tank Germanwatch.
  - India ranked as the **seventh** worst-hit country in terms of climate change in 2019.
- **India** has seen an exponential increase in the number of **scientific publications** over the last 10 years and is in the **third** position globally after **China** and the **US**, the Department of Science and Technology (DST) said.
- Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) has been ranked **third** most-valued IT services brand globally, after **Accenture** and **IBM**, according to a report by Brand Finance.
- **India** has been ranked at **86th** position among 98 countries in the new **Coronavirus Performance Index** released by Australia-based Lowy Institute.
  - The Lowy Institute is an independent international policy think tank, located in Sydney.
- **India** has been ranked **86th** among 180 countries in the **Corruption Perception Index (CPI) 2020**, released by Transparency International.
  - India is sharing its position jointly with Burkina Faso, Morocco, East Timor, Trinidad and Tobago and Turkey.
- **India** ranked **10th** out of 11 Asia Pacific countries in a newly-launched health index to measure the progress towards **personalized healthcare**.
  - Singapore(1st), Taiwan (2nd), Japan (3rd) and Australia (4th) also performed well in overall readiness.

#### General- National

- India has been chosen as the co-chair of the **IUCN**-supported Asia Protected Areas Partnership (APAP) for a period of three years till November 2023.
  - India will replace **South Korea**, which held the post for 3 years until November 2020.
- **India** proposes 8 point agenda at United Nations Security Council (UNSC) open debate to combat **terrorism**.

- Due to the global COVID-19 situation, it has been decided that this year there will **not** be a **foreign Head** of State or Head of Government as the **Chief Guest** for the Republic Day event.
  - President Ramnath Kovind will take the salute at the parade this time.
  - This will be the **first time** in over five decades that India will not have a chief guest at the Republic Day parade.
- **SAKSHAM Awareness Campaign:** The campaign will spread awareness about **clean energy**.
- The **National Road Safety Month** was inaugurated by Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** and Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari at an inaugural function in **New Delhi**.
- The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (**MeitY**) has announced the establishment of a **Quantum Computing Applications Lab** in partnership with **Amazon Web Services (AWS)**.
- The **Operation Sard Hawa** was launched by the **Border Security Force** in the western border of **Rajasthan**.
  - The main purpose of the operation is to check the instances of infiltration due to dense fog in the region.
- The Tricolour was unfurled at **Rajpath** in the presence of President **Ram Nath Kovind** and PM **Narendra Modi** on the occasion of 72nd Republic Day.
- **Indo-French** alliance moves towards the “**Green Planet**” year.
  - The Union Environment Minister, together with his French Prime Minister, launched the Indo-French Environment Year.

#### General - International

- The **U.S. Congress** has passed the ‘**Malala Yousafzai Scholarship Act**’ to increase the number of **scholarships** for **Pakistani women** in higher education under merit and needs-based programme.
- The President of **Kazakhstan**, Kassym-Jomart Tokayev signed a law that sanctions the ‘**Second Optional Protocol**’ to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.
  - The protocol entails a formal commitment to abolishing the death penalty.
- The government of the **United States** re-designated **Cuba** as a State **Sponsor of Terrorism** for frequently providing support for the acts of international terrorism in granting safe harbor to the terrorists.
- **Pakistan** has issued special permission to **Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al-Maktoum**, the Dubai Ruler; the crown prince, and 5 members of the royal family for **hunting houbara bustard** during the 2020-21 hunting season.
- The **United States** has recently designated the Kingdom of **Bahrain** and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) as the “**major strategic partners**” of the country.

#### Books and Authors

- **Vahana Masterclass - Alfredo Covelli** (Italy based author)
- A book titled ‘**India’s 71-Year Test: The Journey to Triumph in Australia**’ and one which reflects on India’s previous 12 tours Down Under, was launched.
  - The book, a Bradman Museum initiative, is authored by senior cricket scribe **R. Kaushik**, and it chronicles a rivalry that has given a fillip to Test cricket.
- A general manager at RBI, **R Giridharan** has authored his debut book “**Right Under our Nose**”.
- A coffee table book named “**Modi India Calling - 2021**” has been released on the occasion of 16th PravasiBharatiya Divas.
  - The book contains various photographs of Prime Minister Narendra Modi captured during his “107 overseas and bilateral visits”.

- **Ramchandra Guha's** latest book '**The Commonwealth of Cricket**' would be launching virtually in the Tata Literature Live (The Mumbai Lit fest) January.
- **Goa** Chief Minister, Pramod Sawant has released a book '**Manohar Parrikar- Off the Record**' at a function organized at Institute Menezes Braganza hall in the city.
  - The book has been written by senior journalist **Waman Subha Prabhu**

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## TO THE POINTS: JANUARY-2021

- Government has extended Income Tax Returns Filing Date to **January 10**.
- Indira Joseph Venniyor who passed away was a renowned **Broadcaster**.
- Government has extended deadline for FASTag till **February 15**.
- **Assam** assembly has passed a Bill to abolish all government-run Madrassas.
- **Madhya Pradesh** is organizing Exhibition Raag-Bhopali being organized to promote Zari Zardozi.
- Navy and **DRDO** has conducted a maiden trial of 1st indigenous air droppable container.
- **DBS** bank has introduced a one-stop integrated travel marketplace Travel Now.
- Union Cabinet has approved a Multi-Modal Logistics Hub & Multi-Modal Transport Hub (MMTH) at **Noida**.
- India's First Test bed for Autonomous Navigation Systems has been launched at **IIT Hyderabad**.
- **BARC** has developed a plaque therapy successfully used on eye cancer patients in AIIMS.
- **VK Yadav** has been conferred with Eminent Engineer Award.
- Mother Teresa Memorial Awards for Social Justice 2020 Announced. This is the **16th** year of the award.
- ISRO chairman K Sivan has received a **1** year extension as Department of Space secretary.
- **Gwalior** will host the much-awaited Tansen Music Festival.
- Dr. Harsh Vardhan has digitally inaugurated the **7th** NHM National Summit on Good, Replicable Practices through a video conference.
- Global family Day 2021 was observed on **January 1**.
- **V. Muraleedharan** has recently launched the Global Pravasi Rishta portal & mobile App to connect with Indian Diaspora across the world.
- PM Modi has laid the foundation stone of Light House projects (LHPs) across **6** states via video conference.
- Indian Army Chief MM Naravane receives Guard of Honour at Army Headquarters of **South Korea**.
- Prime Minister has laid the Foundation stone of AIIMS in **Gujarat** recently.
- DRDO has recently celebrated its **63rd** Foundation Day of its establishment on January 01, 2021.
- PM Modi has inaugurated a permanent campus of IIM Sambalpur in **Odisha**.
- Petroleum Minister has launched missed call facility for LPG consumers in **Bhubaneswar**.
- **NS Tomar** has inaugurated the Virtual Agri-hackathon 2020.
- India is all set to begin its **2** year tenure as a non-permanent member in UNSC.

- **Australia** has recently changed the words of its national anthem.
- **RKS Bhadauria** has launched the IAF e-Governance (e-Office) portal.
- India and ADB have signed USD **231** million loan to augment electricity generation capacity in Assam.
- **Jharkhand** has launched a Crop Relief Scheme – Kisan Fasal Rahat Yojana.
- Chief of Naval Staff recently visited INS Dwarka in **Gujarat**.
- State-owned **PNB** announced the extension of its festival bonanza offer till March.
- Post Office Savings Bank is apt interconnected with other banks by **April**.
- RuPay partners with **RBL** Bank to introduce 'RuPayPoS'.
- IFSCA has become an associate member of the global lobby group **IOSCO**.
- P Ravi Kumar appointed as Chief Secretary of **Karnataka**.
- **Sumeet Sharma** has taken over the charge of new Chairman & CEO of Railway Board.
- Soma Mondal has taken over from Anil Kumar Chaudhary as Chairman of **SAIL**.
- Narendra 'Bull' Kumar who passed away was a famous **Mountaineer**.
- **Umesh Sinha** has been appointed as Deputy Election Commissioner.
- **Punjab** government has promoted 3 IPS Officers recently.
- DRDO's 'Scientist of the Year' award has been won by **Hemant Kumar Pandey**.
- GST collections for December have been highest ever at Rs **1.15** lakh crore.
- J&K UT Administration has signed a MoU with **NAFED**.
- ADB and India have signed a **10** million loan to support project preparation to expand horticulture in Himachal Pradesh.
- John Fulton Reid who died at the Age of 64 played for **New Zealand**.
- World Braille Day was observed on **January 4**.
- Shantanu Mohapatra who died at 84 in Bhubaneswar was an eminent **Musician**.
- Indian SARS-CoV-2 Genomics Consortium (INSACOG) has been launched under the leadership of **NCDC**.
- Drug regulator has given final approval for Covid-19 vaccines of **SII**.
- **BPRD** has released data on Police Organizations.
- **Amit Shah** has released the inaugural issue of 'National Police K-9 Journal'.
- RBI has recently introduced the Digital Payments Index with the base year as **2018**.
- Government has extended the benefit of the RoDTEP scheme to all export goods to boost exports based on the recommendation of **GK Pillai** committee.
- **Karnataka** government has permitted all shops to remain open for 24×7.
- ISRO to launch the first satellite developed entirely by **Brazil's** space agency.
- **BEL** has signed a contract with Indian Navy for Initial Supply of indigenously developed Laser Dazzlers.
- **India** will be a co-chair of a regional forum to conserve wildlife habitats – Asia Protected Areas Partnership (APAP).

- **Narendra Modi** has inaugurated the National Metrology Conclave 2021.
- Leon Mendonca has become India's **67th** chess Grandmaster.
- Buta Singh who passed away recently belonged to **Congress**.
- National Bird Day was observed on **January 5**.
- **South Western** division of the Indian Railways will start a train service connecting international airport.
- **Narendra Modi** will inaugurate the Kochi-Mangaluru natural gas pipeline.
- India has recently begun its **40th** Scientific Expedition to Antarctica.
- FSSAI has slashed the limit for trans fat levels in foods to **3** per cent for 2021.
- **51st** edition of the International Film Festival of India (IFFI) was started on 16th January.
- **Delhi** government has set up a Tamil Academy to promote the language.
- Justice S Muralidhar has taken Oath as Chief Justice of **Odisha** High Court.
- Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade was organizing **Udyog Manthan** – a marathon of focused sector-specific webinars for promoting Quality and Productivity in Indian Industry from Jan 4 to March 2.
- The Petroleum Minister has inaugurated the Migrant Worker Cell in **Surat**.
- **Pankaj Mittal** has taken oath as new chief justice of J&K and Ladakh high court.
- Digital channels of Prasar Bharati have registered more than **100** percent growth in 2020, with Pakistan being the second highest digital audience for Doordarshan (DD) and All India Radio (AIR).
- US Congress passes 'Malala Yousafzai Scholarship Act' for women of **Pakistan**.
- A 5-day national folk dance festival will be organized in **Jammu** by the Ministry of Culture.
- India has sent relief materials to **Fiji** for its cyclone affected people.
- **Madhya Pradesh** government has introduced the 'Launch Pad Scheme' for unemployed youths.
- Justice Vineet Kothari has taken oath as High court Judge of **Gujarat**.
- Indian Army has inked a pact with Goa Shipyard to get **12** fast patrol boats for Pangong Tso lake by May.
- Olympic bronze and World Cup winner Michael Kindo who passed away recently played **Hockey**.
- **GRSE** has delivered its eighth landing craft utility ship to Indian Navy.
- **Bank of Baroda** has announced the launch of WhatsApp banking services.
- **RKS Bhaduria** has launched IAF e-Governance (e-Office) portal in New Delhi.
- The Asian Development Bank will provide **100** million loan to upgrade power distribution in Bengaluru.
- **Bajaj** Company has become the World's Most Valuable Two-Wheeler Company.
- **Jeff Bezos** has topped the list of persons who have made the single largest charitable contribution in 2020.
- Indian student Harsh Dalal's startup has won recognition in **Singapore**.
- MoU has been signed between **NBCC & JKIT** in Jammu, Srinagar for establishing IT towers in the cities of Jammu and Srinagar.

- Vilas Patil Undalkar who passed away at 82 was former cabinet minister in **Maharashtra**.
- The Journalist Day was observed by the Maharashtra state government on **January 6**.
- **Ram Vinay Shahi** will head the high-level group for South Asia energy security.
- **Pablo Cesar** will head the 51st IFFI's International Jury.
- Boris Johnson has cancelled the Republic Day visit as the UK has locked down. The last British leader to be the Chief Guest was in **1993**.
- **Uttar Pradesh** government has launched the 'Kisan Kalyan Mission' to Double Farmers' Income.
- **Piyush Goyal** has launched the Freight Business Development Portal.
- **Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank** has launched the Toyathon 2021 launched to promote manufacturing of indigenous toys.
- Anil Panachoran who passed away recently was an eminent **Poet**.
- **IDBI** has launched a video KYC facility for opening savings bank accounts.
- World Bank has signed a **105** million project to improve waterways in West Bengal.
- Government has organized **Udyog Manthan** webinars to promote quality, productivity in Indian industry.
- **Ashish Pethe** has been elected as chairman of GJC.
- **Sanjay Kapoor** has been elected All India Chess Federation president.
- Modibo Keita who died recently, was the ex-Prime minister of **Mali**.
- The Chief Minister of **Karnataka** has launched the Krishi Sanjeevani vans to test soil, water & suggest remedies for pest control.
- **S Jaishankar** has concluded his three-day visit to Sri Lanka.
- The Central government has mentioned that over **3** crore new connections have been provided under JalJeevan Mission.
- **India** will chair three-key subsidiary committees of UNSC.
- **Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank** has inaugurated the two-day Virtual International Akhand Conference 'EDUCON 2020' through video conferencing.
- **Sagarmala Seaplane Project** Services have commenced in various islands.
- **Merrick Garland** has been picked as the US Attorney General.
- **Elon Musk** has been ranked as the world's wealthiest person.
- **Facebook** have removed videos about TRUMP.
- The PM of **Japan** has exuded confidence that the Olympic Games will be held despite the state of emergency.
- Rastriya Kamdhenu Aayog has announced the Kamdhenu Gau-Vigyan Prachar-Prasar Exam. The exam will be held in **12** languages.
- Home Minister Amit Shah has hailed the CCEA approval to the Central Sector Scheme for Industrial Development of **Chhattisgarh**.
- **Manoj Sinha** has unveiled the Mobile Application 'SatarkNagrik' and Departmental Vigilance Officers Portal.
- **Telangana** has become the 3rd State to complete ULB reform.

- Alan Burgess who passed away at 100 was an eminent **Cricketer**.
- J&K LG has declared **28,400** crores mega Industrial Development Package.
- **NS Vishwanathan** will head the College of Supervisors set up by RBI to strengthen supervision.
- **PNB** has collaborated with IIT Kanpur to set up Fintech Innovation Centre.
- **IDFC** mutual fund has unveiled a new campaign #PaisonKoRokoMat.
- Senior IPS officer Hemant Nagrale has taken additional charge as DGP of **Maharashtra**.
- **PK Purwar** has been appointed as the CMD of MTNL.
- NSO has estimated India's GDP may contract **7.7** per cent in FY21.
- **Shaila Cannie** has been selected for the National Florence Nightingale Award 2020.
- Agriculture department of LAHDC Kargil has signed MOU with Organic Certification Agency of **Sikkim**.
- IAF has signed a MoU with **IDS** recently.
- **R. Kaushik** has authored A book on India's tours Down Under.
- **Claire Polosakis** set to become the first female match official in men's Test match.
- Samagra Shiksha has signed an MOU with **HUL** to distribute 1.5 lakh soaps to different schools in J&K.
- Khelo India Ice Hockey tournament has begun in **Kargil** recently.
- NRI or PravasiBharatiya Divas 2020 is observed on **January 9**.
- I&B Minister has launched **Diary App** in New Delhi recently.
- The phase-9 of World's largest repatriation exercise Vande Bharat Mission has been made operational from **January 1**.
- Centre has merged the cadre of officers from **J&K** with AGMUT.
- **Pakistan** has successfully test Fired an Indigenously Developed Rocket System : Fatah-1.
- **NIXI** has announced that it will offer free Internationalized Domain Name.
- The Diplomatic advisor of **France** has recently met PM Modi to discuss bilateral issues.
- The Chief Minister of **Gujarat** has announced to create a new Bagasara Prant in Amreli district.
- As per IHS Markit, the Indian economy will rebound with **8.9** per cert growth in FY22.
- Union Education Minister has inaugurated **2** day Virtual International Akhand Conference 'EDUCON-2020'.
- Indian-American **Raj Iyer** has become the US Army's first Chief Information Officer.
- Chitra Ghosh & Niece of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose who passed away at 90 was a veteran **Professor**.
- **JK Maheshwari** has been sworn in as Chief Justice of Sikkim High Court.
- **Subodh Jaiswal** has been appointed as DG of CISE.
- **R Giridharan** has penned the 'Right Under our Nose'.
- IREDA has signed a MoU with **NHPC** to provide technical expertise.
- Ramachandran who passed away belonged to **Congress**.
- Satya Paul who passed away at 79 was a prominent **Fashion Designer**.

- A. Madhavan who passed away recently was an eminent **Writer**.
- World Hindi Day was observed on **January 10**.
- PM Modi will head a panel to commemorate **125th** birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.
- **Narendra Modi** will address the National Youth Parliament Festival 2021.
- The Government has issued guidelines for renewal of International Driving License while travelling abroad. The applications can be made through **VISA**.
- India has now become the **2nd** largest manufacturer of PPE kits and suits.
- Indian Railways has attained a train speed of **130** kmph on Golden Quadrilateral - Golden Diagonal route.
- The Centre has provided guidelines for Migrant Children, asking states to carry out proper identification for children of age group **6 to 18**.
- According to Union education minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' **1200** crores have been spent for the safe movement of wildlife on the National highway.
- **Harsh Vardhan** has dedicated the coastal research vessel to the Nation at Chennai port trust.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the **16th** edition of the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas convention.
- A plane from **Indonesia** has recently crashed resulting in the death of more than 50 people.
- World's largest Floating Solar Plant will be constructed at Omkareshwar Dam in **Madhya Pradesh**.
- The aerial survey for Delhi - Varanasi High Speed Rail Corridor began from Greater Noida using **LiDAR** technology.
- The government has reduced the age limit of J&K Administrative Services Exam aspirants from 37 years to **32** years.
- **Central Bank of India** has tied up with NABFOUNDATION to provide loans to Self - help groups.
- **SBI** along with Indian Oil will launch a contactless RuPay debit card.
- Neil Sheehan who passed away recently was an eminent **Journalist**.
- NALCO will invest around Rs **30,000** crores by the financial year 2027-28.
- Padma Awardee Turlapati Kutumba Rao who passed away recently was a veteran **Writer**.
- Modi India Calling-2021: New book chronicling PM's foreign tours has been released on the eve of **16th** Pravasi Bhartiya Diwas.
- **Faustin-Archange Touadera** has been re-elected as the Central African Republic President.
- **Pradipt Kapoor** has been appointed as CIO of Airtel.
- **Germany** has passed a bill for large companies to appoint women in executive board is mandatory.
- Madhavsinh Solanki who passed away recently was veteran **Congress** leader.
- National Road Safety Month 2021 was being observed from **11 January** to make the streets and roads safer.
- **RS Sharma** will head the empowered panel for Covid-19 vaccine.
- National Youth Day 2021 was observed on **January 12**.
- **Preeti Pant** will head the panel to Study NFHS-5 Findings.

- **Japan** has committed Rs 2113 Crore Support for COVID relief efforts.
- **Amit Shah** has launched a 'Single Window Clearance System' for coal mines.
- Two-day coastal defence drill 'Sea Vigil-21' has been kicked off recently, it was conducted on **12-13 January**.
- US President-elect Joe Biden has named **2** Indian Americans in National Security Council of White House.
- **Bangladesh** will be the focus country at the 51st International Film Festival of India.
- India gets **85th** rank on the World's Most Powerful Passports 2021 List.
- **Twitter** has deleted Donald Trump's POTUS handle and suspended his campaign account.
- Mamata Banerjee has inaugurated the **26th** Kolkata International Film Festival.
- **Harsh Vardhan** has inaugurated the Coastal Research Vessel 'Sagar Anveshika'.
- ICRA forecasts India's real GDP to expand by **10.1** per cent in FY22.
- RBI has cancelled the licence of **Vasantdada Nagari Sahakari Bank** recently.
- **Jay Shah** has been named as BCCI's representative on ICC Board.
- Defence Secretary has co-chaired the **13th** India-Vietnam Defence Security Dialogue with his Vietnamese counterpart.
- **France** will host the 4th One Planet Summit in cooperation with UN and World Bank.
- Indian Armed Forces Veterans Day was observed On **January 14**.
- Tesla will set up India's subsidiary in **Bengaluru**.
- Aviation services have recently been launched between Chandigarh and **Hisar**.
- **Rajnath Singh** has unveiled India's first indigenously developed driverless metro car.
- Indian Army Day was observed on **January 15**.
- **19th** edition of the Dhaka International Film Festival will pay tribute to Satyajit Ray.
- India's first Fire Park will come up in **Odisha**.
- Dr Harsh Vardhan inaugurates the new entity CSIR-NIScPR in **New Delhi**.
- ICT Grand Challenge for development of 'smart water supply measurement and monitoring system' is being held by **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology**.
- RBI forms 6 Member working group to study digital lending activities of the regulated and unregulated players, the panel headed by **Jayant Kumar Dash**.
- Cabinet has cleared the purchase of **83** Tejas fighter jets for Indian Air Force.
- **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation** has launched NCAVES India Forum 2021.
- **SadyrJaparov** has won the presidency of Kyrgyzstan.
- Fitch Ratings Projects GDP of India at -9.4% in FY21 & **11** percent in FY22.
- D Prakash Rao who passed Away at 63 was a **Social Activist**.
- India has inked a MoU with **Japan** to Enhance Cooperation in the Field of ICT.
- Indian Army has signed a \$ **20** million contract with ideaForge to buy SWITCH drones.
- PM Modi has launched the **3rd** Phase of PM Kaushal Vikas Yojana.
- The Governor of **Manipur** has released a book titled Making of a General A Himalayan Echo.

- First ever Ice climbing festival was celebrated in **Nubra** valley.
- PM Modi has rolled out the world's largest vaccination drive for COVID-19 which is estimated **3 crore** people by the end of the first phase.
- **NIC** has partnered with CBSE to jointly launch CollabCAD Software.
- The Country celebrates the Harvest festival Makar Sankranti on **January 14**.
- **Piyush Goyal** has inaugurated the Prarambh Startup India International Summit.
- PM Narendra Modi has announced a **1000 crore**, 'Startup India Seed Fund'.
- Dr. Harsh Vardhan has dedicated an Innovation Portal developed by **NIF**.
- The Petroleum & Natural Gas Ministry has launched the **SAKSHAM** campaign to spread awareness about green energy.
- Donald Trump has become the **1st** US President to be impeached twice.
- Cherry Blossom Mao Festival was held in **Manipur**.
- **Flipkart** has collaborated with Niti Aayog to enhance Women Entrepreneurship Platform.
- **DRDO** has developed India's first indigenous 9mm machine pistol ASMI.
- **Subash Chandra Khuntia** will head the IRDAI committee to Examine health insurance products.
- Intel has appointed **Pat Gelsinger** as its new CEO.
- **Yes Bank** has partnered with Aditya Birla Wellness to launch wellness themed credit card.
- FSS and **IPPB** have collaborated to promote AePS Partnership Advances Financial Inclusion in India.
- NDRF recently celebrated its **16th** Raising Day on January 18.
- **Nitin Gadkari** has inaugurated the Road Safety Month.
- The US has designated **UAE and Bahrain** as its 'major strategic partners'.
- PM Narendra Modi has flagged off **8** trains to boost connectivity to the Statue of Unity.
- CARE has lowered the Centre's fiscal deficit projection to **7.8** per cent of GDP.
- **NASA** has targeted the final test of 'world's most powerful rocket'.
- Pakistan PM Imran Khan has given special permit for royals of **UAE** to hunt houbara bustard.
- Union Health Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan has digitally chaired **148** the session of the Executive Board of WHO.
- India has signed a MoU with **Japan** for Agreement to Promote movement of Skilled Workers.
- **Kerala** will launch the 'One school, One IAS' programme.
- **Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw** has been selected as one of the US-India Business Council's vice-chair.
- Ghulam Mustafa Khan who passed away at 89 was a legendary **Musician**.
- Uganda's Museveni has won his **6th** term extending his rule to four decades.
- **Biswajit Chatterjee** has been conferred 'Indian Personality of the Year' award in IFFI.
- Khelo India **1st** edition of the Zaskar Winter Sports Festival has begun in Ladakh.
- Axelsen and Marin has won Titles AtYonex Open being held in **Thailand**.
- Kamal Morarka who passed away at 74 was Rajya Sabha member from **Rajasthan**.

- The Union Government has declared Netaji's birthday to be marked as **Parakram Diwas** every year.
- **DRDO** has handed over MotorBike Ambulance Rakshita to CRPF.
- **Ajay Kumar** has inaugurated the Swachhata Pakhwada organized by NCC at India Gate.
- **UK** has set out new laws to protect historic statues, monuments.
- **Kerala** has signed a MoU with Madhya Pradesh on Responsible Tourism.
- The First bird fest at Mahananda sanctuary will open from February 20. It is located in **West Bengal**.
- India is set to procure more MiG-29 and Sukhoi fighter jets from **Russia**.
- Nepali climbers have made history and have become first to scale Pakistan's **K2**.
- **TRIFED** and IFFDC have inked MoU to work together for tribal livelihood generation.
- **Narendra Modi** has been appointed chairman of Somnath temple trust.
- Indian and French air forces will conduct **Desert Knight-21** Exercise.
- **BilkisDadi** has been conferred with Quaide Milleth Award.
- Goa Chief Minister has released the book 'Manohar Parrikar – Off the Record'. It has been written by **Waman Subha Prabhu**.
- Phil Spector who passed away recently was an eminent **Music producer**.
- **Kiren Rijju** has assumed the additional charge of Ministry of AYUSH.
- The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has notified Inter Country Transport Vehicles Rules, 2021 where the state authority has been given power to grant Inter country transport permit which will be valid for a period of **1** year from issue.
- The Prime minister of **Netherlands** and his entire cabinet has quit over the welfare scandal.
- India has signed a pact with **Singapore** on submarine rescue support.
- Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan has inaugurated a LNG truck-loading unit of Shell India in **Gujarat**.
- **Bhawana Kanth** is become the 1st woman fighter pilot to take part in the Republic Day parade.
- India's first Labour Movement museum is all set to come up in **Kerala**.
- The Chief Minister of **Gujarat** has announced the 'Horticulture Development Mission'.
- **Gorewada International Zoo** has been renamed as Balasaheb Thackeray Zoological Park.
- Kerala has become the **8th** State to complete ease of doing business reforms.
- **ICICI** Bank has launched the 'InstaFX' mobile app to help customers obtain Forex Prepaid Card swiftly.
- India recently defeated **Australia** by 3 wickets to win the Border-Gavaskar Trophy.
- **15th** edition of the India Digital Summit was held recently.
- **Infosys** has recently received the Google Cloud Partner status.
- **Karnataka** has topped the NITI Aayog 2nd edition of India Innovation Index-2020.
- Yowerimuseveni has won his **6** term as Uganda's president.
- Vishwavir Ahuja has been re-appointed as CEO of **RBL** Bank.

- **28** non-official members have been nominated to the startup council.
- **DRDO** along with the Road Transport and Highways Ministry have signed an MoU for technical exchange on sustainable geo-hazard management.
- **Niti Aayog** has recently released a report on faecal sludge and septage management in urban areas.
- The Union Cabinet has approved the Rattle Hydro Power Project in **J&K** recently.
- Meghalaya, Manipur & Tripura observe the Statehood Day on **January 21**.
- India and **EU** recently held a virtual maritime security dialogue for the first time.
- **Gujarat** government will rename dragon fruit as kamalam.
- The Chief Minister of **Himachal Pradesh** has launched the first online youth radio station.
- **Narendra Modi** has released the financial assistance for UP under PMAY-G.
- The Chief Minister of **Andhra Pradesh** has flagged off Door to door Delivery Vehicles.
- The Ministry of Minority Affairs has recently organized HunarHaat in **Lucknow**.
- Karnataka Chief Minister has launched **Avolokanas** software to enable the government to access data on sanctions.
- **Bank of Baroda** looks to become part of Andhra Pradesh's economic growth.
- **PNB** has recently donated books to children.
- The State Cooperative Bank of **Andhra Pradesh** has bagged the first prize for the overall best performance for the year 2018-19.
- Joe Biden has taken oath as **46th** US President.
- **Powergrid** has signed a MoU with HPSEBL to improve telecom connectivity in hilly areas of Himachal Pradesh.
- Five day Indo-French Air exercise, Ex Desert Knight-21 has recently begun in **Jodhpur**.
- **Airtel Payments Bank** has recently launched a 'safe pay' feature.
- The Government has appointed **Siddhartha Mohanty** as managing director of LIC from February 1.
- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has appointed MTNL Director **Sanjeev Kumar** as new CMD of TCIL.
- Rajiv Lochan has been appointed as Managing Director of **Sundaram Finance**.
- **Karuna Sagar** has bagged the Bharat Gaurav Award.
- Mata Prasad who passed away at 95 was the former Governor of **Arunachal Pradesh**.
- The Union Cabinet has approved a MoU between India and **Uzbekistan** recently.
- Gajendra Singh Shaktawat was a **Congress** MLA from Vallabhnagar who passed away recently.
- Unni krishnan Namboothiri who passed away recently was an eminent **Actor**.
- Indian Railways renames iconic Howrah-Kalka Mail as **Netaji** Express.
- The Chief Minister of **Uttarakhand** has inaugurated the state's first child-friendly police station.
- The Supreme Court has upheld **32A** section of the IBC to make immune successful bidders for a corporate debtor from any investigation by investigating agencies.
- DPIIT has recently **Regulatory Compliance Portal** to act as a bridge between citizens, industries and the government to minimize burdensome compliances.

- RBI has imposed a 2 crores penalty on Standard Chartered Bank.
- **Amit Shah** has inaugurated the new 4-lane Thaltej-Shilaj-Rancharda railway over bridge in Ahmedabad.
- SBI, ICICI Bank and HDFC Bank remain systemically important banks. RBI has issued the framework for dealing with D-SIB in 2014.
- **Axis** Bank has unveiled the Aura Credit Card with health, wellness solutions.
- India's longest Road Arch Bridge has recently been inaugurated in **Meghalaya**.
- Dr Harsh Vardhan has recently inaugurated the **7th** Edition of MASCRADE 2021 organized by FICCI.
- CCI has approved Flipkart's 7.8 per cent acquisition of Aditya Birla Fashion and Retail.
- Andaman and Nicobar Command will conduct **Kavach** joint military exercise.
- Narendra Chanchal who passed away at 80 was an eminent **Singer**.
- The Global Risks Report 2021, 16th Edition was recently released by **WEF**.
- MeITY has announced the establishment of a Quantum Computing Applications Lab in India in collaboration with **Amazon**.
- Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Jayanti was recently observed on **January 23**.
- Amit Shah has recently attended the **1st** BTR Accord Day celebration.
- National Tourism Day 2021 was celebrated on **January 25**.
- Uttar Pradesh celebrates its statehood day on **January 24**.
- Theme of the International Day of Education 2021 - **Recover and Revitalize Education for the COVID-19 Generation**.
- Narendra Modi recently addressed the inaugural function of Parakram Diwas in **Kolkata**.
- National Girl Child Day was observed on **January 24**.
- PM Narendra Modi has interacted with Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar awardees. **32** children have been awarded the puraskar.
- The Central Government has extended the Ayushman CAPF health scheme in **Guwahati**.
- **Amit Shah** has recently chaired the plenary session of North Eastern Council Meeting.
- For the first time ever, a 122 member strong contingent of the Armed Forces of **Bangladesh** will participate in the Republic Day parade.
- **19th** edition of the India- Bangladesh: Joint Steering Committee meeting was held recently.
- National Voters' Day was observed on **January 25**.
- **Lloyd J. Austin** has won a Senate confirmation as America's first Black Pentagon chief.
- **China** has overtaken Germany with the largest current account surplus-Ifo.
- The administration of **Ladakh** has organized the Opening Ceremony of Archery Competition.
- **Himachal Pradesh** is celebrating its Golden jubilee statehood day with full zeal across the state.
- A New scheme called Ek Paudha Suposhit Beti Ke Naam has been initiated in **Rajasthan** recently.
- **Madhya Pradesh** will be the first state to get additional funds for capital projects to carry out reforms in various citizen centric areas.
- Larry King who passed away at 87 was an eminent **TV Host**.

- **Gujarat** government has announced the setting up of new industrial estates.
- **Al Jarhad** has been appointed as secretary of chief minister Uddhav Thackeray.
- 3 IPS officers besides three junior cops have been selected this year to be awarded with the Internal Security Service Medals.
- Ministry of Road Transport & Highways has signed MOU with **IIT Roorkee**.

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## MODEL QUESTIONS

- When is World Day of War Orphans observed?  
(1) January 8 (2) January 2 (3) January 5 (4) January 6 (5) None of these
- What is the theme of PravasiBharatiya Divas 2020?  
(1) Apna Bharat Apna Gaurav  
(2) Engaging Diaspora: Connecting Across Generations  
(3) Redefining engagement with the Indian diaspora  
(4) Contributing to Aatmanirbhar Bharat  
(5) None of these
- When is World Hindi Day celebrated?  
(1) January 12 (2) January 9 (3) January 10 (4) January 11 (5) None of these
- When is Indian Armed Forces Veterans Day celebrated?  
(1) January 14 (2) January 12 (3) January 18 (4) January 15 (5) None of these
- When is Army Day celebrated in India?  
(1) January 18 (2) January 16 (3) January 15 (4) January 14 (5) None of these
- Which of the following's birth anniversary on 23rd January will be celebrated as "PARAKRAM DIWAS" every year as declared by the government?  
(1) Lala Lajpat Rai (2) Chandra Shekhar Azad  
(3) Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose (4) Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel (5) None of these
- When is National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) Raising Day celebrated?  
(1) January 18 (2) January 17 (3) January 14 (4) January 19 (5) None of these
- What is the theme of National Tourism Day 2021?  
(1) Dekho Apna Desh  
(2) Tourism and Jobs: A Better Future for All  
(3) Tourism and Rural Development  
(4) Tourism and the Digital Transformation  
(5) None of these
- India celebrated its which Republic Day across the country on 26th January 2021?  
(1) 73rd (2) 74th (3) 72nd (4) 71st (5) None of these
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has constructed a composite Digital Payments Index (DPI) to capture the extent of digitisation of payments across the country. The RBI-DPI has been constructed with what as the base period?  
(1) March 2020 (2) April 2021 (3) April 2019 (4) March 2018 (5) None of these

11. According to the data from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), overseas investment by domestic companies fell by over what per cent to \$1.45 billion in December 2020?  
 (1) 36% (2) 42% (3) 56% (4) 69% (5) None of these
12. Which bank has collaborated with Salesforce, a leader in customer relationship management, to build a next generation technology platform to power the retail lending business?  
 (1) IndusInd Bank (2) Axis Bank (3) Kotak Mahindra Bank  
 (4) Yes Bank (5) None of these
13. What is the interest rate on the National Savings Certificate (NSC) for January-March 2021 quarter?  
 (1) 7.2% (2) 6.3% (3) 7.5% (4) 6.8% (5) None of these
14. In January 2021, India Post announced to make the Post Office Savings Bank interoperable with other bank accounts by when?  
 (1) June 2021 (2) September 2021 (3) March 2021 (4) April 2021 (5) None of these
15. Which of the following is the first urban co-operative bank (UCB) in India to transition to a Small Finance Bank?  
 (1) Shivalik Small Finance Bank (2) Fincare Small Finance Bank  
 (3) Tirupati Small Finance Bank (4) Mehsana Small Finance Bank (5) None of these
16. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has cancelled the licence of Vasantdada Nagari Sahakari Bank Ltd., situated where?  
 (1) Sangli (2) Kolhapur (3) Osmanabad (4) Ahmednagar (5) None of these
17. An area to an extent varying from zero to one km around the boundary of which national park in Kerala has been notified as an Eco-sensitive Zone by the central government?  
 (1) Mathikettan Shola National Park  
 (2) Eravikulam National Park  
 (3) Pampadum Shola National Park  
 (4) Anamudi Shola National Park  
 (5) None of these
18. The Cabinet has given its approval for the investment of over 5200 crore rupees for 850 MW Ratle Hydro Electric (HE) Project in which state/UT?  
 (1) Jammu and Kashmir (2) Punjab (3) Chandigarh  
 (4) Uttar Pradesh (5) None of these
19. Which state government has launched its own crop relief scheme 'Kisan Fasal Rahat Yojana' to replace the Prime Minister's insurance scheme?  
 (1) Uttar Pradesh (2) Rajasthan (3) Jharkhand  
 (4) Punjab (5) None of these
20. Which state government launched a mobile application 'DigiNest', to give people digital access to the state government's directory, which can be synced with the smart phone with the click of a button?  
 (1) Punjab (2) Andhra (3) Odisha (4) Karnataka (5) None of these
21. Which state/UT has set up a Tamil academy to promote the South Indian language and culture in the state/UT?  
 (1) Chandigarh (2) Bihar (3) Uttar Pradesh (4) Delhi (5) None of these

22. Which state celebrates Thiruvalluvar Day on the 2nd day of the Thai month in honour of the Saint Poet Thiruvalluvar?  
 (1) Kerala (2) Tamil Nadu (3) Goa (4) Maharashtra (5) None of these
23. Which state government launched 'One School One IAS' scheme to provide free coaching for civil services and other competitive examinations to 10,000 meritorious but financially weak students across the state?  
 (1) Kerala (2) Goa (3) Telangana (4) Madhya Pradesh (5) None of these
24. Which state government launched scheme for allotment of 7,219 fair price shops (FPS) under state government's flagship 'Ghar Ghar Rozgar teKarobaar Mission'?  
 (1) Rajasthan (2) Gujarat (3) Punjab (4) Haryana (5) None of these
25. Which state government launched 'Horticulture Development Mission' (Bagayat Vikas Mission) with an aim to double the income of farmers involved in medicinal and horticulture farming?  
 (1) Gujarat (2) Kerala (3) Karnataka (4) Rajasthan (5) None of these
26. Which state government has decided to rename the Dragon fruit as 'Kalamam' in state as the outer shape of the fruit resembles a lotus?  
 (1) Madhya Pradesh (2) Himachal Pradesh (3) Uttarakhand  
 (4) Gujarat (5) None of these
27. Which state's government launched 'Udyam Sarathi' app to help youth to explore self-employment opportunities?  
 (1) Haryana (2) Gujarat (3) UP (4) HP (5) None of these
28. Which state government launched the 'PANKH Abhiyan' under the 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' scheme in order to aid in empowerment and growth of the girl child?  
 (1) Madhya Pradesh (2) Uttarakhand (3) Jharkhand  
 (4) Odisha (5) None of these
29. Where did Tamil Nadu's Chief Minister Edappadi Palanisamy inaugurate Jayalalithaa Memorial?  
 (1) Coimbatore (2) Vellore (3) Chennai (4) Madurai (5) None of these
30. Where did Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari announced the setting up of multi-model logistics park?  
 (1) Silchar (2) Jorhat (3) Tezpur (4) Rourkela (5) None of these
31. Which zoo has been named after as Balasaheb Thackeray by the state government?  
 (1) Taraporevala Zoo (2) Veer Mata Jijabai Zoo (3) Maharaj Bagh Zoo  
 (4) Gorewada International Zoo (5) None of these
32. The Union Cabinet approved the export of which missile system in order to boost domestic defence manufacturing?  
 (1) Dhanush (2) BrahMos (3) Akash (4) Nirbhay (5) None of these
33. With which of the following has the Indian Army inked a contract for 12 fast patrol boats for surveillance and patrol of large water bodies, including those in high altitude areas?  
 (1) Goa Shipyard (2) Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers  
 (3) Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders (4) Cochin Shipyard (5) None of these
34. India with which country has tested a Medium-Range Surface-to-Air Missile (MRSAM) defence system jointly developed by the two countries?  
 (1) Israel (2) France (3) Sweden (4) Indonesia (5) None of these

35. The Pune-based facility of the Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) and the Indian Army's Mhow-based Infantry School have jointly developed India's first indigenous \_\_\_\_\_ machine pistol named 'Asmi'.
- (1) 7mm (2) 4mm (3) 5mm (4) 9mm (5) None of these
36. Which bike-based casualty transport emergency vehicle was handed over to CRPF by Institute of Nuclear Medicine and Allied Sciences (INMAS)?
- (1) Radhika (2) Rachita (3) Ragini (4) Rakshita (5) None of these
37. Where did Border Security Force (BSF) launch "Operation Sard Hawa" under which it aims to increase security?
- (1) Bharatpur (2) Kota (3) Bhoder (4) Jaisalmer (5) None of these
38. Where did Indian Navy conducted large-scale tri-service joint amphibious exercise AMPHEX - 21 with Army and Air Force?
- (1) Daman and Diu (2) Ladakh (3) Puducherry  
(4) Andaman & Nicobar Islands (5) None of these
39. In January 2021, PM Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of six LHPs under the Global Housing Technology Challenge-India (GHHC-India) in six states. Which state is not one of the following?
- (1) Tamil Nadu (2) Karnataka (3) Andhra (4) Tripura (5) None of these
40. From which of the following, India launched the 40th Scientific Expedition to Antarctica with 43 members onboard?
- (1) West Bengal (2) Tamil Nadu (3) Goa (4) Kerala (5) None of these
41. In January 2021, where did Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan inaugurated a migrant worker cell?
- (1) Jaipur (2) Noida (3) Patna (4) Surat (5) None of these
42. In January 2021, Prime Minister Narendra Modi Inaugurated the 450-km Kochi to \_\_\_\_\_ LNG (liquified natural gas) pipeline through video conferencing?
- (1) Mysore (2) Coimbatore (3) Mangaluru (4) Siliguri (5) None of these
43. Which of the following has launched its latest pan-India investor awareness campaign #PaisoKoRokoMat, nudging savers to become investors?
- (1) Kotak Mahindra Mutual Fund (2) IDFC Mutual Fund (3) UTI Mutual Fund  
(4) SBI Mutual Fund (5) None of these
44. National Informatics Centre (NIC) along with which of the following launched CollabCAD software, a collaborative network, computer-enabled software system, providing a total engineering solution from 2D drafting and detailing to 3D product design?
- (1) National Testing Agency (2) Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations  
(3) DSSSB (4) Central Board of Secondary Education  
(5) None of these
45. Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagged off eight trains connecting different parts of the country to Kevadia in Gujarat. To which of the following city any such train is not flagged off?
- (1) Varanasi (2) Ahmedabad (3) Rewa (4) Seoni (5) None of these
46. Where would the country's first Labour Movement Museum, showcasing the history of world labour movement, be launched?
- (1) Madhya Pradesh (2) Maharashtra (3) Kerala  
(4) Goa (5) None of these

47. In which state was India's longest road arch bridge, the Wahrew Bridge inaugurated?  
 (1) Sikkim (2) West Bengal (3) Meghalaya (4) Jharkhand (5) None of these
48. Where was the new 4-lane Thaltej-Shilaj-Rancharda railway over bridge inaugurated by Home Minister Shri Amit Shah?  
 (1) Jaipur (2) Karnal (3) Hisar (4) Ahmedabad (5) None of these
49. Which country hosted the fourth 'One Planet Summit' through videoconferencing themed "Let's act together for nature!"?  
 (1) France (2) Austria (3) Netherlands (4) Saudi Arabia (5) None of these
50. What is the corpus for 'Startup India Seed Fund' launched at the 'Prarambh: Startup India International Summit' to support startups and help budding entrepreneurs pursue innovative ideas?  
 (1) Rs 3,000-crore (2) Rs 5,000-crore (3) Rs 2,000-crore  
 (4) Rs 1,000-crore (5) None of these
51. What is the theme of the two-days 15th edition of India Digital Summit 2021 organized virtually?  
 (1) Aatmanirbhar Bharat – A Trillion Dollar Economy by 2022  
 (2) Aatmanirbhar Bharat – Enabling the New Normal  
 (3) Aatmanirbhar Bharat – Make for the World  
 (4) Aatmanirbhar Bharat – Start of New Decade  
 (5) None of these
52. Which country hosted the two days international Climate Adaptation Summit (CAS) 2021 virtually?  
 (1) Germany (2) UK (3) Spain (4) Netherlands (5) None of these
53. With which state/UT government has Solar firm Oakridge Energy signed agreements to solarize 1,000 schools in state/UT by 2022?  
 (1) Karnataka (2) Delhi (3) Chandigarh (4) Chhattisgarh (5) None of these
54. With which bank has that RuPay partnered to launch an innovative payment solution for Indian merchants – RuPayPoS in association with PayNearby?  
 (1) CSB Bank (2) Bandhan Bank (3) RBL Bank  
 (4) Federal Bank (5) None of these
55. DRDO has signed MoU with which state's metro for implementation of Advanced Biodigester Mk-II Technology in Metro Rail Network?  
 (1) Delhi Metro (2) Maharashtra Metro (3) Rajasthan Metro  
 (4) Karnataka Metro (5) None of these
56. PhonePe has tied up with which insurance company to launch Term Life Insurance plans on its platform?  
 (1) HDFC Life Insurance (2) Tata AIA Life Insurance (3) SBI Life Insurance  
 (4) ICICI Prudential Life Insurance (5) None of these
57. Punjab National Bank as collaborated with which institute for establishing an innovation centre at the institute's campus?  
 (1) IIT Kanpur (2) IIT Bombay (3) IIT Ropar (4) IIT Jammu (5) None of these
58. Which e-commerce company has signed a memorandum of understanding with the Logistics Skill Sector Council (LSC) to build a skilled and trained workforce for the fast-growing e-commerce industry in India?  
 (1) Amazon (2) Snapdeal (3) Flipkart (4) Shopclues (5) None of these

59. Indian Space Research Organization, ISRO has collaborated with which of the following to adopt one hundred Atal Tinkering Labs across the country to promote education in the field of Space Education and Space Technology?  
 (1) Ministry of Education (2) Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation  
 (3) NITI Aayog (4) National Development Council (5) None of these
60. Which bank has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with 'Jai Kisan' to expand access to financial services to individuals and businesses in Karnataka?  
 (1) IDBI Bank (2) Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank  
 (3) Syndicate Bank (4) Corporation Bank (5) None of these
61. With which country did India sign a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to enhance cooperation in the field of Information and Communications Technology (ICT), including 5G standardization?  
 (1) Singapore (2) Japan (3) France (4) Netherlands (5) None of these
62. Which bank has tied up with Niyto, a new age fintech, to issue prepaid cards to workers of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)?  
 (1) HDFC Bank (2) Federal Bank (3) ICICI Bank (4) Axis Bank (5) None of these
63. Which bank has tied up with Aditya Birla Wellness Private Limited to launch wellness credit cards, which aims at the holistic health, self-care and wellness of consumers?  
 (1) Yes Bank (2) Axis Bank (3) Kotak Mahindra Bank  
 (4) IDBI Bank (5) None of these
64. With which country has India signed a Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) on a basic partnership framework for operation of the 'specified skilled worker' (SSW) system?  
 (1) Japan (2) Sweden (3) Netherlands (4) Italy (5) None of these
65. With which country did India sign an agreement for cooperation in the field of Solar Energy?  
 (1) Uganda (2) Kyrgyzstan (3) Sierra Leone (4) Uzbekistan (5) None of these
66. With which country did India sign the implementing agreement on submarine rescue support and cooperation between the two Navies?  
 (1) UK (2) Singapore (3) Denmark (4) Poland (5) None of these
67. WIPRO group is all set to act as knowledge partner of which state/UT government?  
 (1) Madhya Pradesh (2) Goa (3) Odisha  
 (4) Maharashtra (5) None of these
68. Power Grid Corporation signed an agreement with which state's electricity board to improve telecom connectivity in the state?  
 (1) Tripura (2) Himachal Pradesh (3) Arunachal Pradesh  
 (4) Haryana (5) None of these
69. Madhya Pradesh government has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with which state government for replicating the latter's pioneering Responsible Tourism (RT) initiative?  
 (1) Telangana (2) Haryana (3) Kerala (4) Tamil Nadu (5) None of these
70. Where did the three-day Ports Review Meeting named 'Chintan Baithak' held?  
 (1) Kutch (2) Gandhinagar (3) Surat (4) Ahmedabad (5) None of these
71. Where did the 69th Plenary Meeting of the North Eastern Council (NEC) held?  
 (1) Shillong (2) Guwahati (3) Gangtok (4) Agartala (5) None of these

72. To improve the inland water transport infrastructure in which state, the Government of India and the World Bank signed a \$105 million project?  
(1) Rajasthan (2) Madhya Pradesh (3) Arunachal Pradesh  
(4) West Bengal (5) None of these
73. How much grant assistance has been given by India to Nepal as part of its commitment towards reconstruction of educational institutions damaged during the 2015 earthquake?  
(1) Rs 19.21 cr (2) Rs 12.09 cr (3) Rs 14.87 cr (4) Rs 15.28 cr (5) None of these
74. Prime Minister Narendra Modi released financial assistance of Rs 2,691 crore to 6.1 lakh beneficiaries in which state under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana?  
(1) Kerala (2) West Bengal (3) Rajasthan (4) Uttar Pradesh (5) None of these
75. Which state has become the first in the country to get additional funds (Rs 660 crore) for capital projects for successfully carrying out reforms in various citizen-centric areas?  
(1) Madhya Pradesh (2) Uttarakhand (3) Bihar  
(4) Jharkhand (5) None of these
76. India's April-November fiscal deficit stood at what percent of full-year target?  
(1) 125% (2) 105% (3) 135% (4) 165% (5) None of these
77. According to IHS Market, Indian economy is likely to rebound with what per cent growth in the fiscal year 2021-22?  
(1) 5.6% (2) 7.8% (3) 6.7% (4) 8.9% (5) None of these
78. CARE Ratings has revised downwards its projection of the Centre's fiscal deficit to what per cent of GDP during FY21?  
(1) 5.7% (2) 6.4% (3) 7.8% (4) 4.9% (5) None of these
79. According to former chief economic adviser Arvind Virmani, the Indian economy is likely to contract in the range of what per cent this fiscal?  
(1) 4-6.5 per cent (2) 4-7.5 per cent (3) 5-6.5 per cent  
(4) 5-7.5 per cent (5) None of these
80. According to a report by Crisil, the combined fiscal deficit of the states will hit a peak of how much percent of their GDP this fiscal on the back of steep fall in tax collections?  
(1) 5.2% (2) 4.7% (3) 6.9% (4) 7.1% (5) None of these
81. Which e-commerce portal has been unveiled by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) where over 50,000 products, ranging from apparel to home decor, will be available?  
(1) eKhadiIndia.com (2) eKhadiIndia.in (3) KhadiIndia.com  
(4) KhadiIndia.in (5) None of these
82. "Khadi Prakritik Paint", a first-of-its-kind product, with anti-fungal and anti-bacterial properties, developed by Khadi and Village Industries Commission has which of the following as its main ingredient?  
(1) Dry grass (2) Multani clay (3) Charcoal (4) Cow dung (5) None of these
83. Where has Tesla, US-based electric and clean energy company, opened its fully-owned subsidiary in India?  
(1) Bengaluru (2) Hyderabad (3) Chennai (4) Pune (5) None of these

84. According to the Futures Industry Association (FIA), which stock exchange remained the world's largest derivatives exchange for the second consecutive year in 2020 in terms of number of contracts traded?  
(1) National Stock Exchange of India (2) New York Stock Exchange  
(3) Italian Stock Exchange (4) The Royal Exchange (5) None of these
85. Which aerospace company created a new record by launching 143 satellites into space in January 2021?  
(1) NASA (2) Indian Space Research Organisation  
(3) SpaceX (4) Roscosmos (5) None of these
86. Indian Railways completed successful speed trials of the new design Vistadome Tourist Coaches made by Integral Coach Factory (ICF) at what speed?  
(1) 190 kmph (2) 140 kmph (3) 180 kmph (4) 120 kmph (5) None of these
87. Which airport has recently become a CAT IIIB compliant runway that can be used by aircraft even during inclement weather and foggy conditions?  
(1) Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport  
(2) Kempegowda International Airport  
(3) Chaudhary Charan Singh International Airport  
(4) Coimbatore International Airport  
(5) None of these
88. The government is implementing a Rs 320-crore project for five major ports in order to provide a digital port ecosystem. Which one of the following is not one of those ports?  
(1) Mumbai (2) Goa (3) Kolkata (4) Deendayal (5) None of these
89. What is the name of the Indonesian Sriwijaya Air plane that crashed into the sea minutes after taking off from Indonesia's capital Jakarta on a domestic flight with 62 people on board in January 2021?  
(1) Boeing 737-300 (2) Boeing 737-700 (3) Boeing 737-400  
(4) Boeing 737-500 (5) None of these
90. With which country's air force did Indian Air Force conduct a bilateral Air exercise, Ex Desert Knight-21 in Jodhpur?  
(1) Russia (2) Bangladesh (3) France (4) Maldives (5) None of these
91. Which train has been renamed as the 'Netaji Express' by the Indian Railways?  
(1) Kavi Guru Express (2) Howrah-Kalka Mail (3) Pinjore-Shimla Mail  
(4) Sampark Kranti Express (5) None of these
92. Which state has become the first state in the country with two airstrips on expressways to facilitate emergency landing and take-off of fighter planes?  
(1) Bihar (2) Haryana (3) HP (4) UP (5) None of these
93. Which of the following is the focus country for the 51th edition of the International Film Festival of India (IFFI) 2021?  
(1) Bangladesh (2) Thailand (3) Myanmar (4) Maldives (5) None of these
94. Which state government will host the fourth Global Ayurveda Festival (GAF 2021) in march 2021?  
(1) Madhya Pradesh (2) West Bengal (3) Himachal Pradesh  
(4) Kerala (5) None of these

95. Where was the five days 'National Folk Dance Festival' organized in December 2020?  
(1) Patiala (2) Jammu (3) Shimla (4) Hisar (5) None of these
96. In which state/UT is Cherry Blossom Mao Festival celebrated?  
(1) Puducherry (2) Manipur (3) Nagaland  
(4) Andaman and Nicobar Islands (5) None of these
97. Where was the first ever Ice climbing festival celebrated in January 2021?  
(1) Shingo La (2) Nubra valley (3) Gurung valley  
(4) Taglang La (5) None of these
98. Which state's first state-level bird festival 'Kalrav' held in January 2021?  
(1) Jharkhand (2) Bihar (3) Uttar Pradesh  
(4) Rajasthan (5) None of these
99. Where was the 15th edition of Toshali National Crafts Mela inaugurated?  
(1) Hyderabad (2) Bhopal (3) Bhubaneswar  
(4) Panaji (5) None of these
100. In a first, a bird festival is being organized at the Mahananda wildlife sanctuary to provide an opportunity to enthusiasts to explore the forest and watch different birds. Where is the sanctuary situated?  
(1) Karnataka (2) Odisha (3) Maharashtra (4) West Bengal (5) None of these
101. Who has been appointed as the new chairman and CEO of the Railway Board?  
(1) Suneet Sharma (2) Prabhakar Sardana (3) Shyamraj Mehta  
(4) Vivek Tripathi (5) None of these
102. Who is appointed as the new chairman of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL)?  
(1) Surbhi Bhattacharya (2) Rekha Banerjee (3) Vaishika Mittal  
(4) Soma Mondal (5) None of these
103. Justice Hima Kohli has become the first woman to assume charge as the Chief Justice of which high court?  
(1) Madhya Pradesh (2) Assam (3) Telangana  
(4) Chhattisgarh (5) None of these
104. Who has been appointed as the Director General in Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)?  
(1) Pritam Singh (2) Vishnu Kumar Prasad (3) Sukesh Khanna  
(4) Subodh Kumar Jaiswal (5) None of these
105. Pat Gelsinger has been appointed as the new CEO of which company?  
(1) Tesla (2) Microsoft (3) Nvidia (4) Intel (5) None of these
106. Yoweri Museveni has been re-elected for the sixth term as the president of which country?  
(1) Kenya (2) Uganda (3) Rwanda (4) Tanzania (5) None of these
107. Swaminathan Janakiraman and who other have been appointed as the new managing directors of State Bank of India (SBI)?  
(1) Brijesh Khanna (2) Ashwini Kumar Tewari (3) Rajesh Kumar Mehta  
(4) Abhishek Khurana (5) None of these

108. Name the president of Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) who resigned from his post recently?  
(1) Dushyant Dave (2) Rajesh Bhatia (3) Vikram Sardana  
(4) Susheel Kumar (5) None of these
109. Jüri Ratas, Prime Minister of which country resigned amid allegations of corruption against his party?  
(1) Estonia (2) Finland (3) Belarus (4) Latvia (5) None of these
110. Which country's Prime Minister KhurelsukhUkhnaa submitted his resignation to parliament after protests over the government's handling of the Covid-19 pandemic?  
(1) Ukraine (2) Mongolia (3) Kazakhstan (4) Georgia (5) None of these
111. Buta Singh who passed away was related to which profession?  
(1) Singer (2) Sports person (3) Politician (4) Director (5) None of these
112. John Fulton Reid who passed away was the finest batsman of which country?  
(1) West Indies (2) New Zealand (3) Australia (4) Ireland (5) None of these
113. Chitra Ghosh who passed away recently was related to which profession?  
(1) Actress (2) Journalist (3) Author (4) Professor (5) None of these
114. TurlapatiKutumba Rao who passed away was related with which profession?  
(1) Singer (2) Journalist (3) Politician (4) Author (5) None of these
115. Professor Shashikumar Madhusudan Chitre who passed away was the professor of which subject?  
(1) Astrometry (2) Nuclear physics (3) Astrophysicist  
(4) Anthropology (5) None of these
116. D Prakash Rao who passed away was related with which profession?  
(1) Professor (2) Businessman (3) Dramatist (4) Social Activist (5) None of these
117. Who has been honoured with Tansen Samman- 2020 for Hindustani classical music?  
(1) Pt. Dalchan Sharma (2) Pt. Vidyadhar Mehta (3) Pt. Ulhaas Kashalkar  
(4) Pt. Satish Vyasa (5) None of these
118. Which branch of All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) won the Kayakalp Award under the B category for cleanliness for the third consecutive year?  
(1) AIIMS, Delhi (2) AIIMS, Rishikesh (3) AIIMS, Bhatinda  
(4) AIIMS, Bhubaneswar (5) None of these
119. Which ministry of the government of India received SKOCH Challenger Award for e-Governance?  
(1) Ministry of Tribal Affairs (2) Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment  
(3) Ministry of Minority Affairs (4) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare  
(5) None of these
120. The International Cricket Council (ICC) announced the introduction of which awards in January 2021?  
(1) ICC Player of the Month awards  
(2) ICC Player of the Quarter awards  
(3) ICC Player of the Year awards  
(4) ICC Player of the Six-Months awards  
(5) None of these

121. Goa's 14-year-old Leon Mendonca has become India's \_\_\_\_\_ chess Grandmaster by winning the third and final norm at a tournament in Italy.  
 (1) 69th (2) 68th (3) 67th (4) 65th (5) None of these
122. Jigmet Dolma, an SPO of Ladakh police secured fourth position in which Marathon?  
 (1) Jakarta Marathon 2021 (2) Dhaka Marathon 2021  
 (3) Kathmandu Marathon 2021 (4) Thimphu Marathon 2021 (5) None of these
123. Which country will host the 2022 Women's Asian Cup as announced by Asian Football Confederation?  
 (1) China (2) UAE (3) Germany (4) India (5) None of these
124. Which district has topped the list of aspirational districts ranked by the government think tank Niti Aayog in November 2020?  
 (1) Gadchiroli (2) Ramgarh (3) Yadgir (4) Udupi (5) None of these
125. According to Bloomberg News, who has become the world's richest man with more than \$188.5 billion net worth?  
 (1) Elon Musk (2) Jeff Bezos (3) Bill Gates (4) Warren Buffett (5) None of these
126. With which country India shared 85th rank in the list of the world's most powerful passports by Henley and Partners Passport Index of 2021?  
 (1) Uzbekistan (2) Turkmenistan (3) Azerbaijan (4) Tajikistan (5) None of these
127. According to a report released by London & Partners, which city has emerged as the world's fastest-growing mature tech ecosystem in the world since 2016?  
 (1) London (2) Bengaluru (3) Munich (4) Paris (5) None of these
128. In its report titled 'International Migration 2020 Highlights', the United Nations (UN) declared the India diaspora to be the largest in the world with how many people from the country living outside their homeland in 2020?  
 (1) 16 million (2) 18 million (3) 20 million (4) 15 million (5) None of these
129. How much percent of the electronic-waste did India generate in the year 2019 as per a recent report by the Central Pollution Control Board?  
 (1) 8% (2) 10% (3) 9% (4) 11% (5) None of these
130. Which state topped the second edition of the India Innovation Index-2020 released by NITI Aayog in the Major States category?  
 (1) Karnataka (2) Tamil Nadu (3) Maharashtra  
 (4) Himachal Pradesh (5) None of these
131. Which of the following released the 16th edition of the Global Risks Report, 2021?  
 (1) World Food Programme (2) Food and Agriculture Organization  
 (3) World Economic Forum (4) World Wide Fund for Nature (5) None of these
132. Delhi secured the highest National Achievement Survey (NAS) score in the NITI Aayog's India Innovation Index 2020. What is the score it obtained?  
 (1) 44.73 (2) 43.98 (3) 42.34 (4) 45.62 (5) None of these
133. According to Oxfam's 'Inequality Virus Report', Indian billionaires increased their wealth by what percent during the lockdown to Rs. 3 trillion?  
 (1) 26% (2) 47% (3) 35% (4) 51% (5) None of these

134. Where did Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in December 2020?  
(1) Hisar (2) Rajkot (3) Pushkar (4) Bareilly (5) None of these
135. PM Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of the National Environmental Standards Laboratory. Where is National Physical Laboratory situated?  
(1) Tamil Nadu (2) Delhi (3) Andhra Pradesh  
(4) Haryana (5) None of these
136. By 2021, India's food regulator, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), has planned to reduce the level of trans fats in food items from the permissible limit of 5% to what percent?  
(1) 1% (2) 3% (3) 2% (4) 4% (5) None of these
137. Which meteorological observatory has been awarded the status of 'centennial observing station' in recognition to its long-term meteorological observation exceeding over 100 years by the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO)?  
(1) Patna (2) Pune (3) Lucknow (4) Chennai (5) None of these
138. The National Internet Exchange of India, NIXI will offer a free Internationalized Domain Name, IDN in how many Indian language along with every IN domain booked by the registrant?  
(1) 22 (2) 25 (3) 28 (4) 25 (5) None of these
139. In January 2021, which ministry launched month-long mass awareness campaign 'SAKSHAM' in New Delhi?  
(1) Ministry of Rural Development  
(2) Ministry of Labour and Employment  
(3) Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas  
(4) Ministry of New and Renewable Energy  
(5) None of these
140. In which state/UT, is a road soon going to be named after the late actor Sushant Singh Rajput?  
(1) Delhi (2) Maharashtra (3) Puducherry (4) Bihar (5) None of these
141. Where is first of its kind children's library on a boat launched which will host sessions on book launches, music and more?  
(1) Pune (2) Kolkata (3) Hyderabad (4) Bengaluru (5) None of these
142. Which of the following organized "AYU SAMVAD" (My Health My Responsibility), one of the largest public awareness campaign programs on AYURVEDA and COVID 19 PANDEMIC?  
(1) All India Institute of Ayurveda  
(2) National Institute of Ayurveda  
(3) Indian Institute of Ayurvedic Medicine & Research  
(4) Ayushkama Ayur Yoga School  
(5) None of these
143. Which of the following has adopted a resolution to promote a culture of peace and tolerance to safeguard religious sites all across the world?  
(1) UN General Assembly  
(2) United Nations Security Council  
(3) United Nations Development Programme  
(4) United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees  
(5) None of these

144. In which Indian state has the US food major Cargill, in partnership with the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) and Delhi based Centre for Responsible Business (CRB), launched a program to improve nutrition status?  
 (1) Rajasthan (2) Uttar Pradesh (3) Bihar (4) Jharkhand (5) None of these
145. Which country has changed one word in its national anthem to reflect the spirit of unity and the country's Indigenous population?  
 (1) Australia (2) Canada (3) Sweden (4) Singapore (5) None of these
146. Which country's government has passed a bill mandating larger companies to ensure that at least one woman serves on their management boards?  
 (1) Spain (2) Germany (3) France (4) Indonesia (5) None of these
147. In which country did the archaeologists discover the world's oldest known cave art, a life-sized picture of a wild pig that was painted at least 45,500 years ago?  
 (1) Myanmar (2) Indonesia (3) Egypt (4) Thailand (5) None of these
148. Who is the author of the novel titled 'Right Under our Nose'?  
 (1) Jayant Kumar Dash (2) R. Giridharan (3) Vivek Deep  
 (4) H. Subramanian (5) None of these
149. Who is the author of the book titled "Making of a General - A Himalayan Echo"?  
 (1) Konsam Himalay Singh (2) Manoj Mukund Naravane  
 (3) Iqroop Singh Ghuman (4) Nirmal Chandra Suri (5) None of these
150. Who is the author of the book titled "The Commonwealth of Cricket: A Lifelong Love Affair with the Most Subtle and Sophisticated Game Known to Humankind"?  
 (1) Ramachandra Guha (2) Vikram Seth (3) Amitav Ghosh  
 (4) Ruskin Bond (5) None of these

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

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