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India and Nepal to speed up implementation of projects in the Himalayan nation

A virtual meeting was held between the Senior diplomats of India and Nepal to review the progress made on various India-aided developmental projects being implemented in the Himalayan nation. The meeting was held virtually due to the covid-19 pandemic. The meeting was the 8th round of talks under the aegis of the India-Nepal Oversight Mechanism.

Highlights:
The Nepalese side was lead by the Foreign Secretary Shanker Das Bairagi and the Indian side was led by the Ambassador to Nepal Vinay Mohan Kwatra.
The delegations represented their respective countries during the oversight mechanism meeting.
The officials assessed the progress made on various India aided development projects being implemented in Nepal.
India and Nepal officials have reviewed the status of various development projects supported by New Delhi in the Himalayan nation.
Both nations has decided to speed up their implementation against the backdrop of consistent efforts by China to draw Nepal into its sphere of influence with cheap loans and infrastructure projects.
The meeting also included the ongoing projects including the cross-border railway connectivity, construction of roads in Nepal's Terai region, the Arun-III hydropower project, and petroleum product pipelines.
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Turkey discovers a large natural gas reserve in Black Sea

Turkey discovered large natural gas reserves in the Black Sea coast. The announcement was made by the Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. The discovery included 320 billion cubic metres of natural gas. If the natural gas reserve can be extracted, it could help the country to reduce its energy dependence on imports from countries such as Russia, Iran, and Azerbaijan.

Highlights:

- Turkey aims to use the discovered natural gas by 2023.
- The country has made the biggest discovery of natural gas in its history in the Black Sea.
- The new natural gas reserves come amid the rising tensions between Ankara and Athens over oil and gas exploration in the eastern Mediterranean.
- The discovery has come up in the middle of tensions between the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) allies Greece and Turkey are running high in disputed waters in the eastern Mediterranean.

Background:

Turkey highly depends on Russia, Iran, and Iraq for its energy resources. In the year 2019, the Turkish energy imports from these countries were $41 billion. The discovery of the new oil exploration will help to reduce the country's imports.
President Ram Nath Kovind virtually unveils a portrait of Former PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee at ICCR Headquarters

The President of India Ram Nath Kovind unveiled the portrait of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, former Prime Minister of India virtually on his second death anniversary, at the headquarters of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR). From March 1977 to August 1979, the former PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee served as the ex-officio President of ICCR, when he was Foreign Minister.

Atal Bihari Vajpayee:
Former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee was born on December 25, 1924, in Gwalior. In 1951, he founded Jan Sangh, along with other founders, and became its president in 1968. Vajpayee was elected 10 times the Lok Sabha from 4 different States. He was twice the member of Rajya Sabha. He was a poet and his poetry collections were compiled in his book Meri Ekyaavan Kavitayein (My 51 Poems). Vajpayee was 93 years old when he passed away. He died on 16th August due to his prolonged ill-health. He was one of the greatest leaders of India. The veteran leader was Prime Minister thrice in 1996, 1998-1999, and 1999-2004.
Atal Bihari Vajpayee was awarded Padma Vibhushan in 1992, D. Lit. from Kanpur University in 1993, Lokmanya Tilak Award, and Outstanding Parliamentarian Award in 1994. He was awarded Bharat Ratna Pandit Govind Vallabh Pant Award in 1994. In 2015, he was awarded Bharat Ratna Ribbon.SVG Bharat Ratna and Bangladesh Liberation War Honour.

Dhanwantari Rath to bring Ayurveda at doorsteps of Delhi Police families

All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) signed a Memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Delhi Police to extend the Ayurveda Preventive and Promotive health services in the residential colonies of Delhi Police. The MoU was exchanged between Commissioner of Delhi Police S N Shrivastava and Pramod Kumar Pathak, Additional Secretary, Ministry of AYUSH. The Dhanvantri Rath was flagged off on 18th August 2020.

Dhanwantari Rath:
Under the MoU, the services will be provided through a mobile unit named Dhanwantari Rath.
Dhanwantari Rath is a Mobile unit of Ayurveda health care services. It consists of a team of Doctors who would be visiting Delhi Police colonies regularly. The Ayurveda Health care services will reduce the incidence/prevalence of various diseases and also reduce the number of referrals to hospitals thereby reducing the cost to the healthcare system as well as patients.

Police Wellness Centres will be catered by AIIA, which is an autonomous Institute and supported by the Ministry of Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, and Homoeopathy (AYUSH).

AYURAKSHA is a joint venture (JV) of AIIA, an autonomous Institute under the Ministry of AYUSH and Delhi Police. The JV aims to maintain the health of frontline COVID warriors like Delhi police personal through Ayurveda immunity-boosting measures.

Ayurveda Preventive and Promotive health care has been planned to be extended to the families of Delhi Police personnel.

**Cabinet approved setting up of National Recruitment Agency**

The Union Cabinet headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the setting up of the National Recruitment Agency (NRA). The aim is to pave the way for a transformational reform in the recruitment process for central government jobs.

**National Recruitment Agency (NRA):**

NRA will conduct a Common Eligibility Test (CET) to screen/shortlist candidates for Group B and C which is for non-technical posts.

NRA will have representatives of Ministry of Railways, Department of Financial Services of the Ministry of Finance, the Staff Selection Commission (SSC), the Railway Recruitment Boards (RRBs) and the Institute of Banking Service Personnel (IBPS).

It is expected that the NRA would be a specialist body bringing state-of-the-art technology and best practices to the field of Central Government recruitment.

**Background:**

The move comes as, currently, the candidates seeking government jobs have to appear for separate examinations conducted by multiple recruiting agencies for various posts, for which similar eligibility conditions have been prescribed. With the introduction of NRA, a common eligibility Test will enable the candidates to appear once and apply to any or all of these recruitment agencies for the higher
level of examination. This will provide major relief to all the candidates.

**Ravi Shankar Prasad launched Swadeshi Microprocessor Challenge to boost Start-up**

Union Minister of Law & Justice, Communications and Electronics & Information Technology Ravi Shankar Prasad launched **Swadeshi Microprocessor Challenge- Innovate Solution for #Aatmanirbhar Bharat** on 18 August 2020. The aim is to provide further impetus to the strong ecosystem of Start-up, innovation, and research in the country. Under the aegis of Microprocessor Development Programme of Ministry of Electronics and IT, IIT Madras and Center for Development of Advance Computing (CDAC) have developed two microprocessors named SHAKTI (32 bit) and VEGA (64 bit) respectively using Open Source Architecture.

**Highlights:**

**Swadeshi Microprocessor Challenge - Innovate Solutions for #Aatmanirbhar Bharat** aims to invite startups, innovators, and students to use these microprocessors.

The aim is to develop various technology products. Swadeshi Microprocessor Challenge is part of the measures taken by the Ministry of Electronics and IT to spur the technology-led innovation ecosystem in the country.

The challenge is open to the students at all levels and startups, the Challenge demands contestants to tinker with these Swadeshi Processor IPs and facilitate them with innovating the frugal solutions for societal needs.

The challenge also aims to make available the entire home-grown ecosystem around Swadeshi Processors to develop the complex designs for catering to both global and domestic requirements in the near future.

The participants can register at innovate.mygov.in. It is open from 18th August 2020 and culminates in June 2021.

It provides an opportunity for 100 Semi-finalists to win a total Rs.1 Crore of Award, 25 Finalists to win total Rs.1 Crore of Award. Also, the top 10 teams entering the finale, will get the seed fund of total Rs.2.30 crore and 12 months incubation support.

All participants will be given an opportunity to translate their innovations around Swadeshi Processors and showcase them at a higher viewership platform. It will
also facilitate them to scale from ideation to the marketplace, thereby standing a chance to contribute to the overall mission of #AtmaNirbharta of Government.

**Shri Arjun Munda e-inaugurated Tribes India Showroom in Mumbai**

Shri Arjun Munda, Union Minister for Tribal Affairs e-inaugurated Tribes India Showroom' in Mumbai on 21 August 2020. The move comes to support 50 lakh tribal artisans and forest gatherers in their hour of need, steadily and firmly to sustain their income, employment and livelihoods.

**Highlights:**

The move is in line with the Prime Minister's message Be Vocal for Local.

The move aims to promote the livelihood of the tribal people marketing, TRIFED, Ministry of Tribal Affairs has initiated these path-breaking initiatives that have a wide-ranging impact.

The move aims to boost sales and enhance tribal income in these challenging times, Tribes India on Wheels, mobile vans stacked fully with Van Dhan natural produce, immunity boosters and other tribal products. It will take these products directly to the customer's doorstep in 150 cities across the country.

**NHAI launches Harit Path, a mobile app to monitor plantation along national highways**

The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), a public sector undertaking under the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, has launched a mobile App called Harit Path. The app was inaugurated by the Union Minister for RTH Shri Nitin Gadkari.

**Harit Path:**

Harit Path mobile application aims to monitor location, growth, species details, maintenance activities, targets and achievements of each of its field units for each and every plant under all plantation projects.

Harit Path will track the growth and health of the plants, photographs along with data of the plants captured. The data will be uploaded every 3 months on NHAI's Artificial Intelligence (AI) powered Big Data Analytics platform 'Data Lake.' NHAI has has created user IDs of over 150 ROs/ PDs/ Horticulture experts. Also, over 7800 plants have also been geo-tagged by NHAI.
The launch of Harit Path mobile app is expected to further facilitate creation of Green Highways across the country.

**Indore tops as the cleanest city 4th time in a row on 2020 Swachh Survekshan**

Indore topped the list of the cleanest city in India for the fourth consecutive time in the Swachh Survekshan, 2020, India's annual survey on cleanliness. The results were declared on 20th August by the Union Minister of State (independent charge) for Housing and Urban Affairs Hardeep Singh Puri. Surat in Gujarat and Navi Mumbai in Maharashtra ranked second and third among the cleanest cities with more than a million population.

The assessment was done on various parameters such as:
- Solid waste floating on the Ganga
- Open dumpsites sighted (or not) near ghats or on the riverbank
- Garbage vulnerable points near ghats or on the riverbank
- Availability of anti-littering messages around ghats and riverbanks accessible to citizens
- Availability of twin litter bins every 50m around ghats and riverbanks accessible to citizens
- Sweeping and cleaning arrangements at least once a day
- Sweeping and cleaning around all ghats and riverbanks
- Nullah discharge into the river
- Availability of solid waste plant and trash cleaners to trap solid waste floating on the river surface

**Highlights:**

Swachh Survekshan 2020, the pan-India survey began in 2016.
Under the mission, the Ministry ranks India's cities, towns and states based on sanitation, waste management and overall cleanliness.
In the list, Karad in Maharashtra, Saswad and Lonavala bagged the first three positions for cities having a population less than one lakh.
Among the cities with a population between 1-10 lakh, Ambikapur in Chhattisgarh was declared the cleanest. It was followed by Mysore in Karnataka.
The 2020 survey focused on the collection of segregated waste and its maintenance till the processing site; treatment and re-use of wastewater. It also included the curtailment of solid waste-based air pollution and the improvement of social
conditions of informal waste pickers, among others. As per the survey, over 2,606 Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) practice door-to-door garbage collection in more than 50% wards and 1,476 ULBs initiated source segregation of waste in at least 50% wards. The report also stated that 1,020 cities have at least 80% of all constructed toilets attached to sewerage. Around 1,000 ULBs were declared Open defecation (ODF+), 483 ULBs ODF++ and 966 ULBs banned open dumping of fecal sludge.
**SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY**

**ISA to organize the First World Solar Technology Summit**

International Solar Alliance (ISA) is to organize the First World Solar Technology Summit on a virtual platform on 8th September 2020. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will deliver the inaugural address of the First World Solar Technology Summit.

**Highlights:**

The objective of the First World Solar Technology Summit is to bring the spotlight on state-of-the-art technologies and next-generation technologies which will provide impetus to the efforts towards harnessing solar energy more efficiently. ISA is expected to launch the ISA Journal on Solar Energy, I JOSE, which will help authors from across the globe to publish their articles on solar energy. Laureates including Dr. M. Stanley Whittingham will participate in the summit.

The summit will hold four technical sessions in different languages namely English, Spanish, French & Arabic. The topic will be Vision 2030 & Beyond, Towards a Decarbonised Grid, Disruptive Solar Technologies, and Solar Beyond the Power Sector.

**Scientists found that the Dwarf planet Ceres is now an Ocean world**

Researchers have stated that Ceres looks like an Ocean World. The scientist stated after analyzing the data collected by NASA's Dawn spacecraft. The dwarf planet Ceres lies in the asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter and is also the largest object in that belt. The scientist is trying to search for a possibility of the presence of water in Ceres.

**Exploration Ceres:**

Ceres was first spotted by Giuseppe Piazzii in 1801. It was assumed that Ceres was the missing planet between Mars and Jupiter. In the year 2006, Ceres was classified as a dwarf planet. It is the first dwarf planet to be orbited by a spacecraft. In 2015, NASA’s Dawn reached it to study its surface, composition, and history. The spacecraft Dawn was launched in 2007. It visited Vesta and Ceres. In 2015, the spacecraft went into the orbit around Ceres. The information that was collected reinforced the idea that dwarf planets could have hosted oceans over a significant
part of their history. The Dawn mission concluded in 2018.

**Dwarf planet:**
There are officially five dwarf planets in the Solar System. The most famous dwarf planet is Pluto, downgraded from the status of a planet in 2006. The other four dwarf planets, in the order of size, are Eris, Makemake, Haumea, and Ceres. The sixth claimant for a dwarf planet is Hygiea, which so far has been taken to be an asteroid.

**Scientists convert tamarind waste and cotton waste to supercapacitor**

Scientists at the International Advanced Research Centre for Powder Metallurgy & New Materials (ARCI), under Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India, have developed a cost-effective electrode material for making affordable supercapacitor devices, from waste biomass like tamarind seeds and industrial cotton waste. With this discovery, tamarind seeds and cotton waste may soon be used to make low-cost supercapacitors for energy storage. The scientists have used waste biomass to develop materials for making cost-effective supercapacitor devices.

**Highlights:**
- The scientists have converted the waste materials into highly porous carbon fibres by activation process. It was then utilised the porous carbon fibres to make high-performance supercapacitor electrodes.
- The electrode materials are made from biomass waste. It was tested with the help of a rapid testing protocol developed by Scientists at Centre for Fuel Cell Technology, ARCI-Chennai to evaluate different porous electrode materials for their suitability in supercapacitors.
- The method involves Electrochemical Impedance Spectroscopy (EIS) and records the impedance offered by a material under a small perturbation and the capacitance was formed by the arrangement of electrolyte ions over the electrode surface, which is called as double-layer capacitance.
- The scientists tested the pore characteristics and stability of the activated carbon material prepared from tamarind seed and its suitability for supercapacitor application.
- The Dynamic Electrochemical Impedance Spectroscopy (DEIS) results that are observed by the ARCI team showed a superior double layer capacitance value at all
the applied potentials for the optimized sample with high surface area (2645 m² g⁻¹) within 1 hour of the experiment, validating that the material could be used for supercapacitor electrode.

It is expected that this will respond to the intense hunt for supercapacitor materials to meet the widespread demand for supercapacitors.

This discovery can pave the way towards affordable electric vehicles and hybrid vehicles which bank on supercapacitors significantly for their application in braking systems and start-stop cycles.

**Note:** Impedance is a parameter used to measure the opposition that a circuit presents to a current when a voltage is applied.
DEFENCE

Defence Ministry to expand NCC in 173 borders, coastal districts

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh approved a proposal of the National Cadet Corps (NCC) for a major expansion scheme in all the border and coastal districts. A total of 83 NCC units will be upgraded. It includes Army 53, Navy 20, Indian Air Force (IAF) 10. The scheme aims to impart NCC training to the cadets in the border and coastal areas.

**Highlights:**
- Under the scheme, a total of one lakh cadets from 173 border and coastal districts will be inducted in the NCC.
- As part of the expansion plan, One-third of the cadets will be girl cadets.
- Also, more than 1,000 schools and colleges have been identified in the border and coastal districts where NCC will be introduced.
- The proposal on the expansion of NCC expansion was announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 15th August, at the Independence Day address.
- Under this, the Indian Army will provide training and administrative support to the NCC units located in the border areas. Indian Navy will provide training and administrative support to the units in the coastal areas and IAF to the units close to Air Force stations.
- The NCC expansion plan has been planned to be implemented in partnership with the respective states.

BRO constructed Bailey bridge in Uttarakhand

**Border Roads Organisation (BRO)** constructed a 180-feet bailey bridge in the **Jauljibi sector of Pithoragarh district**, Uttarakhand. The construction was done amid frequent landslides and heavy rains.

**Bailey bridge:**
- The Bailey bridge is of the 50-metre span.
- The concrete bridge was washed out completely on July 27, 2020, due to the flood.
- The BRO mobilized the bridging resources and set up to construct the bridge.
- The bridge will meet the biggest challenge to transport parts to the site from Pithoragarh amidst frequent landslides and heavy rains.
The construction of the bridge was successfully completed on August 16, 2020. The connectivity is expected to bring relief to about 15,000 people in 20 villages. The constructed bridge allows the road communication of 66 km road starting from Jauljibi to Munsiyari. This bridge also will provide essential support in rehabilitating the villages.
AWARDS AND HONOURS

IIT-Madras topped the Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements

The Vice-President of India M. Venkaiah Naidu announced Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements (ARIIA) 2020 virtually on 18th August 2020. ARIIA classified the institutes into two broad categories and six subcategories.

Winners:
IIT Madras topped the list under the category of Institutes of National Importance, Central Universities, and Centrally Funded Technical Institutes
Institute of Chemical Technology, Mumbai got the top position under Government and Government Aided Universities
College of Engineering, Pune under Government and Government Aided Colleges
Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology, Bhubaneswar under Private or Self-Financed Universities
SR Engineering College, Warangal under Private or Self-Financed Colleges
Avinashilingam Institute for Home Science and Higher Education for Women emerged as the top performer under Women (only higher educational institutions).

ARIIA:
ARIIA was launched by the Ministry of Education, GoI. The ARIIA is implemented by the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE). In the year 2019, IIT-Madras emerged as the top Innovative Institution and also was one of the top 10 institutes in Public funded categories.

National Sports Awards 2020 announced

The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports announced the National Sports Awards 2020. A large number of applications were received for Sports Awards 2020. The winners were considered by the Selection Committee headed by Justice (Retd.) Mukundakam Sharma, the former Judge of Supreme Court of India, and other members comprising eminent sportspersons, persons having experience in sports journalism and sports administration, etc. Based on the recommendations of
the Committee, GoI has conferred awards upon the following sportspersons, coaches and entities under various categories:

**RAJIV GANDHI KHEL RATNA AWARD**
- Shri Rohit Sharma - Cricket
- Shri Mariyappan T. - Para Athletics
- Ms. Manika Batra - Table Tennis
- Ms. Vinesh - Wrestling
- Ms. Rani - Hockey

**DRONACHARYA AWARD**

A) Life- Time Category
- Shri Dharmendra Tiwary - Archery
- Shri Purushotham Rai - Athletics
- Shri Shiv Singh - Boxing
- Shri Romesh Pathania - Hockey
- Shri Krishan Kumar Hooda - Kabaddi
- Shri Vijay Bhalchandra Munishwar - Para Powerlifting
- Shri Naresh Kumar - Tennis
- Shri Om Parkash Dahiya - Wrestling

B) Regular Category
- Shri Jude Felix Sebastian - Hockey
- Shri Yogesh Malviya - Mallakhamb
- Shri Jaspal Rana - Shooting
- Shri Kuldeep Kumar Handoo - Wushu
- Shri Gaurav Khanna - Para Badminton

**ARJUNA AWARD**
- Shri Atanu Das - Archery
- Ms. Dutee Chand - Athletics
- Shri Satwik Sairaj Rankireddy - Badminton
- Shri Chirag Chandrasekhar Shetty - Badminton
- Shri Vishesh Bhriguvanshi - Basketball
- Subedar Manish Kaushik - Boxing
- Ms. Lovlina Borgohain - Boxing
- Shri Ishant Sharma - Cricket
- Ms. Deepti Sharma - Cricket
Shri Sawant Ajay Anant - Equestrian
Shri Sandesh Jhingan - Football
Ms. Aditi Ashok - Golf
Shri Akashdeep Singh - Hockey
Ms. Deepika - Hockey
Shri Deepak - Kabaddi
Shri Kale Sarika Sudhakar - Kho Kho
Shri Dattu Baban Bhokanal - Rowing
Ms. Manu Bhaker - Shooting
Shri Saurabh Chaudhary - Shooting
Ms. Madhurika Suhas Patkar - Table Tennis
Shri Divij Sharan - Tennis
Shri Shiva Keshavan - Winter Sports
Ms. Divya Kakran - Wrestling
Shri Rahul Aware - Wrestling
Shri Suyash Narayan Jadhav - Para Swimming
Shri Sandeep - Para Athletics
Shri Manish Narwal - Para Shooting

**DHYAN CHAND AWARD**
Shri Kuldip Singh Bhullar - Athletics
Ms. Jincy Philips - Athletics
Shri Pradeep Shrikrishna Gandhe - Badminton
Ms. Trupti Murgunde - Badminton
Ms. N. Usha - Boxing
Shri Lakha Singh - Boxing
Shri Sukhvinder Singh Sandhu - Football
Shri Ajit Singh - Hockey
Shri Manpreet Singh - Kabaddi
Shri J. Ranjith Kumar - Para Athletics
Shri Satyaparaksh Tiwari - Para Badminton
Shri Manjeet Singh - Rowing
Late Shri Sachin Nag - Swimming
Shri Nandan P Bal - Tennis
Shri Netarpal Hooda - Wrestling
TENZING NORGAY NATIONAL ADVENTURE AWARDS 2019

Ms. Anita Devi - Land Adventure
Col. Sarfraz Singh - Land Adventure
Shri Taka Tamut - Land Adventure
Shri Narender Singh - Land Adventure
Shri Keval Hiren Kakka - Land Adventure
Shri Satendra Singh - Water Adventure
Shri Gajanand Yadava - Air Adventure
Late Shri Magan Bissa - Life Time Achievement

MAULANA ABUL KALAM AZAD (MAKA) TROPHY
Panjab University, Chandigarh

RASHTRIYA KHEL PROTSAHAN PURUSKAR

Identification and Nurturing of Budding and Young Talent - 1. Lakshya Institute, 2. Army Sports Institute
Encouragement to sports through Corporate Social Responsibility - Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) Ltd.
Employment of sportspersons and sports welfare measures - Air Force Sports Control Board
Sports for Development - International Institute of Sports Management (IISM)
OBITUARY

Former Indian cricketer and UP Cabinet Minister passed away

Uttar Pradesh Cabinet Minister and one of Indian cricket's most well-known openers, Chetan Chauhan passed away on 15th August from COVID-19 related complications. He died at the age of 73. He was currently serving as the Minister of Sainik Welfare, Home Guards, and Civil Security in the UP cabinet.

Chetan Chauhan:
Chetan Chauhan played 40 Tests for India. He was the longest-serving opening partner of the legendary batsman Sunil Gavaskar. After retiring from cricket, Chauhan served in the Delhi and Districts Cricket Association (DDCA) and held various positions like the president, vice-president, secretary, and chief selector. He also served as the Manager of the Indian Team during its tour of Australia in 2001. He was elected as a Member of Lok Sabha twice from Amroha in Uttar Pradesh, in 1991 and 1998. Chauhan was honoured with the Arjuna Award in the year 1981.
SUMMITS & CONFERENCE

Fourth Meeting of the BRICS Anti-Drug Working Group held

The 4th Session of the BRICS Anti-Drug Working Group comprising of Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa was held virtually. The Indian delegation was led by Shri Rakesh Asthana, Director General, Narcotics Control Bureau. The session was held over the video conference on August 12, 2020. The 4th session was chaired by Russia.

Highlights:

The countries adopted reaffirming the commitment of the five-member states to the International Anti-drug conventions.

India recommended for nodal points to enable real-time information sharing among BRICS nations.

The countries exchanged opinions concerning the drug situation in their countries, the international and regional trends of illegal trafficking in narcotic drugs.

The officials also discussed the psychotropic substances and their precursors, and the impact of various internal and external factors on the situation.

The virtual meeting also focused on the misuse of darknet and other advanced technologies for drug trafficking.
Chhattisgarh CM launch Padhai Tuhar Para Scheme for School Students

The Chief Minister of Chhatisgarh Bhupesh Baghel has announced the launch of the Padhai Tuhar Para Scheme (Education up to your locality), a new scheme on 15th August, Independence Day. Under the scheme, the students will be able to study in their own neighbourhoods as classes were suspended due to the outbreak of covid-19.

**Padhai Tuhar Para Scheme:**

Padhai Tunhar Para scheme aims to teach children with the help of the community in the villages.

The scheme was launched to take the Padhai Tunhar Duar scheme, an online education platform further.

The state government launched the scheme to benefit around 2.2 million children are getting its benefit.

Also, the CM has launched a Bluetooth-based programme called Bultu ke Bol with an aim to introduce to provide study materials to students in remote areas with no access to the Internet.
Satya Pal Malik appointed as Governor of Meghalaya

Satya Pal Malik took charge as Governor of Meghalaya on 18 August 2020. He replaced Tathagata Roy who completed his five-year tenure on the gubernatorial post. Satya Pal Malik who is currently serving as the Governor of Goa was transferred and appointed as Governor of Meghalaya. Governor of Maharashtra Bhagat Singh Koshyari has been asked to discharge the functions of the Goa governor in addition to his own duties. Roy completed his five-year tenure by serving as governor of Tripura for 3 years and the remaining 2 years in Meghalaya.

Satya Pal Malik:
Satya Pal Malik started his political career at Meerut University as a student leader. In 1974, he became the MLA of Charan Singh's Bhartiya Kranti Dal from Baghpat in Uttar Pradesh. In 1984, he joined the Congress and became its Rajya Sabha MP. In 1988, he switched to the VP Singh-led Janta Dal and became an MP from Aligarh.
In 2004, Malik joined the BJP. He is the first career politician to be appointed as the governor of J&K in 51 years after Karan Singh, whose term had ended in 1967. He is the current governor of J&K. He was given the additional charge to serve as governor of Odisha till 28 May 2018.

Former Finance Secretary Rajiv Kumar was appointed as the Election Commissioner

Former Finance Secretary Rajiv Kumar has been appointed as the new Election Commissioner. Mr Kumar will replace Commissioner Ashok Lavasa. Rajiv Kumar will assume office when the Commissioner Ashok Lavasa leaves his office on 31st August 2020. The outgoing Election Commissioner Ashok Lavasa will join Asian Development Bank (ADB) as its vice president.

Rajiv Kumar:
Rajiv Kumar is a retired Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of the 1984 batch from Jharkhand cadre. Kumar has over 30 years of experience in public policy and administration across various sectors. He holds B.Sc and LLB degrees, along with a masters in public policy and sustainability. Kumar served as the secretary, Department of Financial Services in the month of September, when most
of the public sector banks (PSBs) were in losses. In 2019, he was designated as finance secretary. He played a major role in the major merger of 10 PSBs into four. As financial services secretary, he took several policy decisions to promote responsive and responsible banking. Kumar also undertook a massive Rs.3 lakh crore recapitalisation of banks during his tenure. He also initiated and implemented the 59-minute loan scheme for the MSME sector.

Prior to his experience in finance ministry, he served as the establishment officer (EO) in the personnel ministry. During his term in the personnel ministry, Kumar introduced a 360 degree appraisal system for promotion and empanelment of senior bureaucrats. He also worked to streamline the promotion and appointment process done by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC). A compendium of guidelines pertaining to board-level appointments in the Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSE) was issued by Kumar when he worked as the EO in 2017.
IMPORTANT DAYS

World Photography Day is observed on 19 August

World Photography Day is observed annually on 19 August. The day aims to pay homage to the beautiful form of art and to recognize the importance of photography in the world. The day aims to encourage photography as both a hobby and a profession and to learn more about this craft.

**History:**
The day was initiated in 1837 when Frenchman Louis Daguerre and Joseph Nicephore Niepce invented the daguerreotype, a photographic process. The operation of photography began on January 9, 1839. The French government announced the invention to the world on August 19, 1839. In 1861, Thomas Sutton took the first durable color photograph. The first digital photograph was taken in the year 1957. On 19th August 19 when the World Photo Day hosted its first global online gallery.

World Humanitarian Day is observed on 19 August

World Humanitarian Day is observed on 19 August every year. The World Humanitarian Day aims to commemorate the involvement of aid workers in humanitarian services by risking their own lives. This year, the day is organized in a special way to fight against the deadly COVID-19. The day focuses to pay tribute to aid workers who involve themselves in humanitarian services by risking their lives. It aims to create awareness, share ideas, and encourage individuals in the photography field.

**History:**
The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) initiated the observation of the World Humanitarian Day to remember the demise of Sergio Vieira de Mello and 21 of his fellow humanitarians in a bombardment of the Baghdad headquarters of the United Nations (UN). Sergio and people like him worked every day for the betterment of the needy, the poor and underprivileged, and those living in areas of war, starvation, and pestilence. In 2009, the UNGA formalized the day as World Humanitarian Day.
International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism is observed on 21 August

International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism is observed on 21 August. The day is observed to commemorate the core values of the United Nations (UN). The Day aims to raise awareness to the indiscriminate threat that affects people and countries across the globe.

**History:**
The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) passed its resolution 72/165 (2017) and established 21 August as the International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism. The day was established to honor and support the victims and survivors of terrorism and to promote and protect the full enjoyment of their human rights and fundamental freedoms.

International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief is observed on 22 August

International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief is observed on 22 August. The day aims to appreciate the efforts taken by the UN to combat intolerance, discrimination and violence against persons based on religion or belief. The day aims to promote and protect human rights, including the human rights of persons belonging to religious minorities, including their right to exercise their religion or belief freely.

**History:**
The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) has passed its resolution A/RES/73/296 and designated 22 August as the International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief. The day aims to recognize the importance of providing victims of acts of violence based on religion or belief and members of their families with appropriate support and assistance in accordance with applicable law.

The move deplores all acts of violence against persons on the basis of their religion or belief, as well as any such acts directed against their homes, businesses, properties, schools, cultural centres or places of worship, and all attacks on and in religious places, sites and shrines that are in violation of international law.
Ministry of Tourism signed MoU with TAAI and FLO to promote tourism as sustainable livelihood model

The Union Minister of State for Tourism (IC), Shri Prahlad Singh Patel, a formal Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was virtually signed today by the Travel Agents Association of India (TAAI) and FICCI Ladies Organisation (FLO) with the Ministry of Tourism for women empowerment.

Highlights:

The MoU gives us an opportunity to increase participation of women in the tourism sector.

It will make them an integral part of the tourism workforce of the country.

The initiative by FLO and TAAI will lay emphasis on personal and hospitality skills, a more flexible work balance and greater options for entrepreneurship with significantly lower capital.

The MoU provision will create awareness, along with state tourism departments and state tourism corporations. It will also highlight the vital role, the tourism industry can play as a model for sustainable livelihood for women and ensure their economic upliftment.

The initiative encourages travel to at least 15 destinations within the country under the DekhoApnaDesh initiative. This will be a mandate for FLO's & TAAI's membership base of over 8000 women and their family support systems.

It will also conduct community-based tourism activities around one Iconic Monument or Tourist Landmark in each state. Women will be the tour guides, run food stalls, souvenir stalls with their own arts & crafts, handle the overall accounts and running of the landmark.

FLO and TAAI are expected to raise awareness on Sustainable Tourism practices and focus on Tourism as a vital sustainable livelihood tool for women's empowerment, by way of advocacy and awareness, educational workshops, seminars and panel discussions.

It encourages tie up with training agencies for Tourism workshops for training women about concepts on food safety, health & hygiene, sanitation, environment, culinary skills and entrepreneurship skills.

It will encourage the women to be engaged about the "Atithidevo bhava" motto
through sensitisation workshops.

The MoU will create community-driven and women-led initiatives for rural and urban homestays to provide livelihood opportunities for women.

It will also create awareness about the **Incredible India Tourist Facilitator (IITF)** Certification Programme.
QUIZ CORNER

1) Defence Ministry to expand NCC in __________ borders.

A. 80
B. 94
C. 142
D. 173

Answer D

Explanation Defence Minister Rajnath Singh approved a proposal of the National Cadet Corps (NCC) for a major expansion scheme in all the border and coastal districts. Under the scheme, a total of one lakh cadets from 173 border and coastal districts will be inducted in the NCC.

2) Which State govt. launched a Bluetooth-based programme called "Bultu ke Bol"?

A. Andhra Pradesh
B. Karnataka
C. Chhattisgarh
D. Bihar

Answer C

Explanation The Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh Bhupesh Baghel launched a Bluetooth-based programme called Bultu ke Bol with an aim to introduce study materials to students in remote areas with no access to the Internet.

3) When was NCC Established?

A. 1948
B. 1953
C. 1958
D. 1962

Answer A
**Explanation** The National Cadet Corps is the youth wing of the Armed Forces with its Headquarters at New Delhi, Delhi, India. It is open to school and college students on a voluntary basis. It was established on 16 April 1948.

4) Arun-III hydropower project is being implemented between India and ________.
   A. Bangladesh  
   B. Nepal  
   C. Sri Lanka  
   D. Pakistan

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Arun-III hydropower project is being implemented between India and Nepal.

5) Which State govt. launched Padhai Tuhar Para Scheme?
   A. Odisha  
   B. Chattisgarh  
   C. Bihar  
   D. Assam

**Answer B**

**Explanation** The Chief Minister of Chattisgarh Bhupesh Baghel has announced the launch of the Padhai Tuhar Para Scheme (Education up to your locality), a new scheme on 15th August, Independence Day. Under the scheme, the students will be able to study in their own neighbourhoods as classes were suspended due to the outbreak of covid-19.

6) President Ram Nath Kovind virtually unveils a portrait of Former PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee at ________.
   A. NRD  
   B. DRDO  
   C. CSIR  
   D. ICCR

**Answer D**
**The President of India Ram Nath Kovind unveiled the portrait of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, former Prime Minister of India virtually on his second death anniversary, at the headquarters of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR).**

**7) Who is the CM of Chattisgarh?**

A. Bhupesh Baghel  
B. Raman Singh  
C. Ajit Jogi  
D. T.S. Singh Deo

**Answer A**

*Explanation* Bhupesh Baghel is an Indian politician serving as the third and current Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh. He was president of Chhattisgarh Pradesh Congress. He has been a member of legislative assembly five times from Patan.

**8) The __________ Session of the BRICS Anti-Drug Working Group comprising of Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa was held virtually.**

A. 2nd  
B. 3rd  
C. 4th  
D. 5th

**Answer C**

*Explanation* The 4th Session of the BRICS Anti-Drug Working Group comprising Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa was held virtually. The Indian delegation was led by Shri Rakesh Asthana, Director General, Narcotics Control Bureau. The session was held over the video conference on August 12, 2020. The 4th session was chaired by Russia.

**9) Which is the Capital of Chhattisgarh?**

A. Bilaspur  
B. Korba  
C. Raipur  
D. Durg
Raipur is the capital city of the Indian state of Chhattisgarh. Raipur is also the administrative headquarters of Raipur district and Raipur division, and the largest city of the state.

10) **Which country chaired the 4th Session of the BRICS Anti-Drug Working Group?**

A. China  
B. Brazil  
C. Russia  
D. India

**Answer C**

**Explanation** The 4th Session of the BRICS Anti-Drug Working Group comprising of Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa was held virtually. The Indian delegation was led by Shri Rakesh Asthana, Director General, Narcotics Control Bureau. The session was held over the video conference on August 12, 2020. The 4th session was chaired by Russia.

11) _________ constructed Bailey bridge in Uttarakhand.

A. General Reserve Engineer Force (GREF)  
B. Border Roads Organisation (BRO)  
C. L&T Kuwait Construction  
D. China Road and Bridge Corporation (CRBC)

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Border Roads Organisation (BRO) constructed a 180-feet bailey bridge in the Jauljibi sector of Pithoragarh district, Uttarakhand. The construction was done amid frequent landslides and heavy rains.

12) **Which dwarf planet looks like an Ocean World?**

A. Eris  
B. Makemake  
C. Haumea  
D. Ceres
Researchers have stated that Ceres looks like an Ocean World. The scientist stated after analyzing the data collected by NASAs Dawn spacecraft. The dwarf planet Ceres lies in the asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter and is also the largest object in that belt. The scientist is trying to search for a possibility of the presence of water in Ceres.

13) Where is Jauljibi located?
A. Assam
B. Himachal Pradesh
C. Uttarakhand
D. Haryana

Jauljibi is the small bazaar of Indo-Nepal border situated at the confluences of Kali and Gori Rivers. The name refers to bazaars on both sides of the river, with the Nepal-side bazaar being rather small compared to that on the Indian side.

14) Which mission studied Ceres, the dwarf planet?
A. Insight
B. Dawn
C. Torjan
D. Turbo

The spacecraft Dawn was launched in 2007. It visited Vesta and Ceres. In 2015, the spacecraft went into the orbit around Ceres. The information that was collected reinforced the idea that dwarf planets could have hosted oceans over a significant part of their history. The Dawn mission concluded in 2018.

15) Who is appointed as the Governor of Meghalaya?
A. Bhagat Singh Koshyari
B. Uddhav Thackeray
C. Satya Pal Malik
D.Uday Samant

Answer C

Explanation Satya Pal Malik took charge as Governor of Meghalaya on 18 August 2020. He replaced Tathagata Roy who completed his five-year tenure on the gubernatorial post. Satya Pal Malik who is currently serving as the Governor of Goa was transferred and appointed as Governor of Meghalaya.

16) Which Institute topped the Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements?

A. Institute of Chemical Technology, Mumbai
B. College of Engineering, Pune
C. IIT Kanpur
D. IIT Madras

Answer D

Explanation The Vice-President of India M. Venkaiah Naidu announced Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements (ARIIA) 2020 virtually on 18th August 2020. IIT Madras topped the list under the category of Institutes of National Importance, Central Universities, and Centrally Funded Technical Institutes.

17) __________ is to organize the First World Solar Technology Summit.

A. Amnesty International
B. International Solar Alliance
C. United Nations Environment Programme
D. Association of Southeast Asian Nations

Answer B

Explanation International Solar Alliance (ISA) is to organize the First World Solar Technology Summit on a virtual platform on 8th September 2020. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will deliver the inaugural address of the First World Solar Technology Summit.

18) Which Ministry launched the ARIIA Ranking?

A. Ministry of Science & Technology
B. Ministry of Home Affairs  
C. Ministry of Education  
D. Ministry of Information & Technology  

**Answer C**  

**Explanation** Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements (ARIIA) was launched by the Ministry of Education, GoI. The ARIIA is implemented by the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE). In the year 2019, IIT-Madras emerged as the top Innovative Institution and also was one of the top 10 institutes in Public funded categories.

19) The International Solar Alliance (ISA) is an alliance of _______ countries initiated by India.  
A. 121  
B. 95  
C. 108  
D. 138  

**Answer A**  

**Explanation** The International Solar Alliance is an alliance of 121 countries initiated by India, most of them being sunshine countries, which lie either completely or partly between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn.

20) The Dwarf planet Ceres is located between _______.  
A. Venus and Saturn  
B. Venus and Jupiter  
C. Mars and Saturn  
D. Mars and Jupiter  

**Answer D**  

**Explanation** Ceres was first spotted by Giuseppe Piazzi in 1801. It is the largest object in the main asteroid belt that lies between the orbits of Mars and Jupiter. With a diameter of 940 km (580 mi), Ceres is both the largest of the asteroids and the only dwarf planet inside Neptune's orbit.

21) All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) signed an MoU with _________ to
extend the Ayurveda Preventive and Promotive health services.

A. Goa Police  
B. Delhi Police  
C. CRPF  
D. CAPF

**Answer B**

**Explanation** All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) signed a Memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Delhi Police to extend the Ayurveda Preventive and Promotive health services in the residential colonies of Delhi Police. Under the MoU, the services will be provided through a mobile unit named Dhanwantari Rath. Dhanwantari Rath is a Mobile unit of Ayurveda health care services.

**22) When was the All India Institute of Ayurveda, Delhi established?**

A. 2014  
B. 2015  
C. 2016  
D. 2017

**Answer B**

**Explanation** The All India Institute of Ayurveda, Delhi (abbreviated AIIA Delhi or AIIA) is a public Ayurveda medicine and research institution located in New Delhi, India. It was established on 10 October 2015.

**23) When did the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) formalize the World Humanitarian Day?**

A. 2000  
B. 2004  
C. 2009  
D. 2013

**Answer C**

**Explanation** The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) initiated the observation of the World Humanitarian Day to remember the demise of Sergio Vieira de Mello and 21 of his fellow
humanitarians in a bombardment of the Baghdad headquarters of the United Nations (UN). In 2009, the UNGA formalized the day as World Humanitarian Day.

24) Who launched the Swadeshi Microprocessor Challenge to boost Start-up?

A. Prakash Javadekar  
B. Ravi Shankar Prasad  
C. Piyush Goyal  
D. Nitin Gadkari

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Union Minister of Law & Justice, Communications and Electronics & Information Technology Ravi Shankar Prasad launched Swadeshi Microprocessor Challenge- Innovate Solution for #Aatmanirbhar Bharat on 18 August 2020. The aim is to provide further impetus to the strong ecosystem of Start-up, innovation, and research in the country. Under the aegis of Microprocessor Development Programme of Ministry of Electronics and IT, IIT Madras and Center for Development of Advance Computing (CDAC) have developed two microprocessors named SHAKTI (32 bit) and VEGA (64 bit) respectively using Open Source Architecture.

25) Cabinet approved __________, which will conduct a Common Eligibility Test (CET) to screen/shortlist candidates for Group B and C which is for non-technical posts.

A. National Testing Agency (NTA)  
B. National Selection Agency (NCA)  
C. National Recruitment Agency (NRA)  
D. National and State Selection Agency (NSSA)

**Answer C**

**Explanation** The Union Cabinet headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the creation of the National Recruitment Agency (NRA). The aim is to pave the way for a transformational reform in the recruitment process for central government jobs. NRA will conduct a Common Eligibility Test (CET) to screen/shortlist candidates for Group B and C which is for non-technical posts.

26) When is the World Photography Day observed?

A. 12 August
B.15 August  
C.19 August  
D.25 August  

**Answer C**

**Explanation** World Photography Day is observed annually on 19 August. The day aims to pay homage to the beautiful form of art. The day aims to recognize the importance of photography in the world. The day aims to encourage photography as both a hobby and a profession and to learn more about this craft.

27) **World Humanitarian Day is observed to mark the demise of _____ and 21 of his fellow humanitarians in a bombardment of the Baghdad headquarters of the United Nations (UN).**

A. Sergio Vieira de Mello  
B. Nipce  
C. Louis Daguerre  
D. George Eastman

**Answer A**

**Explanation** The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) initiated the observation of the World Humanitarian Day to remember the demise of Sergio Vieira de Mello and 21 of his fellow humanitarians in a bombardment of the Baghdad headquarters of the United Nations (UN). Sergio and people like him worked every day for the betterment of the needy, the poor and underprivileged, and those living in areas of war, starvation, and pestilence.

28) **When is the International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism observed?**

A. 19 August  
B. 20 August  
C. 21 August  
D. 22 August

**Answer C**

**Explanation** International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism is observed on 21 August. The day is observed to commemorate the core values of the United
Nations (UN). The Day aims to raise awareness to the indiscriminate threat that affects people and countries across the globe.

29) Who inaugurated the Tribes India Showroom in Mumbai?
   A. Arjun Munda  
   B. Babulal Marandi  
   C. Shibu Soren  
   D. Raghubar Das

   **Answer A**

   **Explanation** Shri Arjun Munda, Union Minister for Tribal Affairs e-inaugurated Tribes India Showroom in Mumbai on 21 August 2020. The move comes to support 50 lakh tribal artisans and forest gatherers in their hour of need, steadily and firmly to sustain their income, employment and livelihoods.

30) ________ is a parameter used to measure the opposition that a circuit presents to a current when a voltage is applied.
   A. Inductance  
   B. Conductance  
   C. Impedance  
   D. Resistance

   **Answer C**

   **Explanation** Impedance is a parameter used to measure the opposition that a circuit presents to a current when a voltage is applied.

31) Which Cricketer was awarded the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award?
   A. K. L. Rahul  
   B. Virat Kohli  
   C. MS Dhoni  
   D. Rohit Sharma

   **Answer D**

   **Explanation** Rohit Sharma was awarded the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award.
32) The Ministry of Tourism signed a MoU with ________ to promote tourism as a sustainable livelihood model.

A. Department of Tourism, Australia  
B. TAAI  
C. FLO  
D. B&C  

Answer D

Explanation The Union Minister of State for Tourism (IC), Shri Prahlad Singh Patel, a formal Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was virtually signed today by the Travel Agents Association of India (TAAI) and FICCI Ladies Organisation (FLO) with the Ministry of Tourism for women empowerment.

33) Which Cricketer was awarded the Arjuna Award?

A. Smriti Mandhana  
B. Ishant Sharma  
C. Deepti Sharma  
D. B&C  

Answer D

Explanation Ishant Sharma, Deepti Sharma was awarded the Arjuna Award.

34) Who was awarded the DRONACHARYA AWARD in Archery?

A. Mariyappan T.  
B. Rohit Sharma  
C. Romesh Pathania  
D. Dharmendra Tiwary  

Answer D

Explanation Shri Dharmendra Tiwary was awarded the DRONACHARYA AWARD in Archery.

35) When was the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry
**established?**

A. 1927  
B. 1929  
C. 1931  
D. 1935  

**Answer A**

**Explanation** Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry was established in 1927, on the advice of Mahatma Gandhi by GD Birla and Purshottamdas Thakurdas, it is the largest, oldest and the apex business organization in India. The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry is an association of business organisations in India.

**36) Which organization was awarded the MAULANA ABUL KALAM AZAD (MAKA) TROPHY?**

A. Banaras Hindu University  
B. Panjab University  
C. University of Delhi  
D. Jawaharlal Nehru University  

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Panjab University was awarded the MAULANA ABUL KALAM AZAD (MAKA) TROPHY.

**37) Which Hockey player was awarded the RAJIV GANDHI KHEL RATNA AWARD?**

A. Jude Felix Sebastian  
B. Akashdeep Singh  
C. Rani  
D. Romesh Pathania  

**Answer C**

**Explanation** Rani was awarded the RAJIV GANDHI KHEL RATNA AWARD.
38) International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief is observed on _________.
A. 22 August  
B. 24 August  
C. 26 August  
D. 28 August  

Answer A

Explanation International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief is observed on 22 August. The day aims to appreciate the efforts taken by the UN to combat intolerance, discrimination, and violence against persons based on religion or belief.

39) When did the Swachh Survekshan begin?
A. 2014  
B. 2015  
C. 2016  
D. 2017  

Answer C

Explanation Swachh Survekshan, the pan-India survey began in 2016. Under the mission, the Ministry ranks India's cities, towns, and states based on sanitation, waste management, and overall cleanliness.

40) Which of the following was launched by NHAI to monitor plantation along national highways?
A. GOgreen  
B. Swachh Path  
C. Harit Path  
D. Clean Morth  

Answer C

Explanation The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), a public sector undertaking under the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, has launched a mobile App called Harit...
41) ________ topped the list of the cleanest city in India for the fourth consecutive time in the Swachh Survekshan 2020.

A. Hyderabad  
B. Indore  
C. Jaipur  
D. Bhubaneswar  

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Indore topped the list of the cleanest city in India for the fourth consecutive time in the Swachh Survekshan, 2020, India's annual survey on cleanliness. The results were declared on 20th August by the Union Minister of State (independent charge) for Housing and Urban Affairs Hardeep Singh Puri.

42) Who is appointed as the next Election Commissioner of India?

A. Rajiv Kumar  
B. Ashok Lavasa  
C. Om Prakash Rawat  
D. Achal Kumar Jyoti  

**Answer A**

**Explanation** Former Finance Secretary Rajiv Kumar has been appointed as the new Election Commissioner. Mr. Kumar will replace Commissioner Ashok Lavasa. Rajiv Kumar will assume office when the Commissioner Ashok Lavasa leaves his office on 31st August 2020.

43) Where is Surat located?

A. Maharashtra  
B. Madhya Pradesh  
C. Gujarat  
D. Rajasthan  

**Answer C**

**Explanation** Surat is a city in the Indian state of Gujarat. It used to be a large seaport and is now
the commercial and economic center in South Gujarat.

44) Who is the current Election Commissioner of India?
A. Achal Kumar Jyoti  
B. Sukumar Sen  
C. Ashok Lavasa  
D. Rajiv Kant

**Answer C**

**Explanation** Ashok Lavasa is a retired 1980 batch Indian Administrative Service officer of Haryana cadre and was one of the two Election Commissioners of India.

45) Which country recently discovered a large natural gas reserve in the Black Sea?
A. Russia  
B. Iran  
C. Azerbaijan  
D. Turkey

**Answer D**

**Explanation** Turkey discovered large natural gas reserves in the Black Sea coast. The announcement was made by the Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. The discovery included 320 billion cubic metres of natural gas. If the natural gas reserve can be extracted, it could help the country to reduce its energy dependence on imports from countries such as Russia, Iran, and Azerbaijan.

46) When was the Election Commission of India formed?
A. 1948  
B. 1950  
C. 1953  
D. 1955

**Answer C**

**Explanation** The Election Commission of India is an autonomous constitutional authority
responsible for administering election processes in India at national and state level. It was established on 25 January 1950.

47) Which city topped the Swachh Survekshan 2020, under the population between 1-10 lakh category?

A. Bangalore  
B. Chennai  
C. Ahmedabad  
D. Ambikapur

**Answer D**

**Explanation** The results of Swachh Survekshan, 2020, India's annual survey on cleanliness, were declared on 20th August by the Union Minister of State (independent charge) for Housing and Urban Affairs Hardeep Singh Puri. Among the cities with a population between 1-10 lakh, Ambikapur in Chhattisgarh was declared the cleanest. It was followed by Mysore in Karnataka.
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