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RBI Suggests A Tougher Regulatory Framework for NBFCs

The Reserve Bank of India recommends that the non-banking financial company (NBFC) sector adopt a stricter regulatory framework to prevent any systemic risks from recurring to the country's financial system.

**Highlights:**

- The Reserve Bank of India released a discussion paper on the revised regulatory framework, which was developed on a scale-based approach and solicited comments within one month.
- The regulatory and supervisory framework of NBFC will be based on a four-layer structure-base layer (NBFC-BL), middle layer (NBFC-ML), upper layer (NBFC-UL) and top layer.
- If the framework is visualized as a pyramid, the bottom of the pyramid (which requires minimal regulatory intervention) can consist of NBFCs currently classified as non-systemically important NBFCs (NBFC-ND), NBFCP2P lending platforms, NBFCAA, NOFHC and Type I NBFCs.
- The next level can include NBFCs currently classified as systemically important NBFCs (NBFC-ND-SI), deposit-accepting NBFCs (NBFC-D), HFCs, IFCs, IDF, SPDs, and CICs.
- The existing NBFC-ND regulatory framework will now apply to the base layer NBFCs.
- The existing regulatory framework applicable to NBFC-NDSI will apply to the middle-tier NBFCs.
- NBFCs residing in the upper level will constitute a new category.
- The current threshold for systemic importance is now 5 billion rupees, and it is proposed to be revised to 1,000 crore.
- According to the proposal, the existing 180-day NPA classification standard will be reduced to 90 days.

China Overtakes US for Foreign Direct Investment

The latest data from the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development highlights that by 2020, China has surpassed the United States to become the
world's largest foreign direct investment destination.

**Highlights:**

The eastward shift of destinations is the result of the Covid-19 pandemic, and the United States is still recovering from it. By 2020, new investment by overseas companies in the United States has fallen by 49%.

China has attracted new investment in 2020, while the United States has maintained a high position in terms of total foreign investment.

The increase in inventories shows that the United States has been the most attractive region for foreign companies for decades.

Foreign investment in the United States began to pick up in 2016. By 2016, the investment amount was 472 billion US dollars, while the total foreign investment in China was 134 billion US dollars. However, since 2017, investment in China has continued to grow, while investment in the United States has continued to decline.

Investments made by entities headquartered in another country in the form of controlling the ownership of companies in one country are called foreign direct investment.

Therefore, in terms of direct control, it is different from foreign portfolio investment. The source of investment does not affect the definition of foreign direct investment.

It is a group of assets such as stocks, bonds and cash equivalents. Such investments are directly held by investors or managed by financial professionals.

Economically speaking, this kind of investment means importing funds into a country where foreigners deposit money in a country's bank or purchase it in the country's stock and bond markets.

**Govt of India Approves Hike in MSP For Copra**

The Cabinet Committee for Economic Affairs (CCEA), chaired by PM has approved the minimum support price (MSP) for milled copra and ball copra.

**Highlights:**

Since 2020, the government has increased the MSP of copra by 375 rupees. Therefore, the cost of copra is 10,335 rupees per quintal, which helps increase farmers' income.

The increase in MSP for copra will affect farmers in 12 coastal states. The MSP for milling and ball copra has been improved.
The production cost of both variants of copra is Rs. 6,800. The government will be 52% and 55% more than the production cost. The increase in MSP is in line with Swaminathan's recommendations.

MSP is the price of agricultural products set by the Indian government. The government buys goods directly from farmers at this price. MSP cannot be enforced by law.

MSP tries to protect the interests of farmers by providing farmers with the minimum harvest income when the open market price is lower than the actual cost. The prices of 23 commodities are determined by the government twice a year. The MSP is determined based on the recommendations of the Agricultural Cost and Price Committee (CACP).

CACP determines prices since 2009 based on production costs, demand and supply, price fluctuations, market price trends, international market prices and agricultural wage rates.

List of Commodities for which MSP is set - A total of 23 commodities are covered by the Minimum Support Price. They are:

i) Paddy, Maize, Wheat, Barley, Sorghum, Pearl millet and Ragi (Cereals) ii) Chickpea or Gram, Moong, Tur, Urad and Lentil (Pulses) iii) Peanut, Rapeseed, Sesame, Soyabean, Sunflower Safflower, Niger seed (Oil seeds) iv) Copra, Cotton, Sugarcane and Raw jute (Commercial Crops)

Economic Survey to be Tabled on 29 January

The 2020-2021 economic survey will be conducted in Parliament on January 29, 2021, before the coalition budget is presented on February 1, 2021. An economic survey will be released, focusing on the economic impact of lock-in and COVID-19.

Highlights:

The survey is expected to outline the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. It will also provide a road map to revitalize the Indian economy. It is also expected to develop a road map for a $5 trillion economy.

The Economic Survey is an annual flagship document that reviews the development of the Indian economy.

The survey reviewed the economic development in the past fiscal year and gave a comprehensive introduction to the budget. It is issued by the Ministry of Economic
Affairs of the Ministry of Finance.
The survey was prepared by the country's chief economic adviser and submitted in both houses of parliament one day before the budget submission.
The Chief Economic Advisor (CEA) and his team also discussed the document at the press conference. Currently, Krishnamurthy Subramanian is the CEA of India.
This document helps to review India's economic development in the past year. In addition to emphasizing the policy measures of the central government, it also summarizes the performance of major development plans.
The economic survey also predicted India's GDP growth in the next fiscal year and proposed measures to promote growth. By 2020, the "Economic Survey" predicts that the Indian economy will grow by 6% to 6.5%, and put forward new ideas to promote the development of manufacturing. However, due to the Covid-19 outbreak, growth has been disrupted.

UN Report - The World Economy Is Expected to Recover Its Losses
The United Nations World Economic Situation and Outlook report stated that by 2021, the world economy is expected to recover slightly by 4.7%. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the economy will decline by 4.3% in 2020.

Highlights:
The report emphasizes that the loss in 2020 is more than twice the impact of the 2009 global financial crisis.

The report is jointly issued by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the five United Nations Regional Economic Commissions and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA).

The report emphasizes that advanced economies have shrunk by 5.6% in 2020. But by 2021, they are expected to recover 4%.

It further highlights that developing countries have contracted by 2.5% and will grow by 5.7% by 2021. According to the report, by 2020, another 131 million people will fall into poverty.

World Economic Outlook by IMF
The International Monetary Fund (IMF) released the "World Economic Outlook
2021” report.

**Highlights:**

The report emphasizes that India will witness the strongest growth among major economies.

India's economy will grow by 11.5% in 2021 as opposed to the 8.8 percent growth that was predicted in October 2020.

However, by 2022, it is expected to grow by 6.8%.

The report further emphasizes that the global growth rate in 2021 will be 5.5%, compared with 5.2% in October 2020.

The world economic growth in 2022 is expected to be 4.2%.

It is further estimated that global growth will shrink by 3.5% in 2020.

According to the report, the United States will grow from 3.1% in 2020 to 5.1% in 2021.

The report predicts that by 2021, China's economic growth will experience slight changes. Growth will fall from 8.2% to 8.1%.

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**New Central Bank Digital Currency India**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is studying whether India needs a new central bank digital currency (CBDC) and is exploring ways to implement digital currency operations.

**Highlights:**

RBI's statement is based on the popularity of private digital currencies, virtual currencies and encrypted currencies.

These currencies cannot be used in India because regulators and governments have been skeptical of the risks associated with these currencies.

Therefore, the Reserve Bank of India is exploring the possibility of requiring a digital version of fiat currency.

Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) is legal tender and is a central bank liability in digital form. Digital currencies are priced in sovereign currencies.

It also appears on the central bank's balance sheet. This is an electronic version of currency that can be exchanged or exchanged with similar denominations of cash and traditional central bank deposits.

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**Cabinet Clears PSU Privatization Policy**
The Union Cabinet has cleared the policy of privatization of public sector enterprises. Detailed information about this policy will be announced in the forthcoming alliance budget to be submitted on February 1, 2021.

**Highlights:**

The policy will provide a roadmap for the existence of government-owned entities in strategic and non-strategic areas. This policy is part of the Aatmanirbhar Bharat package announced by the Minister of Finance in May 2020.

This is a coherent policy announcing that all sectors will be open for private sector participation.

The government also announced that it will limit the number of PSUs in strategic sectors to one to four. The government hopes to privatize the remaining companies, merge or incorporate them into holding companies. After this policy takes effect, the government will completely withdraw from companies in non-strategic sectors. The timing of privatization of companies in non-strategic sectors will depend on specific circumstances.

The Ministry of Investment and Public Asset Management classified 18 departments as strategic departments. It includes-fertilizer, telecommunications, power, banking, defense and insurance. These industries have been classified as mining and exploration, manufacturing and processing and services.

In India, state-owned enterprises are called public sector enterprises (PSU) or public sector enterprises. The PSU is owned by the Union government or one of the state or regional governments. It can also be partially owned by two. Most of the company's shares in the government-owned PSU.

There are two types of PSU: Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSU, CPSE) or State Public Enterprise (SLPE). PSU is managed by the Ministry of Heavy Industry and Public Enterprise. By 1951, there were only five companies in the public sector. As time passed, the number increased. As of March 2019, this number has increased to 348.

**Union Budget of this Fiscal Year Focuses on Off-Budget Borrowings**

The Indian government is ready to submit the 2021 Union budget on February 1, 2021. This year, the budget will focus on extra-budgetary borrowing to reduce the fiscal deficit.
**Highlights:**

Any loan directly obtained by a public institution other than the center is called "extra-budgetary borrowing." Public institutions borrow under the guidance of the central government. These loans are used to meet government spending needs. Under this lending norm, the center can be used to fund expenditures while avoiding debt accounting. Therefore, the debt is not calculated when calculating the fiscal deficit.

The debt of the loan is not officially listed on the center, nor is it included in the national fiscal deficit. Therefore, it helps to keep the country's fiscal deficit within an acceptable range.

The government can raise borrowings by requiring implementing agencies to raise the necessary funds from the market through loans or issuance of bonds. It is also possible to raise loans through the Public Sector Bank (PSB), which requires public sector banks to provide funding for off-budget expenditures. For example, using loans from the Public Security Bureau to make up for the lack of fertilizer subsidies.

The fiscal deficit in the league budget is the most desired detail. The fiscal deficit is the gap between central government expenditure and revenue. It helps to understand the financial situation of the government. This number has received great attention from global rating agencies.

As a result, the government has always wanted to limit the fiscal deficit to a certain amount. This can be limited by "extra-budgetary borrowing." There are multiple sources of off-budget borrowing. thereby. Calculating real debt becomes difficult.
INTERNATIONAL

Operation Sard Hawa by BSF

Operation Sard Hawa was launched by border guards on the western border of Rajasthan. The main purpose of this operation is to check the penetration of dense fog in the area. The operation has also been launched to strengthen security before Republic Day. The operation will continue until January 27, 2021.

**Highlights:**

This operation was carried out to keep an eye on the international borders. In this operation, these jaws will use advanced weapons to patrol the police station area near the border.

This operation increased the number of Khoba deployed at the border. During Operation Thad Hawa, the intelligence department of the border troops will also be active.

Due to the dense fog in the desert area in winter, there is a possibility of infiltration in this area. Attempts have been made to use this haze to infiltrate from the border. In this case, border guards have increased their patrols under special operations such as Operation Thaad Hawa.

They also monitor the border through vehicles and on foot. Jaws also go on foot hikes. During the trekking, camels, vehicles and pedestrians used by intruders will be detected.

India's border troops are also known as "the first line of defence in Indian territory." It was established after the Indo-Pakistani War in 1965.

The main function of the Border Security Force is to ensure the security of the Indian border. It is led by an officer of the Indian Police Service. The BSF also took defensive operations during the war to liberate the Indian Army to attack.

The BSF also assists the Central Reserve Police Force and the Indian Army in counter-insurgency operations. The BSF has a naval wing, air wing, commando and artillery regiments. Currently, BSF is the largest border guard in the world.

New START Treaty by US President

US President Joe Biden proposed to extend the New START (Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty) for five years. Russia welcomes this proposal.
**Highlights:**

The United States and Russia signed a New START Treaty in Prague (the capital of the Czech Republic) in 2010. It became effective in 2011.

The official name of the New START Treaty is "Measures to Further Reduce and Limit Strategic Offensive Weapons".

The United States and Russia signed a treaty to reduce the production and use of nuclear weapons.

Under the treaty, the two countries will reduce their strategic nuclear missile launchers by half.

The treaty establishes an inspection and verification system that replaces SORT.

Reduce the number of deployable strategic nuclear warheads to 1,550. This is 10% lower than the strategic warhead limit set by the "Moscow Treaty" signed by the two countries in 2002.

It reduces the number of submarine-launched ballistic missiles, intercontinental ballistic missile launchers, and heavy bombers equipped with nuclear weapons to 800.

It will reduce the number of heavy bombers equipped with nuclear weapons to 700.

This treaty replaces the Moscow Treaty, also known as SORT (Strategic Offensive Reduction Treaty). The term strategic offensive weapons refers to nuclear warheads deployed by Strategic Nuclear Delivery Vehicles.

It is the successor to the START I framework signed between counties in 1991, limiting the country's warheads to 6,000 and strategic delivery vehicles to 1,600. The START II Treaty has never come into effect, and the negotiations on the START III have never ended.

The New START Treaty will expire in February 2021.

**USAs New President Restores Americas Participation In Paris Climate Agreement**

Joe Biden assumed the office as president of the United States of America. One of the first orders he signed was to restore US participation in the United Nations Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

**Highlights**

The return of the United States will take effect on February 19.
The United States promises to implement the mechanism to achieve net zero emissions by 2050, including the goal of expiry of the term of office no later than 2025, and there is also a planned federal investment that will total $1.7 trillion over ten years, besides private investments. The plan revolves around about 10 million high-paying clean energy jobs, with a focus on solar and wind energy. The UN Climate Conference in Glasgow this year will enable the new government to cooperate with UNFCCC member nations to increase global ambitions.

Nepal PM Oli got expelled from Party

Nepal's Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli was fired from the ruling Communist Party of Nepal (NCP). He was expelled from the party after he decided to dissolve the parliament. He was expelled from the Central Committee at the party's split group meeting.

**Highlights:**

The party's separatist group is led by former prime ministers Pushpa Kamal Dahal and Madhav Kumar.

Both members earlier asked Prime Minister Ollie to explain his unconstitutional decision. They sent a letter asking for clarification. But Prime Minister Oli did not do so.

Prime Minister Ollie has recommended a parliamentary resolution on December 20, 2020. He made this decision after a dispute with the former prime minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal Prachanda (Pushpa Kamal Dahal Prachanda).

Since then, Nepalese President Bidhya Devi Bhandari accepted the Prime Minister's proposal. Therefore, the parliament was dissolved. Parliamentary elections are now scheduled to be held from April 30 to May 10, 2021.

The Communist Party of Nepal is the ruling party in Nepal. The party is considered to be the largest Communist Party in South Asia and ranks third in Asia. The party was established on May 17, 2018. It was formed after the unification of the two leftist parties, the Communist Party of Nepal (a unified Marxist-Leninism) and the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist center). This party is the largest party in the House of Representatives and the National Assembly.

In addition to second place, it is also the largest of all provincial councils. The former prime minister of Nepal, Pushpa Kamal Dahal (Pushpa Kamal Dahal)
currently only serves as the party chairman after Prime Minister Oli is expelled. After PM Oli is removed, NCP is divided into two departments.

**Bangladesh Takes part in Republic Day Event**

India celebrates the 72nd Republic Day. Although this year's Republic Day parade was silent due to the COVID-19 pandemic, no major guests were invited to participate. But this year, a unit of the Bangladesh Army entered Rajpat.

**Highlights:**

The Bangladeshi army contingent participated in the military parade to celebrate the 50-year liberation of Bangladesh from Pakistani rule. Victory is one of the best military victories, and the world rarely sees military battles like the 1971 India-Pakistan War. Therefore, to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the war, the Bangladeshi army marched with the Indian army.

The war was fought in Pakistan, united with Indian and Bangladeshi forces. During the war, a powerful 122-man task force from Bangladesh fought with the Indian army. The war lasted for 14 days and resulted in the greatest surrender of the opposing armies.

Mukti Bahini is the Bangladeshi army. The force is composed of Bangladeshi military, paramilitary and civilians in the Liberation War. It was formerly known as Mukti Fauj.

Mukti Bahini also includes civilian Gonobahini (Gonobahini), meaning People's Army. The Z Army led by Major Ziyar Rahman, the K Army led by Major Khalid Moshalaf, and the S Army led by Major Saudi Mula were important forces during the war.

The relationship between India and Bangladesh is determined on the basis of civilization, culture, society and economy. Common history and common heritage, language and cultural ties, literature, passion for music and art are the areas that unite the two countries. For example, Rabindranath Tagore wrote the national anthems of Bangladesh and India in 1905 and 1911, respectively.

The cooperation and coordination between the Indian army and the Mukti Bahini in Bangladesh can be traced back to the India-Pakistan War in March 1971. Now, cooperation and coordination have become part of the folklore and common history of the two countries.
Global Climate Survey done by UN

The United Nations released the largest public opinion survey on climate change in history, the "United Nations Global Climate Survey." The United Nations Development Program (UNDP) conducted a People's Climate Vote people from 50 countries/regions to prepare the report for 1.2 million.

**Highlights:**

In the investigation, the United Nations found that two-thirds of people believed this was a "global emergency." The survey emphasized that people around the world support climate action. They also give politicians a clear mandate to take major actions to find solutions.

According to the survey, young people expressed the greatest concern. 69% of people aged 14-18 said there was a climate emergency, while 58% of people over 60 agreed. Therefore, there is no generation gap on climate issues.

In countries where fossil fuels are the main source of emissions, people strongly support renewable energy. For example, 65% of people in the United States support renewable energy, 76% of people in Australia support Russia, and 51% of people in Russia support renewable energy.

People also support the protection of trees in countries where deforestation is the main source of emissions. Brazil received 60% of support and Indonesia received 57%.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is the United Nations global development network headquartered in New York City. The organization promotes technology and investment cooperation between countries. It is committed to providing expert advice, training and support to developing countries. It cooperates with countries to formulate its own solutions to meet global and national development challenges.

UNDP provides assistance to countries only when different countries request assistance. UNDP is fully funded by voluntary contributions from United Nations Member States. UNDP operates in 177 countries. It also helps countries achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).

U.S President Signs Buy American Executive Order

The US President Joe Biden signed an executive order in a bid to tighten the "Buy
American" requirements in federal government procurement. This move by the president is the first step in fulfilling his campaign promise.

**Highlights:**

In 2019, the federal government spent $586 billion on goods and service contracts. The President has vowed to invest hundreds of billions of dollars in purchasing American products and materials to modernize our infrastructure.

In turn, this will help improve the competitive strength in the competitive world. They also pledged to invest heavily in strategic areas such as artificial intelligence to improve the competitiveness of the United States.

This move is also aimed at countering the "Made in China 2025" campaign initiated by the Chinese government.

**Aim of the Executive Order:**

An executive order was signed with the purpose of strengthening the country's manufacturing industry.

In addition, the government hopes that it will be more difficult for government agencies to purchase foreign products.

It also aims to increase the percentage of local content (US Made).

The order will also include job creation in the definition of U.S.-made.

Finally, it tried to extend the regulations to information technologies that are currently exempted.

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**USA Restores Relations with Palestine**

The US Presidential Administration announced that it will resume relations with the Palestinians and provide assistance to Palestine refugees.

**Highlights:**

This is a reversal of the shutdown of the Donald Trump administration and a key element of its new support for the two-state solution to the decades-long conflict that Israel and Palestine have agreed to.

Palestine is officially recognized as a Palestinian state by the United Nations and other entities.

It is a legally sovereign state in West Asia. Although its administrative center is currently located in Ramallah, the West Bank (on the border with Israel and Jordan) and the Gaza Strip (on the border with Israel and Egypt) have Jerusalem as the designated capital.
Since 1948, the entire territory claimed by the State of Palestine has been occupied by Egypt and Jordan, and then by Israel after the Six-Day War in 1967.

**Intergovernmental Negotiations Framework - India**

The Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations said that 13 years have passed since the start of the Intergovernmental Negotiations. The UN Security Council has found itself unable to take effective actions to resolve international peace and security issues due to its lack of inclusiveness.

**Highlights:**

The Intergovernmental Negotiation Framework (IGN) is a group of nation-states working within the United Nations to further reform the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), which is the world's highest body and consists of 15 members.

Composition: IGN is composed of several different international organizations, namely:

(1) African Union;
(2) G4 nations (India, Brazil, Japan and Germany);
(3) Unified Consensus Group (UfC);
(4) L.69 Group of Developing Countries;
(5) Arab League;
(6) Caribbean Community (CARICOM).

Compared with reforming the UN Security Council, each group represents a different position.

In 2016, the United Nations General Assembly passed an oral decision which approved a declaration called elements of convergence outlining the status of consensus reached by members of the IGN network at that time.

**Ageing Dams Report by United Nations**

The United Nations released a report entitled "Ageing Water Infrastructure: An Emerging Global Risks", which involved the aging of India's dams. The report was edited by the United Nations University's Institute of Water, Environment and Health in Canada. The decommissioning or aging of dams in the United States, Canada, France, Japan, India, Zambia and Zimbabwe were analyzed.
**Highlights:**

The report emphasized that by 2025, there will be thousands of large dams in India that will be used for about 50 years. It warned that this aging structure around the world poses a growing threat.

The report also pointed out that by 2050, most people on the planet will live downstream of thousands of dams built in the 20th century.

According to the report, between 1930 and 1970, 58,700 dams were built worldwide. The design life of these dams is 50 to 100 years.

The report also emphasized that the world will witness another dam-building revolution similar to the mid-20th century. But these dams will show their age.

The report emphasizes that 32,716 dams have been discovered in four Asian countries (China, India, Japan and South Korea), accounting for 55% of the world's total.

If India's Mullaperiyar dam in Kerala collapses, about 3.5 million people will be at risk. The dam was built more than 100 years ago. The dam is constructed from concrete surkhi, which is a mixture of limestone and burnt brick powder.

Mullaperiyaru Dam is a masonry gravity dam that is located on the Periyar River in Kerala. Mullaperiyaru is located 881 m above mean sea level. It is located on the Cardamom Hill in the Western Ghats in the Idukki District of Kerala. The dam was built by John Pennycuick between 1887 and 1895. Periyar National Park is located near the dam reservoir. It was built at the confluence of Mullayar and Periyar rivers. The dam is located on the Periyar River in Kerala but is operated and maintained by Tamil Nadu.

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**Global Climate Litigation Report by UNEP**

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) released the "2021 Global Climate Litigation Report." The report was published by UNEP in cooperation with the Sabin Center for Climate Change Law of Columbia University. The report emphasizes that climate lawsuits have increased in recent years. The litigation makes the courts increasingly relevant to efforts to address global climate change.

**Highlights:**

According to reports, climate cases have almost doubled in the past three years. More and more climate cases are forcing government and corporate participants to fulfil their climate commitments.
These cases also force the government to pursue more ambitious climate change mitigation and adaptation goals.

According to the data provided in the report, 884 cases were filed in 24 countries/regions in 2017. As of 2020, the number of cases received in 38 countries and the European Union courts has increased to 1,550.

The report found that climate litigation continues to be concentrated in high-income countries, and this trend may intensify in the global south.

The report also identified trends in climate litigation, such as violations of "climate rights." This means that cases increasingly rely on basic human rights such as the right to life, food, health and water.

The United Nations Environment Programme (also known as the United Nations Environment Programme) was established by Maurice Strong after the United Nations Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment in 1972. The organization participates in coordinating the response to environmental issues within the United Nations system.

It provides leadership, provides scientific knowledge and develops solutions on issues such as climate change, marine and terrestrial ecosystem management, and green economic development. It also developed international environmental agreements and helped achieve environmental goals. The main purpose of UNEP is to help the world achieve 17 sustainable development goals.

UNEP has organized environmental agreements such as the "Water and Mercury Convention", "Convention on Biological Diversity", "Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora" and "Convention on Migratory Species."
**INDIAN AFFAIRS**

**Commission for Air Quality Management by GoI**

The Air Quality Commission cooperates with top technical institutions to establish a Decision Support System.

**Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM):**

The Air Quality Management Commission was established by an ordinance in October 2020, namely the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) in National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas Ordinance 2020.

The commission was envisaged to be a super commission that includes almost all other law and agency related to air pollution in the area (Delhi-NCR).

The central government established this "permanent" body for the region to effectively replace the Environmental Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority (EPCA).

The CAQM has the power to:
- Formulate rules and set emission standards
- Impose a fine of up to Rs. 1 Crore or send offenders to jail for up to five years
- It is headed by a former secretary of the Indian Government or a chief secretary to a state government.
- The ex-officio members include chief secretaries or secretaries dealing with the subject of the environment in the states of Delhi, Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh and non-governmental organizations.

**PLI Scheme for Promotion of Domestic Manufacturing**

Approval obtained under the PLI Scheme for Promotion of Domestic Manufacturing of key critical Key Starting Materials (KSMs)/Drug Intermediates and APIs.

**Highlights:**

The PLI scheme provides production-related incentives to boost domestic manufacturing and attract large amounts of investment, such as mobile phone manufacturing, specified electronic components, pharmaceuticals, food processing, solar photovoltaic manufacturing, medical equipment and other fields.

In the pharmaceutical field, the Department of Pharmaceutical has launched the
PLI scheme, which aims to achieve self-sufficiency and reduce dependence on these critical Bulk Drugs Key Starting Materials (KSMs)/Drug Intermediates and Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs) countries.

**Background:**
In terms of volume, the Indian pharmaceutical industry is the third largest industry in the world. It has a high market presence in many advanced economies such as the United States and the European Union. The industry is known for producing affordable medicines, especially in the field of generics space. However, the country relies heavily on the import of basic raw materials, that is, Bulk Drugs that are used to produce medicines.

**Jail Tourism to Begin in Maharashtra**

The government of Maharashtra has decided to start a "prison tour" from Yelawada Prison in Pune. The event will start on January 26, 2021. The plan is being launched in the state to promote people to visit and visit the state's historic prisons. This is done because it preserves the memories of many freedom fighters who were once imprisoned in prison.

**Highlights:**

Yerwada jail in Pune is the largest prison in Maharashtra. The prison is also the largest prison in South Asia. It can hold 5,000 prisoners. The Yerwada prison was built in 1871 by the British.

It is protected by four high walls and is divided into multiple security zones and barracks. It also includes egg-shaped cells for high-security prisoners. However, prisons are highly criticised for being overcrowded and poor living conditions.

Mahatma Gandhi spent several years in the Yerwada Jail during India's freedom struggle in 1932. When he was imprisoned in 1932, he went to jail indefinitely, protesting against the public award made up of depressed classes.

Gandhi opened his eyes after signing an agreement called Poona Pact. Gandhi was released in May 1933. He was sentenced to prison again during the Indian quit smoking campaign in 1942.

The Quit India Movement is also called the August Movement or the Leaving India Movement. The movement was initiated by Mahatma Gandhi at the Mumbai meeting of the All India Congress Committee in 1942. It was launched during the Second World War to end British rule in India.
Paperless Budget Launched Ahead Of 2021 Budget

The Indian Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman launched the "Union Budget Mobile App" before presenting the union budget on February 1, 2021. The launch of the mobile application is for members of the Indian Parliament and the public. Thereafter, the budget will be completely paperless. This decision was made in light of the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.

**Highlights:**

The mobile application will provide access to 14 union budget documents, including annual financial statements or budgets, grant requirements (DG) and draft financial regulations.

The interface of the application is designed in a user-friendly way. It includes functions such as downloading, printing, searching, zooming in and out, directories and external links. This is a bilingual application (English and Hindi).

The National Information Center (NIC) developed the application under the guidance of the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA).

The word "joint budget" is not seen in the Indian constitution. But "annual financial statements" are often called budgets. This annual financial statement is prepared in accordance with Article 112 of the Indian Constitution.

The league budget was announced at 5:00 pm on the last working day of February until 1999. Since the 1999 Budget, the time has been changed to 11 am. In 2016, Narendra Modi changed the budget submission date to February 1. In 2016, the railway budget was also merged with the union budget.

The printing of budget documents starts with the customary Halva ceremony, and the etiquette is performed by the Minister of Finance. In July 2019, when the Finance Minister was budgeting in Bahi-Khata, the tradition of using leather briefcases for budgeting also changed.
light of the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.

**Highlights:**

The mobile application will provide access to 14 union budget documents, including annual financial statements or budgets, grant requirements (DG) and draft financial regulations.

The interface of the application is designed in a user-friendly way. It includes functions such as downloading, printing, searching, zooming in and out, directories and external links. This is a bilingual application (English and Hindi).

The National Information Center (NIC) developed the application under the guidance of the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA).

The word "joint budget" is not seen in the Indian constitution. But "annual financial statements" are often called budgets. This annual financial statement is prepared in accordance with Article 112 of the Indian Constitution.

The league budget was announced at 5:00 pm on the last working day of February until 1999. Since the 1999 Budget, the time has been changed to 11 am. In 2016, Narendra Modi changed the budget submission date to February 1. In 2016, the railway budget was also merged with the union budget.

The printing of budget documents starts with the customary Halva ceremony, and the etiquette is performed by the Minister of Finance. In July 2019, when the Finance Minister was budgeting in Bahi-Khata, the tradition of using leather briefcases for budgeting also changed.

**Draft Arctic Policy By India**

India has issued a draft of a new "Arctic" policy, which, among other things, is committed to expanding scientific research, sustainable tourism, and mineral oil and gas exploration in the Arctic region.

**Highlights:**

India hopes that the National Center for Polar and Ocean Research in Goa will lead scientific research and serve as a nodal agency to coordinate its activities.

Aim: (1) Develop Arctic-related programmes for mineral/oil and gas exploration in petroleum research institutions; (2) Encourage tourism and hospitality sectors to establish professional capabilities and awareness of interaction with Arctic companies.

Arctic research will help the Indian scientific community to study the melting rates
of the third pole—the Himalayan glacier, which has the largest freshwater reserves outside the world's geographic poles.

**Ministry of Road Transport Impose Green Tax**

The Ministry of Road Transport has decided to impose a surcharge on old vehicles that are no longer suitable for road use. This additional tax is called "green tax". It has been decided to curb pollution. It will also inspire people to switch to environmentally friendly alternatives to vehicles.

**Highlights:**

- The green tax will reduce pollution levels. This will also make polluters pay the price for pollution.
- The income collected from the green tax will be kept in a separate account. This amount will be used to solve the pollution problem. States have been required to establish state-of-the-art facilities to monitor emissions.
- According to the green tax guidelines, transportation vehicles older than eight years will be charged a green tax when renewing the fitness certificate. They will be charged a tax rate of 10% to 25% of the road tax.
- At the same time, public transportation such as city buses will pay lower green taxes. However, vehicles used for farming (such as tractors and harvesters) will be exempt.
- Green tax is also called pollution tax or environmental tax. This tax is a consumption tax on goods that cause environmental pollution. An economic theory says that if a tax is imposed on polluting emissions, environmental damage will be reduced in a cost-effective manner.
- The tax will encourage the behavior changes of households and businesses needed to reduce pollution. The main purpose of the tax is to ensure that polluters are punished due to their pollution creation activities.
- Green taxation in India is a relatively new trend. However, RFID tags are being provided and CCTV cameras have been deployed at border entry points. As a result, the emissions of commercial vehicles entering the city are monitored. In cities such as Delhi, environmental compensation fees (EEC) are levied on pollutants based on the size of the vehicle.

**New M-sand Policy 2020  Rajasthan**
The Chief Minister of Rajasthan Ashok Gehlot announced Rajasthan's new M-Sand policy, which is the government's commitment to meet the amount of sand required for construction work.

**Highlights:**

In order to reduce the reliance on traditional sand in rivers, a sand-rich policy has been initiated. Through this policy, the use and production of artificial sand or M sand will be encouraged in the state.

Through this policy, the problem of waste generated by mines in Rajasthan's mining areas will also be resolved. This will also create huge employment opportunities at the local level. This strategy designates M sand units as the industry state.

In Rajasthan, the supply of sand is not determined by the requirements of construction projects. The demand for river sand for various construction work is about 70 million tons.

However, the state only operates 20 M sand units. These 20 units produce 20,000 tons of M sand every day. Now, this new M-sand policy will promote it as a long-term alternative to gravel and will help establish new mining units.

The policy defines M-Sand as artificial sand produced by crushing minerals. M sand conforms to the ISO code 383:2016 standard. Sand is extracted from locally available minerals, such as granite, silica, basalt, sandstone and quartiles.

Sand is produced by crushing minerals into 150-micron-sized stones. The crushed materials are then separated and used in different ways according to their size. In order to reduce impurities, the sand is crushed and washed to make it more durable and suitable for the construction process.

**Framework for Telemedicine Management in India to manage Cancer, Diabetes, Cardiovascular Disease and Stroke**

The Union Health Minister released a Telemedicine framework for the management of Cancer, Diabetes, Cardiovascular disease and Stroke in India.

**Highlights:**

It can integrate Telemedicine with its components of teleconsultation, telemonitoring, tele-triage to establish a continuous medical model for major Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD).

The burden of Non-Communicable Diseases in India is getting heavier, and multi-
pronged interventions are needed to address the promotive, preventive, curative, and rehabilitation of Non-Communicable Disease care and management. Telemedicine can bridge and link all these aspects. Through the national teleconsultation network and other similar platforms, it can be adapted and used by medical practitioners from primary to tertiary medical care levels in India.

**National Non-Communicable Disease Monitoring Survey**

The Union Health Minister issued the "National Non-Communicable Disease Monitoring Survey (NNMS)", which is the largest comprehensive national survey on Non-Communicable Disease (NCD) risk factors and health system preparedness.

**Highlights:**
- Two in five adults in India have three or more risk factors for non-communicable diseases (NCD), the status of health system in responding to the disease burden is also underscored
- Overweight or obese: more than 1 in 4 adults and 6.2% of adolescents
- Increased blood pressure: three out of ten adults
- Raised blood sugar: 9.3%.
- Insufficient physical activity: More than 2 in 5 adults and 1 in 4 adolescents
- In the past 12 months, One in every three adults and more than one-fourth proportion of men used any form of tobacco and alcohol, respectively.

**First Young Readers Boat Library in Kolkata**

West Bengal Transport Corporation established the first boathouse for young readers. The library was launched in cooperation with traditional book stores. It was launched on board and was the first.

**Highlights:**
- The motivation for opening the boathouse is to read books while appreciating the beauty of Kolkata; the purpose of establishing the boathouse is to read books while appreciating the beauty of Kolkata.
- The boathouse will sail on the Hooghly River. The library will provide children with a choice to choose from 500 titles in English and Bengali.
The boathouse will provide people with a three-hour journey. The library tour will start from Millennium Park. It will go to Belur Math Pier and return. The ship will provide three journeys on all working days.

It also provides free wifi. The fare is 100 rupees for adults and 50 rupees for children. It will also host activities such as storytelling, poetry lessons, dramatic recitations, poetry lessons, music and new book launches.

Millennium Park (Millennium Park) is a private park in Kolkata, located on Strand Road on the east bank of the Hooghly River. It stretches for 2.5 kilometers near Fairlie Ghat. The park consists of landscaped gardens and children's play facilities. The park opened by the river in December 1999, providing a green area for Kolkata's polluted waterways.

The Hooghly River is also known as Bhagirathi-Hooghly, Ganga and Kati Ganga. This river is a diversion route of the Ganges in West Bengal, with a total length of about 260 kilometers. In Murshidabad near Giria is divided into Padma and Hooghly. The other man-made bifurcation of the upstream river is at Farakka. The Padma River flows eastward into Bangladesh, while the Hughli River flows southward through West Bengal.

**National Mission for Edible Oil  Agriculture Ministry**

The Ministry of Agriculture has proposed the establishment of a National Mission for Edible Oil to increase domestic supply and reduce dependence on imports. It has been proposed to carry out the mission within the next five years from 2020-21 to 2024-25.

**National Mission for Edible Oil (NMEO):**

NMEO is composed of the following three Sub-Missions, which aims to increase the production of oilseeds and edible oil from the following three aspects:

- **Primary sources**-it includes Annual Crops, Plantation Crops and Edible TBO
- **Secondary sources**-it includes Rice bran oil and Cotton seed oil.

Consumers are aware of keeping the consumption of edible oil constant at 19.00 kg per person per year.

**Aim of the Mission:** The purpose of this mission is to increase the output of oilseeds from 30.88 tons to 47.8 million tons. It plans to produce 7.00 to 11 million tons of edible oil from Primary sources by 2024-25. In addition, the edible oil from Secondary sources will increase from 3.50 times to 7 million tons.
Challenges of oilseed production: In India, the main challenges associated with oilseed production are:
Rain-fed conditions in 70% of the area.
The seed cost of Groundnut and soybean is high.
Small holdings and limited resources.
Low seed replacement rate,
Low productivity.

Silver Jubilee of National Informatics Centre Services Incorporated

National Informatics Centre Services Incorporated (NICSI) celebrates its Silver Jubilee Celebration.

NICSI:
NICSI is a public sector enterprise under the National Informatics Center (NIC) of the Ministry of Electronics and Technology, GOI.
NICSI was established in 1996 to provide end-to-end IT solutions for e-governance projects for Central Government, State Governments and other PSUs across India.
It also provides ICT services at the international level.
NICSI's core services include IT Consultancy, Centre of Excellence for Data Analytics, Productization & International Promotion, Cloud Services, ICT product installations, Human Resource/Roll out/Training.
Some of its main products are extended to eOffice, eTransport, eHospital, ePrisons, eCourts, etc.
NICSI is headquartered in New Delhi.

Urban Local Bodies Reforms - Rajasthan

Rajasthan became the fifth state to complete the reform of the Urban Local Body (ULB).
Highlights:
Rajasthan has become the fifth state in the country to successfully implement the "Urban Local Body (ULB)" reform prescribed by the Ministry of Finance and Expenditure Department.
Therefore, the state is eligible to mobilize additional financial resources of Rs 2731
Rajasthan has now joined four other states, namely Manipur, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh, and they have completed this reform. After completing the reform of Urban Local Bodies, these five states received an additional loan permit of 102.12 billion rupees.

Dhannipur Mosque Project launched in UP

Dhannipur Mosque project was officially launched on the 5 acres of land in Dhannipur Village, Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh on Republic Day.

Highlights:

The Uttar Pradesh government allocated the land in accordance with the instructions of the Supreme Court in the Babri Masjid-Ram Janmabhoomi title suit. The Indo-Islamic Cultural Foundation (IICF) is overseeing the construction of the mosque. This project will take approximately 30 months to complete.

The project consists of three parts: a mosque based on modern design; a multi-speciality hospital with 200 beds and a community kitchen; and the Indo-Islamic Cultural Research Center.
SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Europes Largest Solar Power Plant - Francisco Pizzaro

Spain and France signed an agreement to build a 590 MW solar power plant. This solar power plant will be the largest solar power plant in Europe. The agreement was signed by Iberdrola of Spain and Donone of France.

**Highlights:**

The construction cost of the solar power plant is 364 million US dollars. The solar power plant will be located in the province of Cceres in western Spain.

The solar power plant will avoid emissions of 245,000 tons of carbon dioxide. It will power 375,000 people every year. The project will start power supply in 2022.

Spain is currently the busiest unsubsidized photovoltaic market in Europe. In 2020, Spain put into the production of 2.9 GW of solar energy. In 2019, Spain added 729 megawatts of solar power. Therefore, the increase in 2020 is four times the increase in 2019.

France has set a goal of installing 18 to 20 GW of solar energy by 2023. In 2016, France and India laid the foundation for the International Solar Alliance. Although France is not a country in the tropics, it has formed the International Solar Alliance with India.

This is mainly because the International Solar Energy Alliance was developed and announced at the 2015 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (Paris Agreement Meeting) hosted by France.

The main goal of the International Solar Energy Alliance is to significantly reduce the cost of solar energy. To achieve this goal, countries with rich solar resources (that is, countries located between the Tropic of Cancer and the Mount of Cancer) need to participate.

India has been increasing its solar power generation capacity. As of November 2020, India's installed solar power capacity is 36.9 GW.

India has established 42 solar parks to provide land for promoters of solar power plants. India has set a goal of achieving 100 GW of solar power generation by 2022.

Two Giant Radio Galaxies Discovered
The MeerKAT radio telescope recently discovered two huge radio galaxies. These galaxies were discovered during the MIGHTEE survey. The discovered galaxy is 93% larger than any other giant star discovered before. They are 62 times larger than the Milky Way. It takes 6.5 million light years for light to travel from one end to the other.

**Highlights:**
- The MeerKAT radio telescope is located in the Northern Cape Province of South Africa. It is a radio telescope with sixty-four antennas.
- In the MeerKAT radio telescope array configuration, 61% of the antennas are located in a circle with a diameter of 1 kilometer, and the remaining 39% of the antennas are located within a radius of 4 kilometers.
- MeerKAT is the follow-up product of Karoo Array Telescope (KAT 7). In short, KAT 7 is the predecessor of MeerKAT. KAT 7 has 7 Prime Focus reflecting telescopes.
- It was built in the semi-desert Karoo region of the Northern Cape. It will solve key issues in astrophysics, such as how galaxies evolve and how galaxies form.
- MeerKAT is one of the four pioneers of the final square kilometer array. SKA (Square kilometer array) is an intergovernmental radio telescope project built in South Africa and Australia.

**Rapid Assessment System for Feedback Process**

The Government uses MEITY's Rapid Assessment System (RAS) to process feedback on Covid vaccination.

**Highlights:**
- Rapid Assessment System (RAS) is a platform developed by the National e-Governance Division, Ministry of Electronics & IT (MeitY) to obtain feedback from vaccinated people.
- The plan aims to improve citizens' vaccination experience while ensuring compliance with all norms during vaccination process in all vaccination centers.
- This feedback system will help the Government make the vaccination process more citizen-friendly.
- RAS was developed for online instant feedback (online or offline through the counter) of online e-services provided by the Indian Government and State Governments.
The main goal of RAS is to continuously evaluate the quality of e-services through feedback under each e-governance project, and to re-adjust the process to achieve the target benefits.

The RAS interface prompts citizens to provide feedback on service quality immediately after obtaining government electronic services.

The analysis function of RAS can help the integration department to improve the system and provide better services.

The registered mobile numbers and the names of those cell phones that have been vaccinated during the day are sent to the RAS system by the Co-WIN platform at midnight.

The RAS system prepares a unique URL for feedback and sends a personalized SMS to all beneficiaries on the day.

The questions asked will obtain information about the vaccination process, such as whether to maintain social distancing during the vaccination process, whether the staff inform patients about the vaccine and whether the vaccine is used correctly, whether adverse reactions are observed after immunization, etc.

**Aqua Rejuvenation Plant by CSIR**

CSIR-CMERI launched the Aqua Rejuvenation Plant, which promotes the development of Organic Farming Model through treated Waste Water.

**Highlights:**

CSIR-Central Mechanical Engineering Research Institute, Durgapur has launched the first Wastewater Treatment Technology Model, which can purify Irrigation/Farming Wastewater.

Aqua Rejuvenation Plant (ARP) is an Integrated Waste Water Rejuvenation Model with six-level purification characteristics, which can comprehensively treat wastewater according to various purification parameters.

Approximately 24,000 liters of water can be rejuvenated using ARP, which will be enough to meet nearly 4 acres of Agricultural Land (regardless of seasonal water demand).

The used filter media is specially developed for the treatment of Indian sewage water parameters and can be modified according to geographical changes.

The filter media can also be obtained locally to ensure that there is no pressure in the supply chain for mass production of ARP.
Now, the treated water used for irrigation can even be used for drinking, and there is very little time for settling.

This system has a dual benefit, because when the treated water is used for irrigation purposes, the resulting filtered sludge can also be used as manure/fertilizer.

The biochar prepared from dry leaves falling in autumn season is also be used for soil mixing because it reduces the water required for irrigation, thereby saving valuable water.

**Smart Anti-Airfield Weapon by DRDO**

DRDO successfully carried out a capture and release trial of the indigenously developed Smart Anti-Airport Weapon (SAAW) from Hawk-I of Hindustan Aviation Limited (HAL) on the coast of Orissa.

**Highlights:**
- The smart weapon has been successfully tested from Indian Hawk-Mk132 of HAL.
- So far, this is the ninth successful mission of SAAW conducted by DRDO.
- Indigenously Designed and Developed by: DRDO
- This is a 125 kg smart weapon that can engage enemy airfield assets on the ground, such as radars, bunkers, taxi tracks, and runways etc. up to a range of 100 kilometers.
- Compared with similar weapon systems of the same class, the high-precision guided bomb is lighter in weight.

**Rajasthan will conduct a Feasibility Study of Potash Solution Mining**

Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited (MECL), Rajasthan State Mines & Minerals Limited (RSMML) and Department of Mines & Geology (DMG) has signed a tripartite agreement. The Rajasthan government is responsible for the feasibility study of Potash Solution Mining in Rajasthan.

**Highlights:**
- Nagaur Ganganagar Basin in the northwest of Rajasthan has a huge resource of 50,000 square kilometers of Potash and Halite.
- Stratified Salt formations can be strategically used for underground oil storage, repositories for hydrogen, ammonia and helium gas, storage of compressed gas and
nuclear waste.
Potash & Sodium Chloride from the Bedded Salt are widely used in Fertilizer Industry and Chemical Industry respectively.
Pave the way for the country's First Solution Mining Project, which will create jobs.

**Co-WIN App was Upgraded**
The software of the Co-WIN App (also known as the Covid Vaccine Intelligence Network) was upgraded to improve the monitoring and managing of the ongoing Covid-19 vaccination program.

**Highlights:**
Co-WIN is a cloud-based IT platform that should be able to handle the details of India's Covid-19 immunization program, including registering beneficiaries, assigning vaccination centers, sending text messages with the names of vaccinators to beneficiaries, Real-time monitoring and storage of bottles.

The Co-WIN platform is owned by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and was previously a platform for polio and other important immunization programs across the country.

The same platform has been expanded to distribute the Covid-19 vaccine, and the Ministry of Electronics and IT and the National Informatics Center are dealing with the backend and technical infrastructure for it.

Monitoring and tracking: This app can monitor the vaccination drive and track the listed beneficiaries for vaccination in real time basis.
Therefore, it also helps to deal with proxy vaccination.
Aadhaar enabled: This app will enable the beneficiaries to be effectively identified by using the Aadhaar platform.

**Launched 143 Satellites by Space X**
Elon Musk's SpaceX set a new world record. It has launched 143 satellites on a single rocket called the "Falcon 9" rocket. With this new record, SpaceX broke the record of the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO), which deployed 104 satellites in a single launch in February 2017. The price per satellite is $15,000.

**Highlights:**
The 143 satellites launched include commercial and government satellites, namely cubic satellites, microsatellites, and 10 Starlink satellites. NASA's spacecraft was also launched.

SpaceX launched these satellites with the goal of providing near-global broadband Internet coverage worldwide by the end of 2021.

Space Exploration Technologies Corp (Space X) established in the year 2002 which is an American aerospace manufacturer and space transport service company. Its headquarters are in Hawthorn, California. The agency was established by Elon Musk. The purpose of the establishment of the agency is to reduce the cost of space transportation to achieve the colonization of Mars. It is the world's first privately funded liquid-propellant rocket. The rocket launched Falcon 1 in 2008 and reached orbit.

The Falcon 9 rocket is a partially reusable two-stage mid-rise launch vehicle into orbit. It is designed and manufactured by SpaceX. The name comes from the fictional "Star Wars" spacecraft "Millennium Falcon."

Sun-synchronous orbit is also called the sun-synchronous orbit. This is the polar orbit around the planet. In orbit, an artificial satellite crosses any given point on the planet's surface with the same local mean solar time.

**Integrated Weapons System Design Centre in DRDO**

The Vice President of India established an Integrated Weapon System Design Center at the Dr APJ Abdul Kalam missile complex in DRDO, Hyderabad.

**Highlights:**

It is said that the Integrated Weapon System Design facility will enhance the design and development capabilities of command and control systems for surface-to-air missile (SAM) systems and ballistic missile defense (BMD) systems.

The centre will focus on the overall system design and evaluation methods of advanced missile systems, and will help improve the performance of the missile.

The vice president held a new missile technology exhibition and seminar hall on the campus.

The exposition will showcase missile technology and weapon systems, and the center will become the backbone of outreach activities.

**Electric Bus Fleet Flagged-Off in Andaman And Nicobar Islands**
The Lieutenant Governor of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, flagged-off fleet of electric buses.

**Highlights:**

The introduction of electric buses will help reduce tailpipe emissions and provide comfortable public transport.

NTPC Vidyut Vyapar Nigam Limited (NVVN Limited), a 100% subsidiary of NTPC Limited, a PSU under the Ministry of Power, is implementing a project of 40 electric buses.

In addition to the above projects, NVVN has become a bid-winning company, providing turnkey solutions for 90 electric buses in Bangalore under the Smart City project.

These buses will provide the last mile connection to the NAMMA Metro network. NVVN is developing and providing complete zero-emission mobility solutions for various vehicle segments.

**Global Platform Launched by UK to Track New COVID-19 Variants**

The UK has launched a new global platform to track new COVID-19 variants. The platform will provide world-leading genomics expertise from the country to identify new variants of the virus.

**Highlights:**

The platform is part of the rotating presidency of the British Group of Seven. In this regard, the UK has also proposed a vision for a stronger, more collaborative and effective global health system to combat the COVID-19 pandemic and ensure that the international community is better prepared for future threats.

The platform will help to better understand the virus. It will also help to understand how it spreads. The platform is led by Public Health England (PHE), which also collaborates with NHS Test & Trace, academic partners, and the SARS-CoV-2 Global Laboratory Working Group of the World Health Organization (WHO).

It will also be led by the National Institute of Health Protection (NIHP) and will have PHE laboratories and personnel involved.

The concerned variant 202012/01 is a new variant of the corona virus (SARS-CoV-2). The new variant is also called lineage B.1.1.7, 20I / 501Y.V1, and because the virus appeared in the UK, it is usually called the British coronavirus variant.
The transmission rate of the new variant is 36%-75% higher than that of wild-type SARS-CoV-2. The virus was first detected in November 2020 in samples collected in September 2020. The virus began to spread rapidly in mid-December.

SARS-CoV-2 is the abbreviation of "Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2". The virus causes the 2019 Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19). Coronavirus disease 2019 is an infectious disease caused by SARS-CoV-2. The first case of the disease was discovered in Wuhan, China in December 2019. The disease spread worldwide, and the world is still recovering from then on. The symptoms of COVID-19 are variable, starting from 1 to 14 days after exposure to the virus.

**Reliance Jio Became the Fifth Strongest Brand Globally**

The Reliance Jio joint venture of billionaire Mukesh Ambani has become the world's fifth strongest brand. Now, it lags behind brands such as Ferrari and Coca-Cola. The Jio company achieved this milestone in just four years.

**Highlights:**

The ranking is provided by the Top 500 Global Brand Finance Rankings for 2021 of the strongest brands.

This ranking determines the relative strength of the brand.

According to WeChat, the annual report of the most valuable and strongest global brands ranks first.

Reliance Jio was established in 2016 and has now become India's largest mobile network operator. It has also become the world's third-largest mobile network operator. As of now, the network operator has nearly 400 million users.

The Ferrari brand ranked second, the Bank of Russia Sber ranked third, and Coca-Cola ranked fourth.

Reliance Jio has a BSI score of 91.7 (out of 100) and has been awarded an AAA+ brand strength rating.

The assessment of stakeholder rights is done through raw market research data. Analyzed data from more than 50,000 respondents from 30 countries and 20 industries.

It is an Indian telecommunications company and a subsidiary of Jio Platforms. Its headquarters are located in Mumbai, Maharashtra. The company operates a national LTE network, covering 22 telecommunications sectors.
Operators do not provide 2G or 3G services. It only uses LTE voice to provide voice services on its 4G network. It was launched in December 2015 and provides a beta version for partners and employees. It was publicly released in September 2016. Jio also launched a fibre-to-the-home service that provides broadband, TV and telephone services.

It is an independent brand business evaluation and consulting company, providing advice to brand organizations on how to maximize their value through effective management. Has passed ISO 10668:2010 certification.

**Gender Park Will Open Next Month in Kerala**

The Gender Park in Kozhikode, Kerala, will open next month. The park will be opened on the occasion of the Second International Conference on Gender Equality (ICGE-II).

**Highlights:**

The park will be unveiled by the Chief Minister of Kerala, Pinarayi Vijayan from February 11th to 13th, which also marks the unveiling of the second edition of ICGE-II.

On this occasion, the foundation of the International Women's Trade and Research Center (IWTRC) will also be laid.

IWTRC will be established, the purpose of which is to provide a safe and sustainable ecosystem for women entrepreneurs. It will also provide women with space to sell products.

ICGE is an initiative of Gender Park. The second edition of the conference will be unveiled, with the aim of exploring measures to increase the economic potential of women and transgender people. This will help them become sustainable entrepreneurs.

The Conference is organized under the theme is: "Sustainable Entrepreneurship and Gender Issues in Social Business: The Mediating Role of Empowerment". The Conference event will be organized in cooperation with UN Women.

The Kerala government established a gender park in 2013. This is an initiative aimed at promoting gender equality and empowerment in Kerala. The headquarters of the project is located in Trivandrum, the capital of Kerala. However, the main campus is located in Silver Mountain in Kozhikode. The campus covers an area of 24 acres.
The main focus of the park is gender justice. The platform will provide an environment for policy analysis, research, capacity development, advocacy, economic and social initiatives. The park will operate under the Ministry of Social Justice. This space is the world's first of its kind.

The purpose of establishing a gender park is to create relevant interventions to solve a series of gender-based issues. It includes off-campus and on-campus activities as well as other projects aimed at enhancing personal and community capabilities.
New ant species discovered from Kerala

Two new rare ant genus have been discovered in India. The Ooceraea ant genus found in Kerala, and Tamil Nadu has increased the diversity of this rare genus.

**Highlights:**

According to the number of antennal segments, they are different from others of the same genus.

One of them was discovered in the Periyar Tiger Reserve in Kerala and named Ooceraea joshii after an outstanding evolutionary biologist from the Jawaharlal Nehru Center for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR).

Ant genus Ooceraea: There are currently 14 species in this genus, of which 8 have 9 segmented antennae, 5 have 11 segmented antennae, and recently one has 8 segmented antennae. In India, so far, the genus is composed of two species representing nine and eleven segmented antennae.

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Satellite Images for Elephant Survey

The BSF (Border Security Force) also assists the Central Reserve Police Force and the Indian Army in counter-insurgency operations. Border Security Force has naval wing, air wing, commando and artillery regiments. At present, BSF is considered to be the largest border guard in the world.

**Highlights:**

Earlier, the elephant was tracked by manned aircraft. Monitoring the elephant population in the Savannah environment is the most common survey method. Below it, a manned aircraft carried out an aerial count.

Manned aircraft methods cannot provide accurate results. This is because according to this method, the observers on the plane are easily exhausted. As a result, the investigation was delayed and sometimes blocked due to poor visibility.

Incorrect surveys also lead to misunderstandings in resource allocation and demographic trends. In addition, aerial surveys are expensive and logistically challenging.

Under the new method, satellite images appear as grey spots, depicting elephants wandering in the woods. These elephant counts are done through machine learning,
which is a computer algorithm trained to recognize elephants. We are accurate in the new method. Therefore, it will help and improve the protection of elephants. It will also help to count and monitor the activities of elephants, thereby contributing to anti-poaching efforts.

There are approximately 24,000 elephants in South Africa. The number of elephants began to rise in the 1920s. In the 1920s, there were less than 150 elephants there. In Kruger Park, one of South Africa's famous parks, there are approximately 17,000 elephants, and the planned limit is approximately 7,500.

**ZSI - Indian Sunderbans own 428 species of birds**

The latest publication of the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) pointed out that the Indian Sunderbans are part of the largest mangrove forest in the world, with 428 species of birds. Of the 428 birds listed, some, such as the masked finfoot and the Buffy fish owl, are only from the Sunderbans. This area is home to 9 of the 12 species of kingfishers found in the country, as well as rare species such as Goliath heron and spoon-billed sandpiper.

**Key Facts:**

The Indian Sunderbans also includes the Sunderbans Tiger Reserve. According to the latest census in 2020, there are about 96 Royal Bengal tigers. It is a World Heritage Site and Ramsar Site.

The masked finfoot: The masked finfoot or Asian finfoot is an aquatic bird from the fresh and brackish wetlands of the eastern subcontinent of India, Indochina, Malaysia and Indonesia.

Theuffy fish owl: The buffy fish owl, also known as Malay fish owl, is a kind of owl fish in the family Strigidae.

It is native to Southeast Asia and mainly lives in tropical forests and wetlands. Because of its widespread distribution and the assumed population stability, it has been listed as the least concerning thing in the IUCN Red List since 2004.

**Global Climate Risk Index Released by Germanwatch-a NGO**

Germanwatch, a non-governmental organization based in Bonn, Germany, recently released a global climate risk index. In the index, India ranked seventh among the countries most affected by climate change in 2019.
**Highlights:**

According to the report, the monsoon duration is one month longer than the normal time in India in 2019. Between June 2019 and September 2019, 110% of the long-term average was recorded.

Heavy rains caused severe flooding in India, killing 1,800 people in 14 states. The flood also caused the displacement of 1.8 million people. According to the report, India has eight tropical cyclones. Six of them became more serious.

The report further emphasized that the "extremely severe" cyclone Fani affected 28 million people in India and Bangladesh and caused 90 deaths.

Between 2000 and 2019, approximately 11,000 extreme weather events worldwide directly caused approximately 4,75,000 deaths.

Between 2000 and 2014, due to extreme weather conditions, the economic loss calculated at purchasing power parity was approximately US$2.56 trillion. The report also highlighted that about 11.8 million people worldwide were affected by the strong monsoon, which in turn caused US$10 billion in economic losses.

German observers publish the "Global Climate Risk Index" every year. The index analyzes the impact of extreme weather events on the country and economy. It analyzes the impact of weather-related loss events on countries. The index is compiled based on data provided by Munich Re's NatCatSERVICE.

Germanwatch is a non-profit non-governmental organization established in 1991. The NGO is located in Bonn, Germany. The purpose of establishing this treaty is to influence public policies in trade and the environment.

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**Tigress Found Dead in Kanha Tiger Reserve**

A tiger was found dead in the buffer zone of the Kanha Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh.

**Highlights:**

Location: It is located in two regions of Madhya Pradesh-Mandla and Balaghat, covering an area of 940 square kilometers.

History: The Kanha area today is divided into two refuges, Hallon and Banjar. Kanha National Park was established in 1955 and became the Kanha Tiger Reserve in 1973.

Kanha National Park is the largest national park in central India.

Fauna: The national animal of Madhya Pradesh, the Barasingha (swamp deer or
Rucervus duvaucelii) that lives on hard ground is only found in Kanha Tiger Reserve. Other species found include tigers, leopards, wild ducks, bears, high Ga and Indian pythons.

Flora: It is famous for the evergreen Sall Forest (Shorea Robusta). This is the first tiger reserve in India to officially introduce the mascot "Barasingha Bhoorsingh".

**Most Active Volcano in Indonesia - Merpi**

Indonesia's most active volcano, Mt Merapi, erupted with lava rivers and hot gas clouds. Lava and clouds flew 1,600 meters from the slope. This is the largest lava flow on Mount Merapi.

**Highlights:**

The sound of the eruption was heard 30 kilometers away. The last large-scale eruption of Mount Merapi was in 2010, killing 347 people.

Mount Merapi: Mount Merapi is a volcano in Indonesia and Java. It is an active advection volcano located on the border between Central Java and Yogyakarta. It is considered the most active volcano in Indonesia and has erupted regularly since 1548. It is the youngest volcano group in the south of Java Island, located in the subduction zone of the Indo-Australian Plate and the Sun Plate. In this subduction zone, the Indo-Australian plate beneath the plate subducts.

Indonesia is an archipelago with a population of 270 million, located in Southeast Asia and Oceania between the Indian Ocean and the Pacific Ocean. It includes more than 17,000 islands, including parts of Java, Sumatra, Java, Sulawesi, Borneo (Kalimantan) and New Guinea (Papua). In terms of area, it is considered the world's largest island country and the 14th largest country.

The country Indonesia is also the fourth most populous country in the world. It is also the most populous Muslim country. The most populous island in Indonesia is Java, which is also the most populous island in the world. The country is located along the "Pacific Ring of Fire", prone to earthquakes and volcanic activity.

The Pacific Ring of Fire is located on the edge of the Pacific Ocean, prone to volcanic eruptions and earthquakes. It is a horseshoe-shaped belt about 40,000 kilometers long.

**National Marine Turtle Action Plan by Union Ministry**
The Union Minister for Environment, Forests and Climate Change issued the "National Marine Turtle Action Plan" and also issued the Marine Mega Fauna Stranding Guidelines.

**Highlights:**

These documents contain methods to not only promote inter-departmental protection actions, but also guide the government, civil society and all relevant stakeholders to strengthen coordination and protection in response to cases of stranding, entanglement, injury or death of marine mammals and also conservation of Marine Turtles.

These two documents focus on the actions that should be taken when dealing with stranded animals on the shore, animals stranded or entangled at sea or on ships, to improve coordination, reduce threats to marine species and their habitats, and restore degraded habitats. Promote people's participation, advance scientific research and the exchange of information about marine mammals and turtles and their habitats.

**Indo-French Alliance for Environment**

Indo-French alliance moves towards the "Green Planet" year. The Union Environment Minister, together with his French Prime Minister, launched the Indo-French Environment Year.

**Highlights:**

The Union Environment Minister, together with his French Prime Minister, launched the Indo-French Environment Year.

The basic goal is to strengthen cooperation between India and France in sustainable development, increase the effectiveness of actions that are conducive to global environmental protection, and make them more well-known.

The Indo-French Environment Year 2021-2022 will be based on five main themes:

- Environmental protection
- Climate Change
- Biodiversity conservation
- Sustainable urban development
- Develop renewable energy and energy efficiency

It is also a platform for discussing key areas of cooperation related to the environment and related fields.
On the French side, it will be held under the auspices of the Ministry of Ecological Transition, with the support of the French Embassy in Delhi and its partners, in close collaboration with the Europe and Foreign Affairs.

In India, it will be coordinated/organized by the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC) and the Ministry of External Affairs, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy and other relevant ministries.

A joint review committee will also be established to finalize the calendar of events for the Indo-French Environment Year.
Indian Armed Forces Conducted AMPHEX 21 Exercise

From January 21 to 25, 2021, the Indian Armed Forces conducted a large-scale tri-service amphibious exercise AMPHEX-21 in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. In this exercise, naval ships, army amphibious forces and air force aircraft participated in the competition.

Highlights:
The purpose of the exercise is to verify India's ability to maintain the territorial integrity of the island.
The exercise also aims to enhance the cooperative and joint operations capabilities between the three departments.

In the exercise, there are a series of activities, including the coordinated use of amphibious assault ships, the execution of maritime air strikes, surveillance platforms and complex maritime exercises.

The exercise also involved the airborne insertion of the Marine Commando, the naval artillery support of the Army Special Forces, and the amphibious landing and follow-up operations of the troops.

The KAVACH exercise used to defend the Andaman and Nicobar Islands is also part of AMPHEX-21.

DRDO Test Fires Akash-NG Missile Successfully

The Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO) has successfully tested the surface-to-air Akash-NG (new generation) missile off the coast of Orissa. The missile can intercept air threats. The missile was launched to enhance the defense system of the Indian Air Force (IAF).

Highlights:
Akash-NG is a medium-range mobile surface-to-air missile defense system.
It was developed by the Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO).
The missile is jointly produced by Bharat Dynamics Co., Ltd. (BDL) and Balata Electronics Co. (BEL), which develops missile systems, Tata Power Strategic Engineering Department, and Larsen and Tuburo. The latter developed radars.
Control center and launch system.

The missile has the ability to target aircraft at an altitude of 18,000 m at a distance of 50-60 km. Missiles can counteract air targets, such as fighter jets, cruise missiles and air-to-surface missiles.

The missile is fighting the Indian Army and the Indian Air Force. It uses an integrated ramjet propulsion system. The propulsion system provides continuous thrust for the missile after the initial rocket engine burns out until it is intercepted.

In December 2020, the Cabinet Security Committee chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the export of the Akash missile defense system. After that, countries including the Philippines, Malaysia, Thailand, Belarus, the United Arab Emirates, and Vietnam showed interest in the Akash missile system.

The Akash battery includes a single Rajendra 3D passive electronically scanned array radar or Simple the Rajendra radar, and four launchers, each with three missiles. Each shell can track up to 64 targets and attack up to 12 targets. It consists of a 60 Kg highly explosive pre-fragmented warhead. The missile can protect the moving vehicle. It provides 2,000km of air defense missile coverage.
**PERSONS**

**Manjamma Jogati - Padma Shri Winner of Popularizing Rural Folk Arts**

Manjamma Jogati is the Padma Shri winner, he is a transgender in Karnataka. In the past few decades, she has engaged in the practice and single-handedly popularised rural folk arts.

**Highlights:**

Overcoming personal difficulties, Manjamma Jogati promoted these art forms, especially Jogati Nritya and Janapada songs practised in rural Karnataka, Maharashtra and parts of Andhra Pradesh. She identified herself as a woman when she was a teenager. She became part of the Deccan rural transgender community, which revered the fiery goddess Renuka Yellamma. The members of the community are considered married to goddesses. The lifestyle of the community and the situation of its members were highlighted in the national award-winning 2009 Marathi movie Jogwa.
**AWARDS AND HONOURS**

**Padma Awards 2021 Announced on Republic Day**

On the evening of the 72nd Republic Day, India rewarded 119 people from different fields through the Padma Awards. These awards were awarded by the President of India in a ceremony held in Rashtrapati Bhawan.

**Highlights:**

In 2021, the President approved the award of 119 Padma Awards. In the list, there are 7 Padma Vibhushan, 10 Padma Bhushan and 102 Padma Shri awards. The number of winning women is 29.

It also includes 10 people from foreigners or NRI or PIO or OCI categories, 16 post-death winners and 1 transgender winner. Shri Ram Vilas Paswan was awarded the Bihar Public Affairs Award (after death).

Padma Awards is one of the highest civilian awards in the country. The award is divided into three categories, namely Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri.

It is offered in various disciplines and fields of activity, including art, public affairs, social work, trade and industry, sports, science and engineering, medicine, literature, education and civil service.

**Padma Vibhushan:** This is the second-highest civilian award in the Republic of India. The award was established on January 2, 1954. The award aims to recognize "excellent and outstanding service." It does not distinguish race, occupation, position or gender. This award is an award for excellence and service excellence. Satyendra Nath Bose, Zakir Hussain, Balasaheb Gangadhar Kher, Nand Lal Bose received the award in 1954.

In the Republic day 2021, this award was given to:

- Shri Shinzo Abe Japan (Public Affairs)
- Shri S P Balasubramaniam (Posthumous) Tamil Nadu (Art)
- Shri Sudarshan Sahoo Odisha (Art)
- Belle Monappa Hegde Karnataka (Medicine)
- Shri B. B. Lal Others Delhi (Archaeology)
- Shri Narinder Singh Kapany (Posthumous) United States of America (Science and Engineering)
- Maulana Wahiduddin Khan Delhi (Spiritualism)
Padma Bhushan: This is the third-highest civilian award in India. The award was established on January 2, 1954. In 2021, 10 were awarded Padma Bhushan.

Padma Shri: Padma Shri is the 4th highest civilian award in India. Since 1954, the government of the Republic of India has awarded the award every year. In 2021, 102 were awarded Padma Shri.

Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar Was Awarded

In 2021, 32 children were awarded Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar. The Government of India (GoI) has been awarding Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar to children with outstanding abilities and achievements.

**Highlights:**

The Government of India (GoI) has been awarding Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar to children with outstanding abilities and achievements in the fields of innovation, art and culture, social service, academics, sports, and bravery.

**Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar:** The award scheme awards two types of awards every year - Bal Shakti Puraskar for individuals and Bal Kalyan Puraskar for institutions/individuals working for children.

Bal Shakti Puraskar award is awarded to children in the fields of social service, academics, innovation, sports, art and culture, and bravery. It comes with a medal and a cash prize of Rs. 1 lakh, with certificates and citations. This award was previously called as "National Children Award for Outstanding Achievement". It was established in 1996 and was renamed as "Bal Shakti Puraskar" in 2018.

**Bal Kalyan Puraskar:** The award was established in 1979 and is called the "National Children Welfare Awards". It was renamed "Bal Kalyan Puraskar" in 2018. Provided to individuals and/or organizations working in the areas of child development, child protection, and child welfare. The award is divided into two categories-Individuals and Institutions. Each of these two categories won three awards and cash prizes.
ARTS & CULTURE

Risa - Tripura's Signature Garment

The aim of the Tripura State Government is to promote risa nationwide as Tripura's signature garment.

**Highlights:**

Various initiatives have been taken, such as providing risa uniforms to Anganwadi and ASHA workers, and providing training to making risa at Tripura Handloom and Handicraft Development corporations. The risa is being branded under the India Handloom Brand. This supports the Vocal for Local initiative of the central government.

**Risa:** Risa is a hand-woven cloth used as a female upper garment. Risa is a part of Tripuri's traditional attire, including three parts-risa, rignai and rikutu.

**Rignai:** It is mainly worn as a lower garment, literally means "to wear". It can be understood as an indigenous variety of sari in mainland India.

**Rituku:** It is mainly used as a wrapping cloth for Indian saris, or like "chunri" or "pallu".

Sometimes, Risa can also be used as headgear, a stole, or a present to show respect.

**Cultural Importance:** In the event called Risa Sormani, Adolescent Tripuri girls between the ages of 12 and 14 were first to wear on risa clothes. During weddings and festivals, Risa is also used as a turban by men. Risa is common in almost all 19 indigenous tribal communities in Tripura. However, each community has its own design. Tribal communities use it on religious festivals such as Garia Puja.

Kala Utsav Organized by Education Ministry

The Ministry of Education organized the Kala Utsav 2020 annual event to promote the development of arts in education.

**Highlights:**

Kala Utsav is an initiative of the Ministry of Education (MoE) to promote the development of arts in education.

The programme was initiated by Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) and has now been merged with other schemes under the "Samagra Shiksha-
Kala Utsav aims to cultivate and showcase the artistic talents of secondary stage school students in the country.

District/state/national level Utsav is an art festival that includes performances and exhibitions.

According to NCF 2005, in terms of education of Arts (music, theatre, dance, visual arts and crafts), the initiative is guided by the recommendations of the National Curriculum Framework 2005 (NCF-2005).

**Importance:**

In 2020, Kala Utsav introduced the Indigenous Toys and Games department and supported the "Vocal for Local" initiative

It keeps pace with the recommendations of the National Education Policy 2020, which emphasizes the promotion of art and culture through education.

It complements the Samagra Shiksha scheme by enhancing the aesthetic and artistic experience of secondary-level school students, which plays an important role in raising awareness of India's rich cultural heritage and its vibrant diversity with 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat' effect.

It improves students' reasoning ability, understanding ability, problem-solving ability, cognitive ability and decisive ability, and contributes to the overall development of students.

Other Initiatives Taken for Promoting Arts: Kala Sanskriti Vikas Yojana (Ministry of Culture), Scheme for Safeguarding the Intangible Cultural Heritage (Ministry of Culture).
SUMMITS & CONFERENCE

Climate Adaptation Summit 2021  India Targets

By 2030, India's goal is a renewable energy capacity of 450 GW. India is saving 38 million tons of carbon dioxide emissions each year by promoting LED lights. By 2030, India will restore 26 million hectares of degraded land.

**Highlights:**

The Dutch government hosted the Climate Adaptation Summit (CAS) on January 25, 2021. The summit is held online and is called "CAS Online".

This summit was established on the basis of the UN Climate Action Summit. The summit also demonstrated the climate emergency and groundbreaking solutions to maintain momentum through UNFCCC's COP26.

CAS will help take action and inspire change to help society rebuild better. The organizers of the summit also called for a large amount of new funding for agricultural research. They have also expanded access to farmer advisory services, risk management and financial services.

The summit is organized to achieve the transition necessary for a climate-resilient world. The focus of the summit is to secure new investments to ensure that millions of small farmers can adapt to the effects of climate on food production.

India has pledged to provide clean cooking fuel to 80 million rural households during the summit. It also promised to connect 64 million homes with tap water.

The 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference is also called COP26. This is the 26th United Nations Climate Change Conference. The conference will be held in Glasgow, Scotland from November 1st to 12th, 2021. Britain will host the summit.

Bharat Parv 2021  Annual Event of India

From January 26, 2021 to January 31, 2021, Bharat Parv 2021 was organized. The overall theme of Bharat Parv annual event is Aatmanirbhar Bharat and Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat.

**Highlights:**

Under the virtual event, themed pavilions of the states and federal territories will showcase their tourist destinations, handicrafts, food and other specialties. Speaker
of Lok Sabha Om Birla presided over the opening ceremony.

Ministry of Tourism is organizing Bharat Parv every year. It started in 2016. During the Republic Day celebration, the event was held in front of the Red Fort city wall.

The organization of these events aims to generate patriotic passion. It also showcases the rich and diverse culture of India.

Central ministries and other organizations (such as the Ministry of Culture, Ayush, I&B, Railways, and Media) showcased handicrafts, music, dances, hand looms, paintings, literary materials and other features from all over the country.


In the virtual event of Bharat Parv, there will also be a glimpse of the Republic Day parade and a recorded performance of the armed forces music band. In the event, Central Hotel Management Institute and Indian Culinary Institute will also show their cooking fun and recipes through videos. The online event will also showcase videos, films, images, brochures and other information.

**Cooperation against Cross-Border Terrorism  India and UK**

India and the United Kingdom held the fourteenth meeting of the India-United Kingdom Joint Counter-Terrorism Working Group. The conference will actually be held from January 21 to 22, 2021.

**Highlights:**

At this meeting, both countries strongly condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

Both countries emphasized the need to strengthen international cooperation so that in addition to combating cross-border terrorism in South Asia, the problem of global terrorism can also be completely resolved.

Countries have reviewed terrorist entities and terrorist threats stipulated by the United Nations. The two countries also exchanged views on evaluating terrorist entities and individuals as counter-terrorism tools.

In addition, the challenges faced by terrorism in response to the COVID-19 pandemic were discussed.

The two countries finally demanded that other countries take immediate steps to
ensure that the territories under their control are not used for terrorist activities. They also demand that all countries, if any attacks are launched on certain territories, their respective countries must take action.

**PRAGATI Meeting Chaired by Prime Minister**

The Prime Minister of India hosted the 35th edition of "Proactive Governance and Timely Implementation (PRAGATI)"-a multi-modal platform based on Information and Communication Technology (ICT), involving central and state governments.

**Highlights:**

Ten projects with a total investment of 10 rupees were reviewed. 54675 million. Also commented on Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Aushadhi Pariyojana.

PRAGATI was launched in 2015 and is a multi-mode platform for active governance and timely implementation involving the central government and state governments. It was designed by the Prime Minister's Office team with the help of the National Information Center (NIC).

It allows the PM to discuss issues with relevant central and state officials and provide complete information and up-to-date images about the ground situation.

The PRAGATI platform combines the three latest technologies: digital data management, video conferencing and geospatial technology.

It is a three-tier system (PMO, Federal Secretary and State Chief Secretary). It promotes cooperative federalism because it brings together the secretary of the Indian government and the chief secretary of the country.

It is a powerful system that can bring electronic transparency and electronic accountability through real-time status and communication among key stakeholders. This is an innovative project in e-government and good governance.

**Concern:** The direct interaction between the prime minister and the state secretary, without the participation of the state political director, is undermining the state political director. It is also said that this has led to the concentration of power in the extra-constitutional office of the PMO.

**Davos Dialogue - World Economic Forum**

The Prime Minister will speak at the Davos Dialogue of the World Economic Forum.
World Economic Forum (WEF):
WEF is an international Non-Governmental Organization founded in 1971 and headquartered in Cologny, Switzerland. Formerly known as the European Management Forum, it was renamed the current forum in 1987. The World Economic Forum describes its mission as "committed to improving the state of the world by working with business, political, academic and other social leaders to develop global, regional and industry agendas."

The WEF will hold its annual meeting in Davos, Switzerland at the end of January. The conference gathered about 3,000 business leaders, international political leaders, economists, celebrities and journalists for five days to discuss global issues, across 500 sessions. The Davos Dialogue Agenda marked the launch of the World Economic Forum's Great Reset Initiative in the post-COVID world.

Act East Forum Meet: India and Japan
On January 28, 2021, the fifth joint meeting of the India-Japan-French Eastern Forum was held between India and Japan. The meeting was also chaired by Harsh Vardhan Shringla (Foreign Minister) and Japanese Ambassador to India Suzuki Satoshi.

Highlights:
At the Far East Forum, India and Japan reviewed the progress of ongoing projects in Northeast India.
These projects are launched in areas such as hydropower, connectivity, water resource utilization, sustainable development and skills development. The two countries also discussed several new projects underway under the bilateral cooperation between India and Japan.
They also exchanged views on cooperation in new areas, including agricultural industry, healthcare and small and medium enterprises, smart cities, tourism, bamboo industry value chain development, and people-to-people exchanges.
Both sides also appreciate the role played by the Bill East Forum in simplifying bilateral cooperation between India and Japan since its establishment in 2017. The forum can help the Northeast to achieve modernization. The East India Action Forum also provided a platform for India-Japan cooperation
in the Northeast region based on India's East India policy and Japan's vision of a "free and open Indo-Pacific".

The Act East Forum was established in 2017. During his visit to India, Prime Minister Abe signed an agreement to establish a forum in September 2017. This platform is in line with Japan's vision of achieving a "free and open Indo-Pacific" and cooperation between India and Japan in the Northeast under India's "East French Policy".

Act East Policy was launched at the Myanmar East Asia Summit in November 2014. The introduction of this policy focuses on economic and security integration. The policy is mainly aimed at Southeast Asia and East Asia. It is said that this policy is a modification of "Look East Policy".

India's Look East policy was introduced by the former prime minister in 1991 by P V Narasimha Rao introduced this policy with the purpose of shifting India's trade focus from the West and neighbouring countries to Southeast Asian countries. With the promulgation of the Eastern Act, this policy was terminated in 2014.
Ayushman CAPF (Central Armed Police Forces) Scheme Launched

The Ayushman CAPF scheme was launched to extend the benefits of the central health insurance program to all members of the Country's Armed Police Forces.

**Highlights:**

According to this scheme, approximately 28 lakh personnel of CAPF, Assamese rifles and the National Security Guard (NSG) and their families will be covered by "Ayushman Bharat: Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana" (AB PM-JAY).

Key Features of PM-JAY: The world's largest health insurance/guarantee scheme fully funded by the government.

It provides insurance of 5 lakhs per family per year for secondary and tertiary nursing hospitalizations in public and private intensive hospitals in India.

Insurance: More than 1.074 million poor and vulnerable eligible families (approximately 50 crore beneficiaries) are eligible for these benefits.

Provide beneficiaries with cashless access to health services at the service point.

**Eligibility:** There are no restrictions on the number of families, age or gender. From the first day, all pre-existing conditions are covered. Cover up to 3 days before hospitalization and up to 15 days after hospitalization, such as diagnosis and medicines. The benefits of the scheme can be used throughout the country. The service includes approximately 1,393 procedures, covering all costs related to treatment, including but not limited to drugs, supplies, diagnostic services, physician fees, room fees, surgeon fees, OT and ICU fees, etc. The health care service reimbursement of public hospitals is the same as that of private hospitals.
IMPORTANT DAYS

ECI to Launch Digital Voter ID

The Election Commission of India (ECI) will launch the Electronic Election Photo ID (e-EPIC) program on the occasion of National Voters Day. By following the upcoming polls in five states of Kerala, Puducherry, Assam, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal, a new digital card was launched.

**Highlights:**
- The launched Identity card is the electronic version of the Election Photo Identity Card (EPIC). It is a non-editable secure portable document format (PDF) version.
- The e-EPIC consists of a secure QR code as well as images and demographic information (including serial numbers and part numbers). This portable version can be downloaded on a mobile device or computer.
- In addition to the physical or regular ID that can be stored digitally, this portable ID will also be activated.
- The e-EPIC program will be launched in two phases.
  - The first phase is from January 25th to 31st. At this stage, new voters only need to download e-EPIC after verifying their mobile phone number to obtain a voter ID.
  - The second phase will be implemented on February 1, when ordinary voters will receive voter ID.
- The electronic card will help EC save hard copy printing and distribution costs. In this way, there is no need to carry or present the voter card on polling day.
- ECI is an autonomous constitutional body responsible for managing election procedures in India and at the national and state levels. It also organizes elections for Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha, State Legislative Assembly and State Legislative Council.
- ECI also organized elections for the office of the president and vice president. ECI was established on 25th January 1950 under the authority of the Constitution as per Article 324.

**National Voters Day:**

January 25 is National Voter Day to commemorate the establishment of the Indian Electoral Commission. It has been an anniversary since 2011. This year, the Election Commission will mark the 11th Voter's Day. The theme for 2020 is "Enabling our voters to be capable, vigilant, safe and informed". Commemorating
this day is to encourage, promote and maximize the participation of new voters.

**National Tourism Day is on 25 January**

National Tourism Day is celebrated on January 25. The purpose of this day is to raise awareness of the importance of tourism to the country's economy. India offers tourism in the form of nature, culture, heritage, sports, rural, medical, education, business, cruise and eco-tourism.

**Highlights:**
- The purpose of commemorating "National Tourism Day" is to raise the international community's awareness of the importance of tourism and its political, cultural, social and economic value.
- The Ministry of Tourism promotes the country's national policy of developing tourism. It coordinates central, state and public sector agencies. In 1948, the central government established a tourism committee for the first time to promote tourism in India.
- The FICCI-YES Bank's 2019 report pointed out that the tourism industry generated $247.3 billion in revenue in 2018, accounting for 9.2% of the country's GDP. Data from the Ministry of Tourism shows that more than 7.7% of Indian employees are engaged in tourism.
- Celebrate the United Nations World Tourism Day on September 27 every year.

**International Day of Education is on 25 January**

Every January 24th is International Education Day. The day is to celebrate the role of education in peace and development. The purpose of this day is to remind people that without inclusive and fair quality education, there is no lifetime opportunity for everyone.

**Highlights:**
- International Education Day reminds countries that without education, they cannot successfully achieve gender equality and break the cycle of poverty.
- Article 26 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights contains the right to education. The declaration provides free and compulsory basic education.
- The right to education was inserted into Article 21-A of the Indian Constitution through the 2002 Constitution (Article 86 Amendment). It makes the right to
education a basic right for children aged 6 to 14.

The United Nations General Assembly designated January 24 as International Education Day on December 3, 2018. The United Nations (UN) report states that more than 258 million children and young people are still out of school. The theme of 2021 'Recover and Revitalize Education for the COVID-19 Generation'.

**National Girl Child day on 24 January**

The central government has taken many initiatives aimed at empowering girls. He emphasized that these initiatives also provide better education opportunities, better health care and increased gender sensitivity. Every January 24th is National Girls' Day. This is an initiative initiated by the Ministry of Women and Child Development in 2008.

**Highlights:**

The purpose of commemorating this day is to provide all the support and opportunities for Indian girls.

It also aims to raise awareness of girls' rights and raise awareness of the importance of girls' education, health and nutrition.

The purpose of celebrating this day this year is to raise awareness of the decline in the child sex ratio (CSR). This day also marks the anniversary of the Beti Padhao Beti Bachao (BBBP) project.


The plan has been implemented through a national campaign and concentrated multi-sectoral actions in 100 selected regions with low corporate social responsibility.

The plan covers all states and federal territories (UT). The plan is mainly aimed at Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Uttarakhand, Delhi, Punjab and Bihar and other countries. The plan is based on gender-selective abortion or female killing drugs before and after birth.

Discrimination led to a decline in the sex ratio of girls initiated. According to the 2011 census, corporate social responsibility dropped from 945 in 1991 to 927 in 2001, and further dropped to 918 in 2011.

The purpose of launching the plan is to prevent gender discrimination, eliminate
gender selection, ensure the survival and protection of girls, and ensure the education and participation of girls.

**International Holocaust Remembrance Day on 27 January**

The International Holocaust Remembrance Day was held on January 27 at the Bangalore International Center. To celebrate the International Holocaust Remembrance Day, a small ceremony was organized and commemorative candles were lit by priests of various religious groups. The ceremony was organized according to the theme of the United Nations: "Facing the Aftermath: Recovery and Reconstitution after the Holocaust".

**Highlights:**

This is an international day of remembrance to commemorate the victims of the Holocaust. The Holocaust refers to the genocide of European Jews by Nazi Germany in 1941-1945.

It was chosen to commemorate the liberation of Auschwitz by the Red Army in 1945.

After the 60th anniversary of the liberation of the Nazi concentration camps, the UN General Assembly resolution on November 1, 2005 designated this day as a Memorial Day.

This day marks the international community's unwavering commitment to combating anti-Semitism, racism and other forms of intolerance that can lead to group-targeted violence.

From 1941 to 1945, the Nazi regime and its collaborators killed 6 million Jews and 11 million other Jews.

Nazi Germany was a German state from 1933 to 1945. It is officially called the German Empire and the Greater German Empire.

United Nations General Assembly Resolution is a declaration, and all UN member states vote on it in the General Assembly. The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) is one of the six main organs of the United Nations (UN). It is the main deliberative, decision-making and representative body of the United Nations. This agency is responsible for the UN budget. It also participates in the appointment of non-permanent members of the Security Council. The United Nations General Assembly is the only United Nations body in which all member states enjoy equal representation.
International Customs Day is on 26 January

Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) celebrates International Customs Day on 26 January 2021.

**About the International Customs Day:**

International Customs Day (ICD) is held on January 26 each year to recognize the role of customs officials and agencies in maintaining border security. It focuses on the working conditions and challenges faced by customs officers in their work.

It was initiated by the World Customs Organization (WCO). January 26, 1952 is the anniversary of the inaugural session of the Customs Cooperation Council (CCC) in Brussels, Belgium.

In 1994, CCC was renamed the World Customs Organization (WCO). Today, customs organizations from 183 countries have become members of WCO. The headquarters of the World Customs Organization is in Brussels. The theme of the 2021 commemorative event is "Customs bolstering Recovery, Renewal and Resilience for a sustainable supply chain."

Martyrs Day is on 30 January

Martyr's Day is Death Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. To commemorate Mahatma Gandhi and his contribution to the country, January 30th is a scorching sun every year.

**Highlights:**

In 2021, 73rd death anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi is observed. March 23 is also regarded as the Martyrs' Memorial Day to pay tribute to the three revolutionaries of India, namely Bagt Singh, Shivaram Raguru and Sukhdev Thapal.

Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi was born in Porbandar, Gujarat on October 2, 1869, and died in Gandhi Smriti, New Delhi on January 30, 1948.

In the evening prayers, he was assassinated by Nathuram Godse of Birla House. Gandhi was a lawyer, politician, social activist, writer, and became the leader of the nationalist movement against Indian rule in India.

Gandhi is considered the father of the nation. Gandhi and his ideology played an
important role in liberating India from Britain.
AGREEMENTS MOU

India Signed MoU with IEA for Global Energy Security

India has signed a strategic partnership framework agreement with the International Energy Agency (IEA). The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) aims to strengthen cooperation on global energy security, stability and sustainability. It will also facilitate extensive knowledge exchange between the two.

**Highlights:**
- The memorandum of understanding is also a stepping stone towards India's formal entry into the IEA.
- The memorandum of understanding (MoU) will also strengthen mutual trust and cooperation, and enhance global energy security, stability and sustainability.
- The agreement was signed by Minister of Electricity Sanjiv Nandan Sahai and IEA executive director Fatih Birol.
- The IEA Secretariat will carry out cooperative activities in India. The IEA will also promote discussions between IEA members and India to develop strategic partnerships.

IEA is an autonomous intergovernmental organization headquartered in Paris, established in 1974 after the 1973 oil crisis. It was established within the framework of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

The purpose of establishing the IEA is to deal with the actual interruption of oil supply, in addition to acting as a source of statistical information on the international oil market. Now, it also serves as a policy advisor to its member states.

IEA also cooperates with non-member countries such as China, India and Russia. The agency focuses on the "3Es" of effective energy policies, namely energy security, economic development and environmental protection. It also promotes the development of alternative energy sources, such as renewable energy, transnational energy technology cooperation, and reasonable energy policies.

MoU for S&T Development Between CSIR and Ladakh

The Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and the United Territory
of Ladakh signed an agreement to develop a joint territory through science and technology (S&T) intervention.

**Highlights:**

The agreement was signed by D. Srinivas Reddy, Director of CSIR-IIIM, and Rigzin Samplel, who is an agricultural and horticultural specialist in Ladakh, Utah. The signing of the Memorandum of Understanding aims to establish a knowledge partnership between CSIR and Ladakh UT.

It seeks to develop areas such as natural resource exploration, the introduction of cash crops in the area, and the utilization of biological resources unique to Ladakh. In the first phase, CSIR-IIIM, CSIR-CMERI, CSIR-NBRI, CSIR-IHBT, CSIR-CLRI and CSIR-NGRI will provide extensive knowledge and technical support in the territory of the alliance. To this end, the CSIR-IIIM of Jammu will become a node organization.

Main areas of interest include aromatic and nutritious plants or crops, geophysical mapping, environmentally friendly leather processing, bioprospecting of local microorganisms, industrial agriculture (focusing on the commercialization of local and other high-value drugs), plant diversity, and microbial and biotech interventions.

**CSIR:**

CSIR was established by the Indian government in September 1942. It is an autonomous organization and has now become India's largest R&D organization. This institution is mainly funded by the Ministry of Science and Technology. According to the Association Registration Act of 1860, it is an autonomous institution. The various institutes of CSIR will now start research and development, promotion and social projects under this agreement. These projects will be based on its core competitiveness in the region. The institution is involved in various research and development activities such as structural engineering, aerospace engineering, marine science, metallurgy, chemistry, food, life sciences, petroleum, leather and environmental sciences.

**Ministry of Textiles And Japans Nissenken Quality Evaluation Center Signed a MoU**

A formal MoU signing ceremony was held between the Textile Committee of the Ministry of Textiles of India and M/s. Nissenken Quality Evaluation Center, Japan.
Highlights:

Aim: Provide necessary support to the textile trade and industry for ensuring quality as per the requirement of Japanese buyers through Testing, Inspection & Conformity Assessment.

It is expected that the Memorandum of Understanding will strengthen bilateral trade by increasing India's Textile and Apparel (T&A) exports to Japan, which is the world's third-largest export destination.
The Rank of India on Covid-19 Response Index

The Lowy Institute in Sydney provided a Covid-19 response index. The study is based on the number of key indicators, such as confirmed cases, cases per million people, deaths and deaths per million.

**Highlights:**

Among 98 countries/regions, India ranks 86th in the Coronavirus Performance Index. The report emphasizes that New Zealand has responded to the pandemic more effectively than any other country in the world. Brazil came last.

In the index, New Zealand follows closely behind, followed by Vietnam, Taiwan, Thailand and Cyprus. The United States ranked fifth and was the worst performing country. Sri Lanka ranks tenth in handling the Covid-19 pandemic.

The report further shows that a small population, a cohesive society and capable institutions are important factors in successfully responding to this pandemic. Since China's test rate has not yet been made public, China was not included in the study.

To date, India has reported 1.07 million infections and 1,53,847 deaths. This is one of the lowest death rates in the world caused by the disease, partly due to its young population.

The indicators used to rank countries indicate how well they manage the pandemic. The average ranking is given in the six indicators. Then normalize each country to produce a score between 0 (worst performing) and 100 (best performing). The study was conducted for 36 weeks.

Lowy Institute is an independent think tank, established in April 2003. It was founded by Frank Lowy. The think tank participates in original policy-related research on international political, strategic and economic issues. The institute is located in Sydney, Australia. Funding for the institute comes from donations from investment management company Manikay Partners.
QUIZ CORNER

1) When was the National Voters day celebrated?
A. January 25  
B. January 24  
C. January 26  
D. January 28

Answer A

Explanation January 25 is National Voter Day to commemorate the establishment of the Indian Electoral Commission. It has been an anniversary since 2011. This year, the Election Commission will mark the 11th Voters Day. The daily theme for 2020 is "Enabling our voters to be capable, vigilant, safe and informed". Commemorating this day is to encourage, promote and maximize the participation of new voters.

2) When was the first National Voters day celebrated?
A. 2010  
B. 2011  
C. 2009  
D. 2008

Answer B

Explanation January 25 is National Voter Day to commemorate the establishment of the Indian Electoral Commission. It has been an anniversary since 2011. This year, the Election Commission will mark the 11th Voters Day. The daily theme for 2020 is "Enabling our voters to be capable, vigilant, safe and informed". Commemorating this day is to encourage, promote and maximize the participation of new voters.

3) When was Election Commission of India established?
A. 26th January 1950  
B. 24th January 1950  
C. 25th January 1950  
D. 27th January 1950
Answer C

Explanation ECI is an autonomous constitutional body responsible for managing election procedures in India and at the national and state levels. It also organizes elections for Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha, State Legislative Assembly and State Legislative Council. ECI also organized elections for the office of the president and vice president. ECI was established on 25th January 1950 under the authority of the Constitution as per Article 324.

4) ECI was established on 25th January 1950 under the authority of the Constitution as per _______________.

A. Article 322
B. Article 326
C. Article 328
D. Article 324

Answer D

Explanation ECI is an autonomous constitutional body responsible for managing election procedures in India and at the national and state levels. It also organizes elections for Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha, State Legislative Assembly and State Legislative Council. ECI also organized elections for the office of the president and vice president. ECI was established on 25th January 1950 under the authority of the Constitution as per Article 324.

5) When was National Tourism day celebrated?

A. 25 January
B. 24 January
C. 26 January
D. 22 January

Answer A

Explanation National Tourism Day is celebrated on January 25. The purpose of this day is to raise awareness of the importance of tourism to the country's economy. India offers tourism in the form of nature, culture, heritage, sports, rural, medical, education, business, cruise and ecotourism.

6) When was world tourism day celebrated?
A. September 26  
B. September 27  
C. September 28  
D. September 29  

**Answer B**

**Explanation** The Ministry of Tourism promotes the country's national policy of developing tourism. It coordinates central, state and public sector agencies. In 1948, the central government established a tourism committee for the first time to promote tourism in India. The FICCI-YES Bank's 2019 report pointed out that the tourism industry generated $247.3 billion in revenue in 2018, accounting for 9.2% of the country's GDP. Data from the Ministry of Tourism shows that more than 7.7% of Indian employees are engaged in tourism. Celebrate the United Nations World Tourism Day on September 27 every year.

7) Data from the Ministry of Tourism shows that more than ____________ of Indian employees are engaged in tourism.

A. 7.5  
B. 7.6  
C. 7.7  
D. 7.8  

**Answer C**

**Explanation** The FICCI-YES Bank's 2019 report pointed out that the tourism industry generated $247.3 billion in revenue in 2018, accounting for 9.2% of the country's GDP. Data from the Ministry of Tourism shows that more than 7.7% of Indian employees are engaged in tourism. Celebrate the United Nations World Tourism Day on September 27 every year.

8) When will Europe's Largest Solar Power Plant start?

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

**Answer B**

**Explanation** The construction cost of the solar power plant is 364 million US dollars. The solar
power plant will be located in the province of Cceres in western Spain. The solar power plant will avoid emissions of 245,000 tons of carbon dioxide. It will power 375,000 people every year. The project will start power supply in 2022. Spain is currently the busiest unsubsidized photovoltaic market in Europe. In 2020, Spain put into production of 2.9 GW of solar energy. In 2019, Spain added 729 megawatts of solar power. Therefore, the increase in 2020 is four times the increase in 2019.

9) How much solar power did Spain add in 2019?

A. 726 megawatts  
B. 727 megawatts  
C. 728 megawatts  
D. 729 megawatts

Answer D

Explanation Spain is currently the busiest unsubsidized photovoltaic market in Europe. In 2020, Spain put into production of 2.9 GW of solar energy. In 2019, Spain added 729 megawatts of solar power. Therefore, the increase in 2020 is four times the increase in 2019. France has set a goal of installing 18 to 20 GW of solar energy by 2023. In 2016, France and India laid the foundation for the International Solar Alliance. Although France is not a country in the tropics, it has formed the International Solar Alliance with India.

10) When was France and India laid the foundation for the International Solar Alliance?

A. 2014  
B. 2016  
C. 2013  
D. 2012

Answer B

Explanation Spain is currently the busiest unsubsidized photovoltaic market in Europe. In 2020, Spain put into production of 2.9 GW of solar energy. In 2019, Spain added 729 megawatts of solar power. Therefore, the increase in 2020 is four times the increase in 2019. France has set a goal of installing 18 to 20 GW of solar energy by 2023. In 2016, France and India laid the foundation for the International Solar Alliance. Although France is not a country in the tropics, it has formed the International Solar Alliance with India. This is mainly because the International Solar Energy Alliance was developed and announced at the 2015 United Nations Framework
Convention on Climate Change (Paris Agreement Meeting) hosted by France.

11) India has established ____________ solar parks to provide land for promoters of solar power plants.

A. 42  
B. 41  
C. 40  
D. 39

**Answer A**

**Explanation** India has been increasing its solar power generation capacity. As of November 2020, Indias installed solar power capacity is 36.9 GW. India has established 42 solar parks to provide land for promoters of solar power plants. India has set a goal of achieving 100 GW of solar power generation by 2022.

12) When was International Day of Education celebrated?

A. 24 January  
B. 25 January  
C. 26 January  
D. 27 January

**Answer A**

**Explanation** Every January 24th is International Education Day. The day is to celebrate the role of education in peace and development. The purpose of this day is to remind people that without inclusive and fair quality education, there is no lifetime opportunity for everyone.

13) When was International Education Day declared?

A. December 3, 2018  
B. December 3, 2017  
C. December 3, 2016  
D. December 3, 2015

**Answer A**

**Explanation** The United Nations General Assembly designated January 24 as International
Education Day on December 3, 2018. The United Nations (UN) report states that more than 258 million children and young people are still out of school. The theme of 2021 'Recover and Revitalize Education for the COVID-19 Generation'.

14) When was Indo-Pakistani War established?

A. 1961  
B. 1963  
C. 1965  
D. 1967

**Answer C**

**Explanation** Indias border troops are also known as "the first line of defence in Indian territory." It was established after the Indo-Pakistani War in 1965. The main function of the Border Security Force is to ensure the security of the Indian border. It is led by an officer of the Indian Police Service. The BSF also took defensive operations during the war to liberate the Indian Army to attack. The BSF also assists the Central Reserve Police Force and the Indian Army in counter-insurgency operations. The BSF has naval wing, air wing, commando and artillery regiments. Currently, BSF is the largest border guard in the world.

15) Where is Periyar Tiger Reserve located?

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

**Answer A**

**Explanation** According to the number of antennal segments, they are different from others of the same genus. One of them was discovered in the Periyar Tiger Reserve in Kerala and named Ooceraea joshii after an outstanding evolutionary biologist from the Jawaharlal Nehru Center for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR). Ant genus Ooceraea: There are currently 14 species in this genus, of which 8 have 9 segmented antennae, 5 have 11 segmented antennae, and recently one has 8 segmented antennae. In India, so far, the genus is composed of two species representing nine and eleven segmented antennae.

16) As of November 2020, Indias installed solar power capacity is

__________. 
A.36.9 GW  
B.36.8 GW  
C.36.7 GW  
D.36.6 GW

**Answer A**

**Explanation** India has been increasing its solar power generation capacity. As of November 2020, India's installed solar power capacity is 36.9 GW. India has established 42 solar parks to provide land for promoters of solar power plants. India has set a goal of achieving 100 GW of solar power generation by 2022.

17) The right to education was inserted into ___________ of the Indian Constitution  
A. Article 21-A  
B. Article 21  
C. Article 22  
D. Article 22-A

**Answer A**

**Explanation** The right to education was inserted into Article 21-A of the Indian Constitution through the 2002 Constitution (Article 86 Amendment). It makes the right to education a basic right for children aged 6 to 14. The United Nations General Assembly designated January 24 as International Education Day on December 3, 2018. The United Nations (UN) report states that more than 258 million children and young people are still out of school. The theme of 2021 'Recover and Revitalize Education for the COVID-19 Generation'.

18) When will Operation Sard Hawa end?  
B. January 25, 2021  
D. January 26, 2021

**Answer C**

**Explanation** Operation Sard Hawa was launched by border guards on the western border of Rajasthan. The main purpose of this operation is to check the penetration of dense fog in the area.
The operation has also been launched to strengthen security before Republic Day. The operation will continue until January 27, 2021.

19) Right to education a basic right for children aged ____________.
A. 6 to 14  
B. 6 to 12  
C. 6 to 13  
D. 6 to 15  

Answer A  

Explanation The right to education was inserted into Article 21-A of the Indian Constitution through the 2002 Constitution (Article 86 Amendment). It makes the right to education a basic right for children aged 6 to 14. The United Nations General Assembly designated January 24 as International Education Day on December 3, 2018. The United Nations (UN) report states that more than 258 million children and young people are still out of school. The theme of 2021 'Recover and Revitalize Education for the COVID-19 Generation'.

20) ____________ of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights contains the right to education.
A. Article 26  
B. Article 25  
C. Article 24  
D. Article 23  

Answer A  

Explanation Article 26 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights contains the right to education. The declaration provides free and compulsory basic education. The right to education was inserted into Article 21-A of the Indian Constitution through the 2002 Constitution (Article 86 Amendment). It makes the right to education a basic right for children aged 6 to 14. The United Nations General Assembly designated January 24 as International Education Day on December 3, 2018. The United Nations (UN) report states that more than 258 million children and young people are still out of school. The theme of 2021 'Recover and Revitalize Education for the COVID-19 Generation'.

21) According to recent Elephant Survey How many elephants are in South Africa?
A. 24000
B. 4000
C. 40000
D. 14000

Answer A

Explanation There are approximately 24,000 elephants in South Africa. The number of elephants began to rise in the 1920s. In the 1920s, there were less than 150 elephants there. In Kruger Park, one of South Africa's famous parks, there are approximately 17,000 elephants, and the planned limit is approximately 7,500.

22) When was Padma Vibushan Award established?

A. January 2, 1950
B. January 2, 1951
C. January 2, 1953
D. January 2, 194

Answer D

Explanation Padma Vibhushan: This is the second highest civilian award in the Republic of India. The award was established on January 2, 1954. The award aims to recognize "excellent and outstanding service." It does not distinguish race, occupation, position or gender. This award is an award for excellence and service excellence. Satyendra Nath Bose, Zakir Hussain, Balasaheb Gangadhar Kher, Nand Lal Bose received the award in 1954.

23) When was Padma Shri Award established?

A. January 2, 1950
B. January 2, 1951
C. January 2, 1953
D. January 2, 194

Answer D

Explanation Padma Bhushan: This is the third highest civilian award in India. The award was established on January 2, 1954. In 2021, 10 were awarded Padma Bhushan. Padma Shri: Padma Shri is the 4th highest civilian award in India. Since 1954, the government of the Republic of India has awarded the award every year. In 20121, 102 were awarded Padma Shri.
24) When was Padma Bhushan Award established?

A. January 2, 1950  
B. January 2, 1951  
C. January 2, 1953  
D. January 2, 194

**Answer D**

**Explanation** Padma Bhushan: This is the third highest civilian award in India. The award was established on January 2, 1954. In 2021, 10 were awarded Padma Bhushan. Padma Shri: Padma Shri is the 4th highest civilian award in India. Since 1954, the government of the Republic of India has awarded the award every year. In 2021, 102 were awarded Padma Shri.

25) How many Padma Vibhushan Awardees in 2021?

A. 7  
B. 8  
C. 9  
D. 10

**Answer A**

**Explanation** In 2021, the President approved the award of 119 Padma Awards. In the list, there are 7 Padma Vibhushan, 10 Padma Bhushan and 102 Padma Shri awards. The number of winning women is 29. It also includes 10 people from foreigners or NRI or PIO or OCI categories, 16 post-death winners and 1 transgender winner. Shri Ram Vilas Paswan was awarded the Bihar Public Affairs Award (after death).

26) How many Padma Bhushan Awardees in 2021?

A. 7  
B. 8  
C. 9  
D. 10

**Answer D**

**Explanation** In 2021, the President approved the award of 119 Padma Awards. In the list, there
are 7 Padma Vibhushan, 10 Padma Bhushan and 102 Padma Shri awards. The number of winning women is 29. It also includes 10 people from foreigners or NRI or PIO or OCI categories, 16 post-death winners and 1 transgender winner. Shri Ram Vilas Paswan was awarded the Bihar Public Affairs Award (after death).

27) How many Padma Shri Awardees in 2021?
A. 100
B. 101
C. 102
D. 103

Answer C

Explanation In 2021, the President approved the award of 119 Padma Awards. In the list, there are 7 Padma Vibhushan, 10 Padma Bhushan and 102 Padma Shri awards. The number of winning women is 29. It also includes 10 people from foreigners or NRI or PIO or OCI categories, 16 post-death winners and 1 transgender winner. Shri Ram Vilas Paswan was awarded the Bihar Public Affairs Award (after death).

28) Who will approve the Padma Award?
A. President
B. Prime Minister
C. State CMs
D. State Governors

Answer A

Explanation In 2021, the President approved the award of 119 Padma Awards. In the list, there are 7 Padma Vibhushan, 10 Padma Bhushan and 102 Padma Shri awards. The number of winning women is 29. It also includes 10 people from foreigners or NRI or PIO or OCI categories, 16 post-death winners and 1 transgender winner. Shri Ram Vilas Paswan was awarded the Bihar Public Affairs Award (after death).

29) When was National Girl Child day Celebrated?
A. 24 January
B. 25 January
C. 26 January
D.27 January

Answer A

Explanation The central government has taken many initiatives aimed at empowering girls. He emphasized that these initiatives also provide better education opportunities, better health care and increased gender sensitivity. Every January 24th is National Girls Day. This is an initiative initiated by the Ministry of Women and Child Development in 2008.

30) National Girl Child day is an initiative of ____________.

A. Ministry of Women and Child Development
B. Ministry of Education
C. Ministry of Health
D. None

Answer A

Explanation The central government has taken many initiatives aimed at empowering girls. He emphasized that these initiatives also provide better education opportunities, better health care and increased gender sensitivity. Every January 24th is National Girls Day. This is an initiative initiated by the Ministry of Women and Child Development in 2008.

31) National Girl Child day is an initiative in ____________.

A. 2008
B. 2009
C. 2010
D. 2011

Answer A

Explanation The central government has taken many initiatives aimed at empowering girls. He emphasized that these initiatives also provide better education opportunities, better health care and increased gender sensitivity. Every January 24th is National Girls Day. This is an initiative initiated by the Ministry of Women and Child Development in 2008.

32) When Was Beti Padhao Beti Bachao (BBBP) launched?

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

**Answer A**

**Explanation** The purpose of celebrating this day this year is to raise awareness of the decline in the child sex ratio (CSR). This day also marks the anniversary of the Beti Padhao Beti Bachao (BBBP) project. The Ministry of Women and Child Development, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, and the Ministry of Human Resources Development launched the program in 2015. The plan has been implemented through a national campaign and concentrated multi-sectoral actions in 100 selected regions with low corporate social responsibility.

33) Beti Padhao Beti Bachao (BBBP) is launched by ____________.

A. Ministry of Women and Child Development  
B. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare  
C. Ministry of Human Resources Development  
D. All the above

**Answer D**

**Explanation** The purpose of celebrating this day this year is to raise awareness of the decline in the child sex ratio (CSR). This day also marks the anniversary of the Beti Padhao Beti Bachao (BBBP) project. The Ministry of Women and Child Development, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, and the Ministry of Human Resources Development launched the program in 2015. The plan has been implemented through a national campaign and concentrated multi-sectoral actions in 100 selected regions with low corporate social responsibility.

34) When was Communist Party of Nepal established?

A. May 17, 2018  
B. May 17, 2017  
C. May 17, 2016  
D. May 17, 2015

**Answer A**

**Explanation** The Communist Party of Nepal is the ruling party in Nepal. The party is considered to be the largest Communist Party in South Asia and ranks third in Asia. The party was established on May 17, 2018. It was formed after the unification of the two leftist parties, the
Communist Party of Nepal (a unified Marxist-Leninism) and the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist center). This party is the largest party in the House of Representatives and the National Assembly.

35) Prime Minister Ollie has recommended a parliamentary resolution on ___________.
A. December 20, 2020
B. December 20, 2021
C. December 20, 2019
D. December 20, 2018

**Answer A**

**Explanation** Prime Minister Ollie has recommended a parliamentary resolution on December 20, 2020. He made this decision after a dispute with the former prime minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal Prachanda (Pushpa Kamal Dahal Prachanda). Since then, Nepalese President Bidhya Devi Bhandari accepted the Prime Ministers proposal. Therefore, the parliament was dissolved. Parliamentary elections are now scheduled to be held from April 30 to May 10, 2021.

36) The New START Treaty will expire in ___________.
A. February 2021
B. February 2020
C. February 2019
D. February 2018

**Answer A**

**Explanation** This treaty replaces the Moscow Treaty, also known as SORT (Strategic Offensive Reduction Treaty). The term strategic offensive weapons refers to nuclear warheads deployed by Strategic Nuclear Delivery Vehicles. It is the successor to the START I framework signed between counties in 1991, limiting the countrys warheads to 6,000 and strategic delivery vehicles to 1,600. The START II Treaty has never come into effect, and the negotiations on the START III have never ended. The New START Treaty will expire in February 2021.

37) When did Jail Tourism begin in Maharashtra?
A. January 26, 2021
B. January 26, 2020
The government of Maharashtra has decided to start a "prison tour" from Yelawada Prison in Pune. The event will start on January 26, 2021. The plan is being launched in the state to promote people to visit and visit the states historic prisons. This is done because it preserves the memories of many freedom fighters who were once imprisoned in prison.

38) When was Yerwada prison built?

A. 1871
B. 1872
C. 1873
D. 1874

Answer A

Explanation Yerwada jail in Pune is the largest prison in Maharashtra. The prison is also the largest prison in South Asia. It can hold 5,000 prisoners. The Yerwada prison was built in 1871 by the British. It is protected by four high walls and is divided into multiple security zones and barracks. It also includes egg-shaped cells for high-security prisoners. However, prisons are highly criticized for being overcrowded and poor living conditions.

39) The return of the United States to Paris Climate Agreement will take effect on _____________.

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

Answer A

Explanation Joe Biden assumed the office as president of the United States of America. One of the first orders he signed was to restore US participation in the United Nations Paris Agreement on Climate Change. The return of the United States will take effect on February 19. The United States promises to implement the mechanism to achieve net zero emissions by 2050, including the goal of expiry of the term of office no later than 2025, and there is also a planned federal investment that will total $1.7 trillion over ten years, besides private investments.
40) When was Moscow Treaty signed?

A. 2002  
B. 2003  
C. 2004  
D. 2005  

**Answer A**

**Explanation** The official name of the New START Treaty is "Measures to Further Reduce and Limit Strategic Offensive Weapons". The United States and Russia signed a treaty to reduce the production and use of nuclear weapons. Under the treaty, the two countries will reduce their strategic nuclear missile launchers by half. The treaty establishes an inspection and verification system that replaces SORT. Reduce the number of deployable strategic nuclear warheads to 1,550. This is 10% lower than the strategic warhead limit set by the "Moscow Treaty" signed by the two countries in 2002.

41) Elon Musk's SpaceX has launched _____________ satellites on a single rocket called the "Falcon 9" rocket  

A. 143  
B. 140  
C. 133  
D. 137  

**Answer A**

**Explanation** Elon Musk's SpaceX set a new world record. It has launched 143 satellites on a single rocket called the "Falcon 9" rocket. With this new record, SpaceX broke the record of the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO), which deployed 104 satellites in a single launch in February 2017. The price per satellite is $15,000.

42) Elon Musk's SpaceX has launched 143 satellites on a single rocket called the the _____________rocket  

A. Falcon 9  
B. Falcon 10  
C. Falcon 12  
D. Falcon 20
**Answer A**

**Explanation** Elon Musk's SpaceX set a new world record. It has launched 143 satellites on a single rocket called the "Falcon 9" rocket. With this new record, SpaceX broke the record of the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO), which deployed 104 satellites in a single launch in February 2017. The price per satellite is $15,000.

**43) When did ISRO launched 102 Satellites?**

A. February 2016  
B. February 2017  
C. February 2018  
D. February 2019  

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Elon Musk's SpaceX set a new world record. It has launched 143 satellites on a single rocket called the "Falcon 9" rocket. With this new record, SpaceX broke the record of the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO), which deployed 104 satellites in a single launch in February 2017. The price per satellite is $15,000.

**44) How many Satellites did ISRO launched in Feb 2019?**

A. 102  
B. 103  
C. 104  
D. 105  

**Answer C**

**Explanation** Elon Musk's SpaceX set a new world record. It has launched 143 satellites on a single rocket called the "Falcon 9" rocket. With this new record, SpaceX broke the record of the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO), which deployed 104 satellites in a single launch in February 2017. The price per satellite is $15,000.

**45) When was SpaceX established?**

A. 2002  
B. 2001
C.2000
D.2003

Answer A

Explanation Space Exploration Technologies Corp (Space X) established in the year 2002 which is an American aerospace manufacturer and space transportation service company. Its headquarters are in Hawthorn, California.

46) Where is the headquarters of Space X?
A. California
B. Paris
C. New York
D. London

Answer A

Explanation Space Exploration Technologies Corp (Space X) established in the year 2002 which is an American aerospace manufacturer and space transportation service company. Its headquarters are in Hawthorn, California.

47) When was AMPHEX 21 conducted?
A. January 21 to 25, 2021
B. January 21 to 26, 2021
C. January 21 to 27, 2021
D. January 21 to 28, 2021

Answer A

Explanation From January 21 to 25, 2021, the Indian Armed Forces conducted a large-scale tri-service amphibious exercise AMPHEX-21 in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. In this exercise, naval ships, army amphibious forces and air force aircraft participated in the competition.

48) The KAVACH exercise used to defend the Andaman and Nicobar Islands is also part of ____________.
A. AMPHEX-21
B. AMPHEX-22
Answer A

Explanation The exercise also involved the airborne insertion of the Marine Commando, the naval artillery support of the Army Special Forces, and the amphibious landing and follow-up operations of the troops. The KAVACH exercise used to defend the Andaman and Nicobar Islands is also part of AMPHEX-21.

49) In which of the following coast Akash-NG Missile was tested?

A. Kerala  
B. Orissa  
C. Tamilnadu  
D. None of the above

Answer B

Explanation The Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO) has successfully tested the surface-to-air Akash-NG (new generation) missile off the coast of Orissa. The missile can intercept air threats. The missile was launched to enhance the defense system of the Indian Air Force (IAF).

50) Which of the following organisation tested Akash-NG?

A. ISRO  
B. DRDO  
C. IAF  
D. BEL

Answer B

Explanation The Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO) has successfully tested the surface-to-air Akash-NG (new generation) missile off the coast of Orissa. The missile can intercept air threats. The missile was launched to enhance the defense system of the Indian Air Force (IAF).

51) Akash-NG is a medium-range mobile ____________ defense system.
A. surface-to-air missile  
B. surface-to-surface missile  
C. air-to-air missile  
D. None of the above

**Answer A**

**Explanation** Akash-NG is a medium-range mobile surface-to-air missile defense system. It was developed by the Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO). The missile is jointly produced by Bharat Dynamics Co., Ltd. (BDL) and Balata Electronics Co. (BEL), which develops missile systems, Tata Power Strategic Engineering Department, and Larsen and Tuburo. The latter developed radars. Control center and launch system.

52) When was Bal Kalyan Puraskar established?

A. 1979  
B. 1980  
C. 1981  
D. 1982

**Answer A**

**Explanation** Bal Kalyan Puraskar: The award was established in 1979 and is called the "National Children Welfare Awards". It was renamed "Bal Kalyan Puraskar" in 2018. Provided to individuals and/or organizations working in the areas of child development, child protection and child welfare. The award is divided into two categories-Individuals and Institutions. Each of these two categories won three awards and cash prizes.

53) When was National Children Award for Outstanding Achievement established?

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

**Answer A**

**Explanation** Bal Shakti Puraskar award is awarded to children in the fields of social service, academics, innovation, sports, art and culture, and bravery. It comes with a medal and a cash...
prize of Rs. 1 lakh, with certificates and citations. This award was previously called as "National Children Award for Outstanding Achievement". It was established in 1996 and was renamed as "Bal Shakti Puraskar" in 2018.

54) When was National Children Award for Outstanding Achievement renamed as Bal Shakti Puraskar?

A. 2016  
B. 2017  
C. 2018  
D. 2019

**Answer C**

**Explanation** Bal Shakti Puraskar award is awarded to children in the fields of social service, academics, innovation, sports, art and culture, and bravery. It comes with a medal and a cash prize of Rs. 1 lakh, with certificates and citations. This award was previously called as "National Children Award for Outstanding Achievement". It was established in 1996 and was renamed as "Bal Shakti Puraskar" in 2018.

55) The Dutch government hosted the Climate Adaptation Summit (CAS) on ___________.

A. January 26, 2021  
B. January 25, 2021  
C. January 24, 2021  
D. January 23, 2021

**Answer A**

**Explanation** The Dutch government hosted the Climate Adaptation Summit (CAS) on January 25, 2021. The summit is held online and is called "CAS Online". This summit was established on the basis of the UN Climate Action Summit. The summit also demonstrated the climate emergency and ground breaking solutions to maintain momentum through UNFCCC's COP26.

56) By 2030, India will restore ___________ million hectares of degraded land.

A. 26  
B. 27
By 2030, India's goal is a renewable energy capacity of 450 GW. India is saving 38 million tons of carbon dioxide emissions each year by promoting LED lights. By 2030, India will restore 26 million hectares of degraded land.

57) Risa culture is related to ____________.

A. Tripura  
B. Assam  
C. Manipur  
D. Meghalaya

Answer A

Explanation Various initiatives have been taken, such as providing risa uniforms to Anganwadi and ASHA workers, and providing training to making risa at Tripura Handloom and Handicraft Development corporations. The risa is being branded under the India Handloom Brand. This supports the Vocal for Local initiative of the central government. Risa: Risa is a hand-woven cloth used as a female upper garment. Risa is a part of Tripuri's traditional attire, including three parts- risa, rignai and rikutu.

58) From ____________, Bharat Parv 2021 was organized.

A. January 26, 2021 to January 28, 2021  
B. January 26, 2021 to January 29, 2021  
C. January 26, 2021 to January 31, 2021  
D. January 26, 2021 to January 28, 2021

Answer C

Explanation From January 26, 2021 to January 31, 2021, Bharat Parv 2021 was organized. The overall theme of BharatParv annual event is Aatmanirbhar Bharat and Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat.

59) When was Bharat Parv started?

A. 2015
Ministry of Tourism is organizing Bharat Parv every year. It started in 2016. During the Republic Day celebration, the event was held in front of the Red Fort city wall. The organization of these events aims to generate patriotic passion. It also showcases the rich and diverse culture of India. Central ministries and other organizations (such as the Ministry of Culture, Ayush, I&B, Railways, and Media) showcased handicrafts, music, dances, hand looms, paintings, literary materials and other features from all over the country.

60) When is International Holocaust Remembrance Day observed?

A. 27 January  
B. 28 January  
C. 29 January  
D. 30 January

Answer A

The International Holocaust Remembrance Day was held on January 27 at the Bangalore International Center. To celebrate the International Holocaust Remembrance Day, a small ceremony was organized and commemorative candles were lit by priests of various religious groups. The ceremony was organized according to the theme of the United Nations: "Facing the Aftermath: Recovery and Reconstitution after the Holocaust".

61) When was International Holocaust Remembrance Day declared?

A. November 1, 2005  
B. November 1, 2006  
C. November 1, 2007  
D. November 1, 2008

Answer A

This is an international day of remembrance to commemorate the victims of the Holocaust. The Holocaust refers to the genocide of European Jews by Nazi Germany in 1941-1945. It was chosen to commemorate the liberation of Auschwitz by the Red Army in 1945. After the 60th anniversary of the liberation of the Nazi concentration camps, the UN
General Assembly resolution on November 1, 2005 designated this day as a Memorial Day. This day marks the international community’s unwavering commitment to combating anti-Semitism, racism and other forms of intolerance that can lead to group-targeted violence.

62) Nazi Germany was a German state from ____________.

A. 1933 to 1945
B. 1932 to 1946
C. 1932 to 1945
D. 1933 to 1946

Answer A

Explanation Nazi Germany was a German state from 1933 to 1945. It is officially called the German Empire and the Greater German Empire. United Nations General Assembly Resolution is a declaration, and all UN member states vote on it in the General Assembly. The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) is one of the six main organs of the United Nations (UN). It is the main deliberative, decision-making and representative body of the United Nations.

63) When was PRAGATI launched?

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

Answer A

Explanation PRAGATI was launched in 2015 and is a multi-mode platform for active governance and timely implementation involving the central government and state governments. It was designed by the Prime Minister's Office team with the help of the National Information Center (NIC).

64) The PRAGATI platform is a ____________ tier system.

A. 1
B. 2
C. 3
D. 4
Answer C

**Explanation** The PRAGATI platform combines the three latest technologies: digital data management, video conferencing and geospatial technology. It is a three-tier system (PMO, Federal Secretary and State Chief Secretary). It promotes cooperative federalism because it brings together the secretary of the Indian government and the chief secretary of the country.

65) **India Signed MoU with IEA for which of the following sector?**

A. Global Energy Security  
B. Global Energy stability  
C. Global Energy sustainability  
D. All the above  

Answer D

**Explanation** India has signed a strategic partnership framework agreement with the International Energy Agency (IEA). The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) aims to strengthen cooperation on global energy security, stability and sustainability. It will also facilitate extensive knowledge exchange between the two.

66) **Where is headquarters of International Energy Agency ?**

A. Paris  
B. New York  
C. London  
D. California  

Answer A

**Explanation** IEA is an autonomous intergovernmental organization headquartered in Paris, established in 1974 after the 1973 oil crisis. It was established within the framework of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

67) **When was the International Energy Agency (IEA) established ?**

A. 1974  
B. 1973  
C. 1972  
D. 1971
IEA is an autonomous intergovernmental organization headquartered in Paris, established in 1974 after the 1973 oil crisis. It was established within the framework of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

68) Which of the following countries are non members of IEA?
A. China  
B. India  
C. Russia  
D. All the above

Answer D

Explanation IEA also cooperates with non-member countries such as China, India and Russia. The agency focuses on the "3Es" of effective energy policies, namely energy security, economic development and environmental protection. It also promotes the development of alternative energy sources, such as renewable energy, transnational energy technology cooperation, and reasonable energy policies.

69) When was World Economic Forum founded?
A. 1971  
B. 1972  
C. 1973  
D. 1974

Answer A

Explanation WEF is an international Non-Governmental Organization founded in 1971 and headquartered in Cologny, Switzerland. Formerly known as the European Management Forum, it was renamed the current forum in 1987.

70) Where is the headquarters of World Economic Forum?
A. Switzerland  
B. Paris  
C. London
Explanation WEF is an international Non-Governmental Organization founded in 1971 and headquartered in Cologny, Switzerland. Formerly known as the European Management Forum, it was renamed the current forum in 1987.

71) When was Europe Management Forum renamed as World Economic Forum?

A. 1987  
B. 1986  
C. 1985  
D. 1984

Answer A

Explanation WEF is an international Non-Governmental Organization founded in 1971 and headquartered in Cologny, Switzerland. Formerly known as the European Management Forum, it was renamed the current forum in 1987.

72) When was National Informatics Centre Services Incorporated established?

A. 1995  
B. 1996  
C. 1997  
D. 1998

Answer B

Explanation NICSI was established in 1996 to provide end-to-end IT solutions for e-governance projects for Central Government, State Governments and other PSUs across India. It also provides ICT services at the international level. NICSI's core services include IT Consultancy, Centre of Excellence for Data Analytics, Productization & International Promotion, Cloud Services, ICT product installations, Human Resource/Roll out/Training. Some of its main products are extended to eOffice, eTransport, eHospital, ePrisons, eCourts, etc.

73) Where is headquarters of National Informatics Centre Services
Incorporated?

A.Kolkata  
B.New Delhi  
C.Pune  
D.Chennai

**Answer B**

**Explanation** NICSI's core services include IT Consultancy, Centre of Excellence for Data Analytics, Productization & International Promotion, Cloud Services, ICT product installations, Human Resource/Roll out/Training. Some of its main products are extended to eOffice, eTransport, eHospital, ePrisons, eCourts, etc. NICSI is headquartered in New Delhi.

74) When is International Customs Day celebrated?

A.26 January  
B.27 January  
C.28 January  
D.29 January

**Answer A**

**Explanation** International Customs Day (ICD) is held on January 26 each year to recognize the role of customs officials and agencies in maintaining border security. It focuses on the working conditions and challenges faced by customs officers in their work. It was initiated by the World Customs Organization (WCO).

75) Who initiated International Customs Day?

A.World Customs Organization  
B.United Nations  
C.Both A and B  
D.None

**Answer A**

**Explanation** International Customs Day (ICD) is held on January 26 each year to recognize the role of customs officials and agencies in maintaining border security. It focuses on the working conditions and challenges faced by customs officers in their work. It was initiated by the World Customs Organization (WCO).
Customs Organization (WCO).

76) When is inaugural session of the Customs Cooperation Council (CCC) ?

A.January 26, 1952
B.January 26, 1953
C.January 26, 1954
D.January 26, 1955

**Answer A**

**Explanation** January 26, 1952 is the anniversary of the inaugural session of the Customs Cooperation Council (CCC) in Brussels, Belgium. In 1994, CCC was renamed the World Customs Organization (WCO). Today, customs organizations from 183 countries have become members of WCO. The headquarters of the World Customs Organization is in Brussels.

77) United Nations Security Council (UNSC), which is the world's highest body and consists of ____________ members

A.10
B.100
C.15
D.150

**Answer C**

**Explanation** The Intergovernmental Negotiation Framework (IGN) is a group of nation-states working within the United Nations to further reform the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), which is the world's highest body and consists of 15 members.

78) Mount Merapi is a volcano in ____________.

A.Java
B.Indonesia
C.Indonesia and Java
D.India

**Answer A**

**Explanation** Mount Merapi is a volcano in Indonesia and Java. It is an active advection volcano
located on the border between Central Java and Yogyakarta. It is considered the most active volcano in Indonesia and has erupted regularly since 1548.

79) Mullaperiyaru is located ____________ m above mean sea level

A. 881  
B. 880  
C. 991  
D. 990

**Answer A**

**Explanation** Mullaperiyaru Dam is a masonry gravity dam that is located on the Periyar River in Kerala. Mullaperiyaru is located 881 m above mean sea level. It is located on the Cardamom Hill in the Western Ghats in the Idukki District of Kerala. The dam was built by John Pennycuick between 1887 and 1895. Periyar National Park is located near the dam reservoir. It was built at the confluence of Mullayar and Periyar rivers. The dam is located on the Periyar River in Kerala but is operated and maintained by Tamil Nadu.

80) Mullaperiyaru Dam is a masonry gravity dam that is located in ____________.

A. Kerala  
B. Karnataka  
C. Tamil Nadu  
D. Andhra Pradesh

**Answer A**

**Explanation** Mullaperiyaru Dam is a masonry gravity dam that is located on the Periyar River in Kerala. Mullaperiyaru is located 881 m above mean sea level. It is located on the Cardamom Hill in the Western Ghats in the Idukki District of Kerala. The dam was built by John Pennycuick between 1887 and 1895. Periyar National Park is located near the dam reservoir. It was built at the confluence of Mullayar and Periyar rivers. The dam is located on the Periyar River in Kerala but is operated and maintained by Tamil Nadu.

81) Mullaperiyaru Dam is operated by ____________.

A. Kerala  
B. Tamil Nadu
C. Andhra Pradesh
D. Telangana

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Mullaperiyaru Dam is a masonry gravity dam that is located on the Periyar River in Kerala. Mullaperiyaru is located 881 m above mean sea level. It is located on the Cardamom Hill in the Western Ghats in the Idukki District of Kerala. The dam was built by John Pennycuick between 1887 and 1895. Periyar National Park is located near the dam reservoir. It was built at the confluence of Mullayar and Periyar rivers. The dam is located on the Periyar River in Kerala but is operated and maintained by Tamil Nadu.

82) **When was the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi?**

A. October 2, 1869  
B. October 2, 1868  
C. October 2, 1867  
D. October 2, 1866

**Answer A**

**Explanation** Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi was born in Porbandar, Gujarat on October 2, 1869, and died in Gandhi Smriti, New Delhi on January 30, 1948. In the evening prayers, he was assassinated by Nathuram Godse of Birla House. Gandhi was a lawyer, politician, social activist, writer, and became the leader of the nationalist movement against Indian rule in India.

83) **When was death anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi observed?**

A. January 30, 1948  
B. January 30, 1947  
C. January 30, 1950  
D. January 30, 1949

**Answer A**

**Explanation** March 23 is also regarded as the Martyrs' Memorial Day to pay tribute to the three revolutionaries of India, namely Bhagat Singh, Shivaram Rajguru, and Sukhdev Thapar. Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi was born in Porbandar, Gujarat on October 2, 1869, and died in Gandhi Smriti, New Delhi on January 30, 1948. In the evening prayers, he was assassinated by Nathuram Godse of Birla House. Gandhi was a lawyer, politician, social activist, writer, and became the leader of the nationalist movement against Indian rule in India.
84) When was Act East Forum established?

A. 2016  
B. 2017  
C. 2018  
D. 2019  

**Answer B**

**Explanation** The Act East Forum was established in 2017. During his visit to India, Prime Minister Abe signed an agreement to establish a forum in September 2017. This platform is in line with Japan’s vision of achieving a "free and open Indo-Pacific" and cooperation between India and Japan in the Northeast under India’s "East French Policy".

85) When was India's Look East policy introduced?

A. 1990  
B. 1991  
C. 1992  
D. 1993  

**Answer B**

**Explanation** India's Look East policy was introduced by the former prime minister in 1991 by P V Narasimha Rao introduced this policy with the purpose of shifting India’s trade focus from the West and neighbouring countries to Southeast Asian countries. With the promulgation of the Eastern Act, this policy was terminated in 2014.

86) When was gender park established in Kerala?

A. 2013  
B. 2014  
C. 2015  
D. 2016  

**Answer A**

**Explanation** The Kerala government established a gender park in 2013. This is an initiative aimed at promoting gender equality and empowerment in Kerala. The headquarters of the project
is located in Trivandrum, the capital of Kerala. However, the main campus is located in Silver Mountain in Kozhikode. The campus covers an area of 24 acres.

87) Where is the headquarters of Gender park project?

A. Trivandrum  
B. Cochin  
C. Kozhikode  
D. None

Answer A

Explanation The Kerala government established a gender park in 2013. This is an initiative aimed at promoting gender equality and empowerment in Kerala. The headquarters of the project is located in Trivandrum, the capital of Kerala. However, the main campus is located in Silver Mountain in Kozhikode. The campus covers an area of 24 acres.

88) Where is the main campus of Gender park project?

A. Trivandrum  
B. Cochin  
C. Kozhikode  
D. None of the above

Answer C

Explanation The Kerala government established a gender park in 2013. This is an initiative aimed at promoting gender equality and empowerment in Kerala. The headquarters of the project is located in Trivandrum, the capital of Kerala. However, the main campus is located in Silver Mountain in Kozhikode. The campus covers an area of 24 acres.

89) What is the total area of Gender park in Kerala?

A. 24 acres  
B. 25 acres  
C. 26 acres  
D. 27 acres

Answer A
**Explanation** The Kerala government established a gender park in 2013. This is an initiative aimed at promoting gender equality and empowerment in Kerala. The headquarters of the project is located in Trivandrum, the capital of Kerala. However, the main campus is located in Silver Mountain in Kozhikode. The campus covers an area of 24 acres.

90) **The main purpose of UNEP is to help the world achieve ___________ sustainable development goals.**

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

**Answer C**

**Explanation** The United Nations Environment Programme (also known as the United Nations Environment Programme) was established by Maurice Strong after the United Nations Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment in 1972. The organization participates in coordinating the response to environmental issues within the United Nations system. It provides leadership, provides scientific knowledge and develops solutions on issues such as climate change, marine and terrestrial ecosystem management, and green economic development. It also developed international environmental agreements and helped achieve environmental goals. The main purpose of UNEP is to help the world achieve 17 sustainable development goals.

91) **When was United Nations Environment Programme established?**

A. 1972  
B. 1973  
C. 1974  
D. 1975

**Answer A**

**Explanation** The United Nations Environment Programme (also known as the United Nations Environment Programme) was established by Maurice Strong after the United Nations Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment in 1972. The organization participates in coordinating the response to environmental issues within the United Nations system.

92) **When was CSIR established?**
A. September 1942  
B. September 1943  
C. September 1944  
D. September 1945

**Answer A**

**Explanation** CSIR was established by the Indian government in September 1942. It is an autonomous organization and has now become India's largest R&D organization. This institution is mainly funded by the Ministry of Science and Technology. According to the Association Registration Act of 1860, it is an autonomous institution.

93) **Who established CSIR?**

A. Indian government  
B. Ministry of Science and Technology  
C. Both  
D. None

**Answer A**

**Explanation** CSIR was established by the Indian government in September 1942. It is an autonomous organization and has now become India's largest R&D organization. This institution is mainly funded by the Ministry of Science and Technology. According to the Association Registration Act of 1860, it is an autonomous institution. The various institutes of CSIR will now start research and development, promotion and social projects under this agreement.

94) **What is the rank of India in Covid-19 Response Index?**

A. 85  
B. 86  
C. 87  
D. 88

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Among 98 countries/regions, India ranks 86th in the Coronavirus Performance Index. The report emphasizes that New Zealand has responded to the pandemic more effectively than any other country in the world. Brazil came last.
95) What is the rank of United States in Covid-19 Response Index?

A. 5  
B. 6  
C. 7  
D. 8  

Answer A

Explanation: Among 98 countries/regions, India ranks 86th in the Coronavirus Performance Index. The report emphasizes that New Zealand has responded to the pandemic more effectively than any other country in the world. Brazil came last. In the index, New Zealand follows closely behind, followed by Vietnam, Taiwan, Thailand, and Cyprus. The United States ranked fifth and was the worst performing country. Sri Lanka ranks tenth in handling the Covid-19 pandemic.

96) How many days does study of Covid-19 Response Index took?

A. 36 weeks  
B. 35 weeks  
C. 34 weeks  
D. 33 weeks  

Answer A

Explanation: The indicators used to rank countries indicate how well they manage the pandemic. The average ranking is given in the six indicators. Then normalize each country to produce a score between 0 (worst performing) and 100 (best performing). The study was conducted for 36 weeks.

97) When was Lowy Institute established?

A. April 2003  
B. April 2004  
C. April 2005  
D. April 2006  

Answer A

Explanation: Lowy Institute is an independent think tank, established in April 2003. It was founded by Frank Lowy. The think tank participates in original policy-related research on
international political, strategic and economic issues. The institute is located in Sydney, Australia. Funding for the institute comes from donations from investment management company Manikay Partners.

98) Where is Lowy Institute located?

A. Paris  
B. New York  
C. London  
D. Sydney

Answer D

Explanation Lowy Institute is an independent think tank, established in April 2003. It was founded by Frank Lowy. The think tank participates in original policy-related research on international political, strategic and economic issues. The institute is located in Sydney, Australia. Funding for the institute comes from donations from investment management company Manikay Partners.

99) In 2021, ___________ death anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi is observed.

A. 73rd  
B. 74th  
C. 75th  
D. 76th

Answer A

Explanation In 2021, 73rd death anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi is observed. March 23 is also regarded as the Martyrs' Memorial Day to pay tribute to the three revolutionaries of India, namely Bagt Singh, Shivaram Raguru and Sukhdev Thapal. Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi was born in Porbandar, Gujarat on October 2, 1869, and died in Gandhi Smriti, New Delhi on January 30, 1948.

100) Which of the following states completed Urban Local Bodies Reforms?

A. Manipur  
B. Telangana  
C. Andhra Pradesh  
D. All the above
Answer D

Explanation Rajasthan has become the fifth state in the country to successfully implement the "Urban Local Body (ULB)" reform prescribed by the Ministry of Finance and Expenditure Department. Therefore, the state is eligible to mobilize additional financial resources of Rs 2731 crore through Open Market Borrowings. Rajasthan has now joined four other states, namely Manipur, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh, and they have completed this reform.

101) Manjamma Jogati is ____________ Winner

A. Padma Shri
B. Padma Bhushan
C. Padma Vibhushan
D. All the above

Answer A

Explanation Manjamma Jogati is the Padma Shri winner, he is a transgender in Karnataka. In the past few decades, she has engaged in practice and single-handedly popularised rural folk arts.
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