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Table of Contents

1. BUSINESS & ECONOMY 3
2. INTERNATIONAL 5
3. INDIAN AFFAIRS 16
4. SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY 27
5. ENVIRONMENT 38
6. DEFENCE 43
7. PERSONS 44
8. AWARDS AND HONOURS 46
9. ARTS & CULTURE 47
10. SUMMITS & CONFERENCE 51
11. SCHEMES 53
12. IMPORTANT DAYS 55
13. AGREEMENTS MOU 60
14. INDEX / LIST 63
15. QUIZ CORNER 64
Model Tender for Public Procurement Drafted By The Finance Ministry

The Ministry of Finance (Dept. of Expenditure) has drafted a model bidding document for all central government departments to conduct public procurement to standardize the language and terms used and avoid contract disputes.

**Highlights:**

Public procurement is defined as the purchase of goods and services by the public sector or government, accounting for an average of 15% of global GDP.

In India, it is estimated that government procurement accounts for about 30% of GDP, of which the central government accounts for a large part.

There is no standardized nomenclature in public procurement in India, and nomenclature in the Americas, Europe and India are already common. E.g. Participants in bidding are called bidders and bidders.

The current standard bidding documents try to eliminate this duality, that is, "bidder" should refer to the bidding documents and procedures, and the term "bid" should refer to the bidder's booth;

According to the proposed model, "bidders" will be used instead of "bidders" to refer to potential suppliers, and the use of "bid documents" will be eliminated.

GST Compensation Shortfall  Finance Ministry

The 12th instalment of Rs. 6,000 crore was issued as back-to-back loans to the states to make up for the shortfall in GST compensation.

**Highlights:**

The Ministry of Finance, Department of Expenditure released the 12th weekly instalment of Rs. 6,000 crore was allocated to the states to make up for the shortfall in compensation for GST.

The funds have been provided to 23 States and 3 UTs of GST council members.

Due to the implementation of GST, the remaining 5 states (Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland and Sikkim) have no income gap.

**Background:**

The Indian government has set up a special borrowing window in October 2020 to cover the estimated income gap of Rs.1.10 Lakh crore due to the implementation of
GST. The borrowings are being done through this window by the Government of India for the benefit of the States and UTs. Since October 2020, 12 rounds of borrowings have been completed.

**Gujarat Renames Dragon Fruit**

The Gujarat government will apply for a patent for dragon fruit under the name "Kamalam". Kamalam is also the name of the BJP headquarters in Gujarat.

**Highlights:**

- Dragon fruit is the fruit of the cactus variety. It is widely grown in Southeast Asia, the United States, Australia, India, Caribbean islands and Central America.
- The total life span of dragon fruit plants is fifteen to twenty years. They grow in areas where the summer temperature exceeds 40 degrees Celsius.
- Dragon fruit grows only in summer. They have not grown for the rest of the year. But when they grow up, they grow quickly.
- Dragon flower blooms only at night. It happens only once a year. They rely on nocturnal pollinators such as moths and bats for fertilization. India imports 95% of dragon fruit from Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam and Sri Lanka. Pitaya has huge export potential to the United States, the Gulf and Europe.
- Farmers in Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and other states have only recently begun to grow dragon fruit.
- Vietnam is the largest producer and exporter of dragon fruit. The fruit was brought here by the French. Dragon fruit plants grow on electric poles. One pole can support four plants. More than 300 poles can be installed in one acre. Commercial cultivation is very advantageous because they can be grown in clusters. Therefore, the space consumption of dragon fruit cultivation is very small.
- They only need one to two liters of water a day. This can be easily achieved by drip irrigation.
- In addition, the price of dragon fruit is very high. They are priced from Rs 300 to Rs 400 per kilogram. In India, dragon fruits are consumed because of their taste and health benefits.
INTERNATIONAL

US National Rifle Association filed for Bankruptcy

The National Rifle Association recently filed for bankruptcy under Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code. The association filed for bankruptcy to avoid being investigated by the New York Attorney General.

**Highlights:**

The Attorney General of New York sued the National Rifle Association in August 2020 on the grounds that the association's senior management embezzled millions of dollars for personal travel.

The American Rifle Association is a non-profit organization founded in 1871 by Civil War veterans General George Wingate and Colonel William C. Church. The organization was established to promote and encourage scientific rifle shooting.

It is considered the most influential gun organization in the United States. Critics believe that the organization is a contributing factor to gun violence in the country.

NRA teaches gun safety and capabilities. It published several magazines and sponsored competitive marksmanship competitions. As of December 2018, the NRA consists of more than 5 million members.

The NRA's main efforts are the Gun Owners Protection Act, which reduces the restrictions of the Gun Control Act of 1968, and the Dickey Amendment that prevents the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention from using federal funds to promote gun control.

The establishment of the American National Rifle Association is consistent with the establishment of the British National Rifle Association, which was established a year and a half ago.

The American Civil War happened from 1861 to 1865. The civil war was the result of long-term enslavement of blacks. NRA is considered a product of civil war.

The National Rifle Association opposed the Arms Trade Treaty. The Arms Trade Treaty is a multilateral treaty regulating trade at international level. More than 109 states have ratified the treaty. The treaty attempts to regulate the international trade of conventional weapons.

UN Released International Migration 2020 Report
The United Nations (UN) released the International Migration 2020 Highlights report. According to the report, Indian diaspora is the largest in the world. As of 2020, more than 18 million people from India are living outside India.

**Highlights:**

Other diaspora countries are Mexico, China, Russia, and Syria.

According to this report, Indian diasporas are distributed in many major countries, such as the UAE (3.5 million), Saudi Arabia (2.5 million) and the United States (2.7 million).

Some other countries that receive high numbers of immigrants from India are Oman, Australia, Kuwait, Canada, Qatar, Pakistan and the United Kingdom.

Between 2000 and 2020, the size of immigrant populations in all countries is increasing. During his tenure, India received the largest gain of nearly 10 million. India is followed closely by Syria, Venezuela, China and the Philippines.

The places where the immigrant population increased during this period were Ukraine, Pakistan, Tanzania, Armenia, India, and Ukraine. Immigration to India is for labor and family reasons.

The United States is the largest destination country for international immigrants. As of 2020, there are more than 51 million immigrants in the United States. This is equivalent to 18% of the world's total immigrant population.

The United States is close behind. Germany has hosted the second largest immigrants in the world, with an immigrant population of more than 16 million. Germany is closely followed by Saudi Arabia, Russia and the United Kingdom.

The number of international immigrants increased by 281 million. It was 221 million in 2010 and 173 million in 2000.

Currently, the total number of international immigrants accounts for about 3.6% of the world's population.

In terms of regional migration corridors, Central Asia and South Asia to North Africa and West Asia have seen the most growth. In these corridors, the immigrant population has almost tripled between 2000 and 2020.

**Foreign Policy of UK After Brexit**

Chatham House published a report that put forward a blueprint for British foreign policy after Brexit. The report listed India together with China, Saudi Arabia and Turkey as one of the "Four Difficult Countries."
**Highlights:**

The title of the report released by Chatham House is "Global Britain, Global Broker". The report pointed out that India's domestic politics is complex, making it one of the countries that resist open trade and foreign investment.

The report drew attention to India's extreme right-wing policies. As Indian politics enters a stage of ethnic nationalism, the D10 alliance may eventually end because D9 disrupts the relationship between India and Britain. National nationalism is a form of nationalism in which nation and nation are defined according to race.

The report criticized India's diplomatic behaviour. According to the report, India did not join the group of nations that criticized China at the UN General Assembly in 2019.

The member states of the United Nations criticized China for its human rights violations in Xinjiang. In addition, India remains silent on Hong Kong's National Security Act.

By listing India as one of the "difficult four countries", Britain is destined to list India as a competitor or embarrassing opponent in the pursuit of global goals.

Chatham House is also known as the Royal College of International Affairs. Chatham House aims to promote debate on major developments in international affairs and policy responses. Experts usually use it as a source of information on major international issues.

The D10 group of countries was proposed by the United Kingdom. Group D10 will include all G7 countries, as well as India, Australia and South Korea. D10 means the top ten democracies in the world.

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**Open Skies Treaty  Withdrawal of Russia**

Russia announced its withdrawal from the Surveillance Open Skies Treaty. The treaty allows signatories to conduct unarmed surveillance flights on each other's territory. In 2020, the United States announced that it will withdraw from the Open Skies Treaty.

**Highlights:**

After the disintegration of the Soviet Union, the "Open Skies Treaty" was signed in 1992. It was first proposed by former U.S. President Dwight Eisenhower in 1955 to ease the tensions of the Cold War.

The treaty was signed between NATO (non-Atlantic Treaty Organization)
members and former Warsaw Pact countries. In 2002, more than 35 countries signed the treaty. This also includes the United States and Russia. India has not signed the Open Skies Treaty.

The Open Skies Treaty aims to build trust among its signatories. According to the treaty, a member country can conduct espionage anywhere in the host country only after obtaining its consent. Similarly, a member state can take an aerial image of the host country after giving a notice 72 hours in advance.

The United States left the Open Skies Treaty and accused Russia of not complying with the Open Skies Treaty. On the other hand, Russia believes that the withdrawal of the United States from the treaty has caused an imbalance in its implementation. This is why Russia withdrew.

In addition, the Open Sky Treaty was signed when there was no satellite surveillance. This makes the treaty out of sync with satellite surveillance technology, which is currently the preferred method of intelligence gathering.

The United States and Russia withdrew from the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty in 2019. According to the INF, these countries agreed to destroy deadly missile systems from their stockpiles in order to slow the nuclear arms race.

Boris Johnson Invited PM Modi To Attend G7 Summit

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson invited Prime Minister Modi to attend the G7 summit. Britain also invited Australia and South Korea. Previously, the United Kingdom had proposed the idea of D10.

**Highlights:**

D10 includes members of the Group of Seven countries as well as India, Australia and South Korea.

G7 was originally established in 1975. The members are the United States, Canada, Germany, France, Japan, Italy, and the United Kingdom. Russia formally joined the organization in 1998. G7 becomes G8.

However, when Russia moved its troops to eastern Ukraine and conquered Crimea in 2014, other G8 countries criticized Russia severely. Subsequently, they withdrew Russia from the Group of Eight. Therefore, the G8 became the G7 again in 2014.

For a country to become a member of the G7, it must have a high net national wealth and a high human development index.

The annual summit of the Group of Seven nations is chaired by the leaders of its...
The summit is an informal two-day gathering. During the summit, leaders discussed global issues. The groundwork of the summit was completed by the "Sherpas". Sherpa Collaboration is the personal representative or ambassador of the members of the Group of Seven.

The decisions made by the Group of Seven (G7) have a huge impact on a global scale, because the members are major economic powers. They account for 58% of global net wealth. However, the decision made on the Group of Seven (G7) is not legally binding, but has strong political influence.

Five of the seven countries of the Group of Seven, the United States, Italy, Japan, France, and Germany have the largest proven gold reserves.

G7 attracted thousands of protesters. The protesters claimed that the G7 had no representatives from Africa and other Middle Eastern countries. It is important for protest groups to use the global platform as a stage for loitering and campaigning. In addition, some people claim that the G7 is widening the gap between developed and developing countries and making the fight against poverty more difficult.

**Ndrangheta from South America to Europe**

Italian authorities believe that the Ndrangheta Mafia is responsible for controlling the large amount of cocaine entering Europe from South America. After the large-scale Mafia trial against the Ndrangheta group, the Italian government confirmed this.

**Highlights:**

The Ndrangheta is a famous Italian Mafia in the region of Calabria. The Mafia began in the 18th century.

During the reign of the Bourbon of Naples, the first official report of Ndrangheta was submitted in 1792.

According to US, money laundering activities, drug trafficking accounts for 3% of Italy's GDP. Ndrangheta's annual revenue is approximately US$50 billion to US$60 billion.

Ndrangheta is also active in other countries, such as Albania, Australia, Argentina, Belgium, Canada, Brazil, Colombia, the Netherlands, Germany, Malta, Switzerland, Slovakia, the United Kingdom, Uruguay, and the United States.

According to EUROPOL (European Union Agency for Law Enforcement
Cooperation), in the whole world Ndrangheta is the most powerful organized crime group.

Calabria is a region located in southern Italy. The region borders the Ionian Sea to the east and the Tyrrhenian Sea to the west. The Strait of Messina separates Calabria from Sicily. The Mafia in Sicily is considered to be one of Ndrangheta's closest allies.

The Allies of the Ndrangheta Mafia are Camorra, Sacra Corona Unita, Societa foggiana, Stidda, Albanian Mafia, American Mafia, Primerio Comando da Capital. The Camorra, Safian Mafia, Sacra Corona Unita, Stidda and Societa foggiana are located in Italy. Primeiro Comando da Capital is located in Brazil.

**India France Military Exercise**

India and France will hold ex-Desert Knight 21 exercises. This is a bilateral air exercise between the Indian Air Force and the French Air Force. Desert Knight 21 will be held in Jodhpur, Rajasthan. Rafale fighters will participate in the exercise.

**Highlights:**

Under the leadership of the Indo-French Defense Cooperation Organization, the French Air Force and the Indian Air Force have so far conducted six air exercises called the "Eagle."

The last of the six exercises was held at Mont-de-Marsan Air Force Base in France in 2019. In addition to the Garuda series of exercises, "Desert Front Knight 21" will also be held.

About Former Desert Rider 21: The main purpose of this exercise is to provide operational risks and share best practices. Rafale flying jets from the French Aerospace Agency, multi-purpose tanker transport aircraft and approximately 175 personnel will participate in the exercise. Su-30 MKI, Mirage 2000 and IL-78 flying tankers from the Indian Air Force will participate in this exercise.

The regular defense exercises between India and France are as follows:

- Shakti exercise was held between the Indian and French forces
- The Varuna exercise was held between the Indian Navy and the French Navy
- The Garuda exercise was held between the two air forces

The three main pillars of the India-French strategic partnership are space, defense and civil nuclear cooperation.

France has been supporting India as a permanent member of the UN Security
Council. France has also received strong support from India in the missile technology control system, the Wassenaar arrangement, the Australian group and the nuclear supplier group.

India joined the Wassenaar Arrangement and became the 42nd member. In addition, India joined the missile technology control regime in 2018. Since India is a non-signatory of the NPT, India's accession has been widely opposed.

**GoI Strengthened the Chabahar Port**

The Indian government has strengthened the cargo handling capacity of Iran's Chabahar port.

**Highlights:**

India has provided cargo of two Mobile Harbour Cranes (MHC) to Iran's Chabahar Port. According to the contract agreement, the total value of the contract exceeds USD 25 million and a total of 6 MHCs are supplied.

This is a stage towards India's responsibility towards infrastructure development of Shahid Beheshti Port of Chabahar.

The bilateral contract between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of India was signed in 2016, with a total value of USD 85 million, for the equipment, mechanization and start of operation at Shahid Beheshti Port of Chabahar development Phase- I.

In order to achieve this ambitious goal, an SPV namely India Ports Global Limited (IPGL), Mumbai was incorporated under the ambit of the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways.

The development of Chabahar Port is the anchor point for the expansion of economic and mutual relations between India and Iran, and it will further promote the maritime trade between both countries.

The geographical location of Chabahar Port has strategic advantages and huge potential. It can establish connectivity between India, Iran, Afghanistan, Uzbekistan and other CIS countries (especially the eastern countries of the CIS) to increase these Trade between countries.

**India-EU IPR Dialogue was Held**

The first India-EU IPR dialogue was held to strengthen relations and promote
cooperation in the field of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR).

**Highlights:**

The EU Commission and India's Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) conducted the first India-EU dialogue virtually. The purpose of the dialogue is to further strengthen the relationship between India and the European Union and promote cooperation in the field of Intellectual Property Rights.

Intellectual Property Rights refers to the provision of providing property rights through patents, copyrights and trademarks.

Intellectual property holders have a monopoly on the use of property or objects within a specified period of time.

The term intellectual property began in the 19th century. It was only in the 20th century that it became part of the world's legal system.

**Council of Palm Oil Producing Countries**

For the first time, top palm oil producers are seeking opportunities to launch promotional campaigns in Europe. Indonesia and Malaysia, the world's largest oil producers, have issued proposals for an advocacy company to conduct a campaign in Europe through the Committee of Palm Oil Producing Countries.

**Highlights:**

According to the European Union, the main producer of palm oil is Malaysia, and it has exploited the biodiversity-rich tropical rain forests in Southeast Asia and exploited migrant workers.

As part of the European Green Agreement, the EU will strengthen legislation on deforestation. This may limit the use of palm oil in fuel and food. Therefore, CPOPC, led by Indonesia and Malaysia, is looking for opportunities to initiate campaigns to change the perceptions of European countries.

The EU has finalized a rule in 2019, mainly due to deforestation, to phase out palm oil in renewable fuels by 2030.

Malaysia and Indonesia produce 85% of global palm oil production. Indonesia alone produces 60% of the world's palm oil. India and China are the biggest buyers of palm oil.

The Committee of Palm Oil Producing Countries is an intergovernmental organization. It was established in 2015. Indonesia and Malaysia are the founding
countries of the Palm Oil Producing Countries Committee.
The council targets to promote and strengthen cooperation in oil palm cultivation.
It improves the welfare of oil palm stakeholders. It solves the barriers to palm oil trade.
The six main areas of cooperation focus of the council are palm oil sustainability,
research and innovation, smallholder productivity, industrial cooperation to achieve
value-added production, trade policy issues, and technical regulations and standards.
The "European Green Agreement" is a series of EU policy measures aimed at neutralizing the European climate by 2050.

**India Singapore Defence Ministers Dialogue**

The 5th Defence Ministers Dialogue (DMD) between India and Singapore was successfully held.

**Highlights:**
The Indian and Singapore navies signed the "Submarine Rescue Support and Cooperation Implementation Agreement."

**Military exchanges between India and Singapore:**
- Singapore-India Maritime Bilateral Exercises (SIMBEX)-annual exercises between navies.
- SITMEX-Singapore, India, Thailand Maritime Exercises.

**Background:**
The Defence and security engagements between India and Singapore have expanded significantly in all three branches of the Armed Forces, as well as the Defence technology and Industry fields. The two countries have also found common ground in multilateral forums and engagements. In August 2020, the "Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief Cooperation Implementation Agreement" was signed to enable the two-armed Forces to have closer operational collaboration in response to disasters and capacity building activities of mutual concern. The cyber agencies of the two-armed forces have also strengthened their engagements.

**LongOps Project Between UK and Japan**
The LongOps project is a collaboration between the UK and Japan. In this operation, Japanese and British scientists will develop new safety technologies to dismantle old nuclear facilities such as Fukushima that were severely damaged by the tsunami and earthquake.

**Highlights:**
- The project will use remote robotic arms, so it is called the "LongOps Project". The project will reduce risks to human health and will accelerate the decommissioning of non-operating nuclear reactors.
- The implementation cost of the LongOps project is 12 million euros (1.2 billion rupees). It will focus on the rapid decommissioning of nuclear facilities.
- In addition to dismantling the nuclear fission field, the project will also focus on the partial automation of the nuclear fusion power generation process.
- The project will also help improve and dismantle nuclear fusion facilities, such as the European Union Circle. The United European Ring is a nuclear fusion experiment located at the Culham Fusion Energy Center in the United Kingdom. This is the first reactor produced using a 50-50 mixed fuel of the and deuterium. It was closed in 2009 to adopt the concepts used in the ITER project.
- ITER is the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor. India is also part of ITER. The other countries participating in the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor are China, Russia, Japan, the European Union, the United States and South Korea.
- Digital twin technology is part of the LongOps project. It will analyze data at the decommissioning site and predict operation and maintenance challenges.

Between 1950 and 2000, there were more than 21 serious incidents of radioactive release in Sellafield. Sellafield is located in the United Kingdom. It is the former nuclear power plant. As of August 2020, activities at the site include nuclear fuel reprocessing, nuclear decommissioning and nuclear waste storage.

In 2011, the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear reactor was severely damaged in the 2011 earthquake and tsunami. The incident displaced more than 150,000 people. In addition, the animals and plants in the surrounding area are seriously polluted.

**Construction of Village In Arunachal Pradesh By China**

China stated that the villages built across the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Arunachal Pradesh are beyond reproach because it has never recognized Arunachal.
The Ministry of External Affairs of India also stated that it has understood the construction process.

**Highlights:**

The village was built between November 2019 and November 2020. It is located a few kilometers across the LAC, outside the border that India considers to separate Arunachal Pradesh and Tibet, on the banks of the Tsari Chu River in the Upper Subansiri District of Arunachal Pradesh.

The site of the village is close to the location where China attacked the Assam rifles post in the so-called Longju incident in 1959. It is at least 2 kilometers south of the McMahon Line and China does not recognize it.

After the 1962 war, India stopped patrolling that area. Another village built last year, called Pangda, was built in another disputed area within 2-3 kilometers of Bhutan's territory.
INDIAN AFFAIRS

Railways Ministry Approved A New Iron Ore Policy

The Ministry of Railways approved a new iron ore policy. This policy will take effect on February 10, 2021. The iron ore policy governs the distribution and transportation of iron ore.

**Highlights:**
- The rake distribution system module will be updated by the Centre Railway Information System (CRIS).
- The policy will give priority to shipping iron ore to domestic manufacturing. In the domestic movement, steel, sponge iron, pig iron, pellets or sinter plants with customers will be given higher priority and special sliding will be carried out at the loading and unloading end. These customers will follow closely, relying on private residences to slide on their own.
- The policy classifies the flow of iron ore based on the availability of railway infrastructure developed by customers. Similarly, the essence of movement will be to maximize the railway movement of iron ore.
- Iron ore is the second most important traffic flow for Indian Railways. Iron ore and steel together account for more than 17% of the total freight volume of Indian railways (data for 2019-20).
- The total freight volume of Indian Railways is 1,210 tons. Among them, iron ore is 15335 million tons and steel are 538.1 million tons.
- India's total recoverable iron ore reserves are 9.602 billion tons of hematite and 3.408 billion tons of magnetite. The main states that produce iron ore in India are Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Goa, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Rajasthan.

**CRIS:**
CRIS maintains the information system of Indian Railways. It was established in 1986. The main projects of CRIS are the computerization of freight business, passenger reservation system, Next Generation Electronic Ticketing, Indian Railways non-reserved ticketing system, national train query system, railway budgeting system, etc.

ASMI Developed by Infantry School and ARDE
India's first 9mm machine gun was jointly developed indigenously by the Infantry School and the Arms Research and Development Agency (ARDE) of DRDO Pune.

**Highlights:**
- Machine guns are mainly self-loading pistols, which can be fully automatic or can fire bullets. The pistol was named "Asmi", which means "proud", "self-respect" and "hard work". The machine gun fired 9mm ammunition in use.
- Its total unladen weight is less than 2 Kg, equipped with an 8-inch barrel and 33 rounds of large-capacity magazine.
- Its upper receiver is made of aircraft-grade aluminum, and its lower receiver is made of Carbon Fibre.
- The 3D printing process has been used in the design and prototyping of various parts, including trigger assemblies made of metal 3D printing.
- This weapon has great potential in the armed forces and can be used as a personal weapon for heavy weapons detachments, commanders, tanks, aircraft crews, counter-insurgency and counter-terrorism operations.
- The production cost of the machine gun may be lower than Rs. Each has 50,000 and has export potential.

**Defence Minister Unveils Driverless Metro Car**

Defence Minister unveils India's 1st Indigenously Designed & Developed Driverless Metro Car.

**Highlights:**
- The metro car was launched for the Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA).
- Indigenously designed and developed state-of-the-art Driverless Metro trains are manufactured at BEML, Bangalore complex (a National Defense PSU Company).
- The indigenous content of the project is 63%, which will increase to 75% in the next two to three years.

**Tamil Nadu 11th State - One Nation One Ration Card System**

Tamil Nadu became the 11th state to complete the reform of the One Nation One Ration Card system.

**Highlights:**
Tamil Nadu has become the 11th state in the country that has successfully implemented the One Nation One Ration Card system" reform prescribed by the Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance. Therefore, the state is eligible to mobilize additional financial resources of Rs 48.13 billion through Open Market Borrowings.

Tamil Nadu has now joined the other 10 states and they have completed this reform. They are Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Telangana, Tripura and Uttar Pradesh.

**Background:**
In response to the challenges posed by the pandemic, GOI increased the state's borrowing limit by 2% of its GSDP. Half of this special distribution is related to the country's citizen-centred reforms. The One Nation One Ration Card System is an important citizen-centric reform. Its implementation ensures that food rations are provided to beneficiaries in any Fair Price Shop (FPS) across the country in accordance with the National Food Security Act (NFSA) and other welfare programs (especially migrant workers and their families).

The reforms enable states to better target beneficiaries and also eliminate bogus/duplicate/ineligible cardholders resulting in enhanced welfare and reducing leakage.

**Aero India Launched by Defence Minister**

The Aero India 21 aviation app was launched by the Union Minister of Defence Rajnath Singh. The mobile application will serve as a convenient interactive interface for all questions related to Aero India in 2021. The application has the function of supporting Indian aviation attendees, exhibitors and media.

**Highlights:**

Aero India is a biennial air show which was held in Bangalore. It is organized by the National Defence Exhibition Organization under the Ministry of National Defence.

This year, Aero India's theme is "Runway from One Billion Opportunities." Aero India 21 is the first mixed event, and business elements will occur both physically and virtually.

The 1st edition of Aero India was held in the year 1996. Aero India 21 aircraft will
be consistent with the 2020 draft defence production and export promotion policy. The National Defence Exhibition Organization was established in 1981. The Defence Exhibition organization was established to promote the export potential of India's Defence industry.

The National Defence Exhibition Organization is responsible for organizing international exhibitions such as DEFEXPO.

**National Defence Production and Export Promotion Policy Draft:**
Currently, the scale of the Defence industry is 80 billion rupees. Among them, the public sector contributed 63 billion rupees and the private sector contributed 17 billion rupees. The policy aims to increase private sector participation to help India achieve its Atma Nirbhar goals. The main goal of the policy is to achieve a turnover of 175 billion rupees by 2025, including exports of 350 billion rupees. The policy aims to reduce Defence imports and promote the "Made in India" program. The list of negative weapons was notified. The policy targets to update the list at least once a year. The country's two defensive corridors in Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh will be targeted by providing additional support.

**Buddhist Circuit by the Ministry of Tourism**

The Ministry of Tourism organized the "DekhoApnaDesh" webinar with the theme of Exploring the Buddhist Circuit by Train.

**Tourist Circuit:**
A Tourist Circuit is defined as a route with at least three main tourist destinations. The three main tourist destinations are completely different.
The circuit should have well-defined entry and exit points. Visitors who enter should be motivated to visit most of the places identified in the circuit.
The Circuit can be limited to State, or it can be a regional circuit covering multiple States/Union Territories. These circuits can have a dominant theme and other sub-themes.

**Buddhist Circuit**
The Buddhist Circuit includes the most important pilgrimage destination for Buddhist tourists.
The development of the Buddhist circuit is part of the Swadesh Darshan scheme announced by the GoI in 2014.
India is home to seven of the eight Buddhist sites, but less than 1% of Buddhists
pilgrims in the world.  

The Buddhist circuit includes Kapilavastu and Lumbini in Nepal (Buddha's birthplace), Shravasti, Sarnath, Kushinagar, Rajgir, Vaishali and Bodhgaya in India.

**WE Hub Announced its Partnership with i-HUB**

WE Hub recently announced a partnership with i-Hub. I-Hub operates under the leadership of the Gujarat government. WE Hub operates under the leadership of the Telangana government.

**Highlights:**

WE Hub is a centre for women entrepreneurs. This is a business incubator, that is, it provides an environment for women entrepreneurs to develop their business. It aims to provide female entrepreneurs with solutions, innovative ideas, and qualified to focus on emerging fields.

It also supports undeveloped and undeveloped departments and service departments. The main goal of WE Hub is to eliminate economic and social barriers for women.

i-Hub is a centre for student entrepreneurship and innovation. It aims to develop an end-to-end innovation and entrepreneurial ecosystem in Gujarat.

In addition, it also provides facilities such as future and advanced technology laboratories, technical business guidance, networking, and regulatory and consulting services. It was created based on the "Student Entrepreneurship and Innovation Policy" of Gujarat.

The "Student Entrepreneurship and Innovation Policy" aims to assist student-led entrepreneurship. It aims to create a common platform for students to demonstrate their innovative capabilities and establish an end-to-end support system in educational institutions.

According to the "Student Entrepreneurship and Innovation Policy", a student startup company is a student-led innovation-based startup company founded by one or more students or alumni (no more than five years from graduation).

These centres were created to achieve the goals of the Startup India mission. Indian startups were launched in Red Fort in 2015. It was introduced to establish 75 startup support centres in the country. According to the 2019 Indian Startups Ranking, Gujarat has the best performance. Karnataka and Kerala rank the highest.
National Startup Advisory Council by the Central Govt

The Central Government has now decided to nominate non-official members of the National Startup Advisory Council.

**Highlights:**

The nominated members represent various stakeholders, such as founders of successful start-up companies, veterans who develop and grow companies in India, people who can represent the interests of emerging companies, people who can represent the interests of incubators and accelerators, the Stakeholders Association Representatives of startup companies and representatives of industry associations. The term of office of non-official members of the Startup Advisory Council is two years, or until further orders, whichever is earlier.

The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) formed the National Start-up Advisory Council in January 2020, provide advice to the government and to establish a strong ecosystem to foster the country's innovation and start-ups to promote sustainable economic growth and generate large-scale employment opportunities.

Cabinet Approved Ratle Hydropower Project

The cabinet approved the 850 MW Ratle hydropower project. The cabinet has invested 52.194 billion rupees in the project. The project is located in the Chenab River.

**Highlights:**

The project is a joint venture between Jammu and Kashmir State Power Development Corporation and the National Hydropower Corporation. The share of NHPC in the project is 49%, and that of J and K National Power Development Corporation is 51%.

The project will be put into use within 60 months. The project is expected to provide direct and indirect employment opportunities for more than 4,000 people. The project includes a 133-meter-high gravity dam and two power stations. Four 205 MW Francis turbines is found in the main power station of the project. The auxiliary power station of the project will contain a 30 MW Francis turbine.

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh laid the foundation stone for the construction of
The project did not start until 2015. In 2017, the World Bank allowed India to build dams. After nine years of negotiations with the help of the World Bank, India and Pakistan signed the "Indus Water Treaty."

The project was strongly opposed by Pakistan. According to Pakistan, the Ratle hydropower project violated the Indus Water Treaty. According to the Indus Water Treaty, the Indus rivers (such as the Indus, Chenab and Jhelum) have been allocated to Chenab.

Pakistan believes that because the project was built on Chenab, it violated the treaty. However, the treaty also says that India can use water for specific household and agricultural purposes under the treaty.

India will use eastern rivers such as the Beas, Ravi, and Sutlej. Therefore, India built the Bhakra Dam in Sutlej, Thein in Ravi and Pandoh, and the Pong Dam in Beas.

**Regulatory Compliance Portal by DPIIT**

DPIIT (Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade) has launched the Regulatory Compliance Portal in January 2021. The purpose of this portal is to act as a bridge between citizens, industries and Governments to minimize burdensome compliances.

**Highlights:**

- The purpose of this portal is to act as a bridge between citizens, industries and Governments to minimize burdensome compliances.
- It will also serve as the first central online repository for all Central and State-level compliances.
- All Central Ministries/Departments and States/UTs will review the laws/regulations/rules within their mandates and implement an Action Plan to rationalize and simplify all processes, eliminate heavy compliances, decriminalize laws and Repeal redundant Acts.
- These details will be captured and tracked on the Regulatory Compliance Portal.
- Industry stakeholders from trade agencies such as CII, FICCI, and ASSOCHAM will also be able to submit compliances and proposed recommendations.
- This will be evaluated by the relevant Government authorities and appropriate actions will be taken to minimize the regulatory compliance burden.
Gujarat Horticulture Development Mission

The Chief Minister of Gujarat announced a "horticultural development mission". "Bagayat Vikas mission" is another name of Gujarat Horticulture Development Mission. The main purpose of this visit is to double the income of farmers engaged in gardening and medicinal agriculture.

**Highlights:**

According to the mission, the wasteland of the Gujarat government will be provided in the form of a thirty-year lease for the cultivation of medicinal and horticultural crops. Currently, the Gujarat government owns 50,000 uncultivated wastelands. The I-Khedut portal will publish a list of wastelands available for allocation.

The task is to give priority to farmers who use sprinkler and drip irrigation. The first phase of the mission will be carried out in Surendranagar, Kutch, Sabarkantha and Patan areas.

The mission will be exempt from land turnover tax. The lease amount determined by the mission is 100 to 500 rupees per acre per year.

This task enables leaseholders to build windmills and solar panels to generate electricity. However, they are not allowed to sell these instalments.

If the land is returned before the end of the lease period, no compensation will be paid to the farmers. A Great Powers Committee chaired by the Chief Minister of Gujarat will be established. The committee will make the final decision on land allocation.

The mission will assess the progress made on mission land within five years. The land farmers who accept the task can only grow fruits and medicinal plants. They cannot grow cash crops or grains.

National Democratic Front of Bodoland  Assam

The Chief Minister of Assam, Sarbanada Sonowal, provided 400,000 rupees to about 1,279 surrendered cadres of the National Democratic Front in Bodoland.

**Highlights:**

The Bodoland National Democratic Front is an armed separatist who seeks to fight for the sovereignty of the people of Bodo. The Indian government has designated
the Bodoland National Democratic Front as a terrorist organization.
NDFB is a militant organization founded in 1986. The organization has launched several attacks against non-Bodo civilians. NDFB mainly targets the Munda, Santhal and Oraon tribes. These tribesmen were taken by the British to work as tea workers in Assam.
In the 1990s, NDFB established 12 refugee camps on the Bhutan-Assam border. The Bhutanese government launched the "Full Transparency Operation" to drive them out of the Bhutan border. Operation Bajrang and Operation Rhino were launched by the Indian Government against separatist groups in Assam.
All the Bodo Student Union, the government of Assam and the Bodoland National Democratic Front signed the 2020 "Bodo Peace Agreement". After the agreement was reached, the Indian government announced a 15 billion rupees package for the Bodo region of Assam.
In the 27-year conflict, the Indian government and the Bodo tribe signed three agreements. In 1993, an agreement was signed with the All Bodo Student Union and the Bodoland Autonomous Council was established. Bodo Liberation Tigers Agreement was signed in 20023

Bodos
Bodos is the largest tribal community in Assam. They account for 5% to 6% of the population of the state. They are part of the Bodo-Kachari family that spread across northeastern India. They speak the Boro language. The Boro language is considered one of the 22 languages in the Indian Constitution. In the Sixth Schedule of the Indian Constitution, the Bodo people are considered plain tribes.

Statehood Day Meghalaya, Manipur, Tripura
Meghalaya, Manipur and Tripura celebrated the anniversary of their Statehood Day on January 21.

Highlights:
January 21, 2021 is the 49th anniversary of the establishment of North-eastern states of Meghalaya, Manipur and Tripura.
In October 1949, the former princely states of Tripura and Prince Manipur merged into the Federation of India and became official states on January 21, 1972.
Meghalaya is part of Assam and has obtained full statehood under the Northeast Region (Reorganization) Act of 1971.
Before the north-eastern area transformed into seven sisters with statehood of Tripura, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland, the territorial creation of the North East involved Assam plains from the Old Assam Province, hill regions, and the North Eastern Frontier Tracts (NEFT) of North-Eastern border land.

Manipur and Tripura were merged into India in 1949 (as part C states) and were granted joint status of Union Territories in 1956.

According to the sixth timetable of the Indian Constitution, in Assam, Meghalaya obtained the status of an autonomous state through the Assam State Reorganization (Meghalaya) Act 1969.

Finally, in 1972, the Northeast Reorganization Act of 1971 granted Tripura, Meghalaya and Manipur were granted full statehood.

Shramshakti Digital Data Solution was Launched

The Ministry of Tribal Affairs and the Goa Government jointly launched the Shramshakti Digital Data Solution.

**Shramshakti:**

This is a national migration support portal designed to make the national and state-level programmes for migrant workers to run smoothly. The Goa Government also released "Shram-Saathi", a training manual for migrant workers in Goa.

Janshatabdi Express From Ahmedabad - Kevadia Dispatches Vistadome Coach

The Prime Minister of India recently flagged off eight trains from different parts of the country to Kevadia in Narmada district, Gujarat. Among the eight trains, Janshatabdi Express from Ahmedabad-Kevadia has a Vistadome coach.

**Highlights:**

Vistadome Coach is the most advanced coach manufactured by the Indian Railway, designed to provide passengers with travel comfort and an enhanced viewing experience of the surrounding environment.

The Vistadome coach in Janshatabdi Express is manufactured at the Integral Coach factory in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

The Vistadome coach was made for the first time on the Linke Hofmann Busch
(LHB) platform, made for passenger coaches for trains in India

Some of the features of the Vistadome coach is a viewing lounge with large windows, where passengers can enjoy the scenic route to Kevadia.

44 rotatable seats that can be tilted 180 degrees ensure that people can enjoy the scenery from the left and right windows, the two boarding gates of the coach have automatic sliding doors, the glass roof allows panoramic views, and five large windows on each side.
GI Tag for Gucchi Mushroom

Jammu and the Kashmir government sought a GI label for Gucchi mushrooms. Gucchi mushrooms are expensive and good for health. The price of 500 grams of Gucchi mushrooms is 18,000 rupees. Recently, GI tags were provided to saffron in Jammu and Kashmir.

**Highlights:**

Gucchi mushroom is a fungus belonging to the Morchellaceae family. They are light yellow, with large ridges and pits on the hat. They grow on large white stems. Gucchi mushrooms are called "Thuntoo" locally.

Gucchi mushrooms prefer limestone-based soils. They also grow in acid soil. Gucchi mushrooms are usually found in early spring.

They are called "May mushrooms" in North America. The fruiting time of mushrooms varies from February to July. In Canada, they only appeared after June.

Gucci mushrooms cannot be grown commercially. They grow in the coniferous forests of North Akanchar, Himalayas, Chamu and Kashmir. It takes villagers several months to collect these mushrooms, dry them and bring them to the market.

Gucchi mushrooms grow in clusters on rotting wood, humus soil and leaves of logs. They may not grow in the same place next season. This makes the collection process more cumbersome. For these reasons, Gucchi mushrooms are very expensive.

Gucci mushrooms cannot be grown commercially due to their germinating nature. They germinate and grow in low temperature soil. They usually appear after a fire. The fruit of Gucchi mushroom requires alkaline conditions, that is, wood ash is mixed with water. These standards make Gucci's commercial cultivation extremely challenging.

Gucchi mushrooms are rich in nutrients like vitamins, potassium and also rich in copper. They are also rich in vitamin D. In addition, they are also rich in antioxidants, which can prevent health problems such as heart disease and diabetes.

Mukundpura CM2 Geological Survey

A new study by the Geological Survey of India revealed that Kolkata revealed the
mineralogy of the meteorite that fell in Mukundpura village near Jaipur in 2017.

**Highlights:**
The meteorite named Mukundpura CM2 is classified as a carbonaceous chondrite. The composition of carbonaceous chondrites is also similar to that of the Sun. This is a stony meteorite, considered the most primitive meteorite, and the first solid remnant accumulated in the solar system. Meteorites are roughly divided into three categories-stony (rich in silicate), iron (Fe-Ni alloy) and stony iron (silicate-iron mixed alloy). Chondrites are meteorites containing silicate droplets. This Mukundpura chondrite is the fifth known carbonaceous meteorite in India. The results of the Mukundpura CM2 study are related to the surface composition of the near-Earth asteroids Ryugu and Bennu.

**DRDO Handed Over The Motor Bike Ambulance Rakshita To CRPF**

DRDO handed over the Motor Bike Ambulance Rakshita to CRPF.

**Highlights:**
Institute of Nuclear Medicine and Allied Sciences (INMAS) of the DRDO Laboratory in Delhi handed over Rakshita to the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF). This is a bike-based emergency vehicle for transportation of the wounded. Rakshita is equipped with a custom-made reclining Casualty Evacuation Seat (CES), which can be installed and removed as required. The bike ambulances will help overcome the problems faced by Indian security forces and emergency health care providers. It will provide life-saving assistance to rescue injured patients from evacuating low-intensity conflict areas. This bike ambulance is not only useful for paramilitary forces and military forces, but also useful in potential civilian areas.

**IMD May Introduce A New Monsoon Models**
The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) may introduce a new monsoon pattern in 2021 to better predict changes in rainfall.

**Highlights:**
Three different models can be tested this year. Two of them are dynamic models and one is statistical models. In the former, the climate of any day is simulated on a supercomputer, and meteorologists observe changes in daily output. The other is a traditional statistical model, which equates the relationship between physical parameters (such as sea surface temperature, snowfall, land temperature, etc.) with the actual rainfall observed in the past.

The three models under consideration are:
- 12 kinds of global circulation models (dynamic), whose output will be merged into one model;
- A model that measures rainfall based on tropical sea surface temperature (developed by Professor Sumant Nigam, University of Maryland, USA);
- Statistical models based on climate variables observed during the pre-monsoon.

All of these are smaller models and combine them to get an average value. This year will continue to use traditional statistical models.

**Abell 370 Picture Shared by NASA**

NASA recently shared photos of the huge galaxy cluster named Abell 370. It is a cluster of galaxies four billion light-years away from the earth. The galaxy cluster is located in a constellation called Cetus.

**Highlights:**
- The core of Abell 370 is composed of hundreds of galaxies. The galaxy was catalogued by George Abell, hence the name.
- Abell 370 has several beams of light. These arcs are phantoms created by gravitational lensing on dark and huge objects between the observer and the distant galaxy.
- The Abell 370 galaxy cluster was first discovered in 2002 using the lensing effect. When the light from a galaxy (located at a great distance) passes through a large number of objects, the gravitational force from these objects can bend or twist them. This is called a gravitational lens.
- Cetus is a sea monster in Greek mythology. The constellation Cetus is located in the sky area, and other constellations such as Pisces, Aquarius and Eridanus are also located in this area.
- There are fourteen stars in the constellation of Cetus. Mira is the first star...
discovered in the constellation Cetus. The constellation Tau Ceti is the closest star to the sun.

Abell 370 Galaxy is also nicknamed The Dragon by NASA scientists. This is mainly because, in 2009, a study of Abell 370 revealed a group of galaxies in the background of star clusters. The group is regarded as a twisted dragon by the swarm. The head of the dragon is made of a spiral galaxy. These galaxies are 5 billion light-years away from each other.

Spiral galaxies are a type of Milky Way galaxy, consisting of a central concentration of stars called bulges and a flat rotating disk containing gas, stars, and dust. The Pinwheel Galaxy is a spiral galaxy.

**Climate Change to Alter its Position**

Researchers at the University of California recently predicted that future climate change will cause uneven movement of tropical rain belts. This could threaten the food security of billions of people.

**Highlights:**
- According to this study, the transfer of tropical rain belts in the Indian Ocean and East Africa will cause drought pressure in Southeast Africa and Madagascar. In addition, it will increase flooding in southern India.
- The tropical rain belt spreads south to the Atlantic and East Pacific and will cause even greater droughts in Central America.
- Tropical rain belts are areas with abundant rainfall around tropical regions. It is largely a manifestation of ITCZ (Tropical Convergence Zone).
- From October to March, tropical rain belts are located in the southern hemisphere of the Indian Ocean and Western Pacific.
- During this period, the northern tropics were dry. Between April and September, tropical rain belts occur in the northern hemisphere, while the southern hemisphere becomes dry.
- The conveyor belt moves between the equator and the fifteenth parallel north (south) latitude. Near these latitudes, a drought and a wet season occurred. On the other hand, since the belt crosses the equator twice, there are two wet seasons and two dry seasons at the equator.
- The air in the tropics is warming rapidly. The warm air rises. As the hot air rises, the cold air takes up the empty space.
As more and more cold air replaces warm air, tropical regions lose their ability to retain moisture. As a result, the excess water turned into showers and thunderstorms. This is the main reason for the abundant rainfall in the tropics. Due to the windless weather, the area was called "Doldrums" by sailors. This is the area where the southeast and northeast trade winds meet.

**Quantum Computing Application Lab by GoI and Amazon Partnership**

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, in cooperation with Amazon Web Services, will establish a quantum computing application laboratory. The laboratory will determine the quantum computing problems faced by the central government, state governments, and research institutions.

**Highlights:**

Proposals selected from these entities will have access to Amazon Web Services to use Amazon's computing cloud platform. In addition, it will provide access to simulators and programming tools for free.

Quantum technology is completely based on the principles of quantum physics. In other words, it is based on quantum theory.

In short, it is the behavior of energy and materials at the atomic and subatomic level. This will help achieve information processing beyond the classical world. Conventional computers will process bit by bit. On the other hand, quantum computers will process qubits.

National quantum technology and application tasks will be performed by the Ministry of Science and Technology under the Ministry of Science and Technology.

The focus of this visit is on basic science, technological development, and solving issues related to national priorities.

It will prepare the next generation of technical talents, encourage entrepreneurship and initiate the development of the ecosystem.

The 2020-21 alliance budget has proposed to spend 80 billion rupees to the national quantum technology and application delegation.

**Avalokana Software Launched In Karnataka**

The Chief Minister of Karnataka B S Yediyurappa recently launched the Avalokana
software. The software will enable the state government to access data on the expenditures and sanctions of 1,800 programs.

**Highlights:**

This is a transparent e-government tool that will wisely release government funding and funding for different government programs to parliamentary districts. This will help the government release funds based on departmental spending decisions. It will ultimately increase the government's control over resources.

The software provides a focused view of the planned caste sub-plans, sustainable development goals, tribal sub-plans and centrally sponsored plans.

The Indian government can provide three types of funds. They are Consolidated Fund of India, Contingency Fund of India, Public Account of India.

**Consolidated Fund of India:** The Indian consolidated fund is filled by indirect taxes and direct taxes. Similarly, it is also covered by loan interest. Article 266 of the Constitution of India provides for these funds. In order to withdraw funds from the Indian Consolidated Fund, the Indian government must obtain parliamentary approval.

**Contingency Fund of India:** The Contingency Fund of India has 5 billion rupees. The provisions of the fund are based on Article 267 of the Indian Constitution. Funds are used to pay for unforeseen expenditures. The state government has its own emergency funds.

**Public Fund of India:** All other funds received by the Indian government that is not covered by the Consolidated Fund of India are credited to the Indian public account. It consists of the National Investment Fund (the money obtained by GoI through divestment), the National Small Savings Fund, postal insurance, provident funds, national defence funds, and bank savings accounts of different ministries. Unlike the India Joint Fund, GoI does not need to obtain permission to withdraw advance payments from the account.

**Professor and Team to Develop Zebrafish - Angiogenesis**

Chennai's INSPIRE professor and his team are working to develop a transgenic Zebrafish (which have exogenous genes added to their genome) model by using CRISPR/Cas9 gene-editing tools to further study the compensatory angiogenesis mechanism in the tumour microenvironment.

**Highlights:**
The Zebrafish platform (TZP), which is genetically modified or edited by CRISPR/Cas9, can be used for studying the efficacy of a drug as anti or pro-angiogenesis in the next phase of the project.

Researchers have discovered that nitric oxide (NO) plays a key role in shutting down angiogenesis in the tumour microenvironment, and melatonin can inhibit tumour angiogenesis.

Angiogenesis is the physiological process of forming new blood vessels from existing blood vessels formed at an earlier stage of vasculogenesis. Angiogenesis is a normal and vital process in growth and development, as well as in wound healing and granulation tissue formation. However, this is also the basic step for a transition of tumours from a benign state to a malignant one. This leads to the use of angiogenesis inhibitors in the treatment of cancer.

The important role of angiogenesis in tumour growth was first proposed by Judah Folkman in 1971. Angiogenesis is critical to the growth of cancer, because tumours need a blood supply to grow. Tumours trigger the growth of blood cells by releasing chemical signals that stimulate angiogenesis.

Angiogenesis disorder is the main cause of tumour growth and progression. Inhibition of tumour angiogenesis after chemotherapy has become a popular anti-cancer strategy. However, due to the parallel activation of multiple compensatory mechanisms involving molecular cascades, clinically approved anti-angiogenic drugs are ineffective, which contributes to tumour angiogenesis. Research on these mechanisms is essential for the development of anti-angiogenic therapies.

Hum of the Universe Detected by NANOGrav

The North American Nanohetz Gravitational Wave Observatory (NANOGrav) discovered the hum of the universe. According to the researchers, the hum is generated by gravitational waves.

**Highlights:**

The hum of the universe comes from a dead star called a "pulsar". These stars are basically neutron stars. They are oriented in such a way that they emit radio waves
from their poles as they rotate.
This is the first time a hum has been heard from a pulsar collision. Early scientists have observed this buzzing sound. However, they come from the merger of black holes. The LIGO Observatory has discovered the hum of black hole mergers. LIGO is a gravitational wave observatory for laser inferring instrument.
The discovery of the humming sound of pulsars will be an important step for the members of the pulsar timing array.
When black holes collide, a similar buzzing sound is produced. This sound is called black hole hum. In a year, on average, more than 100,000 black holes merge in the universe.
NANOGrav is the North American gravitational wave nanohertz observatory. The main purpose of NANOGrav is to detect gravitational waves. The implementation of the project is by Parkes Pulsar timing array, international Pulsar timing array and European Pulsar timing array.
Pulsar timing array: It is a program for regular and regular observation of the millisecond pulsar array with regular distribution. A millisecond pulsar is a pulsar whose rotation period is less than about ten milliseconds. A millisecond pulsar is a pulsar whose rotation speed is less than ten milliseconds.
Indian Pulsar Timing Array: It is a project of the National Radio Astrophysics Center of the Tata Institute of Basic Research. It aims to detect nano-hertz gravitational waves through precise timing.

**Rare UV-Bright Stars Spotted**

Astronomers use UVIT to discover a large number of hot, ultraviolet bright stars in the Milky Way. UVIT is an ultraviolet imaging telescope. It is placed in the Astrosat satellite. Astrosat is India's first multi-wavelength space satellite.

**Highlights:**
Astronomers have successfully distinguished ultraviolet bright star clusters from relatively cold red giant stars and other main-sequence stars. Thirty-four ultraviolet bright stars were discovered using UVIT.
From these images, the research team also derived the properties of the stars, such as brightness, temperature, and radius. The derived properties of the stars are placed in the Herzprun-Russell diagram.
The graph shows the relationship between the absolute size and brightness of stars.
and their effective temperature (or star classification). This figure was first created in 1910 by Ejnar Hertzsprung and Henry Norris Russell.

Ultraviolet bright stars are brighter than horizontal branches and bluer than red giant branches. According to astronomers, the core of the discovered star is almost exposed. This makes them very hot. They evolved from the solar phase called the "horizontal branching star". Such a star has no shell. These stars are like the sun, in the later stages of evolution. In addition to UVIT, astronomers also use Gaia telescopes and space telescopes to identify stars.

Ultraviolet rays: Ultraviolet imaging telescope is a three-in-one imaging technology. It can observe near-ultraviolet, visible and far-ultraviolet wavelengths.

UVIT has two telescopes. One works in the visible light range, from 320 nanometers to 550 nanometers. The other works at near-ultraviolet wavelengths, which is 200-300 nanometers.

UVIT is three times better than NASA's GALEX. GALEX is Galaxy Evolution Explorer. This is the ultraviolet space telescope launched in 2003 and decommissioned in 2013.

To date, UVIT has made 1,166 observations of 800 unique sources of celestial bodies. It has explored several star clusters and mapped large and small satellite galaxies near the Milky Way called the Magellanic Cloud.

Astrosat was launched in 2015. It is the first multi-wavelength space observatory in India. Its emission is to observe the universe in ultraviolet, visible light, and low-energy and high-energy X-rays. This mission makes ISRO an exclusive club for countries that currently have observatories. They are the United States, Japan, the European Space Agency and Russia.

Indian Telecom Services Performance Indicator Report - TRAI

TRAI released a report on India's Indian Telecom Services Performance Indicator for the fourth quarter from July to September 2020.

**Highlights:**

Telecommunication Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) released the "Report on the Performance Indicators of Telecommunications Services in India".

It provides a broad perspective of Indian telecom services and introduces key parameters and growth trends of Indian telecom services as well as cable TV, DTH and radio broadcasting services.
It is mainly compiled based on information provided by the service providers. The number of telephone subscribers in India increased by 0.70% from the previous quarter. This reflects a decrease of 2.22% in the same quarter compared to the same period last year. The total number of Internet users also increased this quarter, increasing by 3.66%.

Although the number of broadband users has increased this quarter, the number of narrowband users has declined. Since its launch in 2003, DTH (direct to home) services have shown amazing growth.

**AstroSat - Ultraviolet Imaging Telescope**

AstroSat's Ultraviolet Imaging Telescope found rare ultraviolet bright stars in the Milky Way NGC 2808.

**Highlights:**
- NGC 2808 is a globular cluster in the Milky Way galaxy, which is said to have at least five generations of stars.
- The old globular star cluster known as the "dinosaurs of the universe" provides an excellent laboratory where astronomers can understand how a star changes between its birth and death through the spectacular ultraviolet images provided by the Ultraviolet Imaging Telescope (UVIT) Phase evolution.
- Globular clusters are spherical collections of stars orbiting the galactic core. Such clusters are tightly bound by gravity.

**Large-Scale Digital Migration of Users to Messaging Platform Signal**

Facebook-owned WhatsApp recently updated its privacy policy, which resulted in a massive digital migration of users from the messaging platform to its competitors (such as Signal app).

**Highlights:**
- The Signal is a cross-platform centralized encrypted messaging services. It is developed by the Signal Technology Foundation and Signal Messenger LLC.
- The non-profit Signal Foundation was established in 2018 with an initial investment of US$50 million by Brian Acton.
- It uses the Internet to send one-to-one messages and group messages, which can
include files, voice notes, images and videos. It can also be used for one-to-one calls and grouped voice and video calls. Signal uses a standard cellular phone number as an identifier and protects all communications with other Signal users through end-to-end encryption.
Festival in Nagi-Nakti Bird Sanctuaries

Bihar started the first state-level bird festival "Kalrav" in the Nagi-Nakti Bird Sanctuary in Jamui District of Bihar. This is a three-day event that is expected to attract experts and bird lovers from all over the country.

**Highlights:**

Naji Dam and Nakti Dam are two sanctuaries, they are very close to each other, so they can be regarded as a bird sanctuary.

The Nagi-Nakti Bird Sanctuary is the hometown of various birds and migratory birds, which appear in Eurasia, Central Asia, the Arctic Circle, Russia and northern China in winter.

More than 136 species of birds have been found in these sanctuaries. According to the report of the International Wetlands Organization, there are about 1,600 bar-headed geese, which account for about 3% of the global population of this species. Due to this rare phenomenon, the Birdlife International, a global body, has held the Nagi Dam Bird Sanctuary to be globally important for conservation of birds' population and has declared it as an important bird area.

Other major birds: Indian Courser, Indian Sandgrouse, Yellow-wattled Lapwing and Indian Robin.

Major threats to the biodiversity of the sanctuaries: Agricultural runoff; Land dispute between Irrigation and Forest Departments; Leasing out of the site for fishing.

**Other Bird Sanctuaries of Bihar:**

Gautam Budha bird sanctuary, Gaya
Kawar Jheel bird sanctuary, Bigusarai
Kusheshwar asthan bird sanctuary, Darbhanga

India Home to Both Species Of Red Panda  ZSI

Scientists from the Zoological Survey of India concluded that India is home to two (sub)species of Himalayan red panda (Ailurus fulgens) and Chinese red panda (Ailurus styani).

**Key Facts:**
The Siang River in Arunachal Pradesh divides the red panda into these two phylogenetic species.

Until 2020, the red panda was considered a monotypic species, until scientists studied its genetic composition in terms of its geographic distribution and described the occurrence of these two species.

The reason for the decrease in the population of Himalayan red pandas is due to geological and climatic oscillations, because during the last glacial period and the Pleistocene, repeated cycles of wetlands and dry periods exposed the landscape to more severe topographic and geological changes.

It is considered to be an indicator of ecological changes. The red panda is a shy, lonely and arboreal animal. It mainly feeds on bamboo and avoids human activities.

The comprehensive protection of this ecologically sensitive species requires the joint efforts of national and international stakeholders and the full awareness of local communities.

The red panda (Ailurus fulgens) is a mammal which is found in the eastern Himalayas and southwestern China. Listed as an endangered species in the IUCN Red List Threats: habitat loss and fragmentation, poaching and decline of close relatives. Despite its name, it has little to do with giant pandas

**Western Disturbance Affects Himalayas**

According to the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD), Western disturbance is likely to affect the Himalayas soon. These disturbances will cause mild to moderate snowfall and rainfall in the Plains of Jammu.

**Highlights:**

Western Disturbance (WD) is marked as an extra-tropical storm originating in the Mediterranean. It is an area of low pressure that brings showers, heavy snow and fog in northwest India.

The meaning of WD lies in its name. The disturbance travels from "west" to east direction.

They travel eastward in high-altitude westerly jet streams-a large amount of fast wind traverses the earth from west to east.

Disturbance refers to areas that are "disturbed" or where air pressure decreases. Equilibrium exists naturally, so the air in the area tries to normalize its pressure.

The term "extra-tropical storm", refers to low pressure. "Extra-Tropical" refers to
areas outside the tropics. Because WD originated outside the tropical region, the term "extra-tropical" is related to it.

WD is related to rainfall, snowfall and fog in northern India. Rain and snow in Pakistan and northern India. The moisture carried by WD comes from the Mediterranean sea and/or from the Atlantic Ocean.

WD brings winter and pre-monsoon rains, which are essential for the development of Rabi crops in the Northern subcontinent.

WD is not always a sign of good weather. Sometimes, WD can cause extreme weather events, such as floods, flash floods, landslides, sandstorms, hail storms and cold waves, causing deaths, infrastructure damage and livelihoods.

**Semeru Volcano of Indonesia**

Semeru volcano erupted in East Java, Indonesia. Other volcanoes such as Merapi (Java) and Sinabung (Sumatra) have also erupted recently.

**Key Facts about Semeru Volcano:**

Semeru (also known as "The Great Mountain") is the highest volcano in Java and one of the most active volcanoes. Previously erupted in December 2019.

Indonesia has the largest number of active volcanoes in the world. As it is located on the Pacific Ring of Fire, it is prone to earthquakes.

The Semeru volcano is part of the island arc. It is formed by the subduction of the Indo-Australian plate below the Sunda plate (part of the Eurasian plate). The trench formed here is called the Sunda trench, and its main part is the Java trench.

**Bird Festival in Mahananda Wildlife Sanctuary**

The Mahananda Wildlife Sanctuary in West Bengal will organize a bird festival. This holiday is the first time. It is organized by the Darjeeling Wildlife Department. Mahananda Wildlife Sanctuary is known as an important bird and biodiversity area.

**Highlights:**

Important bird and biodiversity areas have been identified as an internationally recognized set of standards that are vital to bird protection. The important bird sanctuary concept was developed by Birdlife International.

Currently, there are 12,000 important bird areas in the world. The thresholds for important bird sanctuaries are set by the corresponding national regulatory
agencies. In order to be included in an important bird sanctuary, the site must meet at least one of the following conditions:

A1: Species threatened globally - The site should be kept in the IUCN Red List as a critically endangered, vulnerable or endangered bird population.

A2: Restricted range species - The site should be an endemic bird area. The International Bird Conservation Organization classifies endemic birds as those with limited habitat. The International Bird Conservation Organization has identified approximately 218 endemic bird sanctuaries. Endemic species means that the species is native to a single geographic location and cannot be found elsewhere.

A3: Biome restricted range species - The site should retain restricted biome species. The location should constitute a selected group of appropriate representatives of all species in the biological community. In other words, the species living in that location should be endemic and should only be found in that specific biome (and not anywhere else in the world).

A4: Congregation - This applies to shorebirds, seabirds and wetland birds. This was created in accordance with the Ramsar Convention.

The location of Mahananda Wildlife Sanctuary is between the Teesta and Mahananda rivers which is foothills of the Himalayas. The status of the reserve is provided mainly to protect the Indian bison and the Royal Bengal tiger.

Uncontrolled Flow Of Untreated Industrial Wastewater Increases Pollution In Gujarat Rivers

Untreated industrial wastewater flows into the rivers of Gujarat without control, leading to increase the pollution in Sabarmati, Mahisagar, Narmada, Vishwamitri and Bhadar

Highlights:

According to data from the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF), Sabarmati is one of the most polluted rivers in the country.

Gujarat is ranked fourth among the top five states with most polluted rivers with as many as 20 rivers in the critically polluted category.

According to official parameters, if the chemical oxygen demand (COD) representing the load of organic pollutants is higher than 250 mg per liter, it should not be released into the river.

Most of the wastewater in the Gujarat River is dumped into it, with a chemical
oxygen demand level of 700 to 1,000 milligrams per liter. Although the Dissolved Oxygen (DO) level (indicating the health of the river) of a perennial river like Mahisgar should be in the range of 6 to 8 mg per liter, it is actually less than 2.9 mg per liter.

**Great Green Wall for Sahel and Sahara**

At the One Planet Biodiversity Summit, the Great Sahel Green Wall and Sahara Desert Initiative received US$14 billion in funding. The funds will be used to restore degraded land, enhance resilience, create green jobs and protect biodiversity. Among financial institutions, the World Bank pledged 5 billion US dollars, the African Development Bank pledged 6.5 billion US dollars, and the French government pledged 14 billion US dollars.

**Highlights:**

The "Green Wall" initiative aims to change the lives of 100 million Africans by planting trees, vegetation, grasslands and plants 8,000 kilometers long and 15 kilometers wide.

The Great Green Wall is an initiative of African leaders. It was initiated by the African Union in 2007 to combat desertification, land degradation and drought. The goal of the project is to restore 100 million hectares of degraded land by 2030. From 2007 to 2019, so far, the Great Wall Green Wall Initiative has restored only 4 million hectares of land.

The plan aims to store 250 million tons of carbon and create 10 million green jobs. It will support African communities in planting fertile land and increase economic opportunities for the youngest population. The project will help create climate resilience in areas where the temperature rises faster than the rest of the planet.

The Great Wall Green Wall Initiative will contribute to 15 of the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals. The main goal of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification is to achieve land neutrality by 2030. Therefore, the "Green Wall Great Wall" initiative will help achieve this goal.
DEFENCE

Exercise Kavach to be held under Andaman and Nicobar Command

The Indian army will conduct large-scale joint military exercises in the Andaman Sea and the Bay of Bengal. The exercise will be conducted under the auspices of the Andaman and Nicobar headquarters.

**Highlights:**

The joint military exercise Kavach will involve the Indian Navy, Indian Army, Indian Air Force and Indian Coast Guard.

During the exercise, the joint force will implement high-density offensive and defensive measures in the Andaman Sea and the Bay of Bengal. In addition, they will carry out amphibious landing operations, with helicopters transporting maritime special forces, and finally tactical follow-up operations on land.

This is to adjust the joint combat capabilities of the three Indian forces. The Kavach exercise will also involve coordinated air and sea strikes, coordinated applications of maritime surveillance assets, air defence and landing operations.

In addition to the Kavach exercise, a joint intelligence surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR) exercise will also be held. ISR will verify the intelligence gathering capabilities. In addition, it will verify information sharing capabilities from space, land, air and sea.

The Heron unmanned aerial vehicle of the Indian Air Force has been assigned intelligence and surveillance missions. The Heron UAV fleet was purchased from Israel. India's ground ISR capabilities include Daksh. Daksh is a remote ground sensor. The artillery regiment is using SATA assisted by Israel. SATA is a searcher for monitoring and target acquisition.

The National Security Guard uses the "Black Hornet" drone for reconnaissance purposes. India will focus on helicopters, drones and aircraft to increase the role of its ISR.

China has developed ELINT (Electronic Intelligence) and SAR (Synthetic Aperture Radar). SAR covers a small area, while the intelligence surveillance and reconnaissance exercises covered by ELINT are larger.


Sushruta  Father of Indian Medicine

Sushruta (around 7th or 6th century BC) was a doctor in ancient India, presently known as the "Father of Indian Medicine" and "Father of Plastic Surgery" for designing and developing surgical procedures.

**Highlights:**

Sushruta (around 7th or 6th century BC) was a doctor in ancient India. His work on Sushruta Samhita (Sushruta's Compendium) is considered the oldest plastic surgery work in the world, and is recognized as one of the Great Trilogy of Ayurvedic medicine (the other two are Charaka Samhita, before that), and Astanga Hridaya was followed closely). Sushruta is believed to live in Kashi.

Sushruta Samhita recorded the causes of more than 1,100 diseases, the use of many medicinal plants, and guidelines for performing different operations, including three types of skin grafts and nose reconstruction.

Sushruta's paper provides the first written record of rhinoplasty with a forehead flap, a technique that is still used to reconstruct the nose.

He is the first student in human history to propose a surgical operation, who suggested anatomy of a cadaver to understand the human body and its organs.

In the 8th century AD, Sushruta Samhita was translated into Arabic and was called "Kitab Shah Shun al-Hindi" and "Kitab-I-Susurud".

In the early 19th century, Hessler published the first European translation of Sushruta Samhita in Latin, and Mueller published in German. The complete English literature is a three-volume version written by Kaviraj Kunja Lal Bhishagratna in Kolkata in 1907.

Guru Gobind Singh Jayant was Observed on 20 January

Sri Guru Gobind Singh Ji's Parkash Purab or Guru Gobind Singh Jayant was designated on January 20, 2021.

**Guru Gobind Singh:**

The 10th Sikh Guru, Guru Gobind Singh was born in December 1666. His birthday will be December or January based on the Gregorian calendar. In 2021, the date is January 20. Mark this day as Guru Gobind Singh Jayanti or Parkash Purab.
Guru Gobind Singh was born as Gobind Rai, his father and ninth Guru Tegh Bahadur refused to embrace Islam. He was beheaded by Emperor Mughal Aurangzeb when he was only 9 years old.

His outstanding contribution to Sikhism was the establishment of Khalsa in 1699. Guru Gobind Singh is the only son of Guru Tegh Bahadur, born in Patna in December 1666.

He was educated in reading, writing, martial arts, archery and horse riding. He is not only a brave warrior, but also a great poet and philosopher. His literary contributions include Jaap Sahib, Benti Chaupai, Amrit Savaiye, etc. He participated in many battles, especially against Aurangzeb, the Mughal ruler.

In the Battle of Anandpur (1704), Guru lost his mother and two underage sons and they were executed. His eldest son also died in battle.

When two Afghan assassins commissioned by Wazir Khan entered the camp, Guru and his troops were stationed in Deccan. An assassin stabbed Guru in Nanded. The assassin was killed by the Guru, and his accomplices were killed by the Sikh guards. A few days later, Guru Gobind Singh (Guru Gobind Singh) died on October 7, 1708, at the age of 42.

After the death of the master, a long and painful war broke out between the Sikhs and the Mughals.
Raksha Mantri Padak to NCC Cadets

The Defence Minister awarded Raksha Mantri Padak and Commendation to NCC cadets.

**Raksha Mantri Padak:**

Raksha Mantri Padak was established in 1989. It is awarded to the most deserving National Cadet Corps (NCC) trainees every year for their bravery or outstanding service at the highest level. Raksha Mantri Padak awards are awarded to two trainees each year with a cash incentive of Rs.30,000 each. In addition, the "Raksha Mantri Commendation " is another award for four NCC personnel, with a cash incentive of Rs. 20,000 each.
ARTS & CULTURE

Archaeologists Discovered the Worlds Oldest Cave Art

Archaeologists discovered the oldest cave art in the world. It is a life-size photo of a wild boar, which was painted in Indonesia at least 45,500 years ago. The photo was found in Leang Tedongnge cave in a remote valley in Sulawesi, Indonesia.

**Highlights:**
- Sulawesi Warthog painting can be traced back at least 45,500 years ago.
- It shows a pig with short upright hair on the top of the head and a pair of horn-shaped warts in front of the eyes, which are characteristic of adult male Sulawesi warthogs.
- The Sulawesi Warthog is the most commonly depicted animal in the island's ice age rock art, which shows that they have long been regarded as food and the focus of creative thinking and artistic expression.
- The pig was painted with red stone paint and seems to be observing the fighting or social interaction between the other two warthogs.
- The oldest rock art "scene" is at least 43,900 years old, depicting a mixture of animals and animals hunting Sulawesi warthogs and dwarf animals. It was discovered by the same research team at a nearby limestone cave site.

**Cave Paintings in India:**
- Ajanta Cave is located in the Aurangabad area of Maharashtra. Ajanta's famous murals are of dying princesses, flying fairies and missionary Buddha.
- Ellora is located in the Aurangabad region of Maharashtra. This cave is popular for the largest monolithic excavation in the world—the great Kailasa.
- Elephanta is located on the Elephanta Islands in Mumbai. The Elephanta team has excavated 7 caves.
- Bhimbetka is located between Hoshangabad and Bhopal, at the foot of Vindhya Mountain. It has one of the oldest paintings in India and the world.

**Surya Majjana in Gavi Gangadhareshwara Temple**

The cloudy sky affects the phenomenon called Surya Majjana in Gavi Gangadhareshwara Temple (Karnataka) every year.

**Key Facts:**
This temple is located in Bangalore, Karnataka.

The name of the temple derived from the combination of topographical features and mythology: gavi (cave) and Gangadhareswara (shiva) refer to the Lord who decorated the Ganges.

It is believed that it was built in its current form by Kempe Gowda I.

**Architecture Features:**

Celestial Oriented Architecture: Built in the Vijaynagar style, with unique celestial oriented rock-cut architecture due to which, Surya majjana appears in Sankranti every year.

Surya Majjana: On the day of Makar Sankranti, Rays of Sun falls on linga in the cave (gavi), making it glow for ten minutes.

**Two Monolithic structures:**

In the forecourt stand two monolithic structures called Suryapana and Chandrapana, each of which consists of a huge disc on top of a supporting pillar. The sitting bulls' engravings are located on the discs that face each other.

**The iconography of Shiva:**

The courtyard of the temple is decorated with the monolith structures related to the iconography of Shiva-trishula (trident) and damaru (hourglass-shaped two-headed drum).

Between the two discs, there is a brass dhwajasthambha (Flagstaff) and a small compartment containing a statue of Nandi, Shiva's bull carrier.

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**Kalaripayattu teach at Vellar Crafts Village in Kerala Tourism**

With the establishment of a academy in the capital of Kerala, the popularity of Kalaripayattu will surge.

**Highlights:**

Now, on the way to Kovalam at Vellar Craft Village of the Kerala Tourism Authority, Kalaripayattu will be taught.

3,500 square feet of the village's college is planned to be completed within two months.

The Chief Minister of Kerala recently released the syllabus of Kalaripayattu Academy at the inauguration ceremony of the renovated Crafts Village.

**Kalaripayattu:**

It is also known as Kalari. Kalaripayattu is an martial art and fighting style of
Indians that originated in Kerala. It is considered to be one of the oldest martial arts still in existence, and its origin can be traced back to at least the 3rd century BC. It includes strikes, kicks, grappling, preset forms, weaponry and treatment methods. Practitioners of Kalaripayattu also have complex knowledge of human pressure points and healing techniques that combine knowledge of Ayurveda and yoga. Unlike other parts of India, fighters in Kerala belong to all castes. Women from the Keralite society also received training in Kalaripayattu and are still receiving training today.

**Avadh Shilpgram Organized Hunar Haat**

Avadh Shilpgram in Lucknow organized the 24th Hunar Haat of Indigenous Products of Artisans and Craftsmens.

**Highlights:**

The theme of the 24th "Hunar Haat" organized by the Ministry of Minority Affairs is Vocal for Local. Approximately 500 craftsmen and artisans from 31 States/UTs of the country are participating.

Indigenous products are displayed, such as Ajrakh, Applique, Art metal products, Bagh prints, Batik, Banarsi Saree, Bandhej, Bastar art and herbal products, Block prints, Brass metal bracelets, Sugar cane and Bamboo products, Canvas paintings, Chikankari, copper bells, Dried flowers, Handloom textiles, Kalamkari, Mangalgiri, Kota silk, Lac bracelets, Leather products, Pashmina shawls, Rampuri violin, wooden and iron toys, kantha embroidery, brass products, crystal glass products, Sandalwood products, etc.

In addition to products and food items, artists will also perform cultural activities. With thousands of people visiting "Hunar Haat" and buying handicrafts of indigenous handmade products, "Hunar Haat" has proven to be extremely beneficial and inspiring to artisans and craftsmen.

**Risa in the Tripura Culture**

Tripura Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb wore "Risa" on Kokborok Day. The
Chief Minister issued a style statement by Risa. The Tripura government will promote Risa at the national and international levels.

**Highlights:**

Risa is Tripura's traditional costume. Both men and women in Tripura wear Risa. There are two parts in the upper body of the ladies' clothing, namely Risa and Rikutu. Risa covered the chest, and rikutu covered the entire upper part. Women's clothing that covers the lower half of the body is called Rigwani or Rignai.

Each clan of Tripura has its own "Rignai" style and design. Tripura's clan is determined by Rignai.

Men in Tripura wear Risa headscarves and can also tie their waist to Dhuti. When men put on Risa, it empowers them and shows the person's identity. It is also used as a silencer in winter.

Risa is also used to hold babies in Tripura culture.

"Risa Sormani" is the adolescence ceremony of Tripuri girls. On this day, for the first time girls aged 12-14 were dressed in casual clothes.

The history of Tripuri clothing originated before the reign of King Manikya. In ancient times, the intelligence of a woman in the community was judged based on her weaving Risa and Rignai designs.

The dwarf king Maharaj Trilocana invented 250 Rignai and Risa designs for his 250 wives. However, as time passed, most of these designs were lost. Therefore, the Tripura government tried to promote Risa and Tripura's other traditional clothing.

Tripura celebrates "Kokborok Day" to celebrate the development of the Kokborok language. This is every January 19th. Kokborok is the official language of Tripura. January 19 was chosen as an event to celebrate Kokborok Day because the language was recognized as an official language on this day in 1979.
**SUMMITS & CONFERENCE**

**Davos Agenda Summit by the World Economic Forum**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping will attend the Davos Agenda Summit. The Davos Agenda Summit was organized by the World Economic Forum.

**Highlights:**
- The "Great Reset Initiative" of the World Economic Forum will be launched during the Davos Agenda Summit.
- The theme of the Davos Agenda Summit in 2021 is "Stakeholders Build a Cohesive and Sustainable World".
- US First: The US priority policy of the United States has caused a huge collapse in international agreements in the past few years. It broke several global agreements including the Paris climate change agreement.
- Tensions in Iran: Under the authorization of US President Donald Trump, General Qassem Soleimani was killed by US troops in a drone attack. This has exacerbated geopolitical tensions between the United States and Iran.
- Since the Cold War, Russia's annexation of Crimea has put greater pressure on the tensions between the United States and Russia.
- In 2021, the World Economic Forum proposed a new bimodal system at its Davos meeting. One of the meetings is the usual Davos Agenda Summit, and the other is the new big reset initiative.
- Just like the Davos Agenda Summit, the Great Reset Initiative will convene world leaders and will mainly focus on managing the immediate consequences of the COVID-19 crisis. Basically, the big reset plan is being launched to recover the global economy from the COVID-19 crisis.

**National Conference Of States On Logistics**

The Union Minister of Commerce & Industry delivered a speech at the First National Conference of States on Logistics.

**Highlights:**
- The National Logistics Policy, which is being negotiated with the National Logistics Council and the State Logistics Coordination Committee, will serve as a
template to better coordinate and integrate logistics centers.
Logistics consists of 5R’s: Get the Right products-under the Right conditions-At the Right place-At the Right time-to the Right customers.

Virtual Expo 2021 for Research and Development in the field of Processed Food

The R&D virtual exhibition 2021 organized by the Ministry of Food Processing Industry for the first time in the history of the Processed Food Sector.

About the Expo:
The R&D virtual exhibition 2021 organized by the Ministry of Food Processing Industry for the first time in the history of the Processed Food Sector.
This is an expo for Research and Development in the field of processed foods.
It will showcase the results of Research and Development projects supported by the Ministry of premier Food Technology Institutions of India (such as NIFTE, IIFPT, CFTRI, ICAR, IITs).
The main focus area will be to showcase Research and Development projects, which include categories such as Novel Food Products, Innovations in Food Engineering, Food Safety & Quality Evaluations, Food Packaging Solutions & Food Industry Waste Utilization.
**SCHEMES**

**PCRA Launched SAKSHAM Campaign**

PCRA has launched a one-month mass awareness campaign "SAKSHAM" to spread awareness about "Green and Clean Energy".

**About SAKSHAM:**

The SAKAHAM (Sanrakshan Kshamta Mahotsav) is a campaign launched by Petroleum Conservation Research Association (PCRA).

The main aim of this campaign is to make the public aware of the protection and effective use of petroleum products, which will bring better health and the environment.

The campaign aims to raise awareness of the adverse health and environmental effects of increased carbon footprint.

The idea behind the initiative is to persuade consumers to switch to cleaner fuels and make behavioural changes to use fossil fuels intelligently.

The campaign carried out various pan-Indian activities, such as cyclothon, farmer workshops, seminars, painting competitions, CNG car driving competitions, etc., will popularize the benefits of using clean fuels among the general public.

Key driving factors include: moving toward a gas-based economy, using fossil fuels more cleanly, relying more on domestic resources to drive biofuels, achieving renewable targets within a prescribed period, and increasing the use of electric vehicles to reduce carbon emissions from transportation, clean fuels such as hydrogen, and digital innovations in all energy systems.

**Petroleum Conservation Research Association (PCRA):**

PCRA is a registered society. It is established under the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, Government of India. As a non-profit organization, PCRA is a national government agency dedicated to promoting energy efficiency in various economic fields. Help the government to propose petroleum protection policies and strategies to reduce the country's excessive dependence on oil demand.

**Beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana Gramin**

The Prime Minister will provide financial assistance to the 6 lakh beneficiaries of UP under Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana Gramin.
Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana Gramin (PMAY-G):

The PMAY-G scheme was launched in 2016, and its goal is to provide pucca houses with basic facilities for all homeless households and families living in kutcha and dilapidated houses by 2022.

Convenience facilities include water, gas, toilet and electricity supply for all households.

Under PMAY-G, new technologies are being used to build houses.

Due to the use of the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) platform, the time to build houses under the scheme was reduced from 314 days in 2015-16 to 114 days.

According to PMAY, the minimum size of the house has also been increased to 25 square meters.

Based on appropriate verification by Gram Sabha, the beneficiaries are determined based on the housing deprivation parameters and exclusion criteria specified in the 2011 Social and Economic Caste Census (SECC).
IMPORTANT DAYS

National Human Trafficking Day is on 11 January

National Human Trafficking Awareness Day is designated every year on January 11. The commemoration began in 2011 when the president announced the National Month for the Prevention of Slavery and Human Trafficking.

**Background:**
In 2011, President Barack Obama issued a presidential proclamation, designating January each year as "National Month for the Prevention of Slavery and Human Trafficking." The anniversary of the announcement is called "National Human Trafficking Awareness Day". In December 1865, the Thirteenth Amendment formally abolished slavery. However, it is regrettable that human trafficking is growing at an alarming rate. Although the United States is the world's largest country, human trafficking has become a profitable business for some members of our society. The victims affected and forced to become modern slavery can be foreign nationals or American citizens, but they all suffer the terrible injustices of human trafficking, including sex trafficking, forced labor, involuntary slavery, forced marriage and Debt slavery.

Many anti-trafficking organizations organize awareness-raising campaigns throughout the year, especially in January, when this awareness day was recognized and publicity reached its peak. It is important to know the signs of human trafficking and who you can contact if the suspicion caused it. The National Human Trafficking Resource Center hotline is a resource that anyone can call to provide tips on potential trafficking incidents. In 2016 alone, it received 20,424 calls and reported 5,748 trafficking cases, and this number is increasing year by year. By learning more about the despicable behavior of human trafficking and what you can do if you suspect someone is a victim or organizer of this terrorist act, you can help raise awareness and potentially save people's lives.

Lohri Day is on 13 January

Traditionally, the Lohri festival is associated with the harvest of rabies crops. It is time to harvest the sugarcane crop. Even Punjabi farmers after Lohri (Maghi) see it as the New Year.
**Highlights:**

The three foods associated with the Lohri Festival are rewri, peanuts and popcorn. From intimate licking from the last sugared cinnamon-infused rice, to relaxation in the softness of the splendid campfire, the Lohri festival is a time of luxury.

Every January 13th, to commemorate the winter solstice and celebrate the customs of Punjab harvest season, this festival is full of attractions and pungent flavors.

The hymn Lohri is praised by the hymn as "ishvar aa, dalidar ja, dalidar di jaar chulle paa" and tells the miracle of Dulla Bhatti.

Lohri has many origins. The main theme of Lohri is to make sure that Lohri is an inspirational celebration of the winter solstice.

The main feature of Lohri is the bonfire. People have always liked illuminating the fire during the winter solstice. This means a longer-term comeback.

**Thiruvalluvar Day was on 15 January**

Thiruvalluvar Day 2021 was observed on 15th January. The Government of Tamil Nadu celebrated Thiruvalluvar Day on 15th January (16th leap year) in honour of the poet Thiruvalluvar as part of Pongal celebrations.

**Thiruvalluvar Day:**

The Government of Tamil Nadu celebrated Thiruvalluvar Day on 15th January (16th leap year) in honour of the poet Thiruvalluvar as part of Pongal celebrations. The Puducherry Government also complies with this regulation. On the fourth day of the Pongal celebration, people celebrated this day, and people paid tribute to the elderly, and the elderly blessed with cash and in kind.

**Thiruvalluvar:**

Thiruvalluvar, commonly known as Valluvar, is a famous Tamil poet and philosopher. He is known for his book Thirukkural. Thirukkural is a collection of couplets about ethics, politics, economy and love. The work consists of 1330 couplets, divided into 13 parts, each part has 10 couplets. This text is considered a special and popular work of Tamil literature. Thirukkural has been translated into 37 languages. Little is known about his life. Different sources gave different dates. Maraimalai Adigal deduced that his birth year was 31 BC, while Czech scholars like Kamil Zvelebil deduced that he lived around 500 CE.

**CARA Celebrates its Annual Day**
Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) celebrates its 6th Annual Day. The Central Adoption Resources Authority is the statutory body.

**CARA:**

CARA (Central Adoption Resources Authority) is the statutory body of the Ministry of Women and Child Development of the Government of India. CARA serves as a nodal agency for the adoption of Indian children, and is mandated to supervise and regulate domestic and international adoptions. In accordance with the provisions of the Hague Convention on Inter-country Adoption, 1993 approved by the Indian government in 2003, CARA was designated as the Central Authority to deal with inter-country adoptions. CARA mainly deals with the adoption of orphans, abandoned and surrendered children through its related/recognized adoption agencies.

**National Immunization Day was observed on 18 January**

National Immunization Day was designated on 18 January 2021 all over India. In India, approximately 17.4 million children under 5 years of age who cannot hear are treated for polio to eradicate polio.

**Highlights:**

India has completely eradicated polio in 2012. In order to maintain the eradication work, the Indian government organized a "Polio" immunization campaign in accordance with the standards set by the World Health Organization (WHO).

National Immunization Day is one of the four strategies recommended by the World Health Organization to completely eradicate polio. According to the World Health Organization, NID must be performed twice a year, with an interval of 2 to 4 weeks.

The country is using two vaccines. The two vaccines include IPV (inactivated polio vaccine) and OPV (oral polio vaccine).

IPV is a wild-type poliovirus strain that can be used in combination with other vaccines. It includes diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, Haemophilus, hepatitis B and influenza.

IPV is more effective than OPV. It can improve the intestinal immunity of children who have been immunized with OPV.
Road Safety Month is Observed in the Mid of January

The National Road Safety Month is observed from 18th January 2021 to 17th February 2021. This is an initiative of the government to increase awareness of road safety and reduce road accidents in India.

National Road Safety Month:
Activities planned during the National Road Safety Month include the screening of a film on road safety, the flag-off of the National Championship Safe Speed Challenge from the border of Wagah to Kanyakumari, and the award of road safety awards. The State government, PSUs and insurance companies will also participate in awareness raising activities through seminars, walking marathons and poster making competitions.

Road accidents in India:
In India, road accidents are still the leading cause of death, disability and hospitalization, accounting for 11% of accident-related deaths worldwide. In India, more than 400 people are killed in road accidents every day, and more than 1,200 people are injured every day.

Foundation Day of NDRF was Observed

The 16th Foundation Day of National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) was designated on January 20, 2021.

NDRF:
NDRF performs rescue operations during natural disasters. So far, NDRF has carried out 73 operations in the country, and saved approximately 1.3 million lives. In addition, NDRF has the ability to deal with nuclear, biological and chemical disasters.

The head of NDRF was appointed as the Director General (DG). Usually, the IPS officer is the head of NDRF. The highest institution for disaster management is the National Disaster Management Administration (NDMA).

NDRF works under NDMA. The chairman of the NDMA is the Prime Minister of India.

Currently, NDRF consists of 12 battalions. Each battalion has 1149 personnel.
NDRF is formed in accordance with Section 44-45 of the Disaster Management Act 2005.
The bill was passed in Parliament in 2005. The President of India gave his assent to the Bill in 2006.
Indian Army to Procure UAV

The Indian Army has signed a contract to purchase high-altitude drones from ideaForge at a price of US$20 million.

**Highlights:**
- ideaForge is a start-up company founded and incubated by alumni of the Indian Bombay Institute of Technology (IIT-B).
- The contract is for a high-altitude variant of SWITCH UAV (Unmanned Aerial Vehicle), which is a local system for surveillance operations.
- This marks a strategic shift in India's defence procurement process that focuses on local technologies.
- This is an example of how government-funded start-ups can help the country develop. For any Indian drone equipment manufacturer, this is the order with the largest contract value.

**Importance of Unmanned Aerial Vehicle:**
The Army has ordered an advanced high-altitude version of SWITCH UAV, which is a vertical take-off and landing drone. It is a fixed-wing hybrid unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV). Its functions include:
- Advanced flight time within 15 kilometres.
- It is about 2.6m long, 1.8m wide, and weighs less than 6.5 kg.
- Higher safety and simple operation as well as additional fail-safe redundancy.
- Used for long-term operation in harsh environments, for day and night surveillance in intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR) missions.
- The technology used in the photogrammetry-the process of recording, measuring and interpreting photographic images and patterns of electromagnetic radiation images to obtain reliable information about physical objects and the environment. Other uses of UAV are crowd monitoring, disaster management, precision agriculture, mining, etc.

Defence Geo-Informatics Research Establishment by DRDO

DRDO signed a Memorandum of Understanding framework with the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) for Geo-hazard Management.
MoU Details:
The MoU aims to strengthen collaboration in the field of technical exchanges and cooperation in sustainable geohazard management.

According to the Memorandum of Understanding, DRDO and MoRTH will cooperate in various mutually beneficial fields related to geohazard management. The initiative will ensure safety to prevent landslides and other natural disasters from adversely affecting the country's national highways.

It has been agreed that the expertise of DRDO (through the DGRE) will be used to provide sustainable mitigation measures for damage caused by landslides, avalanches and other natural factors on various National Highways in the country.

About DGRE:
The Defense Geo-Informatics Research Establishment (DGRE) is the DRDO laboratory, a leading organization in the development of key technologies that can improve operational efficiency, with a focus on terrain and avalanches. Its role and charter include mapping, forecasting, monitoring, controlling and mitigating of landslides and avalanches in Himalayan terrain. Terrain and modeling simulation are important assets of DGRE, and it will play an important role in planning and building strong road infrastructure in difficult terrains.

MoU between India and Uzbekistan

The Cabinet approved the signing of an MoU between India and Uzbekistan for cooperation in the field of Solar Energy.

About MoU:
The main work area is to determine the research/demonstration/pilot projects between the National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE) of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy of India and the Uzbekistan International Solar Energy Institute (ISEI). The following are mutually determined areas: Solar Photovoltaic, Storage Technologies, Transfer of Technology. According to the mutual agreement, the two parties will work hard to implement and deploy pilot projects in the member countries of the International Solar Alliance (ISA).

POWERGRID and HPSEBL Signed the OPGW Telecom Network Agreement

The telecommunications connectivity in hilly areas is improved by signing the
agreement between the Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID) and the Himachal Pradesh State Electricity Board Limited (HPSEBL) to utilize 500 kilometers of OPGW telecommunications network in Shimla (HP).

**Highlights:**
- Through the OPGW network, telecommunications service providers will be able to provide uninterrupted mobile/Internet services to the people of the state.
- The optical ground wire is also called OPGW, or in IEEE standards, it is called optical fibre composite overhead ground wire. It is a type of cable used in overhead power lines. This cable combines grounding and communication functions.
- OPGW is an optical fibre composite ground wire. The cable contains a tubular structure with one or more optical fibres and is surrounded by layers of aluminium and steel wires.
- This layer of aluminium and steel wire is used to connect the tower to the ground. The optical fibre in the cable is used for high-speed data telemetry between utilities, or sold to certain third parties for high-speed fibre interconnection between cities.
India Ranked 85th in Henley Passport Index

India takes the 85th position in the most powerful passport report "Henry Passport Index 2021". The Henry Passport Index is ranking of all passports in the world based on the number of destinations that the holder can enter without a prior visa.

**Highlights:**

The Henry Index is an original ranking of all passports in the globe based on the number of destinations that the holder can enter without a prior visa.

The ranking was originally created by Dr Christian H. Kaelin, Chairman of Henley & Partners. The Henry Index ranking is from the exclusive data from the IATA (International Air Transport Association). IATA maintains the world’s largest and most accurate travel information database.

Henry Passport Index was launched in 2006 and includes 199 different passports.

Japan continues to rank first in the index, and passport holders can enter 191 destinations in the world visa-free.

Singapore ranked second (with a score of 190), and South Korea tied for third with Germany (with a score of 189).

Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan continue to be the countries with the worst passport holdings, with passport scores of 29, 28 and 26 respectively.

India took 85th position with a visa-free score of 58. Indian passports rank higher in 2020 (84th) and 2019 (82nd). Pakistan ranks 107th and Nepal ranks 104th.
**QUIZ CORNER**

1) With Whom Indian army signed contract to procure UAV?

A. ideaForge  
B. Ford  
C. Accenture  
D. Jaxa

**Answer A**

**Explanation** The Indian Army has signed a contract to purchase high-altitude drones from ideaForge at a price of US$20 million. IdeaForge is a start-up company founded and incubated by alumni of the Indian Bombay Institute of Technology (IIT-B).

2) What is the India's rank in Henley Passport Index?

A. 75th  
B. 85th  
C. 95th  
D. 100th

**Answer B**

**Explanation** India takes the 85th position in the most powerful passport report "Henry Passport Index 2021". The Henry Passport Index is ranking of all passports in the world based on the number of destinations that the holder can enter without a prior visa.

3) When was Henry Passport Index launched?

A. 2000  
B. 2005  
C. 2006  
D. 2010

**Answer C**

**Explanation** The Henry Index is an original ranking of all passports in the globe based on the
number of destinations that the holder can enter without a prior visa. The ranking was originally created by Dr. Christian H. Kaelin, Chairman of Henley & Partners. The Henry Index ranking is from the exclusive data from the IATA (International Air Transport Association). IATA maintains the world's largest and most accurate travel information database. Henry Passport Index was launched in 2006 and includes 199 different passports.

4) Which country ranks 1st in Henry Passport Index?

A. Singapore  
B. Germany  
C. South Korea  
D. Japan  

**Answer D**

**Explanation** Japan continues to rank first in the index, and passport holders can enter 191 destinations in the world visa-free. Singapore ranked second (with a score of 190), and South Korea tied for third with Germany (with a score of 189). Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan continue to be the countries with the worst passport holdings, with passport scores of 29, 28 and 26 respectively. India took 85th position with a visa-free score of 58. Indian passports rank higher in 2020 (84th) and 2019 (82nd). Pakistan ranks 107th and Nepal ranks 104th.

5) Which country ranks 2nd in Henry Passport Index?

A. Japan  
B. South Korea  
C. Germany  
D. Singapore  

**Answer D**

**Explanation** Japan continues to rank first in the index, and passport holders can enter 191 destinations in the world visa-free. Singapore ranked second (with a score of 190), and South Korea tied for third with Germany (with a score of 189). Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan continue to be the countries with the worst passport holdings, with passport scores of 29, 28 and 26 respectively. India took 85th position with a visa-free score of 58. Indian passports rank higher in 2020 (84th) and 2019 (82nd). Pakistan ranks 107th and Nepal ranks 104th.

6) Which country ranks 3rd in Henry Passport Index?
A. Japan  
B. Germany  
C. South Korea  
D. Both B and C  

Answer D  

Explanation Japan continues to rank first in the index, and passport holders can enter 191 destinations in the world visa-free. Singapore ranked second (with a score of 190), and South Korea tied for third with Germany (with a score of 189). Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan continue to be the countries with the worst passport holdings, with passport scores of 29, 28 and 26 respectively. India took 85th position with a visa-free score of 58. Indian passports rank higher in 2020 (84th) and 2019 (82nd). Pakistan ranks 107th and Nepal ranks 104th.  

7) What is the rank of Pakistan in Henry Passport Index 2021?  
A. 107  
B. 106  
C. 105  
D. 104  

Answer A  

Explanation Japan continues to rank first in the index, and passport holders can enter 191 destinations in the world visa-free. Singapore ranked second (with a score of 190), and South Korea tied for third with Germany (with a score of 189). Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan continue to be the countries with the worst passport holdings, with passport scores of 29, 28 and 26 respectively. India took 85th position with a visa-free score of 58. Indian passports rank higher in 2020 (84th) and 2019 (82nd). Pakistan ranks 107th and Nepal ranks 104th.  

8) What is the rank of Nepal in Henry Passport Index 2021?  
A. 102  
B. 104  
C. 106  
D. 108  

Answer B  

Explanation Japan continues to rank first in the index, and passport holders can enter 191
destinations in the world visa-free. Singapore ranked second (with a score of 190), and South Korea tied for third with Germany (with a score of 189). Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan continue to be the countries with the worst passport holdings, with passport scores of 29, 28 and 26 respectively. India took 85th position with a visa-free score of 58. Indian passports rank higher in 2020 (84th) and 2019 (82nd). Pakistan ranks 107th and Nepal ranks 104th.

9) Where is Ajanta Caves located?

A. Maharashtra  
B. West Bengal  
C. Punjab  
D. Haryana

**Answer A**

**Explanation** Ajanta Cave is located in the Aurangabad area of Maharashtra. Ajanta's famous murals are of dying princesses, flying fairies and missionary Buddha. Ellora is located in the Aurangabad region of Maharashtra. This cave is popular for the largest monolithic excavation in the world-the great Kailasa. Elephanta is located on the Elephanta Islands in Mumbai. The Elephanta team has excavated 7 caves. Bhimbetka is located between Hoshangabad and Bhopal, at the foot of Vindhya Mountain. It has one of the oldest paintings in India and the world.

10) Where is Elephanta Caves located?

A. Kolkata  
B. Delhi  
C. Mumbai  
D. Chennai

**Answer C**

**Explanation** Ajanta Cave is located in the Aurangabad area of Maharashtra. Ajanta's famous murals are of dying princesses, flying fairies and missionary Buddha. Ellora is located in the Aurangabad region of Maharashtra. This cave is popular for the largest monolithic excavation in the world-the great Kailasa. Elephanta is located on the Elephanta Islands in Mumbai. The Elephanta team has excavated 7 caves. Bhimbetka is located between Hoshangabad and Bhopal, at the foot of Vindhya Mountain. It has one of the oldest paintings in India and the world.

11) When was National Human Trafficking day observed?
A.12 January  
B.11 January  
C.13 January  
D.14 January

**Answer B**

**Explanation** National Human Trafficking Awareness Day is designated every year on January 11. The commemoration began in 2011 when the president announced the National Month for the Prevention of Slavery and Human Trafficking.

**12) When was Tiruvalluvar day celebrated in 2021?**

A.17 January  
B.14 January  
C.16 January  
D.15 January

**Answer D**

**Explanation** Thiruvalluvar Day 2021 was observed on 15th January. The Government of Tamil Nadu celebrated Thiruvalluvar Day on 15th January (16th leap year) in honor of the poet Thiruvalluvar as part of Pongal celebrations. Thiruvalluvar Day: The Government of Tamil Nadu celebrated Thiruvalluvar Day on 15th January (16th leap year) in honor of the poet Thiruvalluvar as part of Pongal celebrations. The Puducherry Government also complies with this regulation. On the fourth day of the Pongal celebration, people celebrated this day, and people paid tribute to the elderly, and the elderly blessed with cash and in kind.

**13) Lohri Day is celebrated on ___________.**

A.12 January  
B.13 January  
C.14 January  
D.15 January

**Answer B**

**Explanation** The three foods associated with the Lohri Festival are rewri, peanuts and popcorn. From intimate licking from the last sugared cinnamon-infused rice, to relaxation in the softness of the splendid campfire, the Lohri festival is a time of luxury. Every January 13th, to
commemorate the winter solstice and celebrate the customs of Punjab harvest season, this festival is full of attractions and pungent flavors. The hymn Lohri is praised by the hymn as "ishvar aa, dalidar ja, dalidar di jaar chulle paa" and tells the miracle of Dulla Bhatti. Lohri has many origins. The main theme of Lohri is to make sure that Lohri is an inspirational celebration of the winter solstice. The main feature of Lohri is the bonfire. People have always liked illuminating the fire during the winter solstice. This means a longer-term comeback.

14) Which of the following states completed One Nation One Ration Card System reform?

A. Andhra Pradesh  
B. Telangana  
C. Tamil Nadu  
D. All the above

**Answer D**

**Explanation** Tamil Nadu has become the 11th state in the country that has successfully implemented the One Nation One Ration Card system reform prescribed by the Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance. Tamil Nadu has now joined the other 10 states and they have completed this reform. They are Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Telangana, Tripura and Uttar Pradesh.

15) Central Adoption Resources Authority falls under which of the following Ministry?

A. Ministry of Health  
B. Ministry of Women and Child Development  
C. Ministry of Education  
D. Ministry of Railways

**Answer B**

**Explanation** CARA (Central Adoption Resources Authority) is the statutory body of the Ministry of Women and Child Development of the Government of India. CARA serves as a nodal agency for the adoption of Indian children, and is mandated to supervise and regulate domestic and international adoptions.

16) When was the 1st edition of Aero India was held?
Aero India is a biennial air show which was held in Bangalore. It is organized by the National Defence Exhibition Organization under the Ministry of National Defence. This year, Aero Indias theme is "Runway from One Billion Opportunities." Aero India 21 is the first mixed event, and business elements will occur both physically and virtually. The 1st edition of Aero India was held in the year 1996. Aero India 21 aircraft will be consistent with the 2020 draft defence production and export promotion policy.

17) When was National Defence Exhibition Organization established?
A.1980
B.1981
C.1982
D.1983

Answer B
The National Defence Exhibition Organization was established in 1981. The Defence Exhibition organization was established to promote the export potential of Indias Defence industry. The National Defence Exhibition Organization is responsible for organizing international exhibitions such as DEFEXPO.

18) Who released the International Migration 2020 Highlights report?
A.GoI
B.UK
C.UN
D.USA

Answer C
The United Nations (UN) released the International Migration 2020 Highlights report. According to the report, Indian diaspora is the largest in the world. As of 2020, more than 18 million people from India are living outside India.
19) As of 2020, more than ____________ million people from India are living outside India.

A. 15  
B. 16  
C. 17  
D. 18  

Answer D

**Explanation** The United Nations (UN) released the International Migration 2020 Highlights report. According to the report, Indian diaspora is the largest in the world. As of 2020, more than 18 million people from India are living outside India.

20) Which diaspora is largest in the world?

A. India  
B. Mexico  
C. Syria  
D. China  

Answer A

**Explanation** The United Nations (UN) released the International Migration 2020 Highlights report. According to the report, Indian diaspora is the largest in the world. As of 2020, more than 18 million people from India are living outside India.

21) Which of the following countries are included in D10?

A. India  
B. South Korea  
C. Australia  
D. All the above  

Answer D

**Explanation** Chatham House is also known as the Royal College of International Affairs. Chatham House aims to promote debate on major developments in international affairs and policy responses. Experts usually use it as a source of information on major international issues. The D10 group of countries was proposed by the United Kingdom. Group D10 will include all G7
countries, as well as India, Australia and South Korea. D10 means the top ten democracies in the world.

22) Which of the following countries are not included in D10?

A. India  
B. Australia  
C. South Korea  
D. None of the above  

**Answer D**

**Explanation**  
Chatham House is also known as the Royal College of International Affairs. Chatham House aims to promote debate on major developments in international affairs and policy responses. Experts usually use it as a source of information on major international issues. The D10 group of countries was proposed by the United Kingdom. Group D10 will include all G7 countries, as well as India, Australia and South Korea. D10 means the top ten democracies in the world.

23) After the disintegration of the Soviet Union, the "Open Skies Treaty" was signed in ____________.

A. 1992  
B. 1991  
C. 1990  
D. None of the above  

**Answer A**

**Explanation** After the disintegration of the Soviet Union, the "Open Skies Treaty" was signed in 1992. It was first proposed by former U.S. President Dwight Eisenhower in 1955 to ease the tensions of the Cold War. The treaty was signed between NATO (non-Atlantic Treaty Organization) members and former Warsaw Pact countries. In 2002, more than 35 countries signed the treaty. This also includes the United States and Russia. India not signed the Open Skies Treaty.

24) In ____________, more than 35 countries signed the Open Skies treaty.

A. 2000  
B. 2002  

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C.2004
D.2004

**Answer B**

**Explanation** The treaty was signed between NATO (non-Atlantic Treaty Organization) members and former Warsaw Pact countries. In 2002, more than 35 countries signed the treaty. This also includes the United States and Russia. India not signed the Open Skies Treaty. The Open Skies Treaty aims to build trust among its signatories. According to the treaty, a member country can conduct espionage anywhere in the host country only after obtaining its consent. Similarly, a member state can take an aerial image of the host country after giving a notice 72 hours in advance.

**25) When was G7 originally established?**

A.1970
B.1973
C.1975
D.1977

**Answer C**

**Explanation** G7 was originally established in 1975. The members are the United States, Canada, Germany, France, Japan, Italy, and the United Kingdom. Russia formally joined the organization in 1998. G7 becomes G8. However, when Russia moved its troops to eastern Ukraine and conquered Crimea in 2014, other G8 countries criticized Russia severely. Subsequently, they withdrew Russia from the Group of Eight. Therefore, the G8 became the G7 again in 2014.

**26) Which of the following G7 countries have proven gold reserves?**

A. Italy
B. Japan
C. France
D. All the above

**Answer D**

**Explanation** Five of the seven countries of the Group of Seven, the United States, Italy, Japan, France, and Germany have the largest proven gold reserves. G7 attracted thousands of protesters. The protesters claimed that the G7 had no representatives from Africa and other Middle Eastern countries. It is important for protest groups to use the global platform as a stage for loitering and
campaigning. In addition, some people claim that the G7 is widening the gap between developed and developing countries and making the fight against poverty more difficult.

27) When was National Immunization Day was celebrated in 2021?

A. 18 January  
B. 19 January  
C. 17 January  
D. 16 January  

**Answer A**

**Explanation** National Immunization Day was designated on 18 January 2021 all over India. In India, approximately 17.4 million children under 5 years of age who cannot hear are treated for polio to eradicate polio. India has completely eradicated polio in 2012. In order to maintain the eradication work, the Indian government organized a "Polio" immunization campaign in accordance with the standards set by the World Health Organization (WHO).

28) India has completely eradicated polio in__________.

A. 2012  
B. 2011  
C. 2010  
D. 2009  

**Answer A**

**Explanation** India has completely eradicated polio in 2012. In order to maintain the eradication work, the Indian government organized a "Polio" immunization campaign in accordance with the standards set by the World Health Organization (WHO). National Immunization Day is one of the four strategies recommended by the World Health Organization to completely eradicate polio. According to the World Health Organization, NID must be performed twice a year, with an interval of 2 to 4 weeks.

29) The first official report of Ndrangheta was submitted in _______________.

A. 1792  
B. 1793  
C. 1794  
D. 1795
Answer A

Explanation The Ndrangheta is a famous Italian Mafia in the region of Calabria. The Mafia began in the 18th century. During the reign of the Bourbon of Naples, the first official report of Ndrangheta was submitted in 1792.

30) When did Mafia begin?
A. 17th century  
B. 18th century  
C. 19th century  
D. 20th century

Answer B

Explanation The Ndrangheta is a famous Italian Mafia in the region of Calabria. The Mafia began in the 18th century. During the reign of the Bourbon of Naples, the first official report of Ndrangheta was submitted in 1792. According to US, money laundering activities, drug trafficking accounts for 3% of Italy's GDP. Ndrangheta's annual revenue is approximately US$50 billion to US$60 billion.

31) When was National Road Safety Month celebrated?
A. 16th January 2021 to 15th February 2021  
B. 20th January 2021 to 19th February 2021  
C. 18th January 2021 to 17th February 2021  
D. 18th January 2021 to 16th February 2021

Answer C

Explanation The National Road Safety Month is observed from 18th January 2021 to 17th February 2021. This is an initiative of the government to increase awareness of road safety and reduce road accidents in India.

32) When was Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana Gramin launched?
A. 2016  
B. 2017  
C. 2018
33) The PMAY-G scheme aims to complete its target by ____________.

A. 2021  
B. 2022  
C. 2023  
D. 2024

**Answer B**

**Explanation** The PMAY-G scheme was launched in 2016, and its goal is to provide pucca houses with basic facilities for all homeless households and families living in kutcha and dilapidated houses by 2022. Convenience facilities include water, gas, toilet and electricity supply for all households. Under PMAY-G, new technologies are being used to build houses. Due to the use of the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) platform, the time to build houses under the scheme was reduced from 314 days in 2015-16 to 114 days.

34) When DPIIT formed the National Start-up Advisory Council?

A. January 2021  
B. January 2019  
C. January 2020  
D. January 2000

**Answer C**

**Explanation** The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) formed the National Start-up Advisory Council in January 2020, provide advice to the government and to establish a strong ecosystem to foster the country's innovation and start-ups to promote sustainable economic growth and generate large-scale employment opportunities.

35) Where is Ratle Hydropower project located?
A.R.Chenab
B.R.Beas
C.R.Ravi
D.R.Sutlej

**Answer A**

**Explanation** The cabinet approved the 850 MW Rattle hydropower project. The cabinet has invested 52.194 billion rupees in the project. The project is located in the Chenab River. The project is a joint venture between Jammu and Kashmir State Power Development Corporation and the National Hydropower Corporation. The share of NHPC in the project is 49%, and that of J and K National Power Development Corporation is 51%. The project will be put into use within 60 months. The project is expected to provide direct and indirect employment opportunities for more than 4,000 people.

**36) When was foundation stone for Rattle Hydropower Project laid?**

A.2012  
B.2013  
C.2002  
D.2003

**Answer B**

**Explanation** The cabinet approved the 850 MW Rattle hydropower project. The cabinet has invested 52.194 billion rupees in the project. The project is located in the Chenab River. The project is a joint venture between Jammu and Kashmir State Power Development Corporation and the National Hydropower Corporation. The share of NHPC in the project is 49%, and that of J and K National Power Development Corporation is 51%. The project will be put into use within 60 months. The project is expected to provide direct and indirect employment opportunities for more than 4,000 people. The project includes a 133-meter-high gravity dam and two power stations. Four 205 MW Francis turbines is found in the main power station of the project. The auxiliary power station of the project will contain a 30 MW Francis turbine. Prime Minister Manmohan Singh laid the foundation stone for the construction of the dam in 2013.

**37) When did World Bank allowed India to build dams?**

A.2015  
B.2016  
C.2017
D.2018

**Answer C**

**Explanation** The project did not start until 2015. In 2017, the World Bank allowed India to build dams. After nine years of negotiations with the help of the World Bank, India and Pakistan signed the "Indus Water Treaty." The project was strongly opposed by Pakistan. According to Pakistan, the Ratle hydropower project violated the Indus Water Treaty. According to the Indus Water Treaty, the Indus rivers (such as the Indus, Chenab and Jhelum) have been allocated to Chenab.

38) What was Pakistan's stand on Ratle Hydropower project?

A. Pakistan Supported the project  
B. Pakistan helped India for the completion of the Project  
C. Pakistan asked help from China to stop the project  
D. Pakistan strongly opposed the project

**Answer D**

**Explanation** The project did not start until 2015. In 2017, the World Bank allowed India to build dams. After nine years of negotiations with the help of the World Bank, India and Pakistan signed the "Indus Water Treaty." The project was strongly opposed by Pakistan. According to Pakistan, the Ratle hydropower project violated the Indus Water Treaty. According to the Indus Water Treaty, the Indus rivers (such as the Indus, Chenab and Jhelum) have been allocated to Chenab. Pakistan believes that because the project was built on Chenab, it violated the treaty. However, the treaty also says that India can use water for specific household and agricultural purposes under the treaty. India will use eastern rivers such as the Beas, Ravi, and Sutlej. Therefore, India built the Bhakra Dam in Sutlej, Thein in Ravi and Pandoh, and the Pong Dam in Beas.

39) Where was Avalokana Software launched?

A. Karnataka  
B. Kerala  
C. Andhra Pradesh  
D. Telangana

**Answer A**

**Explanation** The Chief Minister of Karnataka B S Yediyurappa recently launched the Avalokana software. The software will enable the state government to access data on the expenditures and sanctions of 1,800 programs. This is a transparent e-government tool that will wisely release
government funding and funding for different government programs to parliamentary districts. This will help the government release funds based on departmental spending decisions. It will ultimately increase the government's control over resources.

40) Avalokana Software is related to ____________

A. Food  
B. Government Fund  
C. Health  
D. Entertainment

Answer B

Explanation The Chief Minister of Karnataka B S Yediyurappa recently launched the Avalokana software. The software will enable the state government to access data on the expenditures and sanctions of 1,800 programs. This is a transparent e-government tool that will wisely release government funding and funding for different government programs to parliamentary districts. This will help the government release funds based on departmental spending decisions. It will ultimately increase the government's control over resources. The software provides a focused view of the planned caste sub-plans, sustainable development goals, tribal sub-plans and centrally sponsored plans.

41) How many programs can be accessed by Avalokana Software?

A. 1500  
B. 1600  
C. 1800  
D. 1700

Answer C

Explanation The Chief Minister of Karnataka B S Yediyurappa recently launched the Avalokana software. The software will enable the state government to access data on the expenditures and sanctions of 1,800 programs. This is a transparent e-government tool that will wisely release government funding and funding for different government programs to parliamentary districts. This will help the government release funds based on departmental spending decisions. It will ultimately increase the government's control over resources.

42) Which of the following funds are related to Indian Government?
A. Consolidated Fund of India  
B. Contingency Fund of India  
C. Public Account of India  
D. All the above  

**Answer D**

**Explanation** The Indian government can provide three types of funds. They are: Consolidated Fund of India, Contingency Fund of India, Public Account of India.

43) Which of the places has dragon fruit cultivation?  
A. Southeast Asia  
B. India  
C. Australia  
D. All the above  

**Answer D**

**Explanation** Dragon fruit is the fruit of the cactus variety. It is widely grown in Southeast Asia, the United States, Australia, India, Caribbean islands and Central America. The total life span of dragon fruit plants is fifteen to twenty years. They grow in areas where the summer temperature exceeds 40 degrees Celsius. Dragon fruit grows only in summer. They have not grown for the rest of the year. But when they grow up, they grow quickly.

44) Which climate is suitable for Dragon Fruit?  
A. Autumn  
B. Spring  
C. Summer  
D. Winter  

**Answer C**

**Explanation** Dragon fruit is the fruit of the cactus variety. It is widely grown in Southeast Asia, the United States, Australia, India, Caribbean islands and Central America. The total life span of dragon fruit plants is fifteen to twenty years. They grow in areas where the summer temperature exceeds 40 degrees Celsius. Dragon fruit grows only in summer. They have not grown for the rest of the year. But when they grow up, they grow quickly.
45) What is the total life span of Dragon Fruit?
A. 10 to 20 yrs  
B. 15 to 20 yrs  
C. 15 to 25 yrs  
D. 15 to 21 yrs

Answer B

Explanation Dragon fruit is the fruit of the cactus variety. It is widely grown in Southeast Asia, the United States, Australia, India, Caribbean islands and Central America. The total life span of dragon fruit plants is fifteen to twenty years. They grow in areas where the summer temperature exceeds 40 degrees Celsius. Dragon fruit grows only in summer. They have not grown for the rest of the year. But when they grow up, they grow quickly.

46) What is India's import percentage of Dragon fruit?
A. 95  
B. 90  
C. 80  
D. 50

Answer A

Explanation Dragon flower blooms only at night. It happens only once a year. They rely on nocturnal pollinators such as moths and bats for fertilization. India imports 95% of dragon fruit from Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam and Sri Lanka. Pitaya has huge export potential to the United States, the Gulf and Europe. Farmers in Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and other states have only recently begun to grow dragon fruit. Vietnam is the largest producer and exporter of dragon fruit. The fruit was brought here by the French. Dragon fruit plants grow on electric poles. One pole can support four plants. More than 300 poles can be installed in one acre. Commercial cultivation is very advantageous because they can be grown in clusters. Therefore, the space consumption of dragon fruit cultivation is very small.

47) Exercise Kavach to be held under ________________.
A. Andaman Command  
B. Nicobar Command  
C. Both A and B  
D. None
Answer C

Explanation The Indian army will conduct large-scale joint military exercises in the Andaman Sea and the Bay of Bengal. The exercise will be conducted under the auspices of the Andaman and Nicobar headquarters. The joint military exercise Kavach will involve the Indian Navy, Indian Army, Indian Air Force and Indian Coast Guard.

48) Guru Gobind Singh Jayant was Observed on ____________.

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

Answer B

Explanation Sri Guru Gobind Singh Jis Parkash Purab or Guru Gobind Singh Jayant was designated on January 20, 2021.

49) When was Guru gobind Singh born?

A. December 1676  
B. December 1686  
C. December 1666  
D. December 1656  

Answer C

Explanation The 10th Sikh Guru, Guru Gobind Singh was born in December 1666. His birthday will be December or January based on the Gregorian calendar. In 2021, the date is January 20. Mark this day as Guru Gobind Singh Jayanti or Parkash Purab. Guru Gobind Singh was born as Gobind Rai, his father and ninth Guru Tegh Bahadur refused to embrace Islam. He was beheaded by Emperor Mughal Aurangzeb when he was only 9 years old.

50) At what age Guru gobind singh died?

A. 50  
B. 52  
C. 40
D.42

**Answer D**

**Explanation** In the Battle of Anandpur (1704), Guru lost his mother and two underage sons and they were executed. His eldest son also died in battle. When two Afghan assassins commissioned by Wazir Khan entered the camp, Guru and his troops were stationed in Deccan. An assassin stabbed Guru in Nanded. The assassin was killed by the Guru, and his accomplices were killed by the Sikh guards. A few days later, Guru Gobind Singh (Guru Gobind Singh) died on October 7, 1708, at the age of 42. After the death of the master, a long and painful war broke out between the Sikhs and the Mughals.

**51) MoU between India and Uzbekistan for cooperation in the field of __________.**

A. Solar Energy  
B. Trade and Commerce  
C. Import and Export  
D. Science and Tech

**Answer A**

**Explanation** The Cabinet approved the signing of a MoU between India and Uzbekistan for cooperation in the field of Solar Energy.

**52) DPIIT has launched the Regulatory Compliance Portal in __________.**

A. January 2020  
B. January 2021  
C. January 2019  
D. January 2018

**Answer B**

**Explanation** DPIIT has launched the Regulatory Compliance Portal in January 2021. The purpose of this portal is to act as a bridge between citizens, industries and Governments to minimize burdensome compliances.

**53) SIMBEX is between India and __________.**
A. France  
B. USA  
C. Singapore  
D. China  

**Answer C**

**Explanation** The Indian and Singapore navies signed the "Submarine Rescue Support and Cooperation Implementation Agreement." Military exchanges between India and Singapore:
- Singapore-India Maritime Bilateral Exercises (SIMBEX)—annual exercises between navies.
- SITMEX—Singapore, India, Thailand Maritime Exercises.

54) **Foundation Day of NDRF was Observed on ____________.**

A. Jan 15  
B. Jan 17  
C. Jan 22  
D. Jan 20  

**Answer D**

**Explanation** The 16th Foundation Day of National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) was designated on January 20, 2021. NDRF performs rescue operations during natural disasters. So far, NDRF has carried out 73 operations in the country, and saved approximately 1.3 million lives. In addition, NDRF has the ability to deal with nuclear, biological and chemical disasters. The head of NDRF was appointed as the Director General (DG). Usually, the IPS officer is the head of NDRF. The highest institution for disaster management is the National Disaster Management Administration (NDMA).

55) **LongOps project is a collaboration between the UK and ____________.**

A. Japan  
B. USA  
C. China  
D. Europe  

**Answer A**

**Explanation** The LongOps project is a collaboration between the UK and Japan. In this operation, Japanese and British scientists will develop new safety technologies to dismantle old
nuclear facilities such as Fukushima that were severely damaged by the tsunami and earthquake.

56) Which of the following countries are participating in International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER)?

A. China  
B. Russia  
C. Japan  
D. All the above

Answer D

Explanation: ITER is the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor. India is also part of ITER. The other countries participating in the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor are China, Russia, Japan, the European Union, the United States and South Korea. Digital twin technology is part of the LongOps project. It will analyze data at the decommissioning site and predict operation and maintenance challenges.

57) How much funding did Green Wall for Sahel and Sahara initiative received?

A. US$15 billion  
B. US$14 billion  
C. US$16 billion  
D. US$19 billion

Answer B

Explanation: At the One Planet Biodiversity Summit, the Great Sahel Green Wall and Sahara Desert Initiative received US$14 billion in funding. The funds will be used to restore degraded land, enhance resilience, create green jobs and protect biodiversity. Among financial institutions, the World Bank pledged 5 billion US dollars, the African Development Bank pledged 6.5 billion US dollars, and the French government pledged 14 billion US dollars. The "Green Wall" initiative aims to change the lives of 100 million Africans by planting trees, vegetation, grasslands and plants 8,000 kilometers long and 15 kilometers wide.

58) When did Great Green Wall initiative initiated?

A. 2005  
B. 2006
C.2007
D.2008

**Answer C**

**Explanation** The "Green Wall" initiative aims to change the lives of 100 million Africans by planting trees, vegetation, grasslands and plants 8,000 kilometers long and 15 kilometers wide. The Great Green Wall is an initiative of African leaders. It was initiated by the African Union in 2007 to combat desertification, land degradation and drought. The goal of the project is to restore 100 million hectares of degraded land by 2030. From 2007 to 2019, so far, the Great Wall Green Wall Initiative has restored only 4 million hectares of land.

59) **Risa culture is related to ____________**.

A. Tripura
B. Kerala
C. Karnataka
D. Tamilnadu

**Answer A**

**Explanation** Risa is Tripura's traditional costume. Both men and women in Tripura wear Risa. There are two parts in the upper body of the ladies' clothing, namely Risa and Rikutu. Risa covered the chest, and rikutu covered the entire upper part. Women's clothing that covers the lower half of the body is called Rigwani or Rignai. Each clan of Tripura has its own "Rignai" style and design. Tripura's clan is determined by Rignai.

60) **Kokborok Dayis celebrated on ____________**.

A. January 18
B. January 19
C. January 17
D. January 16

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Tripura celebrates "Kokborok Day" to celebrate the development of the Kokborok language. This is every January 19th. Kokborok is the official language of Tripura. January 19 was chosen as an event to celebrate Kokborok Day because the language was recognized as an official language on this day in 1979.
61) In which year Kokborok language recognized as official language?

A. 1976  
B. 1977  
C. 1978  
D. 1979  

Answer D  

Explanation Tripura celebrates "Kokborok Day" to celebrate the development of the Kokborok language. This is every January 19th. Kokborok is the official language of Tripura. January 19 was chosen as an event to celebrate Kokborok Day because the language was recognized as an official language on this day in 1979.

62) Which of the following statements are true?  
a. The Signal is a cross-platform centralized encrypted messaging services. It is developed by the Signal Technology Foundation and Signal Messenger LLC.  
b. The non-profit Signal Foundation was established in 2018 with an initial investment of US$50 million by Brian Acton.  

A. Only A  
B. Only B  
C. Both A and B  
D. Neither A nor B  

Answer A  

Explanation The Signal is a cross-platform centralized encrypted messaging services. It is developed by the Signal Technology Foundation and Signal Messenger LLC. The non-profit Signal Foundation was established in 2018 with an initial investment of US$50 million by Brian Acton. It uses the Internet to send one-to-one messages and group messages, which can include files, voice notes, images and videos. It can also be used for one-to-one calls and grouped voice and video calls.

63) When was non-profit Signal Foundation established?  

A. 2001  
B. 2011  
C. 2015
D.2018

**Answer D**

**Explanation** The Signal is a cross-platform centralized encrypted messaging services. It is developed by the Signal Technology Foundation and Signal Messenger LLC. The non-profit Signal Foundation was established in 2018 with an initial investment of US$50 million by Brian Acton. It uses the Internet to send one-to-one messages and group messages, which can include files, voice notes, images and videos. It can also be used for one-to-one calls and grouped voice and video calls.

64) **Which of the following social app updated its privacy policy recently?**

A. Signal  
B. WhatsApp  
C. Telegram  
D. Facebook

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Facebook-owned WhatsApp recently updated its privacy policy, which resulted in a massive digital migration of users from the messaging platform to its competitors (such as Signal app).

65) **In which period Construction of Village In Arunachal Pradesh By China is done?**

A. Nov 2019 - Nov 2020  
B. Nov 2017 - Nov 2020  
C. Nov 2018 - Nov 2020  
D. Nov 2016 - Nov 2020

**Answer A**

**Explanation** The village was built between November 2019 and November 2020. It is located a few kilometers across the LAC, outside the border that India considers to separate Arunachal Pradesh and Tibet, on the banks of the Tsari Chu River in the Upper Subansiri District of Arunachal Pradesh. The site of the village is close to the location where China attacked the Assam rifles post in the so-called Longju incident in 1959. It is at least 2 kilometers south of the McMahon Line and China does not recognize it.
66) When did China attack the Assam rifles?

A. 1960  
B. 1956  
C. 1959  
D. 1966  

Answer C  

Explanation China stated that the villages built across the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Arunachal Pradesh are beyond reproach because it has never recognized Arunachal. The Ministry of External Affairs of India also stated that it has understood the construction process. Highlights: The village was built between November 2019 and November 2020. It is located a few kilometers across the LAC, outside the border that India considers to separate Arunachal Pradesh and Tibet, on the banks of the Tsari Chu River in the Upper Subansiri District of Arunachal Pradesh. The site of the village is close to the location where China attacked the Assam rifles post in the so-called Longju incident in 1959. It is at least 2 kilometers south of the McMahon Line and China does not recognize it.

67) When the statehood day of Meghalaya was celebrated?

A. January 21  
B. January 22  
C. January 23  
D. January 24  

Answer A  

Explanation Meghalaya, Manipur and Tripura celebrated the anniversary of their Statehood Day on January 21. January 21, 2021 is the 49th anniversary of the establishment of North-eastern states of Meghalaya, Manipur and Tripura. In October 1949, the former princely states of Tripura and Prince Manipur merged into the Federation of India and became official states on January 21, 1972. Meghalaya is part of Assam and has obtained full statehood under the Northeast Region (Reorganization) Act of 1971.

68) When the statehood day of Manipur was celebrated?

A. January 21  
B. January 22  
C. January 23
Meghalaya, Manipur and Tripura celebrated the anniversary of their Statehood Day on January 21. January 21, 2021 is the 49th anniversary of the establishment of North-eastern states of Meghalaya, Manipur and Tripura. In October 1949, the former princely states of Tripura and Prince Manipur merged into the Federation of India and became official states on January 21, 1972. Meghalaya is part of Assam and has obtained full statehood under the Northeast Region (Reorganization) Act of 1971.

69) When the statehood day of Tripura was celebrated?
A. January 21
B. January 22
C. January 23
D. January 24

Answer A

Explanation Meghalaya, Manipur and Tripura celebrated the anniversary of their Statehood Day on January 21. January 21, 2021 is the 49th anniversary of the establishment of North-eastern states of Meghalaya, Manipur and Tripura. In October 1949, the former princely states of Tripura and Prince Manipur merged into the Federation of India and became official states on January 21, 1972. Meghalaya is part of Assam and has obtained full statehood under the Northeast Region (Reorganization) Act of 1971.

70) January 21, 2021 is the __________ anniversary of the establishment of North-eastern states of Meghalaya, Manipur and Tripura.
A. 46th
B. 47th
C. 48th
D. 49th

Answer D

Explanation January 21, 2021 is the 49th anniversary of the establishment of North-eastern states of Meghalaya, Manipur and Tripura. In October 1949, the former princely states of Tripura and Prince Manipur merged into the Federation of India and became official states on January 21, 1972. Meghalaya is part of Assam and has obtained full statehood under the Northeast Region
71) Meghalaya is part of Assam and has obtained full statehood under the Northeast Region (Reorganization) Act of ___________.

A.1970  
B.1971  
C.1973  
D.1974

**Answer B**

**Explanation** January 21, 2021 is the 49th anniversary of the establishment of North-eastern states of Meghalaya, Manipur and Tripura. In October 1949, the former princely states of Tripura and Prince Manipur merged into the Federation of India and became official states on January 21, 1972. Meghalaya is part of Assam and has obtained full statehood under the Northeast Region (Reorganization) Act of 1971. Before the north-eastern area transformed into seven sisters with statehood of Tripura, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland, the territorial creation of the North East involved Assam plains from the Old Assam Province, hill regions, and the North Eastern Frontier Tracts (NEFT) of North-Eastern border land.

72) Manipur and Tripura were merged into India in ___________.

A.1949  
B.1950  
C.1951  
D.1952

**Answer A**

**Explanation** Meghalaya is part of Assam and has obtained full statehood under the Northeast Region (Reorganization) Act of 1971. Before the north-eastern area transformed into seven sisters with statehood of Tripura, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland, the territorial creation of the North East involved Assam plains from the Old Assam Province, hill regions, and the North Eastern Frontier Tracts (NEFT) of North-Eastern border land. Manipur and Tripura were merged into India in 1949 (as part C states) and were granted joint status of Union Territories in 1956.

73) When was Raksha Mantri Padak established?
A.1987  
B.1988  
C.1989  
D.1990  

**Answer C**

**Explanation** Raksha Mantri Padak was established in 1989. It is awarded to the most deserving National Cadet Corps (NCC) trainees every year for their bravery or outstanding service at the highest level. Raksha Mantri Padak awards are awarded to two trainees each year with a cash incentive of Rs.30,000 each. In addition, the "Raksha Mantri Commendation" is another award for four NCC personnel, with a cash incentive of Rs. 20,000 each.

74) To whom the Raksha Mantri Padak was awarded?

A. NCC Cadets  
B. NSS Volunteer  
C. YRC Volunteer  
D. None of the above  

**Answer A**

**Explanation** Raksha Mantri Padak was established in 1989. It is awarded to the most deserving National Cadet Corps (NCC) trainees every year for their bravery or outstanding service at the highest level. Raksha Mantri Padak awards are awarded to two trainees each year with a cash incentive of Rs.30,000 each.
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