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**BUSINESS & ECONOMY**

**Odisha Completes Ease Of Doing Business Reforms**

Odisha became the seventh state to complete the ease of business reforms.

**Highlights:**

- Odisha has become the seventh state in the country that has successfully implemented the "Ease of Doing Business" reform prescribed by the Ministry of Finance and Expenditure.
- Therefore, New York State is eligible to mobilize additional rupee funds. It received Rs 1,429 crore through open market borrowings.
- Orissa has now joined the six states of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Telangana, and they have completed this reform.

**India Sign $10 Million Loan To Support Himachal Pradesh**


**Highlights:**

- The PRF project will support the adoption of advanced actions to achieve a high level of project preparation through detailed design activities, capacity building of state-level institutions, and the creation of a favorable environment for the state's subtropical horticulture development.
- It aims to ensure implementation readiness by testing the new production technology and marketing system in advance, so that the project is cost-effective and can be completed in time.
- The project will support the development of subtropical horticulture in the southern part of the state, including the cultivation of fruits and vegetables. Due to the limited long-term access to water, crop losses caused by wildlife invasion and limited access to high-value markets, the state is currently lagging behind.
- PRF supports the establishment of a Water User Association (WUA) based on the completed irrigation scheme and increases women's participation.
India Signs Loan To Enhance Power Generation Capacity

The Asian Development Bank - ADB and the Indian government signed a loan of US$231 million to increase the power generation capacity of Assam by building a 120-megawatt hydroelectric power plant.

**Highlights:**

This is the third loan under the ongoing Assam State Power Industry Investment Plan, which was approved by the ADB Board of Directors in July 2014. The plan includes the first two parts, focusing on increasing the capacity and efficiency of the energy production and distribution system in Assam to improve the power services provided to end users.

The project promotes an increase in the supply of affordable clean electricity, which will help improve living conditions in the state, promote business expansion and increase employment opportunities in the state, while reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

The project is an upstream project on the Kobili River, which will help increase clean energy supply by 469 gigawatt hours (GWh) by 2025 and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 360,000 tons of carbon dioxide annually.

The US$2 million grant from Japan's Poverty Alleviation Fund (JFPR) is also related to the equipment and consulting services.

**Asian Development Bank (ADB):**

Asian Development Bank (ADB) is a regional development bank which is established on December 19, 1966. Its headquarters are located in Mandaluyong, Ortigas Center, Metro Manila, Philippines. The bank promotes social & economic development in Asia. It is modeled on the World Bank and has a similar weighted voting system in which votes are distributed in proportion to the capital subscriptions of members. As of December 31, 2018, Japan and the United States each held the largest proportion of shares, which was 15.571%. China accounted for 6.429%, India accounted for 6.317%, and Australia accounted for 5.773%.

**IFSCA Becomes A Member Of IOSCO**

The International Financial Services Center Authority (IFSCA) has become an Associate Member of the International Organization of Securities Commissions (IOSCO).
**IOSCO:**
IOSCO is an international organization which brings together global securities regulatory agencies, covering more than 95% of the global securities market. It is also a global standard-setter for the securities sector. IOSCO works closely with the G20 and the Financial Stability Board (FSB) to develop standards to strengthen the securities market. The FSB has recognized IOSCO Objectives and Principles of Securities Regulation as one of the key standards for a sound financial system.

**Highlights:**
- IOSCO membership will provide a platform for IFSCA to exchange information on areas of common interest at the global and regional levels.
- In addition, the IOSCO platform will enable IFSCA to learn from the experience and best practices of regulatory agencies in other well-established financial centers.
- This is an important milestone linking IFSCA with global securities market regulators, and will make a huge contribution to the development and supervision of financial products, financial services and financial institutions at the Gujarat International Finance Tec-City International Financial Services Centre.

**Indias Rice Exports To Vietnam**
Due to attractive prices, Vietnam has recently started to buy grain, especially rice, from India. Although Vietnam is the world's third-largest rice exporter, Vietnam has started to import rice from India.

**Highlights:**
- Vietnam has started to import rice from India because the country's local price has jumped to the highest level in 9 years due to limited domestic supply. This is mainly because Vietnam has begun to stock a large amount of rice for the future.
- In addition, the price of Indian rice is very attractive. The huge price difference forced the Vietnamese government to import rice from India.
- Indian traders will export 70,000 tons of rice to Vietnam at a price of approximately US$310 per ton. India will export broken rice to Vietnam in January and February 2021.
- The global pandemic has prompted Vietnam and other countries to stock up rice. This is because the reduction in food supply makes people increasingly worried about food insecurity.
- Vietnam plans to reserve US$270,000 of rice to ensure access to food in the event
of a disruption in the global covid-19 supply chain. Therefore, it is facing shortages and is dependent on imports.

The price of broken rice in India ranges from US$381 to US$387 per ton. The attractive price of Indian rice has increased the demand in Asian and African countries. It is expected that Thailand and other Asian countries will also transfer rice imports to India.

Vietnam's total production in 2020 has dropped by 1.85% compared to 2019. In addition, Vietnam's rice exports in 2020 fell by 3.5% compared to 2019.

**GST Compensation Shortfall In States**

The 10th Instalment of Rs 6,000 crore was issued to the States as a back-to-back loan to meet the GST compensation shortfall.

**Highlights:**

The Ministry of Finance has issued the tenth instalment of 60 billion rupees a week to the states to make up for the shortage of goods and services tax compensation. The money has been released to 23 states and 3 UTs with legislative assemblies. The remaining 5 states (Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland and Sikkim) have no income gap due to the implementation of GST. Now, more than 50% of the estimated GST compensation shortfall has been issued to the States & UTs with legislative assemblies.

**Digital Payments Index by RBI**

The Reserve Bank of India has established a comprehensive Digital Payment Index (DPI) to record the degree of digitization of payments across the country.

**Highlights:**

The RBI-DPI has been constructed with March 2018 as the base period. The DPI in March 2019 and March 2020 reached 153.47 and 207.84, respectively, indicating considerable growth. RBI-DPI contains five main parameters: Payment Enablers, Payment Infrastructure Demand-side factors and Supply-side factors, Payment Performance and Consumer Centricity. The RBI-DPI should be published on the RBI's website every six months starting in March 2021 for 4 months.
World Bank Released Global Economic Prospects Report

According to the report, the Indian economy will contract by 9.6% in 2020-21. The Indian economy will recover by 5.4% in 2021-22. India's economic contraction will be mainly attributed to the sharp decline in household spending and private investment.

**Highlights:**

- The informal sector accounts for four-fifths of the country's employment, is severely affected. On the other hand, the world economy will grow by 4% in 2021. Services and manufacturing are gaining momentum. According to the World Bank, India is facing its first technological decline.
- When GDP exceeds the quarter's negative growth for two consecutive quarters, it is called a period of a technical recession. In India, the gross domestic product for the April to June quarter fell by 23.9%.
- In the July and September quarters, the GDP growth rate contracted by 7.5%. This clearly shows that India's GDP growth has experienced negative growth for two consecutive quarters. Therefore, India is in a period of technological decline.
- According to data from the Indian Economic Monitoring Center, during the covid-19 pandemic, more than 500,000 salaried people lost their jobs.
- Several global rating agencies have already made predictions on the Indian economy. In September 2020, the exchange substantially reduced its growth expectations for India. The country's GDP is expected to decrease by 10.5% in the 2020-21 fiscal year.
- Previously, it had expected a 5% contraction. The Asian Development Bank predicts that India's economic growth will contract by 9% in 2020-21.

Exim Bank Has Raised $1 Billion By Dollar-Bond Sale

The Export-Import Bank has raised US$1 billion through the sale of US dollar bonds to international investors.

**Exim Bank:**

The Export-Import Bank of India is a specialized financial institution wholly-owned by the Indian government and was established in 1982 to provide financing, facilitation and promotion of trade in India.

The Export-Import Bank provides financial assistance to exporters and importers.
It is the main financial institution responsible for coordinating the work of institutions engaged in financing the import & export of goods and services to promote international trade in the country.

**Liberalized Authorised Economic Operator Package for MSMEs**

Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs - CBIC introduces flagship Liberalised Authorised Economic Operator Package for Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).

**Highlights:**

The Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs - CBIC has adopted a replacement initiative to launch the flagship product "Liberalised MSME AEO Package" for Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) to understand rapid customs clearance.

In order to attract MSMEs to become Authorized Economic Operators (AEOs) and luxuriate in them, CBIC (Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs) has relaxed the compliance criteria provided the MSMEs have a legitimate certificate from their line-ministry.

The "Liberalized MSME AEO Package" scheme could even be a voluntary compliance program that gives faster customs clearance service for qualified stakeholders within the worldwide supply chain (namely importers, exporters, logistics service providers, custodians, etc.).

The relaxed requirements, allowing Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) who submit a minimum of 10 customs clearance documents within 1 year and who have clear compliance records within two years to use for the scheme.

**Japan Provides Loan To India**

Japan & India signed an agreement of 50 billion loans to support India's economic support program for the poor and vulnerable groups affected by the pandemic.

**Highlights:**

The loan could also be a neighborhood of Japan's Official Development Assistance - ODA loan.

Official Development Assistance is defined as government assistance aimed
toward promoting the economic development & welfare of countries that are under development.

Annual rate of interest of the loan is 0.65%, and thus the repayment period is 15 years, including a 5-year grace period.

The support targets to support the Indian government's programs, like PMGKY (Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana), which aims to scale back the socio-economic impact and strengthen the socio-economic institutions.

This includes plans to distribute food to the poor and disadvantaged groups, to provide assistance and support to construction workers, and plans to provide special insurance for doctors fighting Covid-19. It's to implement the health and medical policies of the Indian government and is predicted to steer to the hospital's development equipped with medical aid units (ICU) and infection prevention and management facilities. In many villages in India, digital technology is additionally expected to strengthen telemedicine.

**Model Tender for Public Procurement Drafted By The Finance Ministry**

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

**Highlights:**

- Public procurement is defined as the purchase of goods and services by the public sector or government, accounting for an average of 15% of global GDP.
- In India, it is estimated that government procurement accounts for about 30% of GDP, of which the central government accounts for a large part.
- There is no standardized nomenclature in public procurement in India, and nomenclature in the Americas, Europe and India are already common. E.g. Participants in bidding are called bidders and bidders.
- The current standard bidding documents try to eliminate this duality, that is, "bidder" should refer to the bidding documents and procedures, and the term "bid" should refer to the bidder's booth;
- According to the proposed model, "bidders" will be used instead of "bidders" to refer to potential suppliers, and the use of "bid documents" will be eliminated.

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

**Highlights:**
- The Ministry of Finance, Department of Expenditure released the 12th weekly instalment of Rs. 6,000 crore was allocated to the states to make up for the shortfall in compensation for GST.
- The funds have been provided to 23 States and 3 UTs of GST council members.
- Due to the implementation of GST, the remaining 5 states (Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland and Sikkim) have no income gap.

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

**Gujarat Renames Dragon Fruit**

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

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

**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, NOFH 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.

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**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%.

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.

**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.
UK To Abolish The Tampon Tax

Beginning in 2021, the UK abolished the 5% Value Added Tax (VAT) on women's sanitary products, commonly referred to as the tampon tax, & many activists call it sexist. Now it joins countries/regions that have eliminated this tax, including India, Australia and Canada.

**Highlights:**

Until December 31, the United Kingdom was still part of the European Union. During this period, regular products such as sanitary napkins and tampons were classified as non-essential goods, requiring member states to impose a 5% tax on them.

Today, Britain has withdrawn from the ranks of 27 member states, and it is not subject to its directives. According to the directive, since 1973, hygiene products have been subject to five different VAT rates-the lowest rate applicable since 2001 is 5%.

As a result, tax cancellation has been well received by women's rights activists and Brexit supporters.

The EU itself has been abolishing regular product taxes. In 2018, the European Union issued proposals to change tax rules, but these proposals have not yet been accepted by all members.

The British government estimates that the removal of the tampon tax will save the average woman about 40 pounds in her lifetime- as a pack of 20 pounds will be cheaper by around 7 pence and 12 sanitary pads by 5 pence.

Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action - JCPOA

Iran notified the IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency) that it intends to produce uranium enriched up to 20% purity, far exceeding the threshold set by the 2015 Vienna Accord (also known as JCPOA).

**About JCPOA:**

Commonly as the Iran nuclear deal or Iran deal, is an agreement on the Iranian nuclear program reached in Vienna on July 14, 2015, between Iran and the P5+1 (the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council-China,
France, Russia, United Kingdom, United States plus Germany) together with the European Union.

According to JCPOA, Iran agreed to eliminate its enriched uranium stocks, reduce its low-enriched uranium stocks by 98%, and reduce its gas centrifuges by about two-thirds within 13 years.

In 15 years, Iran will only enrich uranium up to 3.67%. Iran agreed not to build any new heavy-water facilities during the same period.

Uranium enrichment activities are limited to a single facility using the first-generation centrifuge for 10 years. Other facilities will be modified to avoid proliferation risks.

To monitor and verify Iran's compliance with the agreement, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) will regularly use all Iran's nuclear facilities.

The agreement stipulates that in return for verifiable compliance with its commitments, Iran will receive relief from the U.S., European Union, and UNSC nuclear-related sanctions.

On 5th January, 2020, after the airstrike on the Baghdad Airport that targeted and killed Iranian General Qassem Soleimani, Iran announced that it would no longer comply with the restrictions of the agreement, but would continue to coordinate with the IAEA to restore compliance.

### India-Japan Partnership In Specified Skilled Worker

The United Cabinet recently approved a memorandum of understanding between India and Japan on "specified skilled workers". According to the agreement, India will send skilled workers to Japan.

**Highlights:**

The memorandum of understanding will establish an institutional framework for cooperation between India and Japan to accept skilled workers. The only condition is that workers should have the qualifications to pass the necessary skills exams and Japanese exams.

According to the memorandum of understanding, qualified Indian workers can work in 14 specific sectors in Japan. According to the agreement, Indian workers will be provided with new residency status of "specifically skilled workers".

A joint working group formed to implement the memorandum of understanding. The memorandum of understanding will also increase connections between people.
In addition, it will facilitate the flow of workers and skilled professionals from India to Japan.

The nuclear agreement between India and Japan was signed in 2016. As, India is not a member of the Nuclear Proliferation Treaty, the agreement has attracted attention. For India, this transaction is necessary because it is the key to India's dealings with French and American nuclear companies that have shares in Japan or are owned by Japanese companies.

In 2015, India agreed to introduce Japan's high-speed bullet train Shinkansen system.

India and Japan formed the "Act East Forum" to expand cooperation between India in the Northeast region and Japan.

**India Formally Began Its Two-Year Term As A Non-Permanent Member Of The UNSC**

Together with Norway, Mexico, Ireland and Kenya, India formally serves as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council for a two-year term. On June 17, 2020, India was elected to the Security Council with a total of 192 votes and 184.

**Highlights:**

India formally serves as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council for a two-year term. On June 17, 2020, India was elected to the Security Council with a total of 192 votes and 184.

A member state needs to obtain a two-thirds majority in the General Assembly to become a non-permanent member. This is the 8th time for India to be elected as a non-permanent member.

India will serve as a permanent member of the UN Security Council in August 2021, and will also serve as a permanent member of the UN Security Council for another month in 2022. According to the English alphabetical order of the member states, each member of the Security Council will serve as the President of the Security Council for one month.

**UNSC:**

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) was established in 1946 and is one of the six main organs of the United Nations. It is often regarded as the highest peak of the United Nations system. It is responsible for maintaining international peace and security.
Its powers include establishing peacekeeping operations, establishing international sanctions, and authorizing military operations through Security Council resolutions. It is the only United Nations agency that has the authority to issue binding resolutions to member states.

The UNSC is composed of 15 members.

The council has five permanent members (P-5), namely the United States, Russia, China, the United Kingdom and France.

These permanent members can veto any substantive resolutions of the Security Council, including those concerning the admission of new members.

The Security Council has 10 non-permanent members, elected by region as follows:

- Five items for African and Asian countries;
- One for Eastern European countries;
- Two Latin American and Caribbean countries; and
- Two are used in Western Europe and other countries.

Every year, the UN General Assembly (UNGA), composed of 193 member states, elects 5 non-permanent members for a two-year term.

The chairman of the organization is rotated by its members every month.

**Solidarity and Stability Deal - Gulf Countries**

The Gulf countries signed the "Solidarity and Stability" deal at the 41st Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Summit held in Al Ula, Saudi Arabia.

**Background:**

In June 2017, Saudi Arabia and allies, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Bahrain & Egypt severed ties with Qatar and imposed naval, air and land blockades on the country. Qatar is accused of being very close to Iran and supporting Islamic radical groups. The country was imagined to support and fund terror through its support of Iran and the Muslim Brotherhood (a Sunni Islamist political group outlawed by both Saudi Arabia and therefore the UAE).

**Solidarity and Stability Deal:**

The Gulf Cooperation Council member states signed a deal in Al Ula, Saudi Arabia, to remove all sanctions on Qatar and reopen its land, sea and air borders to Qatar. Oman, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the UAE are members of the Gulf Cooperation Council.
To unite efforts to promote in the Gulf region and respond to the surrounding challenges, especially the threat posed by the Iranian regime's nuclear and ballistic missile program and its plans for sabotage and destruction.

**GCC**

GCC is a political, economic, social, and regional organisation which was established by an agreement concluded in the year 1981 among Oman, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and UAE in the view of countries geographic proximity, special relations, similar political systems based on Islamic beliefs, joint destiny & common objectives. The structure of GCC consists of the Supreme Council which is the highest authority, the Secretariat General and the Ministerial Council. The secretariat of GCC is found in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

**MoC Between India And Japan**

The Cabinet approves the signing of a Memorandum of Cooperation between India and Japan on Partnership in Specified Skilled Worker.

**Highlights:**

The memorandum of cooperation will provide an institutional mechanism for the partnership and cooperation between the two countries to dispatch and accept skilled Indian workers with specific skills and Japanese tests to work in 14 specific sectors in Japan.

These Indian workers would be given a new status of residence of "Specified Skilled Worker" by the Japan Government.

The Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC) will strengthen people-to-people contacts, foster mobility of workers and skilled professionals from India to Japan.

The 14 specified sectors are industrial machinery manufacturing industry, electric and electronic information related industry, construction, shipbuilding and ship-related industry, nursing care, building cleaning, material processing industry, lodging, agriculture, fisheries, automobile maintenance, aviation, food and beverages manufacturing industry and food service industry.

**India Chairs 3 Key Subsidiary Bodies of the UNSC**

India will host the three-key subsidiary bodies of the UNSC (United Nations Security Council).
Highlights:
The groups are the Counter-Terrorism Committee, Taliban Sanctions Committee and Libya Sanctions Committee.

The Chairman of the Counter-Terrorism Committee evoked a special response in India. Not only has India been at the forefront of combating terrorism, especially cross-border terrorism, but it's also one among India's biggest victims. Considering India's strong interest and commitment to peace, security, development and progress in Afghanistan.

The Taliban Sanctions Committee has always a top priority for India. When the international community pays attention to Libya and therefore the social process, India will assume the chairmanship of the Libya sanctions committee at a critical juncture.

US National Rifle Association filed for Bankruptcy

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

UN Released International Migration 2020 Report

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

**Highlights:**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The number of international immigrants increased by 281 million. It was 221 million in 2010 and 173 million in 2000.
Currently, the total number of international immigrants accounts for about 3.6% of the world's population.

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

**Foreign Policy of UK After Brexit**

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

**Highlights:**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Boris Johnson Invited PM Modi To Attend G7 Summit

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

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

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

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

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

The annual summit of the Group of Seven nations is chaired by the leaders of its member states in turn.

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

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

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

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

Ndrangheta from South America to Europe

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

**Highlights:**
The Ndrangheta is a famous Italian Mafia in the region of Calabria. The Mafia began in the 18th century.
During the reign of the Bourbon of Naples, the first official report of Ndrangheta was submitted in 1792.
According to US, money laundering activities, drug trafficking accounts for 3% of Italy's GDP. Ndrangheta's annual revenue is approximately US$50 billion to US$60 billion.
Ndrangheta is also active in other countries, such as Albania, Australia, Argentina, Belgium, Canada, Brazil, Colombia, the Netherlands, Germany, Malta, Switzerland, Slovakia, the United Kingdom, Uruguay and the United States.
According to EUROPOL (European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation), in the whole world Ndrangheta is the most powerful organized crime group.
Calabria is a region located in southern Italy. The region borders the Ionian Sea to the east and the Tyrrhenian Sea to the west. The Strait of Messina separates Calabria from Sicily. The Mafia in Sicily is considered to be one of Ndrangheta's closest allies.
The Allies of the Ndrangheta Mafia are Camorra, Sacra Corona Unita, Societa foggiana, Stidda, Albanian Mafia, American Mafia, Primeriro Comando da Capital. The Camorra, Safian Mafia, Sacra Corona Unita, Stidda and Societa foggiana are located in Italy. Primeiro Comando da Capital is located in Brazil.

India-France Military Exercise

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

Highlights:
Under the leadership of the Indo-French Defense Cooperation Organization, the French Air Force and the Indian Air Force have so far conducted six air exercises called the "Eagle."
The last of the six exercises was held at Mont-de-Marsan Air Force Base in France in 2019. In addition to the Garuda series of exercises, "Desert Front Knight 21" will also be held.
About Former Desert Rider 21: The main purpose of this exercise is to provide
Operational risks and share best practices. Rafale flying jets from the French Aerospace Agency, multi-purpose tanker transport aircraft and approximately 175 personnel will participate in the exercise. Su-30 MKI, Mirage 2000 and IL-78 flying tankers from the Indian Air Force will participate in this exercise.

The regular defense exercises between India and France are as follows:
- Shakti exercise was held between the Indian and French forces
- The Varuna exercise was held between the Indian Navy and the French Navy
- The Garuda exercise was held between the two air forces

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

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

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

**GoI Strengthened the Chabahar Port**

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

**Highlights:**

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

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

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

In order to achieve this ambitious goal, an SPV namely India Ports Global Limited (IPGL), Mumbai was incorporated under the ambit of the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways.
The development of Chabahar Port is the anchor point for the expansion of economic and mutual relations between India and Iran, and it will further promote the maritime trade between both countries.

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

**India-EU IPR Dialogue was Held**

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

**Highlights:**

The EU Commission and India's Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) conducted the first India-EU dialogue virtually.

The purpose of the dialogue is to further strengthen the relationship between India and the European Union and promote cooperation in the field of Intellectual Property Rights.

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

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

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

**Council of Palm Oil Producing Countries**

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

**Highlights:**

According to the European Union, the main producer of palm oil is Malaysia, and it has exploited the biodiversity-rich tropical rain forests in Southeast Asia and exploited migrant workers.
As part of the European Green Agreement, the EU will strengthen legislation on deforestation. This may limit the use of palm oil in fuel and food. Therefore, CPOPC, led by Indonesia and Malaysia, is looking for opportunities to initiate campaigns to change the perceptions of European countries. The EU has finalized a rule in 2019, mainly due to deforestation, to phase out palm oil in renewable fuels by 2030.

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

The Committee of Palm Oil Producing Countries is an intergovernmental organization. It was established in 2015. Indonesia and Malaysia are the founding countries of the Palm Oil Producing Countries Committee. The council targets to promote and strengthen cooperation in oil palm cultivation. It improves the welfare of oil palm stakeholders. It solves the barriers to palm oil trade.

The six main areas of cooperation focus of the council are palm oil sustainability, research and innovation, smallholder productivity, industrial cooperation to achieve value-added production, trade policy issues, and technical regulations and standards.

The "European Green Agreement" is a series of EU policy measures aimed at neutralizing the European climate by 2050.

India - Singapore Defence Ministers Dialogue

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

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

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

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

**LongOps Project Between UK and Japan**

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

**Highlights:**

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

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

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

Construction of Village In Arunachal Pradesh By China

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

**Highlights:**

The village was built between November 2019 and November 2020.

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

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

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

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.

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

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
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.

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

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

Foundation Stone For Light House Projects By PM

The Prime Minister will lay the foundation for the Lighthouse Project (LHP) under the Global Housing Technology Challenge in India (GHTC-India), which plans to cover six states. And PM will also announce the winners of the "India Affordable Sustainable Housing Accelerator" (ASHA-India) and present the annual Outstanding Achievement Award in recognition of outstanding individuals who have performed Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-City (PMAY-U) mission.

**Highlights:**

The Prime Minister will also release an innovative construction technology certificate course called NAVARITIH (New, Affordable, Validated, Research Innovation Technologies for Indian Housing), as well as the 54 types of innovative housing construction technology guidelines identified by GHTC-India.

The Lighthouse Project (LHP) has demonstrated on such a large scale in India that the best new era alternative global technologies, materials and processes in the construction field.

They were built under GHTC in India, and the idea is to provide an ecosystem for the overall adoption of innovative technologies in the residential building sector.

LHP is in India Indore (Madhya Pradesh), Rajkot (Gujarat), Chennai (Tamil Nadu), Ranchi (Jharkhand), Agatara (Tripura) and Le Know (Uttar Pradesh) construction.

They include approximately 1,000 houses and related infrastructure in each location.

Compared with traditional masonry buildings, these projects will demonstrate and deliver habitable houses at a faster rate within twelve months.

They will be more economical, sustainable, high-quality and durable.

Cabinet Approved Industrial Corridor Nodes At Krishnapatnam And Tumakuru

The Cabinet approved the Industrial Corridor nodes at Krishnapatnam and Tumakuru under Chennai Bangalore Industrial Corridor (CBIC). The Cabinet has approved the Ministry of Industry and Internal Trade Promotion (DPIIT) proposal for the construction of various trunk line infrastructure components.
**Highlights:**

The Cabinet has approved the proposal by the Ministry of Industry and Internal Trade Promotion (DPIIT) to build various trunk line infrastructure components for use in:

- Krishnapatnam Industrial Zone, Andhra Pradesh
- Tumakuru Industrial Zone, Karnataka
- Multi-Modal Logistics Hub - MMLH and Multi-Modal Transport Hub - MMTH in Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh

**Industrial Corridors:**

In November 2019, the government approved the creation of five industrial corridor projects, which will be implemented via National Industrial Corridor Development and Implementation Trust - NICDIT.

Krishnapatnam Industrial Zone and Tumakuru Industrial Zone are under the Chennai Bangalore Industrial Corridor (CBIC).

These greenfield industrial cities will be self-sufficient through world-class infrastructure, road and rail connections, in order to achieve freight transportation to and from ports and logistics hubs, as well as reliable electricity and high-quality social infrastructure.

**Multi-Modal Logistics Hub:**

The logistics hub project will be developed into a world-class facility that can provide effective food storage for the dedicated freight channel (DFC).

It will provide a one-stop destination for freight companies and customers. The facility provides standard container handling activities.

It provides various value-added services to reduce logistics costs and increase operational efficiency.

**Multi-Modal Transport Hub - MMTH project:**

This project will be located near the already existing Indian railway station in Boraki.

It will serve as a transportation hub, providing passengers with rail, road and MRTS accessibility in a seamless manner.

MMTH will provide space for interstate bus terminal (ISBT), local bus terminal (LBT), subway, commercial, retail and hotel spaces, and green open spaces.

The project will provide world-class passenger transportation facilities for the growing population of the catchment area to cater to the upcoming development of
the United States. The NCR sub-region thus eliminates the congestion in Delhi. This will also increase employment opportunities.

E-Committee Of Supreme Court Gets Award

E-committee of the Supreme Court (SC) of India conferred with the Platinum Award for Excellence in Digital Governance by the President of India.

**Highlights:**
The E-Court project conceived and implemented by the E-committee, the Supreme Court of India, the Department of Justice and the NIC (National Information Center) is a Mission Model Project of the Indian Government.
Citizens can access the status of the case and the court order on the grounds of litigation anytime and anywhere through the e-court service website, mobile application, SMS and email services of the 3293 court building.
People can also get 247 details of more than 130 million cases, court orders and judgments for free.
During the COVID pandemic, the courts used the digital infrastructure provided by the electronic court project pan India through video conferencing to hear more than 5.5 million cases through video conferencing, making Indian courts a global leader in handling cases through VC

Kochi Mangaluru Natural Gas Pipeline Dedicated to the Nation

The Prime Minister dedicated the Kochi-Mangaluru Gas Pipeline to the nation. This is a 450-kilometer-long pipeline built by Gail (India) Ltd.

**Kochi Mangaluru Natural Gas Pipeline:**
It has a daily transportation capacity of 12 million metric standard cubic meters, and transports natural gas from the LNG (liquefied natural gas) regasification station in Kochi (Kerala) to Mangaluru (Dakshina Kannada District, Karnataka) while passing through The Ernakulam, Palakkad, Malapuram, Kozhikode, Kannur and Kasaragod regions of Thrissur.
Laying the pipeline is an engineering challenge because the route of the pipeline makes it necessary to traverse more than 100 water bodies. This is done through a special technique called Horizontal Directional Drilling method.
The total cost of the project is approximately Rs. 3000 crores.
The pipeline will provide Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) to households in the form of Pipeline Natural Gas (PNG) and environmentally friendly and affordable fuel to the transportation sector.
It supplies natural gas to commercial and industrial sectors in various districts along the pipeline.
Consuming cleaner fuel will help improve air quality by suppressing air pollution. This event is also a milestone in the creation of "One Nation One Gas Grid".

**TRIFED Signed Mou With Akhil Bhartiya Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram**

TRIFED (Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India) led by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and Akhil Bhartiya vanvasi Kalyan Ashram signed a memorandum of understanding to establish TRIFOOD Park in Madhya Pradesh.

**Highlights:**
Under the Memorandum of Understanding, TRIFED and Akhil Bhartiya vanvasi Kalyan Ashram will jointly implement Van Dhan Yojana. This will be achieved by mobilizing self-help groups, TRIFOOD Park, Van Dhan Vikas Kendra.
They will jointly provide machinery and equipment, identify self-help groups, organize training and build infrastructure. They will also focus on other activities such as gardening, fishing, floristry, animal husbandry and handicrafts. They will mainly focus on improving the lives of the tribe.
TRIFOOD is a joint initiative of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, the Ministry of Food Processing Industry and TRIFED. It was launched in August 2020 under the leadership of Van Dhan Yojana. TRIFOOD Park is a food processing center. TRIFOOD Park will source raw materials from Van Dhan Kendras. It will then be processed and sold nationwide through tribes of Indian tribes.
Except for secondary forest products, the minimum support prices for food crops are determined by the Agricultural Cost and Price Committee under the cooperation of the Ministry of Agriculture and Agriculture.
The minimum support price for 24 commodities is set twice a year.

**ADB Signs Loan To Boost Power Supply In Bengaluru**
The Asian Development Bank recently signed a US$100 million agreement to modernize and upgrade Bangalore's electricity.
Highlights:

According to the Bangalore Smart Energy Efficient Power Distribution Project, this US$100 million loan is used to improvise the quality and reliability of power supply in Bangalore. In addition, the loan will be used to install 2,800 kilometres of optical cable.

These fibre optic cables should be placed parallel to the underground power distribution cables. The parallel laying of electrical and communication lines will help reduce technical and commercial losses by 30%.

Fiber optic cables will be used in smart metering systems and distribution automation systems in the distribution network. In addition, the project will install 1,700 automatic ring network cabinets to control switchgear for distribution lines. The project aims to convert overhead distribution lines into underground cables. It will also install fibre optic cables in parallel with underground cables.

Install automatic ring network equipment in six districts of Bangalore. Improve the institutional operational capabilities of BESCOM (Bangalore Electricity Supply Company)

Rashtriya Kamadhenu Aayog Announces Online Exam

Rashtriya Kamadhenu Aayog recently announced that it will conduct a national-level "Gaau-Vigyan" (Cattle Science) online exam. This is done to arouse students and the public's interest in local cows and their benefits.

**Highlights:**

The exam will be on February 25, 2021.
All elementary, middle and university level students can take the test for free.
The exam will be held every year starting in 2021.
This exam is the first time in China.
All those who take the exam should receive a certificate, and the results of the exam will be announced immediately after the exam.
Rashtriya Kamadhenu Aayog has prepared learning materials about cow science to help aspiring candidates.
This exam will make all Indians curious about cows and make them aware of the business opportunities and untapped potential that cows can provide after they stop feeding.

**Rashtriya Kamadhenu Aayog:**
Rashtriya Kamadhenu Aayog was established to organize animal husbandry in accordance with modern and scientific methods. It will take steps to improve the breed of dairy cows and prohibit the slaughter of dairy cows. It is an integral part of Rashtriya Gokul Mission. The mission is to protect and develop indigenous cattle breeds. The mission was launched in 2014 according to the National Programme for Bovine Breeding and Dairy Development.

**Sagarmala Seaplane Services Launched by Union Ministry**

The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways is launching the Sagarmala Seaplane Service (SSPS). The Ministry is beginning the operation of Seaplane Services on specific routes under the framework of Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) through potential airline operators.

**Sagarmala Seaplane Services:**

The Ministry is beginning the operation of Seaplane Services on specific routes under the framework of Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) through potential airline operators.

The execution and implementation of the project will be carried out through Sagarmala Development Company Ltd. (SDCL), which is under the administration of the Ministry.

One such Seaplane Service has been operating between Kevadia and Sabarmati Riverfront in Ahmedabad in October 2020.

In order to provide connectivity and make it easier to reach remote areas, SDCL is exploring plans to take advantage of India's vast coastline and the potential of numerous water bodies/rivers by starting seaplane operations.

The Seaplane will use the nearby waters for take-off and landing, thus connecting these places in a very economical way, because the seaplane operation does not require conventional airport infrastructure such as runways and terminals.

**Benefits of seaplane operations:**

- Provide faster and more comfortable transportation across the country.
- Improve air connections with tourists/religious destinations.
- Promote domestic and international tourism.
- Save travel time to remote/hilly areas.
- Promote business activities in the area.
Freight Business Development Portal by Railways

The Ministry of Railways has launched a dedicated portal website to promote and develop the railway freight business—the freight business development portal.

**Highlights:**

Due to the coronavirus crisis, passenger train services have been suspended, and the railway sector relies heavily on freight revenue to make money.

The Dedicated Railway Freight Corridor of India Limited (DFCCIL) is a government enterprise under the administration of the Ministry of Railways. It is currently constructing a 3,342 km east-west freight corridor to be used exclusively for trains.

This is the first dedicated freight portal website that will ensure that all operations are customer-centric, reduce logistics providers' costs, provide online tracking facilities for suppliers, and simplify the cargo transportation process.

The purpose is to replace physical processes with online processes to minimize the need for interaction between people.

The portal focuses on the convenience of conducting business, bringing greater transparency and providing professional support.

The railway company also invited consolidators, truck drivers, warehouse owners and labor providers to provide services to more than 9,000 freight customers at more than 4,000 freight stations.

DPIIT is organizing Udyog Manthan

Ministry of Industry and Commerce, The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) and Government of India is organizing Udyog Manthan.

**Highlights:**

Udyog Manthan is a marathon of industry-specific online seminars aimed at promoting the quality and productivity of Indian industry.

DPIIT is organizing webinars in collaboration with the Quality Council of India, the National Productivity Council and industry bodies.

Udyog Manthan will identify challenges, opportunities, and learn from solutions and best practices.

The dialogue will enable cross-industry and cross-departmental learning to improve quality and productivity, thereby promoting the "Vocal for Local" and
realizing the vision of "Aatmanirbhar Bharat".

**Bharat Griha Raksha Policy Was Introduced**

The policy introduced is to replace the Standard Fire and Special Perils Policies. It has 3 key components which include Bharat Laghu Udyam Suraksha, Bharat Griha Raksha, and Bharat Sookshma Udyam Suraksha.

**Bharat Griha Raksha Policy**

According to the Bharat Griha Raksha policy, IRDAI (Insurance Regulatory Development Authority of India) will introduce a standard housing insurance policy that will cover fire risks and other related hazards.

The policy will cover various hazards such as Natural catastrophes like cyclone, storm, tsunami, Hurricane, floods, earthquake, landslide, fires, bushfires, impact damages of any kind, strike, riot, acts of terrorism, malicious damage of, overflowing of water tanks, pipe leakage from automatic sprinkler installations, bursting of water tanks and tested within 7 days after the occurrence.

In addition to housing construction insurance, the policy will also provide General Home Content Insurance. The policy will provide 20% of the insurance amount of the building, up to 10 lakh rupees.

**Bharat Laghu Udyam Suraksha**

The plan will cover companies with insurable asset classes in the region whose total risk value exceeds Rs 5 crores.

**Bharat Sookshma Udyam Suraksha**

It is a standard product for enterprises, and its total value at risk does not exceed Rs 5 crore. It will cover machinery, buildings, factories, stocks and other assets.

**Delhi School Bag Policy by NCERT**

The Directorate of Education has issued a notice requiring schools to follow the new "School Bag Policy 2020" released by the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT).

**Highlights:**

According to the notice, school teachers must notify students in advance of the books and notebooks to be brought to the school on a specific date.

They should check their bags frequently to ensure that they are not carrying...
unnecessary material.

According to the policy, the weight of school bags should be:
(i) Classes I and II students --> 1.6 - 2.2 kg
(ii) Classes III, IV and V students --> 1.7 - 2.5 kg
(iv) Classes VI and VII --> 2.0 - 3.0 kg
(v) Class VIII --> 2.4 - 4.0 kg
(vii) Classes IX and X --> 2.5 - 4.5 kg
(ix) Classes XI and XII --> 3.5 - 5.0 kg

Teachers are responsible for checking the weight of students' schoolbags every three months on a selected day of the class.

Any information about heavy bags should be notified to parents.

In order to reduce the weight of school bags, school management should provide all students in the school with a sufficient amount of high-quality drinking water.

**Status Of Avian Influenza within the Country**

Avian Influenza (bird flu) may be an outbreak in several states of India. The Avian Influenza virus has been circulating globally for several years, with four known major outbreaks recorded within a century.

**Highlights:**

After confirming positive samples from ICAR-NIHSAD, Avian Influenza has been reported from the subsequent States: Rajasthan (crow), Madhya Pradesh (crow), Himachal Pradesh (migratory birds), Kerala (poultry-duck).

Suggested measures:
- Strengthen the biological safety of poultry farms
- Disinfect the affected area;
- Properly eliminate dead birds/carcasses;
- Collect and submit samples in time for confirmation and further monitoring.

It is also recommended to coordinate with the forest department to report any abnormal deaths of birds.

Other states are requested to be vigilant for any abnormal deaths in birds and immediately report the required measures.

**Key Facts:**

Avian Influenza (AI) - Caused by: Avian (bird) influenza (flu) A viruses.

This virus occurs naturally in wild aquatic birds worldwide and may infect poultry
and other birds and animals. Avian influenza viruses don't infect humans usually.
India announced the primary outbreak of avian influenza in 2006.
Although the disease is zoonotic, India has not yet reported human infections.
There is no evidence that the AI virus are often transmitted to humans through the consumption of contaminated poultry products.
The implementation of management practices that combine biosafety principles, personal hygiene, and cleaning and disinfection protocols may be a critical means to regulate the spread of AI viruses.
In India, it is particularly spread by migratory birds entering India during winter (ie September-October to February-March).
It is possible to hold out secondary transmission through human handling (through hazardous substances).

**Longitudinal Ageing Study of India First Wave - India Report**

The Union Health Minister releases the Longitudinal Ageing Study of India (LASI) Wave-1, India Report.

**LASI:**

LASI (Longitudinal Ageing Study of India) may be a fullscale national survey of scientific investigation of the health, economic, & social determinants & consequences of population ageing in India.

LASI is developed by the National Programme for Health Care of Elderly (Ministry of Health and Family Welfare) through the International Institute of Population Sciences (IIPS, Mumbai) together with the Harvard School of Public Health, Southern California University, USA.

The first wave of LASI covers a baseline sample of 72,250 individuals aged 45 and over and therefore their spouses from all Indian states and the Confederation (UT), including 31,464 seniors 60 and over, and 6,749 people 75 and over(Except Sikkim).

**Significance:**

This is India's first and largest survey within the world, and it provides a longitudinal database for designing policies and programs for senior citizens during a wide selection of social, health and economic well-being.

Evidence from LASI (Longitudinal Ageing Study of India) are going to be wont to
further strengthen and expand the scope of the National Programme for Health Care of the Elderly & also help in establishing a variety of preventive & health care programmes for the older population.

This is important because consistent with the 2011 Census, the population over 60 years old accounted for 8.6% of the Indian population.

It grows at a rate of about 3% per annum. By 2050, the elderly population will increase to 319 million, of which about 75% suffer from one or another chronic disease.

**Foundation Stone Laid For New Anubhava Mantapa**

The Chief Minister of Karnataka laid the foundation stone for the "New Anubhava Mantapa" of Basavakalyan, where the 12th century poet and philosopher Basavanna lived for most of his life.

**Highlights:**

The project will show the 12th-century Anubhava Mantapa ("first parliament within the world") established by him in Basavakalyan, where debates of philosophers and social reformers held.

The building will adopt the Kalyana Chalukya architectural style

During the period of the Kalachuri-dynasty Bijjala king I in Karnataka, Basavanna was a philosopher, statesmen, Kannada poet and social reformer in the twelfth century.

Basavanna spread social consciousness through his poems, popularly called Vachanaas.

Basavanna rejects gender or social discrimination, superstition and rituals. He introduced new public institutions, such as Anubhava Mantapa (or the hall of spiritual experience), which welcomes men and women from all socioeconomic backgrounds to openly discuss spiritual and secular life issues.

As a leader, he developed & inspired a new devotional movement called Virashaivas, or "ardent, heroic worshippers of Shiva". The movement originated from the continuous Tamil Bhakti movement in the 7th to 11th centuries, especially the Shaiva Nayanars tradition.

Basava advocates pious worship, reject the temple worship and rituals led by Brahmanism, and replaces Shiva with personalized direct worship of Shiva through the practice of personally wearing icons and uvulas.
Basaveshwara was the first Kannadiga created to commemorate his social reforms. In November 2015, the Prime Minister of India held the unveiling ceremony of the Basaveshwara statue on the banks of the R.Thames in Lambeth, London.

**Central Scheme for Industrial Development in J&K**

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved an ambitious plan to promote industrial development in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K). The Indian government has allocated 28,400 crore rupees for industrial development planned for Jammu and Kashmir. The funds to be utilized to enhance the industrial sector in the region until 2037.

**Highlights:**

The main purpose of the plan is to create employment opportunities, thereby promoting economic development, and promote the development of industry and service industries. In turn, this will attract new investment.

The plan is ambitious because it attracts large and small industrial sectors.

The plan provides the following incentives:

- The plan will provide 30% of capital investment incentives in the region.
- It will provide 50% investment incentives in Zone B. This includes investments in manufacturing and construction.
- The maximum rewards are Rs 5 crore for Zone A and Rs 7.5 crore for Zone B.
- The plan will provide 7-year annual interest rate subsidies for loans up to 5 billion rupees for a period of 7 years.
- The incentives related to the goods and services tax will be 300% of the qualified value of the actual investment.
- The amount of reward provided should not exceed one-tenth of the amount of eligible reward.

The plan is expected to attract substantial investment and provide 4.5 lacs direct and indirect employment opportunities in the region.

So far, the central government has invested a total of 11.23 billion rupees as part of the industrial policy in Kashmir.

**Urban Local Bodies Reforms In India**

Telangana becomes the 3rd State to finish the Urban Local Bodies reforms.
**Highlights:**
Telangana has become the 3rd State in India to successfully implement the "Urban Local Bodies (ULB)" reform prescribed by the Finance Ministry and Department of Expenditure.
Therefore, the State is eligible to mobilize additional financial resources of Rs 25.08 crore through Open Market Borrowings.
Telangana has now joined two other states, Andhra Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh, which have completed this reform.
The purpose of the reform of urban local institutions and the reform of urban public utilities is to strengthen the urban public finance of each state so that it can provide better public health and health services. Ultralight enterprises that have undergone economic revival will also be able to build good citizenship infrastructure.

**NIXI Provides Free Domain in Local Indian Languages**

NIXI (National Internet Exchange of India) provides a free IDN (Internationalized Domain Name), which contains any of the 22 official Indian preferred languages, and every IN name reserved by the registrant. Applicants also will receive free local language emails. This offer was created to stimulate the adoption of International (IDN) Domain Names and increase local language content.

**NIXI:**
According to Section 8 of the businesses Act, 2013, established in 2003, NIXI may be a non-profit organization. NIXI was established to form ISPs (Internet Service Providers) peer-to-peer with one another. The aim is to route domestic traffic, to not bring it all the thanks to the United States/abroad. This protects international bandwidth, thereby improving service quality (reducing latency) and reducing ISP bandwidth costs.

**Digital Calendar & Diary of state of India**
The Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting launched the Digital Calendar and Diary of state of India.

**Highlights:**
Digital Calendar & Diary of state of India are available as free mobile apps on
Google Play and iOS App Store. They are available in Hindi and English, and can soon be available in 11 regional languages.

The mentioned app was developed by the Ministry of data and Broadcasting Bureau of Outreach and Communication, together with the NIC (National Informatics Centre).

**The app will provide:**
- The timeline of launch of the varied government of India programmes thus far.
- The latest information about GOI's various schemes, events, and publications.
- Official holidays & other important dates.
- Inspirational & motivational messages from great personalities of our nation.
- Provision of digital notes is going to be stored with the foremost advanced security & privacy measures.
- Provision for the planning of meetings and setting reminders for important tasks and events.
- In the future, the visually-handicapped people also can use this app.

**G Kishan Reddy Committee Formed for Ladakh**

The Government decided to line up a committee to guard the language, culture and land of Ladakh and ensure citizen participation within the development of the Union Territory.

**Highlights:**
- The committee is going to be chaired by the Minister of State for Home G Kishan Reddy.
- It will include elected representatives from Ladakh, Ladakh Autonomous Hills Development Council, Central Government and Ladakh administration.
- The decision to determine the committee was made after a gathering with a 10-member delegation in Ladakh. The Ladakh delegation expressed its views on the necessity to guard Ladakh's unique cultural identity.

**Mera Gaon Mera Gaurav Drive in Goa**

Under ICAR's "Mera Gaon Mera Gaurav" initiative, Cleanliness activities are administered in Ibrampur, Veling and Parra villages in Goa.
**Highlights:**
The drive Mera Gaon Mera Gaurav was launched in 2015. This is the flagship programme of the Prime Minister of India. Objective: Provide farmers with necessary information, knowledge and advice on a daily basis through adoption villages. 
Aim: to plug the direct interface of scientists with the farmers to hasten the lab to land process.
Indian Council of Agricultural Research ICAR implements the drive, which is an autonomous body liable for coordinating agricultural education & research. ICAR reports to the Department of Agricultural Research & Education, Ministry of Agriculture.

**Valedictory Function Of 2nd National Youth Parliament Festival**
Shri Narendra Modi to deliver a note on the Valedictory function of the 2nd National Youth Parliament Festival on 12th January 2021, via video conferencing. 

**Highlights:**
The purpose of the National Youth Parliament Festival (NYPF) is to concentrate to the voices of youngsters aged 18 to 25 who can vote and may participate in various occupations, including public service, within the approaching years.
NYPF is based on the ideas presented by the Prime Minister in his Mann Ki Baat Address on New Year's Day Eve, 2017.
The first National Youth Parliament Festival (NYPF) was held from January 12 to February 27, 2019, with the theme "Be the Voice of latest India and finding Solutions and Contributing to Policy".
The 2nd NYPF was launched on December 23, 2020 through a virtual mode and thus the finals are getting to be held on 11th January, 2021 within the Central Hall of the Parliament.
29 national winners will have the prospect to speak before the national jury, composed of MPs Roopa Ganguly, Rajya Sabha, Parvesh Sahib Singh, MPs, Lok Sabha and Prafulla Ketkar.
The top three winners will have the chance to speak to the Prime Minister within the voting function on January 12.
The National Youth Festival is widely known from January 12th to 16th once a year.
12th January is that the birthday anniversary of Swami Vivekananda and is taken into account the National Youth Day. This year, NYPF also will organize with the National Youth Festival.

Due to COVID-19, the 24th National Youth Festival was held in virtual mode and thus the theme of this year festival is YUVAAH Utsah Naye Bharat Ka.

Both the opening ceremony of the 24th National Youth Festival and thus the closing ceremony of the 2nd National Youth Congress Festival are getting to be persisted January 12, 2021 within the Central Hall of the Parliament.

**Railways Ministry Approved A New Iron Ore Policy**

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

**Highlights:**

The rake distribution system module will be updated by the Centre Railway Information System (CRIS).

The policy will give priority to shipping iron ore to domestic manufacturing. In the domestic movement, steel, sponge iron, pig iron, pellets or sinter plants with customers will be given higher priority and special sliding will be carried out at the loading and unloading end. These customers will follow closely, relying on private residences to slide on their own.

The policy classifies the flow of iron ore based on the availability of railway infrastructure developed by customers. Similarly, the essence of movement will be to maximize the railway movement of iron ore.

Iron ore is the second most important traffic flow for Indian Railways. Iron ore and steel together account for more than 17% of the total freight volume of Indian railways (data for 2019-20).

The total freight volume of Indian Railways is 1,210 tons. Among them, iron ore is 15335 million tons and steel are 538.1 million tons.

India's total recoverable iron ore reserves are 9.602 billion tons of hematite and 3.408 billion tons of magnetite. The main states that produce iron ore in India are Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Goa, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Rajasthan.
CRIS maintains the information system of Indian Railways. It was established in 1986. The main projects of CRIS are the computerization of freight business, passenger reservation system, Next Generation Electronic Ticketing, Indian Railways non-reserved ticketing system, national train query system, railway budgeting system, etc.

**ASMI Developed by Infantry School and ARDE**

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

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

**Defence Minister Unveils Driverless Metro Car**

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

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

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

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

**Highlights:**
- Tamil Nadu has become the 11th state in the country that has successfully implemented the One Nation One Ration Card system" reform prescribed by the Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance.
- Therefore, the state is eligible to mobilize additional financial resources of Rs 48.13 billion through Open Market Borrowings.
- Tamil Nadu has now joined the other 10 states and they have completed this reform. They are Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Telangana, Tripura and Uttar Pradesh.

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

**Aero India Launched by Defence Minister**

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

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

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

The 1st edition of Aero India was held in the year 1996. Aero India 21 aircraft will be consistent with the 2020 draft defence production and export promotion policy.

The National Defence Exhibition Organization was established in 1981. The Defence Exhibition organization was established to promote the export potential of India's Defence industry.

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

National Defence Production and Export Promotion Policy Draft:

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

Buddhist Circuit by the Ministry of Tourism

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

Tourist Circuit:

A Tourist Circuit is defined as a route with at least three main tourist destinations. The three main tourist destinations are completely different.

The circuit should have well-defined entry and exit points. Visitors who enter should be motivated to visit most of the places identified in the circuit.

The Circuit can be limited to State, or it can be a regional circuit covering multiple
States/Union Territories. These circuits can have a dominant theme and other sub-themes.

**Buddhist Circuit**

The Buddhist Circuit includes the most important pilgrimage destination for Buddhist tourists.

The development of the Buddhist circuit is part of the Swadesh Darshan scheme announced by the GoI in 2014.

India is home to seven of the eight Buddhist sites, but less than 1% of Buddhists pilgrims in the world.

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

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

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

**Highlights:**

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

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

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

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

The "Student Entrepreneurship and Innovation Policy" aims to assist student-led entrepreneurship. It aims to create a common platform for students to demonstrate their innovative capabilities and establish an end-to-end support system in
According to the "Student Entrepreneurship and Innovation Policy", a student startup company is a student-led innovation-based startup company founded by one or more students or alumni (no more than five years from graduation). These centres were created to achieve the goals of the Startup India mission. Indian startups were launched in Red Fort in 2015. It was introduced to establish 75 startup support centres in the country. According to the 2019 Indian Startups Ranking, Gujarat has the best performance. Karnataka and Kerala rank the highest.

**National Startup Advisory Council by the Central Govt**

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

**Highlights:**

The nominated members represent various stakeholders, such as founders of successful start-up companies, veterans who develop and grow companies in India, people who can represent the interests of emerging companies, people who can represent the interests of incubators and accelerators, the Stakeholders Association Representatives of startup companies and representatives of industry associations.

The term of office of non-official members of the Startup Advisory Council is two years, or until further orders, whichever is earlier.

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

**Cabinet Approved Rattle Hydropower Project**

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

**Highlights:**

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

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

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh laid the foundation stone for the construction of the dam in 2013.

The project did not start until 2015. In 2017, the World Bank allowed India to build dams. After nine years of negotiations with the help of the World Bank, India and Pakistan signed the "Indus Water Treaty."

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

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

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

**Regulatory Compliance Portal by DPIIT**

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

**Highlights:**

The purpose of this portal is to act as a bridge between citizens, industries and Governments to minimize burdensome compliances.

It will also serve as the first central online repository for all Central and State-level compliances.

All Central Ministries/Departments and States/UTs will review the
laws/regulations/rules within their mandates and implement an Action Plan to rationalize and simplify all processes, eliminate heavy compliances, decriminalize laws and Repeal redundant Acts.

These details will be captured and tracked on the Regulatory Compliance Portal. Industry stakeholders from trade agencies such as CII, FICCI, and ASSOCHAM will also be able to submit compliances and proposed recommendations.

This will be evaluated by the relevant Government authorities and appropriate actions will be taken to minimize the regulatory compliance burden.

**Gujarat Horticulture Development Mission**

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

**Highlights:**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Highlights:**

The Bodoland National Democratic Front is an armed separatist who seeks to fight for the sovereignty of the people of Bodo. The Indian government has designated the Bodoland National Democratic Front as a terrorist organization.

NDFB is a militant organization founded in 1986. The organization has launched several attacks against non-Bodo civilians. NDFB mainly targets the Munda, Santhal and Oraon tribes. These tribesmen were taken by the British to work as tea workers in Assam.

In the 1990s, NDFB established 12 refugee camps on the Bhutan-Assam border. The Bhutanese government launched the "Full Transparency Operation" to drive them out of the Bhutan border. Operation Bajrang and Operation Rhino were launched by the Indian Government against separatist groups in Assam.

All the Bodo Student Union, the government of Assam and the Bodoland National Democratic Front signed the 2020 "Bodo Peace Agreement". After the agreement was reached, the Indian government announced a 15 billion rupees package for the Bodo region of Assam.

In the 27-year conflict, the Indian government and the Bodo tribe signed three agreements. In 1993, an agreement was signed with the All Bodo Student Union and the Bodoland Autonomous Council was established. Bodo Liberation Tigers Agreement was signed in 20023.

**Bodos**

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

**Statehood Day Meghalaya, Manipur, Tripura**

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

**Highlights:**

January 21, 2021 is the 49th anniversary of the establishment of North-eastern states of Meghalaya, Manipur and Tripura.

In October 1949, the former princely states of Tripura and Prince Manipur merged into the Federation of India and became official states on January 21, 1972.

Meghalaya is part of Assam and has obtained full statehood under the Northeast Region (Reorganization) Act of 1971.

Before the north-eastern area transformed into seven sisters with statehood of Tripura, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland, the territorial creation of the North East involved Assam plains from the Old Assam Province, hill regions, and the North Eastern Frontier Tracts (NEFT) of North-Eastern border land.

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

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

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

**Shramshakti Digital Data Solution was Launched**

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

**Shramshakti:**

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

**Janshatabdi Express From Ahmedabad - Kevadia Dispatches Vistadome Coach**

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

**Highlights:**

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

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

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

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

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

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**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 criticized 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.

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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.

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**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 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.

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

Kala Azar Is Endemic In India

Kala Azar is endemic in 54 areas in four Indian states (Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh).

Kala Azar:
Kala-azar, also known as visceral leishmaniasis, is the most serious form of leishmaniasis. Without proper diagnosis and treatment, it will lead to high mortality. Leishmaniasis disease is due by protozoan parasites of the genus Leishmania which is spread through sand bites. Leishmaniasis is a tropical disease which affects nearly 100 countries including India.

There are three main forms of Leishmaniasis:
- Visceral disease, which affects multiple organs, is the most serious form of disease
- Skin diseases may be the most common form of skin ulcers
- Skin and mucous membranes, causing skin and mucous membrane lesions

The only drug that can be used to combat leishmaniasis, mifefurcin, has developed new resistance to this drug due to its reduced accumulation in the parasite, and therefore quickly loses its effectiveness, which is necessary to kill the parasite.

A specific type of protein molecule, called a transporter, plays a major role in transporting Miltefosine enters or leaves the body of the parasite, which contains a cell.

A protein called "P4ATPase-CDC50" is responsible for the parasite's uptake of the drug, and another protein called "P-glycoprotein" is responsible for excreting the drug from the parasite.

The activity of the former protein decreases, while the activity of the latter protein increases, resulting in a decrease in the small amount of miltifocin accumulated inside the parasite's body, thereby making it resistant to drugs.

INSACOG Was Launched

The Indian SARS-CoV-2 Genomic Consortia (INSACOG) was launched. The overall goal of the Indian SARS-CoV-2 Genomic Consortia is to regularly monitor the genomic variation in SARS-CoV-2 through a multi-laboratory network.
Indian SARS-CoV-2 Genomic Consortia (INSACOG):
The Government launched the Indian SARS-CoV-2 Genomic Consortia (INSACOG), which includes 10 laboratories located in India. The overall goal of the Indian SARS-CoV-2 Genomic Consortia is to regularly monitor the genomic variation in SARS-CoV-2 through a multi-laboratory network. This vital research Consortia will also assist in the development of potential vaccines in the future. The consortium will determine the status of the new variant of SARS-CoV-2 (SARS-CoV-2 VUI 202012/01) in the country, establish a sentinel surveillance for early detection of genomic variants with public health implication, and determine the genomic variants in the unusual events/trends (super-spreader events, high mortality/morbidity trend areas, etc.).

Maiden Flight Trial of SAHAYAK-NG - Air Droppable Container
The Defense Research and Development Organization - DRDO and the Indian Navy conducted the successful maiden test trial of "SAHAYAK-NG" along the coast of Goa. This is India's 1st indigenously designed and developed Air Dropped Container from IL 38SD aircraft (Indian Navy)

Highlights:
The trial was conducted by the IN -Indian Navy to enhance its combat logistics capabilities and provide critical engineering warehouses for ships deployed more than 2,000 kilometers from the coast.
Reduced the requirement for ships to collect spare parts and warehouses near the coast.
SAHAYAK-NG is the advanced version of SAHAYAK Mk I.
The newly developed GPS-assisted airdrop container can carry a payload of up to 50 kg and can be dropped from a heavy aircraft.

ACROSS by the Ministry of Earth Sciences
ACROSS stands for Atmospheric and Climate Research-Modelling Observing Systems and Services. The ACROSS scheme applies to the atmospheric science program of the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES).

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The ACROSS scheme applies to the atmospheric science program of the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES).
It covers different aspects of weather and climate services, including warnings for cyclones, storm surges, heatwaves, thunderstorms, etc.
The ACROSS scheme consists of 9 sub-programs, which are multidisciplinary and multi-institutional in nature and will be implemented in an integrated manner.
The goal of the ACROSS program is to provide reliable weather and climate forecasts for the development of society. Therefore, the scheme aims to improve weather and climate forecasting skills through continuous observation and intensive Research and Development activities.
The scheme improves weather, climate and ocean forecasts and services, thereby ensuring that the corresponding benefits are transferred to various services.

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Indigenously Developed DNA Vaccine Candidate

DBT-BIRAC supports Zydus Cadila indigenously developed DNA Vaccine Candidate, which has been approved for phase III clinical trials.

**Highlights:**

India's 1st indigenously developed DNA vaccine candidate against COVID-19, ZyCoV-D, by Zydus Cadila has been approved by the Drugs Controller General of India - DCGI, for the conduct of Phase III clinical trials.

The candidate is supported by the National Biopharma Mission (NBM) under the aegis of BIRAC and the Department of Biotechnology, Government of India.

After phase I and II trials, Zydus Cadila's interim data indicate that the vaccine is safe and immunogenic when three doses were administered intradermally.

Following the recommendation of the Subject Expert Committee, which reviewed the interim data, DCGI was approved to conduct Phase III clinical trials in 26,000 Indian participants.

BIRAC-The Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC) established by the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) supports the establishment of a vaccine production platform under the National Biopharma Mission.

Covishield Was Approved By Drug Controller General Of India

Covishield is a vaccine candidate for the Serum Research Institute headquartered in Pune, India, and has been approved by the Subject-Medical Experts Committee (SEC) of the General Drug Administration of India.

**DCGI:**

Director of Drugs of India-DCGI is the head of the Central Drug Standards Control Organization Department of the Government of India, responsible for approving specific types of drugs (such as blood and blood products, intravenous fluids, vaccines and serum) in India.

The Drugs Controller General of India is under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

DCGI also sets standards for the manufacturing, sales, import and distribution of drugs in India.

DCGI regulates the standards and quality of the manufacturing, selling, import and distribution of medicines in India.
Other Functions:
- If you have any disputes about the quality of medicines, please act as an appeal body.
- Develop and maintain national reference standards.
- To unify the implementation of the Drugs and Cosmetics Law.
- The training of drug analysts is commissioned by the National Drug Control Laboratory and other agencies.
- Analysis of cosmetics received from CDSCO as survey samples.

FSSAI Slashes Limit For Trans-Fat Levels In Foods

The Food Safety & Standards Agency of India - FSSAI has passed amendments to foods to limit the amount of trans fatty acids - TFA in fats and oils from the current 5% to 3% in 2021 and 2% in 2022. Standard (Prohibition and Restriction of Sales) Regulations.

Highlights:
- The revised regulations apply to edible refined oils, vanaspati (partially hydrogenated oils), margarine, bakery shortenings and other cooking media, such as vegetable fat spreads and mixed fat spreads.
- Transfat is associated with an increased risk of heart attack and death from coronary heart disease.
- According to data from the WHO (World Health Organization), due to the intake of industrially-produced trans-fatty acids, there are approximately 540,000 deaths worldwide each year.
- The WHO has also called for the global elimination of trans fats by 2023.

Trans fats:
Trans fatty acids (TFA) or Trans Fats are the most harmful types of fats. Compared with other dietary ingredients, it is more harmful to the human body. Most of these fats are artificially produced, but a small amount is naturally produced. Therefore, these may be in the form of artificial TFA and/or natural TFA in our diet. Artificial TFAs are formed when hydrogen reacts with oil to produce fat similar to pure ghee/butter. In our diet, the main source of artificial TFA is partially hydrogenated vegetable oil (PHVO)/vanaspati/margarine, while natural TFA is found in meat and dairy products, though in small amounts.
Banana Grit Developed From Raw Nendran Bananas

Scientists from the CSIR (Council of Scientific and Industrial Research)-National Institute of Interdisciplinary Science and Technology (NIIST) in Pappanamcode, Kerala, have proposed a new product, Banana Grit or Granules developed from the original Nendran banana. CSIR is India's largest research and development (R&D) organization.

**Highlights:**

- Banana sand and its by-products can improve intestinal health and are ideal ingredients in a healthy diet. The concept was introduced to take advantage of the presence of resistant starch in bananas.
- Starch is a white, granular organic chemical substance produced by all green plants. It is a soft, white, odorless powder, insoluble in cold water, alcohol or other solvents.
- In humans and other animals, starch from plants is broken down into its constituent sugar molecules, which then provide energy for tissues.
- By diversifying the products from bananas, farmers can harvest higher prices. This will help maintain health and well-being.

**Nendran banana:**

Chengazhikodan Nendran banana, also known as Chengazhikode banana, is one of the most popular traditional fruits grown in the Thrissur district of Kerala. This variety of Nendran banana is known for its unique taste, bunch shape and fruit colour. The crops are mainly cultivated organically, and the crop duration is 13-14 months. In 2014, the Chengalikodan Nendran banana grown in Kerala received the Geographical Indication (GI) label.

The geographical indication refers to any sign that identifies a product as originating from a specific location where the given quality, reputation or other characteristics of the product can basically be attributable to its geographic origin.

Indian Scientific Expedition to Antarctica

The 40th Indian Scientific Expedition to Antarctica was launched.

**Highlights:**

- The 40th expedition will take off from Goa on January 5, 2021, with 43 members on board.
The chartered ice-class vessel MV Vasily Golovnin will take this journey and will reach Antarctica within 30 days. After leaving the team of 40 members, it will return to India in April 2021. When returning, it will also bring back the winter team from the previous trip. Due to existing challenges related to the COVID-19 pandemic, the scientific and logistical activities of the 40th Indian Antarctic Expedition are restricted. The focus is on supporting ongoing scientific projects on climate change, geology, ocean observation, electric and magnetic flux measurement, and environmental monitoring; re-supply of food, fuel, supplies and spare parts; and completed the repatriation of winter workers.

**About Indian Antarctic Programme:**
The Indian Antarctic Expedition began in 1981. The first trip consisted of a team of 21 scientists and support staff, led by Dr. SZ Qasim. After a humble beginning, India's Antarctic plans to establish three permanent research base stations in Antarctica, called Dakshin Gangotri, Maitri and Bharati. As of today, India has two operational research stations in Antarctica, named Maitri and Bharati. The National Center for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR) in Goa manages the entire Indian Antarctic Project.

### Tide-Rainfall Flood Quotient: A New Measurement Devised

In order to understand whether coastal cities are more prone to flooding due to tidal events or extreme rainfall, a research team from IIT Bombay has devised a new measure called the TideRainfall Flood Quotient.

**Highlights:**
- Using past rainfall data, tide data and the topography of the area, this framework can be used to determine the main factors at play.
- The team selected three coastal areas that are geographically diverse and vulnerable to flooding-Mithi catchment area in Mumbai, Jagatsinghpur district in Odisha and Greater Chennai Corporation in Tamil Nadu to test their new metric.
- The new method helps to classify these areas as storm-tide dominated' or pluvial (rainfall) dominated'.
- This metric can help disaster management experts develop better flood risk management systems for long-term planning.
Government Launched A Virtual Hackathon Toycathon

The government has launched the virtual toy hackathon "Toycathon 2021". This is an initiative of the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Women and Child Development, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, and the All India Technical Education Commission.

Highlights:

Aim: Conceptualize innovative toys according to the Indian value system, which will instill positive behavior and good value in children and to promote India to become a global toy manufacturing center (Atmanirbhar Abhiyan).

Based on: Indian culture and ethos, local folklore and heroes, and Indian value system.

Theme: Nine themes, including fitness and sports and rediscovering traditional Indian toys.

Participants: students, teachers, start-ups and toy experts.

Prizes: Participants can get prizes not exceeding Rs. 5000000.

Significance: Toys can be an excellent medium to carry forward the spirit of "Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat"

The Prime Minister proclaimed "Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat" in 2015 to enhance understanding and connections between countries, thereby strengthening the unity and integrity of India.

It will help promote the use of educational toys in accordance with the 2020 National Education Policy (NEP).

It will create an ecosystem for the domestic toy industry and local manufacturers to tap untapped resources and realize their potential.

This will help reduce toy imports. Although India's toy market is worth US$1 billion, 80% of toys are imported.

DRDOs Advanced Biodigester Mk-II Technology

DRDO and MAHA-METRO signed a memorandum of understanding to implement Advanced Biodigester Mk-II technology in the metro rail network.

Highlights:

The memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed by the joint venture
company MAHA-METRO (Maharashtra Metro Corporation) between DRDO and GOI and Govt. Maharashtra.

According to the memorandum of understanding, DRDO will provide technical support for the implementation of its advanced bio-digester Mk-II technology to deal with human waste (night soil) in the subway network.

DRDO's biodigester is a native, green and cost-effective technology, and its rare feature is that it has one of the largest number of DRDO licenses.

Indian Railways has installed about 2.4 million bio-digesters in its passenger car fleet.

Now, for MAHA-METRO, the technology has been improved and further improved to save water and space.

DRDO also successfully proved to J&K Administration that the customized version of the MK-II bio-digester is suitable for the treatment of human waste generated by the Dal Lake houseboat.

It is now being implemented, and once it is fully completed, it is expected to greatly reduce the pollution of Dal Lake.

**IMD issues a statement on Climate of India**

Indian Meterology Department (IMD) issues a statement on Climate of India during 2020. Since the begining of national records in 1901, 2020 is the eighth hottest year on record. However, this is much lower than the highest temperature increase in India in 2016.

**Highlights:**

The monsoon and post-monsoon seasons with abnormal average temperatures are the main cause of this warming.

According to data from 1961 to 2010, the national annual rainfall in 2020 is 109% of its long-term average (LPA). The country's monsoon season rainfall is higher than normal, which is 109% of its LPA.

In 2020, five cyclones formed over the North Indian Ocean. These are the super cyclone storm AMPHAN, the very severe cyclone storms NIVAR and GATI, the severe cyclone storm NISARGA and the cyclone storm "BUREVI".

The country has also experienced other high-impact weather events such as extreme rainfall, floods, landslides, thunderstorms, lightning, cold waves, etc. Bihar and Uttar Pradesh were the worst-hit states that year. According to reports,
thunderstorms, lightning and cold waves in each state caused more than 350 deaths. According to reports, events related to heavy rainfall and floods claimed the lives of more than 600 people in different parts of the country in the pre-monsoon, monsoon and post-monsoon seasons.

**Swasth Vayu Non-Invasive Ventilator Receives Regulator Nod**

The Swasth Vayu non-invasive ventilator developed by CSIR-NAL won the nod regulator award. Swasth Vayu non-invasive ventilator is a non-invasive bi-level positive airway pressure ventilator designed and developed indigenously.

**Highlights:**

- The ventilator also has other functions for treating COVID-19 patients.
- It is a precise closed-loop adaptive control system based on a microcontroller, with a built-in biocompatible "3D printing manifold and coupler" and a HEPA filter (high efficiency particulate air filter).
- These unique features help alleviate the fear of the spread of the virus. It has functions such as CPAP, Bi-Timed, spontaneous / AUTO mode, and can be connected to an oxygen concentrator or concentration unit from the outside.
- The performance of the equipment been evaluated by an expert committee composed of the Director-General of Health Services, Health & Family Welfare Ministry of the Government of India.
- After careful evaluation, the expert committee concluded that Swasth Vayu can be used for COVID-19 patients who need supplemental 35% oxygen.
- CSIR-NAL has commercialized the technology with six private companies, one of which (belonging to the MSME category) has established a production facility of nearly 300 units per week.

**CSIR-NAL:**

The National Aerospace Laboratory (NAL) is a component laboratory of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) of India, and is the only government aerospace R&D laboratory in the civil sector. CSIR-NAL is a high-tech organization dedicated to advanced disciplines in aerospace. NAL was established in 1959 and is located in Bangalore, Karnataka. The mission of CSIR-NAL is to develop aerospace technology with strong scientific knowledge, design and manufacture small & medium-sized civil aircraft, & support all national aerospace programs.
Inviting Applications For Auction of Spectrum

The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) inviting Applications for auction of Spectrum.

**Highlights:**
- The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has issued a Notice Inviting Application (NIA) for auction of spectrum in the 700 MHz, 800 MHz, 900 MHz, 1800 MHz, 2100 MHz, 2300 MHz and 2500 MHz frequency bands.
- The auction spectrum is valid for 20 years.
- There is an option of payment in instalments for successful bidders.
- The auction format is a Simultaneous Multi-Round Ascending (SMRA) e-auction.
- The auction is planned to be held in March 2021 and will be conducted online.

Science Technology and Innovation Policy Finalized

The 5th National STIP (Science Technology and Innovation Policy) has been finalized and is out there for public consultation.

**Highlights:**
- The STIP (Science, Technology, and Innovation Policy), 2020 formulation process are getting to be facilitated by the Principal Scientific Adviser to the GoI (Government of India) and thus the Department of Science and Technology (DST).
- The policy was formulated, employing a decentralized, bottom-up, and inclusive design process, aimed toward re-setting priorities, sectoral focus, and methods for research and technology development methods to realize greater socio-economic benefits.
- Due to the COVID-19 and its impact on the economy and life, the planning of STIP 2020 is integrated with Atmanirbhar Bharat.
- The STIP 2020 formulation process is getting to be six-months long and has been organised into 4 highly interlinked tracks:
  - Track 1: It involves public and expert consultation process through the Science Policy Forum.
  - Track 2: Thematic consultations promoted by experts, incorporating evidence-based recommendations into the policy drafting process. to the present end, 21 thematic groups were formed.
Track 3: Involves extensive intra-state and departmental consultations with various ministries and states.
Track 4: It constitutes the very best level of multi-stakeholder consultation.

**Sulfur Dioxide Emission Norms Delayed**

The Ministry of Power has proposed to postpone the deadline for coal-fired power plants to adopt the new emission standards, stating that an "an unworkable time schedule" will burden utilities and cause a rise in power tariffs.

**Background:**

India initially set a 2017 deadline for thermal power plants to comply with emission standards for installing Flue Gas Desulfurization (FGD) devices to reduce toxic sulfur dioxide emissions. This was later changed to varying deadlines for various regions, ending in 2022.

**Flue Gas Desulphurisation (FED):**

Removal of sulphur dioxide is named as Flue-gas Desulphurization (FGD). Seek to remove gaseous pollutants viz. SO2 generated from exhaust flue gas generated in furnaces, boilers and other industrial processes due to thermal processing, treatment and combustion.

**Proposal for the Ministry of Power:**

A "graded action plan" was proposed, during which the areas where plants are located are going to be graded consistently with the severity of the pollution, where Region 1 refers to the heavily polluted areas and Region 5 is the least polluted areas.

The plants in Region 2 can start taking action one year after the plants in Region 1. Currently, power plants located under Region 3, 4 and 5 do not need to take any measures.

According to the Ministry, the target should be to take care of consistent ambient air quality across the country, and not uniform emission norms for thermal power plants.

This can avoid an instantaneous increase in power prices in various relatively clean areas of the country (and) avoid unnecessary burdens on power utilities/users.

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

**Highlights:**

- Gucci mushroom is a fungus belonging to the Morchellaceae family. They are light yellow, with large ridges and pits on the hat. They grow on large white stems. Gucci mushrooms are called "Thuntoo" locally.
- Gucci mushrooms prefer limestone-based soils. They also grow in acid soil. Gucci mushrooms are usually found in early spring.
- They are called "May mushrooms" in North America. The fruiting time of mushrooms varies from February to July. In Canada, they only appeared after June.
- Gucci mushrooms cannot be grown commercially. They grow in the coniferous forests of North Akanchar, Himalayas, Chamu and Kashmir. It takes villagers several months to collect these mushrooms, dry them and bring them to the market.
- Gucci mushrooms grow in clusters on rotting wood, humus soil and leaves of logs. They may not grow in the same place next season. This makes the collection process more cumbersome. For these reasons, Gucci mushrooms are very expensive.
- Gucci mushrooms cannot be grown commercially due to their germinating nature. They germinate and grow in low temperature soil. They usually appear after a fire. The fruit of Gucci mushroom requires alkaline conditions, that is, wood ash is mixed with water. These standards make Gucci’s commercial cultivation extremely challenging.
- Gucci mushrooms are rich in nutrients like vitamins, potassium and also rich in copper. They are also rich in vitamin D. In addition, they are also rich in antioxidants, which can prevent health problems such as heart disease and diabetes.

**Mukundpura CM2 Geological Survey**

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

**Highlights:**

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

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

DRDO handed over the Motor Bike Ambulance Rakshita to CRPF.

**Highlights:**
Institute of Nuclear Medicine and Allied Sciences (INMAS) of the DRDO Laboratory in Delhi handed over Rakshita to the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF).

This is a bike-based emergency vehicle for transportation of the wounded. Rakshita is equipped with a custom-made reclining Casualty Evacuation Seat (CES), which can be installed and removed as required. The bike ambulances will help overcome the problems faced by Indian security forces and emergency health care providers. It will provide life-saving assistance to rescue injured patients from evacuating low-intensity conflict areas. This bike ambulance is not only useful for paramilitary forces and military forces, but also useful in potential civilian areas.

**IMD May Introduce A New Monsoon Models**

The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) may introduce a new monsoon pattern in 2021 to better predict changes in rainfall.

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

The three models under consideration are:

1. 12 kinds of global circulation models (dynamic), whose output will be merged into one model;
2. A model that measures rainfall based on tropical sea surface temperature (developed by Professor Sumant Nigam, University of Maryland, USA).
3. Statistical models based on climate variables observed during the pre-monsoon.

All of these are smaller models and combine them to get an average value.

This year will continue to use traditional statistical models.

**Abell 370 Picture Shared by NASA**

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

**Highlights:**

- The core of Abell 370 is composed of hundreds of galaxies. The galaxy was catalogued by George Abell, hence the name.
- Abell 370 has several beams of light. These arcs are phantoms created by gravitational lensing on dark and huge objects between the observer and the distant galaxy.
- The Abell 370 galaxy cluster was first discovered in 2002 using the lensing effect. When the light from a galaxy (located at a great distance) passes through a large number of objects, the gravitational force from these objects can bend or twist them. This is called a gravitational lens.
- Cetus is a sea monster in Greek mythology. The constellation Cetus is located in the sky area, and other constellations such as Pisces, Aquarius and Eridanus are also located in this area.
- There are fourteen stars in the constellation of Cetus. Mira is the first star discovered in the constellation Cetus. The constellation Tau Ceti is the closest star to the sun.
- Abell 370 Galaxy is also nicknamed The Dragon by NASA scientists. This is mainly because, in 2009, a study of Abell 370 revealed a group of galaxies in the
background of star clusters. The group is regarded as a twisted dragon by the swarm. The head of the dragon is made of a spiral galaxy. These galaxies are 5 billion light-years away from each other.

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

Climate Change to Alter its Position

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

**Highlights:**

According to this study, the transfer of tropical rain belts in the Indian Ocean and East Africa will cause drought pressure in Southeast Africa and Madagascar. In addition, it will increase flooding in southern India.

The tropical rain belt spreads south to the Atlantic and East Pacific and will cause even greater droughts in Central America.

Tropical rain belts are areas with abundant rainfall around tropical regions. It is largely a manifestation of ITCZ (Tropical Convergence Zone).

From October to March, tropical rain belts are located in the southern hemisphere of the Indian Ocean and Western Pacific.

During this period, the northern tropics were dry. Between April and September, tropical rain belts occur in the northern hemisphere, while the southern hemisphere becomes dry.

The conveyor belt moves between the equator and the fifteenth parallel north (south) latitude. Near these latitudes, a drought and a wet season occurred. On the other hand, since the belt crosses the equator twice, there are two wet seasons and two dry seasons at the equator.

The air in the tropics is warming rapidly. The warm air rises. As the hot air rises, the cold air takes up the empty space.

As more and more cold air replaces warm air, tropical regions lose their ability to retain moisture. As a result, the excess water turned into showers and thunderstorms. This is the main reason for the abundant rainfall in the tropics. Due to the windless weather, the area was called "Doldrums" by sailors. This is the area
where the southeast and northeast trade winds meet.

Quantum Computing Application Lab by GoI and Amazon Partnership

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

**Highlights:**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Avalokana Software Launched In Karnataka

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

**Highlights:**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Highlights:**

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

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

Angiogenesis is the physiological process of forming new blood vessels from existing blood vessels formed at an earlier stage of vasculogenesis.

Angiogenesis is a normal and vital process in growth and development, as well as in wound healing and granulation tissue formation.

However, this is also the basic step for a transition of tumours from a benign state to a malignant one. This leads to the use of angiogenesis inhibitors in the treatment of cancer.

The important role of angiogenesis in tumour growth was first proposed by Judah Folkman in 1971.

Angiogenesis is critical to the growth of cancer, because tumours need a blood supply to grow. Tumours trigger the growth of blood cells by releasing chemical signals that stimulate angiogenesis.

Angiogenesis disorder is the main cause of tumour growth and progression. Inhibition of tumour angiogenesis after chemotherapy has become a popular anti-cancer strategy.

However, due to the parallel activation of multiple compensatory mechanisms involving molecular cascades, clinically approved anti-angiogenic drugs are ineffective, which contributes to tumour angiogenesis.

Research on these mechanisms is essential for the development of anti-angiogenic therapies.

**Hum of the Universe Detected by NANOGrav**

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

**Highlights:**

The hum of the universe comes from a dead star called a "pulsar". These stars are basically neutron stars. They are oriented in such a way that they emit radio waves from their poles as they rotate.

This is the first time a hum has been heard from a pulsar collision. Early scientists have observed this buzzing sound. However, they come from the merger of black holes. The LIGO Observatory has discovered the hum of black hole mergers. LIGO
is a gravitational wave observatory for laser inferring instrument.

The discovery of the humming sound of pulsars will be an important step for the members of the pulsar timing array.

When black holes collide, a similar buzzing sound is produced. This sound is called black hole hum. In a year, on average, more than 100,000 black holes merge in the universe.

NANOGrav is the North American gravitational wave nanohertz observatory. The main purpose of NANOGrav is to detect gravitational waves. The implementation of the project is by Parkes Pulsar timing array, international Pulsar timing array and European Pulsar timing array.

Pulsar timing array: It is a program for regular and regular observation of the millisecond pulsar array with regular distribution. A millisecond pulsar is a pulsar whose rotation period is less than about ten milliseconds. A millisecond pulsar is a pulsar whose rotation speed is less than ten milliseconds.

Indian Pulsar Timing Array: It is a project of the National Radio Astrophysics Center of the Tata Institute of Basic Research. It aims to detect nano-hertz gravitational waves through precise timing.

**Rare UV-Bright Stars Spotted**

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

**Highlights:**

Astronomers have successfully distinguished ultraviolet bright star clusters from relatively cold red giant stars and other main-sequence stars. Thirty-four ultraviolet bright stars were discovered using UVIT.

From these images, the research team also derived the properties of the stars, such as brightness, temperature, and radius. The derived properties of the stars are placed in the Herzpronz-Russell diagram.

The graph shows the relationship between the absolute size and brightness of stars and their effective temperature (or star classification). This figure was first created in 1910 by Ejnar Hertzsprung and Henry Norris Russell.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Indian Telecom Services Performance Indicator Report - TRAI

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

**Highlights:**

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

It provides a broad perspective of Indian telecom services and introduces key parameters and growth trends of Indian telecom services as well as cable TV, DTH and radio broadcasting services.

It is mainly compiled based on information provided by the service providers. The number of telephone subscribers in India increased by 0.70% from the previous quarter.

This reflects a decrease of 2.22% in the same quarter compared to the same period
last year. The total number of Internet users also increased this quarter, increasing by 3.66%.

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

**AstroSat - Ultraviolet Imaging Telescope**

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

**Highlights:**

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

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

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

**Highlights:**

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

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**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.
ENVIRONMENT

Asian Waterbird Census Conducted in AP

The census of Asian waterbirds is being conducted in the Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary and nearby wetlands in Andhra Pradesh.

**Highlights:**

Every January, thousands of volunteers from Asia and Oceania visited the wetlands in their countries and counted waterbirds. The citizen science program is the Asian Waterbird Census (AWC).

AWC is the annual exercise since 1987. AWC is a component of the Global Waterbird Monitoring Program, International Waterbird Survey coordinated by Wetlands International.

In India, the Ministry of Forestry and the Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) supported the exercise. Therefore, the census covers the entire East Asia-Australia route and most of the routes in Central Asia.

**Objectives:** During the non-breeding period (January) of most species, the annual information of the wetland waterbird population in the area is obtained as the basis for assessing locations and monitoring population. Annual monitoring of wetland conditions. Encourage citizens to have greater interest in waterfowl and wetlands.

Community Fishing Prohibited In Deepor Beel

The Kamrup (Metropolitan) District administration bans community fishing in Deepor Beel. This is a wetland on the southwestern edge of Guwahati. This is the only Ramsar site in Assam.

**Highlights:**

This order is necessary to prevent fishing, excavation and construction in and around the wetlands that have been shrinking over the years.

Deepor Beel was designated as a Ramsar site in 2002 to maintain multiple forms of aquatic life in addition to 219 species of birds.

About Ramsar Convention: It was signed on February 2, 1971. This is one of the oldest intergovernmental accords signed by member countries.

Goal: Maintain the ecological characteristics of wetlands of international
importance. It is named after Ramsar, the Iranian city where the treaty was signed. The place selected for protection under it is marked as "Ramsar Site". The aim of the Ramsar List: To develop and maintain an international wetland network, which is essential for maintaining global biodiversity and maintaining the composition of its ecosystems, processes and benefits to sustain human life.

**Stricter Monitoring Of Indian Pangolin**

The Odisha Forest Department emphasized the need for stricter monitoring of social media platforms to check for pangolin poaching and trading.

**Key Facts:**
- Pangolins are scaly anteater mammals and their skin has large protective keratin scales. They are the only mammals with this features.
- Pangolins are nocturnal and their diet is mainly composed of ants and termites.
- Among the eight species of pangolin, the Indian pangolin (Manis crassicaudata) and the Chinese pangolin (Manis pentadactyla) are found in India.
- In addition to arid regions, the Himalayas and the Northeast, Indian pangolins are widely distributed in India. This species has also been found in Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nepal and Sri Lanka.
- Chinese pangolins are found in the foothills of the Himalayas in Eastern Nepal, Bhutan, Northern India, North-East Bangladesh, and throughout southern China.
- Threats to Pangolins in India: Hunting and poaching for local consumptive use (e.g. as a protein source and traditional medicine) and international trade for its meat and scales in East and South East Asian countries, particularly China and Vietnam. Pangolins are found to be the most trafficked mammals in the world.

**Conservation Status:**
- Wildlife Protection Act,1972: Schedule I
- IUCN Red List: Endangered
- CITIES: Appendix I

**AI based Survey of African Elephants**

An international research team led by Oxford University has developed a new method of investigating African elephants using satellite imagery and artificial intelligence.
**Highlights:**

This method uses satellite orbits capable of capturing images of more than five thousand square kilometers in space. Then, the captured image is processed through a deep learning model, which will detect the elephant and eliminate other objects. The international team used a customized data set to cover thousands of elephants in South Africa.

This method eliminates the risk of double counting. In addition, it can conduct repeated investigations in a short period of time.

This method can identify calves separately.

The number of elephants in India is 27,312. The Indian elephant is one of the three subspecies of the Asian elephant.

In 1986, Asian elephants were listed as "endangered" in the IUCN Red List. They have been included in Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora India launched the "Elephant Project" in 1992 to provide financial and technical support for wildlife management.

The project plans to extend the life of elephants in their natural habitat by protecting their habitat and migration corridors.

There are 138 elephant corridors in India. 28 of these states are interstate highways, and 17 are international state corridors.

The Elephant Corridor is a narrow land that connects two large elephant habitats. They are essential to reduce animal deaths caused by accidents.

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**GoI Sets Up Control Room To Control Spread Of Bird Flu**

After confirming the avian influenza outbreaks in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Kerala and Himalayas, the Ministry of Animal Husbandry has established control rooms.

**Highlights:**

The control room will pay close attention to the situation and evaluate the preventive and control measures taken by the state governments on a daily basis. The control room will also comply with the National Avian Flu Action Plan.

**National Action Plan on Avian Influenza consists of the following parts:**

Advise states and federal territories on preventing bird flu outbreaks.

The second part of the action plan specifies actions to be taken if an avian influenza outbreak is suspected.
The third part describes the actions during the outbreak. The fourth part determines that people who have infected poultry with bird flu will be treated. The person will advise on biosafety and biosafety measures. Influenza viruses are categorised into types A, B and C. It is known that influenza A viruses only infect animals and are zoonotic. This means that type A can also infect humans. The subtypes of avian influenza are H5N1, H7N9 and H9N2. The subtypes are classified according to surface proteins called neuraminidase and hemagglutinin.

This is the global influenza surveillance and response system initiated by the World Health Organization in 1952. It monitors global seasonal trends and potential pandemic influenza. It is the backbone of the global flu alert system. Global Influenza Strategy was launched by the World Health Organization for 2019-2030. It aims to prevent seasonal influenza and control the spread of viruses from animals to humans.

**Conflict Over Nile - Great Renaissance Dam**

Ethiopia, Sudan, and Egypt recently agreed to resume negotiations to resolve a decade-long complex dispute over the hydropower project of the Great Renaissance Dam in the Horn of Africa. The Horn of Africa is the easternmost point of the African land, including Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, and Somalia, and other countries whose cultures are linked together in their long history. Ethiopia is building a Grand Renaissance Dam on the Nile River.

**Highlights:**

The River Nile is the longest river in Africa. It is the middle of a decade-long complex dispute involving multiple countries that believe river waters.

**Grand Renaissance Dam:** The 145-meter (475-foot-high) hydropower project initiated by Ethiopia was the cause of the conflict. Given the dam's location on the Blue Nile tributary, it might allow Ethiopia to realize control of the flow of the river's waters. The River Blue Nile may be a tributary of the Nile, which carries about two-thirds of the river's water and most of the silt. Ethiopia, Egypt and Sudan are the forefronts of this dispute.

Ethiopia believes that the dam will generate approximately 6,000 megawatts of electricity and will support its industrial development. It can also export excess electricity to neighbouring areas to generate income.
Egypt's Concern: Egypt lies downstream and cares that Ethiopia's control over the water could end in lower water levels within its own borders. About 97% of Egypt's drinking water and irrigation supplies depend on the Nile. The dam will endanger the food, water security and livelihoods of ordinary Egyptian citizens.

Sudan's Stand: Sudan is also worried that if Ethiopia gains control of the river, it will affect the water level that Sudan obtains. Sudan may benefit from the electricity generated by the dam. Regulated river flow will save Sudan from severe flooding in August and September. Therefore, it proposed joint management of the dam.

Last Year Was Eighth Warmest Year Since 1901

The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) recently issued a statement on India's climate in 2020. According to its data, 2020 is the eighth warmest year since 1901, but it is much lower than the highest warming in 2016.

Highlights:

- The past two decades (2001-2010 and 2011-2020) are also the warmest decade on record, with anomalies of 0.23 degrees Celsius & 0.34 degrees Celsius, respectively, indicating that the overall temperature has risen.
- 12 on 15 warmest years since 1901 were considered in the past 15 years itself between 2006 and 2020.
- From 1901 to 2020, the annual average mean temperature in India showed an increasing trend of 0.62 degrees Celsius per 100 years.
- It also shows a clear increasing trend in the highest temperature (0.99 degrees Celsius/100 years), and a relatively low increasing trend (0.24 degrees Celsius/100 years) in minimum temperature.
- In the year 2020, the annual mean land surface air temperature is 0.29 degrees Celsius higher than normal (based on data from 1981-2010).
- The 2020 Northeast monsoon season (October to December) for the entire country has normal rainfall (101% of LPA).

A Study Group Constituted To See Ammoniacal Nitrogen In Yamuna

A meeting was convened between the CPCB (Central Pollution Control Board) and
the officials of DPCC (Delhi Pollution Control Committee), HSPCB (Haryana State Pollution Control Board), DJB (Delhi Jal Board), Haryana and Irrigation, Irrigation & Water Resources Department, and Flood Control Department, Delhi.

**Highlights:**

The main purpose is to discuss the recurring problem of Ammoniacal Nitrogen increase in the Yamuna River and the short-term and long-term remedial measures required.

The long-term review of this issue identified and agreed that possible reasons may be:

- Lean flow in the Yamuna river and anaerobic decomposition of accumulated sludge on river bed.
- Discharge from industries, Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETPs) & Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs)
- Illegal discharge from unsewered colonies in outer Delhi via tankers
- Untreated sewage discharge from upstream towns in Haryana;

Formed a research team consisting of the Delhi Jal Board (DJB), Haryana State Pollution Control Board, Delhi Pollution Control Committee, Irrigation and Water Resources Department, Haryana, Irrigation and Flood Control Department, Delhi.

The team will review:

1. Unified monitoring protocol and requirements for enhanced monitoring mechanisms;
2. Analyze past data and conduct field investigations to identify key hot spots and periods of high ammonia levels.

It is also required to suggest short-term and long-term measures for continuous solutions and submit a report within one month.

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**Advisory For Managing Human-Wildlife Conflict**

Government of India along with SC-NBWL (Standing Committee of the National Board of Wildlife) approves advisory for management of Human-Wildlife Conflict across the country.

**Highlights:**

The advisory has laid down important regulations for States/Union Territories to deal with conflicts between humans and wildlife, and seeks to speed up coordination and effective action between departments.
In accordance with Article 11(1)(b) of the Wildlife Protection Act of 1972, the organization envisages empowering the gram panchayats to deal with problematic wildlife.

It is also envisaged to use additional coverage under Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana to compensate crop compensation for crop damage caused by HWC and increase feed and water sources in forest areas.

It also stipulates that the victim/family shall be paid a part of special temporary relief within 24 hours after the incident.

The advisory also discussed the establishment of inter-departmental committees at the local/state level, the use of early warning systems, the installation of obstacles, and a special circulation control room with toll-free hotlines numbers, which can be operated on a 24X7 basis to identify hot spots and formulate plans and implement special plans to improve livestock breeding, etc.

The National Board for Wildlife also approved the inclusion of Caracal on the list of Critically endangered species so that conservation work can be carried out under the funding of the centrally sponsored scheme- Development of Wildlife Habitat.

This makes the entire number of critically endangered' wildlife species under the recovery programme for critically species to 22.

**NCAVES India Forum Organized by Union Ministry**

NCAVES (Natural Capital Accounting & Valuation of the Ecosystem Services) India Forum for the year 2021 is organized by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

**Highlights:**

The NCAVES project is funded by the European Union (EU). NCAVES is Jointly implemented by the subsequent agencies: United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), United Nations Environment Programme -UNEP & Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity - CBD.

In India, it's implemented by the subsequent agencies: the Ministry of Statistics and Planning and therefore the Ministry of Environment, Forests & global climate change (MoEF&CC) and therefore the National Remote Sensing Center (NRSC) in close cooperation.

India is one of five countries participating in this project. Other participating countries are China, Brazil, South Africa, and Mexico.
Participation in the project will be helpful to compile Environment Accounts as per the UN-SEEA framework and also helps for publishing environmental accounts in its publication "EnviStats India" once a year from 2018.

Under the NCAVES project, the India-EVL tool was developed. This is an inquiry tool that gives a snapshot of the worth of varied ecosystem services in several states of the country supported by approximately 80 studies conducted across the country.

**Festival in Nagi-Nakti Bird Sanctuaries**

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

**Highlights:**

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

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

More than 136 species of birds have been found in these sanctuaries.

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

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

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

**Other Bird Sanctuaries of Bihar:**

Gautam Budha bird sanctuary, Gaya
Kawar Jheel bird sanctuary, Bigusarai
Kusheshwar asthan bird sanctuary, Darbhanga
India Home to Both Species Of Red Panda  ZSI

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

**Key Facts:**

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

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

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

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

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

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

Western Disturbance Affects Himalayas

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

**Highlights:**

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

The meaning of WD lies in its name. The disturbance travels from "west" to east
direction.
They travel eastward in high-altitude westerly jet streams—a large amount of fast wind traverses the earth from west to east.
Disturbance refers to areas that are "disturbed" or where air pressure decreases. Equilibrium exists naturally, so the air in the area tries to normalize its pressure.
The term "extra-tropical storm", refers to low pressure. "Extra-Tropical" refers to areas outside the tropics. Because WD originated outside the tropical region, the term "extra-tropical" is related to it.
WD is related to rainfall, snowfall and fog in northern India. Rain and snow in Pakistan and northern India. The moisture carried by WD comes from the Mediterranean sea and/or from the Atlantic Ocean.
WD brings winter and pre-monsoon rains, which are essential for the development of Rabi crops in the Northern subcontinent.
WD is not always a sign of good weather. Sometimes, WD can cause extreme weather events, such as floods, flash floods, landslides, sandstorms, hail storms and cold waves, causing deaths, infrastructure damage and livelihoods.

**Semeru Volcano of Indonesia**

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

**Key Facts about Semeru Volcano:**

Semeru (also known as "The Great Mountain") is the highest volcano in Java and one of the most active volcanoes. Previously erupted in December 2019.
Indonesia has the largest number of active volcanoes in the world. As it is located on the Pacific Ring of Fire, it is prone to earthquakes.
The Semeru volcano is part of the island arc. It is formed by the subduction of the Indo-Australian plate below the Sunda plate (part of the Eurasian plate). The trench formed here is called the Sunda trench, and its main part is the Java trench.

**Bird Festival in Mahananda Wildlife Sanctuary**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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**Uncontrolled Flow Of Untreated Industrial Wastewater Increases Pollution In Gujarat Rivers**

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

**Highlights:**

According to data from the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF), Sabarmati is one of the most polluted rivers in the country.
Gujarat is ranked fourth among the top five states with most polluted rivers with as many as 20 rivers in the critically polluted category.

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

Most of the wastewater in the Gujarat River is dumped into it, with a chemical oxygen demand level of 700 to 1,000 milligrams per liter.

Although the Dissolved Oxygen (DO) level (indicating the health of the river) of a perennial river like Mahisgar should be in the range of 6 to 8 mg per liter, it is actually less than 2.9 mg per liter.

**Great Green Wall for Sahel and Sahara**

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

**Highlights:**

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

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

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

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

**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.

**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.

The buffy 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.

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.
DEFENCE

Exercise Kavach to be held under Andaman and Nicobar Command

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

**Highlights:**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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.
Sushruta  Father of Indian Medicine

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

**Highlights:**

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Guru Gobind Singh Jayant was Observed on 20 January**

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

**Guru Gobind Singh:**

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

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

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

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

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

After the death of the master, a long and painful war broke out between the Sikhs and the Mughals.

**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

Raksha Mantri Padak to NCC Cadets

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

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

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 20121, 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

Vandalism Of The Idol Of Lord Rama

The 16th-century Ramateertham temple was seen in the news due to the vandalism of the idol of Lord Rama at the Kodandarama Swamy temple.

**Highlights:**

On December 29, Lord Rama's idol was destroyed on the top of the historic Ramateertham Temple, which is 12 kilometres away from Vizianagaram.

It is located in Andhra Pradesh.

Ramateertham is one of the sacred places of traditional communication with Lord Sree Rama.

The famous ancient temple of Ramachandra Swamy can be found here.

The idols of Lord Ramachandra Swamy, Sita and Lakshmana in Silver kavachas can be seen at this temple.

Yakshagana Artiste Died While Performing On Stage

The Yakshagana artist died while performing on the stage. Yakshagana is a traditional theatre form in Karnataka. This is a temple art form depicting myths and Pune.

**Highlights:**

Performance performed with large headwear, exquisite facial makeup, and vibrant costumes and decorations.

It is usually quoted in Kannada and is also used in Malayalam and Tulu (a dialect of southern Karnataka).

Tulu is a Dravidian language and its speakers are concentrated in the Tulu Nadu region, which includes the Dakshina Kannada and Udupi regions of Karnataka and the northern part of the Kasaragod region of Kerala.

The oldest inscriptions available in Tulu are from the 14th to 15th century AD.

It is played with percussion instruments such as chenda, maddalam, jagatta or chengila (cy) and chakratala or elathalam (small).

The most popular episodes are from Mahabharata, namely Draupadi swayamvar, Subhadra vivah, etc., and Ramayana, namely Rajyabhishek, Lav-Kush yuddh, etc.
Archaeologists Discovered the World's Oldest Cave Art

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

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

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

**Surya Majjana in Gavi Gangadhareshwara Temple**

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

**Key Facts:**
- This temple is located in Bangalore, Karnataka.
- The name of the temple derived from the combination of topographical features
and mythology: gavi (cave) and Gangadhareswara (shiva) refer to the Lord who decorated the Ganges.

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

**Architecture Features:**

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

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

**Two Monolithic structures:**

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

**The iconography of Shiva:**

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

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

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

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

**Highlights:**

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

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

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

**Kalaripayattu:**

It is also known as Kalari. Kalaripayattu is an martial art and fighting style of Indians that originated in Kerala.

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

Avadh Shilpgram Organized Hunar Haat

Avadh Shilpgram in Lucknow organized the 24th Hunar Haat of Indigenous Products of Artisans and Craftsmens.  
**Highlights:**  
The theme of the 24th "Hunar Haat" organized by the Ministry of Minority Affairs is Vocal for Local.  
Approximately 500 craftsmen and artisans from 31 States/UTs of the country are participating.  
Indigenous products are displayed, such as Ajrakh, Applique, Art metal products, Bagh prints, Batik, Banarsi Saree, Bandhej, Bastar art and herbal products, Block prints, Brass metal bracelets, Sugar cane and Bamboo products, Canvas paintings, Chikankari, copper bells, Dried flowers, Handloom textiles, Kalamkari, Mangalgiri, Kota silk, Lac bracelets, Leather products, Pashmina shawls, Rampuri violin, wooden and iron toys, kantha embroidery, brass products, crystal glass products, Sandalwood products, etc.  
In addition to products and food items, artists will also perform cultural activities.  
With thousands of people visiting "Hunar Haat" and buying handicrafts of indigenous handmade products, "Hunar Haat" has proven to be extremely beneficial and inspiring to artisans and craftsmen.

Risa in the Tripura Culture

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

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

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

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

Risa is also used to hold babies in Tripura culture.

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

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

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

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

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.

Rikutu: 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- an integrated scheme for School Education ".

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

National Metrology Conclave To Be Held

The Council of Scientific & Industrial Research-National Physical Laboratory (CSIR-NPL) in New Delhi is organizing the National Metrology Conference 2020.

About the Conclave:

The theme of the conclave is "Metrology for the Inclusive Growth of the Nation". The Prime Minister will also dedicate the National Atomic Timescale on the occasion of the National Metrology Conclave.

The National Atomic Time scale generates Indian Standard Time (IST) with an accuracy of 2.8 nanoseconds.

World Of Coriander Webinar For High-Quality Production

Webinar on World of Coriander was happened to improve the high-quality products and also to enhance the export of Coriander

Highlights:

The Spices Board of India and therefore the DBT-SABC Biotech Kisan Hub together with ICAR-NRCSS, Rajasthan State Agricultural Marketing Board (RSAMB) and Kota Agricultural University.

The South-East Rajasthan's Hadoti region and the Guna district, Madhya Pradesh is known for the production of coriander i.e., Coriandrum sativum L., which contributes a major share in coriander export from the country.

The Hadoti-Guna region has great potential for exporting whole coriander and other processed products such as coriander split (daal), powder and essential oils.

Trade Policy Review of India At WTO

India's 7th national trading policy Review (TPR) began in January 2021 at the World Trade Organization in Geneva.

Trade Policy Review (TPR):

Trade Policy Review (TPR) may be a crucial mechanism under the WTO's monitoring function, which involves a comprehensive referee of the national trade
policies of member countries. The last TPR in India occurred in 2015.
India's Commerce Secretary stated that since the last TPR, the GOI has taken sort of measures to reform and transform the entire economic ecosystem to satisfy the socio-economic demands of all Indians.
The main policy changes include the introduction of the GST, the Insolvency and Bankruptcy code, labor reforms, and investor-friendly Foreign Direct Investment policies.
Various national programmes include "Made in India", "Digital India", "Startup India and Skill India".
India has improved within the planet Bank's Doing Business ranking from 142 to 63 in 2015 - 2019.
In 2019-20, India received the absolute best ever FDI inflow of USD 74.39 billion.

**WTO Secretariat's Report:**
A comprehensive report issued by the earth Trade Organization (WTO) Secretariat on the occasion recorded all major trade and economic measures taken by India within the past five years. It recognized India's strong process rate of seven.4% during the quantity under review, and gave positive comments on its reform efforts during this era. The report acknowledged that strong process has led to improvements in socio-economic indicators, like India's per capita income and anticipation.

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

**About the Conference:**
The two-day international conference is organized by the Central University of Punjab (CUPB) in cooperation with the worldwide Educational Research Association (GERA).
Envisioning Education for Transforming Youth to revive Global Peace is that the theme of EDUCON 2020
The conference is attended by academicians from across the planet.

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

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

**National Conference Of States On Logistics**

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

**Highlights:**
- The National Logistics Policy, which is being negotiated with the National Logistics Council and the State Logistics Coordination Committee, will serve as a template to better coordinate and integrate logistics centers.
- Logistics consists of 5R's: Get the Right products-under the Right conditions-At the Right place-At the Right time-to the Right customers.
Virtual Expo 2021 for Research and Development in the field of Processed Food

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

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

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.

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**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.

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**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.
SCHEMES

Swachh Swasth Sarvatra - Kayakalp Winner

Swachh Swasth Sarvatra is a joint venture of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation.

**Highlights:**

- Swachh Swasth Sarvatra is a joint venture of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation.
- The program was launched in 2016 and aims to achieve better health outcomes by improving sanitation and increasing people's awareness on healthy lifestyles.
- In this case, one-time one-time grant of Rs. 10 lakh is provided to the non-Kayakalp winner Community Health Center (CHC) located in the ODF block.
- Kayakalp is an award for public health facilities in recognition of their contributions to Swachh Bharat Abhiyan.
- The purpose of the grant is that the resource will help CHC become a Kayakalp winner.

UJALA and SLNP completes six years of Illuminating India

Govt of India's UJALA (Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LEDs for All) and SLNP (Street Light National Programme) completes six years of Illuminating India efficiently. Both plans were first implemented by Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL), a PSU joint venture under the Ministry of Electricity of the Government of India.

**UJALA:**

The plan was launched in 2015. The goal is to replace 770 million incandescent lamps with LED bulbs and eliminate the high cost of LEDs, which have previously been used in energy-saving systems. Implement this program to establish phased LED distribution. The purpose is to promote efficient lighting and increase awareness of using efficient equipment to reduce electricity bills and protect the environment. This is the largest home lighting project in the world.

**SLNP:**

The National Street Lamp National Plan is a government initiative aimed at improving energy efficiency in the country.
PCRA Launched SAKSHAM Campaign

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

About SAKSHAM:
The SAKAHAM (Sanrakshan Kshamta Mahotsav) is a campaign launched by Petroleum Conservation Research Association (PCRA).
The main aim of this campaign is to make the public aware of the protection and effective use of petroleum products, which will bring better health and the environment.
The campaign aims to raise awareness of the adverse health and environmental effects of increased carbon footprint.
The idea behind the initiative is to persuade consumers to switch to cleaner fuels and make behavioural changes to use fossil fuels intelligently.
The campaign carried out various pan-Indian activities, such as cyclothon, farmer workshops, seminars, painting competitions, CNG car driving competitions, etc., will popularize the benefits of using clean fuels among the general public.
Key driving factors include: moving toward a gas-based economy, using fossil fuels more cleanly, relying more on domestic resources to drive biofuels, achieving renewable targets within a prescribed period, and increasing the use of electric vehicles to reduce carbon emissions from transportation, clean fuels such as hydrogen, and digital innovations in all energy systems.

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

Beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana Gramin

The Prime Minister will provide financial assistance to the 6 lakh beneficiaries of UP under Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana Gramin.

Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana Gramin (PMAY-G):
The PMAY-G scheme was launched in 2016, and its goal is to provide pucca
houses with basic facilities for all homeless households and families living in kutcha and dilapidated houses by 2022. Convenience facilities include water, gas, toilet and electricity supply for all households.

Under PMAY-G, new technologies are being used to build houses. Due to the use of the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) platform, the time to build houses under the scheme was reduced from 314 days in 2015-16 to 114 days. According to PMAY, the minimum size of the house has also been increased to 25 square meters.

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

**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

World Braille Day Is Celebrated On 4 January

Every year, the United Nations and several other international organizations celebrate World Braille Day on January 4. The purpose of celebrating Braille day is to make people realize the importance of Braille as a means of communication to realize the human rights of the blind.

**Highlights:**

January 4th is a celebration, because this day is the birthday of Louis Braille, the creator of the writing system. He was born in France in 1809. The first World Braille Day was celebrated in 2019.

Braille is a letter and number symbol represented by six dots. Dots represent letters and numbers as well as math, music, and science symbols. Braille was invented in France in the 19th century by Louis Braille.

India adopted a unified braille code in 1951 to represent different languages. India established its first Braille factory in Dehradun, the Central Braille Factory. In 1954, a central Braille printing press was established to produce Braille electrical appliances.

The printing press produces simple devices such as braille boards, stylus pens and arithmetic braille boards. GoI promulgated the "Disabled Persons Act" of 1995. The bill provides special categories called "low vision" and blind people.

In addition, the bill also complies with the provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. India has accepted several UN resolutions on disabled persons. These include the 1981 International Year of Disabled Persons commemorating activities and the 1983-92 United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons commemorating activities.

India has also complied with the "Asia-Pacific Decade for the Disabled" announced by ESCAP. ESCAP is the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. It is a regional think tank that provides analysis and opinions on the social, economic and environmental dynamics of the region.

Global Family Day is celebrated on 1st January

Every January 1st, Global Family Day is celebrated all over the world (especially in
the United States). This is a global day of peace and sharing. We all know how important "family" is to everyone. This is the case for Global Family Day 2021. This day treats the whole world as one family.

**Highlights:**

Global Family Day (GFD) celebrated on January 1. GFD was born in the United Nations Millennium Celebration "Day of Peace". It was first observed on January 1, 2000. Since then, the first day of each year will be the annual Global Family Day.

GFD aims to promote multiculturalism, diversity, and teach how to coexist in peace and harmony. This day advocates the concept of the world becoming "a big global family". This also allows humans to surpass all other parameters.

The main purpose of this day is for all families to gather in one place on the first day of the year to welcome the new year.

January 1, 2021, is approaching. We recently wish you and your family "Happy Global Family Day 2021", and hope that the bond between you & your loved ones will be stronger.

**CSIR-NPL Celebrates Its Foundation Day**

CSIR-NPL, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)-The National Physical Laboratory (NPL) celebrates its 75th Foundation Day.

**CSIR-NPL:**

Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)-The National Physical Laboratory (NPL) is one of the main laboratories of CSIR.

It was established in January 1947 and is located in New Delhi.

It is the National Metrology Institute of India and the main research institute in the field of physical sciences.

The main purpose of the laboratory is to strengthen and advance physics-based research and development to promote the overall development of science and technology in the country.

NPL has the responsibility of realizing the units of physical measurements based on the International System (SI units) under the subordinate legislations of Weights & Measures Act 1956 (reissued in 1988 under the 1976 Act).

NPL also has a statutory obligation to realize, establish, maintain, replicate and update national standards for measurement and calibration facilities for different parameters.
The laboratory is currently maintaining six of the seven SI basic units. These are meters, kilograms, seconds, Kelvin, ampere, candela. In order to realize and establish the seventh SI basic unit of mole (mol), R&D work is underway. The supplementary units of SI are radians (rad) and steradian (sr).

The physical measurement units currently maintained in the laboratory are: force, pressure, vacuum, luminous flux, sound pressure, ultrasonic power and pressure, and units of electrical and electronic parameters, namely DC voltage; resistance; current and power AC voltage current and power, Low frequency voltage; impedance and power; high frequency voltage; power; impedance; attenuation and noise; microwave power ;frequency, impedance, and attenuation and noise.

**Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention Organized on 9 January**

Although the Covid pandemic is still ongoing, the 16th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention is being organized on January 9, 2021. Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) was celebrated on January 9th to commemorate the contribution of overseas Indian communities to the development of India (NRI).

**Highlights:**

The PBD Convention is the flagship activity of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and provides an important platform for contact and contact with overseas Indians. Since 2003, the PBD Convention has been held every year. Since 2015, the format been revised to celebrate PBD every two years.

The theme of Article 16 of the 2021 PBD Convention is: "Contribution to Aatmanirbhar Bharat".

Since this day in 1915, Mahatma Gandhi, the greatest Pravasi, returned to India from South Africa, leading India's struggle for freedom and changing the lives of Indians forever. Therefore, January 9th was set to celebrate this day. Days.

These conventions provide a platform for overseas Indian communities to interact with their ancestral governments and local people to carry out mutually beneficial activities.

These conventions are also very useful for connecting between overseas Indian communities living around the world and enabling them to share their experiences in various fields.

**World War Orphans Day is Observed on 6th January**
Every January 6th, World War Orphans Day is celebrated to raise people's awareness of the plight of war orphans and to resolve the painful conditions they face.

**Highlights:**

According to UNICEF, children under 18 who have lost one or two parents due to any cause of death are considered orphans.

According to UNICEF data, there were approximately 140 million orphans worldwide in 2015, including 10 million in Latin America and the Caribbean, 61 million in Asia, 7.3 million in Eastern Europe and Central Asia and 52 million in Africa.

This day highlights the lives of children affected by the results of the war and aims to improve their future.

According to UNICEF data, in the wars of the 18th, 19th and early 20th centuries, nearly 50% victims were civilians, and this number gradually increased in 2001. Since that year, the figure has fallen by 0.7%. Per year.

In World War II, about two-thirds of the victims were civilians, and by the end of the 1980s, this number had risen to 90%.

Based on the above data, it is obvious that civilians in many countries around the world have become victims of wars. Among them, the child is the victim of silence. Millions of children grew up in war zones without family racial conflicts. Orphans are not only forced to take care of themselves, but also their young siblings (if any). Therefore, this day highlights the plight of orphans and reminds us that we must take care of every child.

**Bureau of Indian Standards Celebrates its Anniversary**

The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) celebrates its 74th anniversary. BIS (Bureau of Indian Standards) is that the National Standards Body of India established under the "Bureau of Indian Standards Act" of 2016.

**Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS):**

BIS (Bureau of Indian Standards) is that the National Standards Body of India established under the "Bureau of Indian Standards Act" of 2016, going to coordinate the event of standardization, marking and quality certification activities and related problems with commodities.
Through standardization, certification, and testing, BIS provides safe and reliable high-quality goods, minimizes the health hazards to consumers, promotes the use of important and export substitutes, and controls the proliferation of sorts, etc.

The body was established as a BIS (Statutory Body) in 1986. Its predecessor was the Indian Standards Institution (ISI) established in 1946. The 2016 Act positioned it because of the National Standards Body.

**BIS Activities:**
- Standards Formulation
- Product Certification Scheme
- Compulsory Registration Scheme
- Foreign Manufacturers Certification Scheme
- Hall Marking Scheme
- Laboratory Services
- Laboratory Recognition Scheme
- Sale of Indian Standards
- Consumer Affairs Activities
- Promotional Activities
- Training Services, National & International level
- Information Services

**World Hindi Day designated on 10 January**

Every year, World Hindi Day is celebrated on 10 January to promote the language around the world. It is marked by Indian embassies all over the world. Since 2006, this day has been celebrated across the globe.

**Highlights:**

- Hindi is the 5th most spoken language in the world. It is used in Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, United Kingdom, United States, New Zealand, Germany, Uganda, UAE, Guyana, Trinidad, Suriname, South Africa and Mauritius. More than 43 core personnel in the world use this language.
- National Hindi Day is different from World Hindi Day which is celebrated on 14 September every year.
- Two awards are awarded on the National Hindi Day every year, Rajbhasha Kirti Puraskar and Rajiv Gandhi Rashtriya Gyan-Vigyan Maulik Pustak Lekhan Puraskar.
The Rabhasha Prize was awarded to various ministries, PSU and state-owned banks.
Since 14 September is Beohar Rajendra Simha's birthday, it was chosen as the National Hindi Day.
Beohar Rajendra Simha is an Indian scholar, theologian, historian, Sanskrit, Savodyanist, politician, journalist and Gandhian. Hindi was decided as the official language of India on his 50th birthday.
This word is transferred from the Sanskrit "Sindhu". After the Iranians entered India, the term "Sindh" became "India".

National Human Trafficking Day is on 11 January

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

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

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

**Lohri Day is on 13 January**

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

**Highlights:**

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

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

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

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

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

**Thiruvalluvar Day was on 15 January**

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

**Thiruvalluvar Day:**

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

**Thiruvalluvar:**

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

CARA Celebrates its Annual Day

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

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

In accordance with the provisions of the Hague Convention on Inter-country Adoption, 1993 approved by the Indian government in 2003, CARA was designated as the Central Authority to deal with inter-country adoptions.
CARA mainly deals with the adoption of orphans, abandoned and surrendered children through its related/recognized adoption agencies.

National Immunization Day was observed on 18 January

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

Highlights:
India has completely eradicated polio in 2012. In order to maintain the eradication work, the Indian government organized a "Polio" immunization campaign in accordance with the standards set by the World Health Organization (WHO).
National Immunization Day is one of the four strategies recommended by the World Health Organization to completely eradicate polio. According to the World Health Organization, NID must be performed twice a year, with an interval of 2 to 4 weeks.
The country is using two vaccines. The two vaccines include IPV (inactivated polio vaccine) and OPV (oral polio vaccine).

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

IPV is more effective than OPV. It can improve the intestinal immunity of children who have been immunized with OPV.

Road Safety Month is Observed in the Mid of January

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

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

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

Foundation Day of NDRF was Observed

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

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

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

Currently, NDRF consists of 12 battalions. Each battalion has 1149 personnel.

NDRF is formed in accordance with Section 44-45 of the Disaster Management Act 2005.

The bill was passed in Parliament in 2005. The President of India gave his assent to the Bill in 2006.

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

Indian Army to Procure UAV

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

**Highlights:**

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

**Importance of Unmanned Aerial Vehicle:**

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

Defence Geo-Informatics Research Establishment by DRDO

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Highlights:**
Through the OPGW network, telecommunications service providers will be able to provide uninterrupted mobile/Internet services to the people of the state. The optical ground wire is also called OPGW, or in IEEE standards, it is called optical fibre composite overhead ground wire. It is a type of cable used in overhead power lines. This cable combines grounding and communication functions.

OPGW is an optical fibre composite ground wire. The cable contains a tubular structure with one or more optical fibres and is surrounded by layers of aluminium and steel wires.

This layer of aluminium and steel wire is used to connect the tower to the ground. The optical fibre in the cable is used for high-speed data telemetry between utilities, or sold to certain third parties for high-speed fibre interconnection between cities.

**India 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.
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 Sampeel, 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 Japan's 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.
World Food Price Index by FAO

Food Price Index of the Food & Agriculture Organization - FAO averaged 107.5 points in December 2020, which is an increase of 2.3 points from November 2020. This is the 7th consecutive month of growth.

**Highlights:**

The food price index was established in 1996 as a public good.

The Price Index is a public good in order to help monitoring the development of the global agricultural market.

The FAO Food Price Index (FFPI) is a measure of the monthly changes in the international price of a basket of food.

It measures changes in a basket of grains, oilseeds, dairy products, meat, and sugar.

The Base period is 2014-16.

**Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO):**

Food and Agriculture Organization - FAO is one of the specialized agencies of the United Nations (UN), leading international efforts to eradicate hunger globally. On October 16, World Food Day is observed every year globally. Celebrate this day to mark the tenth anniversary of the founding of FAO in 1945. India issued a commemorative rupee coin of 75 denominations to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the founding of FAO (October 16, 2020). It is one of the United Nations food aid organizations based in Rome (Italy). Its sister institutions are the World Food Program and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).

PMI Data  Service Sector of India is at Slow Pace

According to the latest PMI data, India's service industry activity grew at a slower rate in December. The service industry PMI rose to 52.3 in December from 53.7 in November.

**Purchasing Managers Index:**

The Purchasing Managers Index is an economic indicator that can indicate the business activities and economic health of the manufacturing and service industries. India's PMI was published by Japanese company Nikkei, but was written and
constructed by IHS Markit, a global information provider based in London.
Unlike the Industrial Production Index (IIP), which denotes changes in input or output.
PMI is an investor sentiment tracking index, and it is more dynamic in nature. They come from a monthly survey of about 400 private companies.
The variables used to calculate PMI are: output, new orders, employment, input costs, output prices, backlogs, export orders, purchase quantities, supplier delivery time, purchase inventory, and finished goods inventory.
While Purchasing Managers Index >50 implies an expansion of business and economic activity, Purchasing Managers Index

India Ranked 85th in Henley Passport Index
India takes the 85th position in the most powerful passport report "Henry Passport Index 2021". The Henry Passport Index is ranking of all passports in the world based on the number of destinations that the holder can enter without a prior visa.
Highlights:
The Henry Index is an original ranking of all passports in the globe based on the number of destinations that the holder can enter without a prior visa.
The ranking was originally created by Dr Christian H. Kaelin, Chairman of Henley & Partners. The Henry Index ranking is from the exclusive data from the IATA (International Air Transport Association). IATA maintains the world's largest and most accurate travel information database.
Henry Passport Index was launched in 2006 and includes 199 different passports.
Japan continues to rank first in the index, and passport holders can enter 191 destinations in the world visa-free.
Singapore ranked second (with a score of 190), and South Korea tied for third with Germany (with a score of 189).
Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan continue to be the countries with the worst passport holdings, with passport scores of 29, 28 and 26 respectively.
India took 85th position with a visa-free score of 58. Indian passports rank higher in 2020 (84th) and 2019 (82nd). Pakistan ranks 107th and Nepal ranks 104th.

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) Asian Development Bank (ADB) is a regional development bank which is established on ____________.

A. December 19, 1966  
B. December 19, 1967  
C. December 19, 1968  
D. December 19, 1969

Answer A

Explanation Asian Development Bank (ADB) is a regional development bank which is established on December 19, 1966. Its headquarters are located in Mandaluyong, Ortigas Center, Metro Manila, Philippines. The bank promotes social & economic development in Asia.

2) Asian Development Bank (ADB) headquarters are ____________

A. Mandaluyong  
B. Ortigas Center  
C. Metro Manila  
D. All the above

Answer D

Explanation Asian Development Bank (ADB) is a regional development bank which is established on December 19, 1966. Its headquarters are located in Mandaluyong, Ortigas Center, Metro Manila, Philippines. The bank promotes social & economic development in Asia.

3) Global Family Day is celebrated on ____________.

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

Answer B
Explanation Every January 1st, Global Family Day is celebrated all over the world (especially in the United States). This is a global day of peace and sharing. We all know how important

4) Global Family Day (GFD) was first observed on ___________.

A. 1998  
B. 1999  
C. 2000  
D. 2001

Answer C

Explanation Global Family Day (GFD) celebrated on January 1. GFD was born in the United Nations Millennium Celebration "Day of Peace". It was first observed on January 1, 2000. Since then, the first day of each year will be the annual Global Family Day. GFD aims to promote multiculturalism, diversity, and teach how to coexist in peace and harmony. This day advocates the concept of the world becoming "a big global family". This also allows humans to surpass all other parameters.

5) World Braille Day Is Celebrated On ___________.

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

Answer D

Explanation Every year, the United Nations and several other international organizations celebrate World Braille Day on January 4. The purpose of celebrating Braille day is to make people realize the importance of Braille as a means of communication to realize the human rights of the blind.

6) The first World Braille Day was celebrated in ___________.

A. 2016  
B. 2017  
C. 2018  
D. 2019
January 4th is a celebration, because this day is the birthday of Louis Braille, the creator of the writing system. He was born in France in 1809. The first World Braille Day was celebrated in 2019. Braille is a letter and number symbol represented by six dots. Dots represent letters and numbers as well as math, music, and science symbols. Braille was invented in France in the 19th century by Louis Braille.

7) Braille is a letter and number symbol represented by ______________ dots.
A. 6
B. 7
C. 8
D. 9

Answer A
Explanation Braille is a letter and number symbol represented by six dots. Dots represent letters and numbers as well as math, music, and science symbols. Braille was invented in France in the 19th century by Louis Braille. India adopted a unified braille code in 1951 to represent different languages. India established its first Braille factory in Dehradun, the Central Braille Factory. In 1954, a central Braille printing press was established to produce Braille electrical appliances.

8) Braille was invented in France in the ____________th century by Louis Braille.
A. 17
B. 18
C. 19
D. 20

Answer C
Explanation Braille was invented in France in the 19th century by Louis Braille. India adopted a unified braille code in 1951 to represent different languages. India established its first Braille factory in Dehradun, the Central Braille Factory. In 1954, a central Braille printing press was established to produce Braille electrical appliances.

9) India adopted a unified braille code in ____________ to represent different languages.
A.1950  
B.1951  
C.1952  
D.1953

Answer B

Explanation India adopted a unified braille code in 1951 to represent different languages. India established its first Braille factory in Dehradun, the Central Braille Factory. In 1954, a central Braille printing press was established to produce Braille electrical appliances. The printing press produces simple devices such as braille boards, stylus pens and arithmetic braille boards. GoI promulgated the "Disabled Persons Act" of 1995. The bill provides special categories called "low vision" and blind people.

10) SAHAYAK-NG is the advanced version of ___________.

A.SAHAYAK Mk I  
B.SAHAYAK Mk II  
C.SAHAYAK Mk III  
D.None of the above

Answer A

Explanation SAHAYAK-NG is the advanced version of SAHAYAK Mk I. The newly developed GPS-assisted airdrop container can carry a payload of up to 50 kg and can be dropped from a heavy aircraft.

11) The newly developed GPS-assisted airdrop container can carry a payload of up to ____________ and can be dropped from a heavy aircraft.

A.50 g  
B.50 kg  
C.60 kg  
D.60 g

Answer B

Explanation The newly developed GPS-assisted airdrop container can carry a payload of up to 50 kg and can be dropped from a heavy aircraft.
12) E-committee of the Supreme Court (SC) of India conferred with the __________ Award for Excellence in Digital Governance by the President of India.

A. Gold  
B. Diamond  
C. Platinum  
D. Silver

**Answer C**

**Explanation** E-committee of the Supreme Court (SC) of India conferred with the Platinum Award for Excellence in Digital Governance by the President of India.

13) Swachh Swasth Sarvatra was launched in ____________.

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

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Swachh Swasth Sarvatra is a joint venture of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation. The program was launched in 2016 and aims to achieve better health outcomes by improving sanitation and increasing people's awareness on healthy lifestyles.

14) Swachh Swasth Sarvatra is a initiative of ____________.

A. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare  
B. Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation  
C. Both A and B  
D. None

**Answer C**

**Explanation** Swachh Swasth Sarvatra is a joint venture of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation. The program was launched in 2016 and aims to achieve better health outcomes by improving sanitation and increasing people's awareness on healthy lifestyles.
15) Odisha has become the ___________ state in the country that has successfully implemented the "Ease of Doing Business" reform prescribed by the Ministry of Finance and Expenditure.

A.7th  
B.6th  
C.5th  
D.4th

**Answer A**

**Explanation** Odisha has become the seventh state in the country that has successfully implemented the "Ease of Doing Business" reform prescribed by the Ministry of Finance and Expenditure. Therefore, New York State is eligible to mobilize additional rupee funds. It received Rs 1,429 crore through open market borrowings. Orissa has now joined the six states of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Telangana, and they have completed this reform.

16) Covishield, the first vaccine to get emergency-use nod from DGCI, is being manufactured by which company?

A. Bharat Biotech  
B. Serum Institute of India  
C. Biocon  
D. Dr Reddys Labs

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Covishield is the vaccine candidate from Pune-based Serum Institute of India. It has been approved by a Subject Expert Committee (SEC) of the Drug Controller General of India (DCGI).

17) Where is the headquarters of the International Organization of Securities Commissions (IOSCO) located?

A. Geneva  
B. Madrid
C. Rome  
D. Lausanne

**Answer B**

**Explanation** The International Organization of Securities Commissions (IOSCO) is an association of organizations, which regulate the world's securities and futures markets. The International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA), established by the Government of India in 2019, has become an associate member of the IOSCO. With this, IFSCA can exchange information at the global level, learn from the best practices of the other regulators.

18) Which organisation is to provide USD 100 million to improve power distribution in Bengaluru?

A. AIIB  
B. World Bank  
C. ADB  
D. IMF

**Answer C**

**Explanation** The Asian Development Bank (ADB) is to provide a USD 100 million loan to upgrade the power distribution system in Bengaluru city. Another USD 90 million loan will also be provided to the Bangalore Electricity Supply Company. The project also includes laying over 2500 km of fibre optical cables and moving distribution lines underground.

19) What is the cap imposed on trans fatty acids (TFA) in oils and fats for the year 2021?

A. 10%  
B. 5%  
C. 3%  
D. 1%

**Answer C**

**Explanation** India’s food regulator Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has capped the quantum of trans fatty acids (TFA) in oils and fats to 3% for 2021. The cap is further reduced to 2% for 2022. Trans fat are found to increase the risk of heart attacks and death from coronary heart disease. The WHO has called all its members to eliminate trans-fat by 2023.
20) Which county has announced its plan to enrich uranium to 20 per cent?

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

**Answer D**

**Explanation** Iran has announced to International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) that it plans to enrich its uranium to 20% purity, which was a level achieved before 2015 accord. This is supposed to be done at its Fordow site which is buried into a mountain. Iran has been continuously breaching the 2015 deals with IAEA since 2019, in response to USAs withdrawal from the agreement and imposition of sanctions against Iran.

21) Britain has recently ended taxation on which product?

A. Mobile Phones  
B. Sanitary Products  
C. Laptops  
D. Paracetamol tablets  

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Britain became the latest nation that has eliminated taxation on womens sanitary products. These taxes were called tampon tax has been completely abolished in the country. This decision was earlier announced in the countrys annual budget by its Treasury chief, but has been implemented only now, when Britain has left the European Union.

22) The Asian Development Bank recently signed a ____________ million agreement to modernize and upgrade Bangalores electricity.

A. US$100  
B. US$1000  
C. US$200  
D. US$2000  

**Answer A**

**Explanation** The Asian Development Bank recently signed a US$100 million agreement to
modernize and upgrade Bangalores electricity.

23) **TRIFOOD is launched on ____________**.

A. August 2020  
B. August 2019  
C. August 2018  
D. August 2017  

**Answer A**

**Explanation** TRIFOOD is a joint initiative of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, the Ministry of Food Processing Industry and TRIFED. It was launched in August 2020 under the leadership of Van Dhan Yojana. TRIFOOD Park is a food processing center. TRIFOOD Park will source raw materials from Van Dhan Kendras. It will then be processed and sold nationwide through tribes of Indian tribes.

24) **TRIFOOD is a initiative of ____________.**

A. Ministry of Tribal Affairs  
B. Ministry of Food Processing Industry  
C. TRIFED  
D. All the above  

**Answer D**

**Explanation** TRIFOOD is a joint initiative of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, the Ministry of Food Processing Industry and TRIFED. It was launched in August 2020 under the leadership of Van Dhan Yojana. TRIFOOD Park is a food processing center. TRIFOOD Park will source raw materials from Van Dhan Kendras. It will then be processed and sold nationwide through tribes of Indian tribes.

25) **The minimum support price for 24 commodities is set ____________ a year.**

A. Once  
B. Twice  
C. Thrice  
D. None
Answer B

Explanation TRIFOOD Park will source raw materials from Van Dhan Kendras. It will then be processed and sold nationwide through tribes of Indian tribes. Except for secondary forest products, the minimum support prices for food crops are determined by the Agricultural Cost and Price Committee under the cooperation of the Ministry of Agriculture and Agriculture. The minimum support price for 24 commodities is set twice a year.

26) TRIFED Signed Mou With Akhil Bhartiya Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram to establish TRIFOOD Park in ____________.

A. Uttar Pradesh
B. Arunachal Pradesh
C. Madhya Pradesh
D. Assam

Answer C

Explanation TRIFED (Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India) led by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and Akhil Bhartiya vanvasi Kalyan Ashram signed a memorandum of understanding to establish TRIFOOD Park in Madhya Pradesh.

27) India will export broken rice to Vietnam in ____________.

A. January 2021
B. February 2021
C. Both A and B
D. March 2021

Answer C

Explanation Indian traders will export 70,000 tons of rice to Vietnam at a price of approximately US$310 per ton. India will export broken rice to Vietnam in January and February 2021. The global pandemic has prompted Vietnam and other countries to stock up rice. This is because the reduction in food supply makes people increasingly worried about food insecurity. Vietnam plans to reserve US$270,000 of rice to ensure access to food in the event of a disruption in the global covid-19 supply chain. Therefore, it is facing shortages and is dependent on imports. The price of broken rice in India ranges from US$381 to US$387 per ton.

28) The ACROSS scheme consists of ____________ sub-programs, which are
multidisciplinary and multi-institutional in nature and will be implemented in an integrated manner.

A.9  
B.8  
C.7  
D.6

Answer A

Explanation The ACROSS scheme consists of 9 sub-programs, which are multidisciplinary and multi-institutional in nature and will be implemented in an integrated manner. The goal of the ACROSS program is to provide reliable weather and climate forecasts for the development of society. Therefore, the scheme aims to improve weather and climate forecasting skills through continuous observation and intensive Research and Development activities.

29) The theme of the National Metrology Conference 2020 is ____________.

A. Metrology for the Exclusive Growth of the Nation  
B. Metrology for the Growth of the Nation  
C. Metrology for the Inclusive Growth of the Nation  
D. None of the above

Answer D

Explanation The Council of Scientific & Industrial Research-National Physical Laboratory (CSIR-NPL) in New Delhi is organizing the National Metrology Conference 2020. The theme of the conclave is "Metrology for the Inclusive Growth of the Nation". The Prime Minister will also dedicate the National Atomic Timescale on the occasion of the National Metrology Conclave.


A. 1.8  
B. 2.0  
C. 2.8  
D. 3.0

Answer C
The Council of Scientific & Industrial Research-National Physical Laboratory (CSIR-NPL) in New Delhi is organizing the National Metrology Conference 2020. The theme of the conclave is "Metrology for the Inclusive Growth of the Nation". The Prime Minister will also dedicate the National Atomic Timescale on the occasion of the National Metrology Conclave. The National Atomic Time scale generates Indian Standard Time (IST) with an accuracy of 2.8 nanosecond.

31) The Prime Minister dedicated the Kochi-Mangaluru Gas Pipeline to the nation. This is a __________-kilometer-long pipeline built by Gail (India) Ltd.
   A.150  
   B.250  
   C.350  
   D.450  
   
   **Answer D**

   **Explanation** The Prime Minister dedicated the Kochi-Mangaluru Gas Pipeline to the nation. This is a 450-kilometer-long pipeline built by Gail (India) Ltd. Kochi-Mangaluru Natural Gas Pipeline: It has a daily transportation capacity of 12 million metric standard cubic meters, and transports natural gas from the LNG (liquefied natural gas) regasification station in Kochi (Kerala) to Mangaluru (Dakshina Kannada District, Karnataka) while passing through The Ernakulam, Parakkad, Malapuram, Kozhikode, Kannur and Kasaragod regions of Thrissur.

32) Kochi Mangaluru Natural Gas Pipeline is built by __________.
   A.GAIL  
   B.BHEL  
   C.GoI  
   D.None of the above  
   
   **Answer A**

   **Explanation** The Prime Minister dedicated the Kochi-Mangaluru Gas Pipeline to the nation. This is a 450-kilometer-long pipeline built by Gail (India) Ltd.

33) Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary is in __________.
   A. Andhra Pradesh
   
   **Explanation**
B. Karnataka
C. Kerala
D. Tamilnadu

**Answer A**

**Explanation** The census of Asian waterbirds is being conducted in the Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary and nearby wetlands in Andhra Pradesh. Every January, thousands of volunteers from Asia and Oceania visited the wetlands in their countries and counted waterbirds. The citizen science program is the Asian Waterbird Census (AWC).

34) **Asian Waterbird Census is the annual exercise since __________.**

A. 1988  
B. 1987  
C. 1986  
D. 1985

**Answer B**

**Explanation** AWC is a component of the Global Waterbird Monitoring Program, International Waterbird Survey coordinated by Wetlands International. In India, the Ministry of Forestry and the Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) supported the exercise. Therefore, the census covers the entire East Asia-Australia route and most of the routes in Central Asia.

35) **Chinese pangolins are found in __________.**

A. Bhutan  
B. North-East Bangladesh  
C. Southern China  
D. All the above

**Answer D**

**Explanation** Chinese pangolins are found in the foothills of the Himalayas in Eastern Nepal, Bhutan, Northern India, North-East Bangladesh, and throughout southern China. Threats to Pangolins in India: Hunting and poaching for local consumptive use (e.g. as a protein source and traditional medicine) and international trade for its meat and scales in East and South East Asian countries, particularly China and Vietnam. Pangolins are found to be the most trafficked mammals in the world.
36) IUCN Red List Status of Indian Pangolin is ____________.

A. Vulnerable  
B. Critically Endangered  
C. Endangered  
D. Extinct

**Answer C**

**Explanation** Chinese pangolins are found in the foothills of the Himalayas in Eastern Nepal, Bhutan, Northern India, North-East Bangladesh, and throughout southern China. Threats to Pangolins in India: Hunting and poaching for local consumptive use (e.g. as a protein source and traditional medicine) and international trade for its meat and scales in East and South East Asian countries, particularly China and Vietnam. Pangolins are found to be the most trafficked mammals in the world. Conservation Status: - Wildlife Protection Act, 1972: Schedule I - IUCN Red List: Endangered - CITIES: Appendix I

37) Ramateertham temple is located in ____________.

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

**Answer C**

**Explanation** On December 29, Lord Ramas idol was destroyed on the top of the historic Ramateertham Temple, which is 12 kilometers away from Vizianagaram. It is located in Andhra Pradesh. Ramateertham is one of the sacred places of traditional communication with Lord Sree Rama. The famous ancient temple of Ramachandra Swamy can be found here.

38) Ramsar Convention was signed on ____________.

A. February 2, 1971  
B. February 3, 1971  
C. February 4, 1971  
D. February 5, 1971

**Answer A**
Explanation Deepor Beel was designated as a Ramsar site in 2002 to maintain multiple forms of aquatic life in addition to 219 species of birds. About Ramsar Convention: It was signed on February 2, 1971. This is one of the oldest intergovernmental accords signed by member countries. Goal: Maintain the ecological characteristics of wetlands of international importance. It is named after Ramsar, the Iranian city where the treaty was signed. The place selected for protection under it is marked as "Ramsar Site".

39) Deepor Beel was designated as a Ramsar site in ____________.

A. 2001  
B. 2002  
C. 2003  
D. 2004  

Answer B

Explanation Deepor Beel was designated as a Ramsar site in 2002 to maintain multiple forms of aquatic life in addition to 219 species of birds. About Ramsar Convention: It was signed on February 2, 1971. This is one of the oldest intergovernmental accords signed by member countries. Goal: Maintain the ecological characteristics of wetlands of international importance. It is named after Ramsar, the Iranian city where the treaty was signed. The place selected for protection under it is marked as "Ramsar Site".

40) The 40th expedition will take off from Goa on ____________.

A. January 5, 2021  
B. January 6, 2021  
C. January 7, 2021  
D. January 8, 2021  

Answer A

Explanation The 40th expedition will take off from Goa on January 5, 2021, with 43 members on board. The chartered ice-class vessel MV Vasiliy Golovnin will take this journey and will reach Antarctica within 30 days. After leaving the team of 40 members, it will return to India in April 2021. When returning, it will also bring back the winter team from the previous trip.

41) The Indian Antarctic Expedition began in ____________.

A. 1980
B. 1981
C. 1982
D. 1983

Answer B

Explanation The Indian Antarctic Expedition began in 1981. The first trip consisted of a team of 21 scientists and support staff, led by Dr. SZ Qasim. After a humble beginning, India's Antarctic plans to establish three permanent research base stations in Antarctica, called Dakshin Gangotri, Maitri and Bharati. As of today, India has two operational research stations in Antarctica, named Maitri and Bharati. The National Center for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR) in Goa manages the entire Indian Antarctic Project.

42) CSIR-NPL, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)-The National Physical Laboratory (NPL) celebrates its ____________ Foundation Day in 2021.

A. 75th
B. 76th
C. 77th
D. 78th

Answer A

Explanation CSIR-NPL, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)-The National Physical Laboratory (NPL) celebrates its 75th Foundation Day. It was established in January 1947 and is located in New Delhi. It is the National Metrology Institute of India and the main research institute in the field of physical sciences.

43) CSIR-NPL, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)-The National Physical Laboratory (NPL) was established in ____________.

A. January 1947
B. January 1948
C. January 1949
D. January 1946

Answer A

Explanation Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)-The National Physical
Laboratory (NPL) is one of the main laboratories of CSIR. It was established in January 1947 and is located in New Delhi. It is the National Metrology Institute of India and the main research institute in the field of physical sciences.

44) CSIR-NPL, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)-The National Physical Laboratory (NPL) is located in ____________.

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

Answer A

Explanation Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)-The National Physical Laboratory (NPL) is one of the main laboratories of CSIR. It was established in January 1947 and is located in New Delhi. It is the National Metrology Institute of India and the main research institute in the field of physical sciences. The main purpose of the laboratory is to strengthen and advance physics-based research and development to promote the overall development of science and technology in the country.

45) Chengalikodan Nendran banana grown in Kerala received the Geographical Indication (GI) label in ____________.

A. 2011  
B. 2012  
C. 2013  
D. 2014

Answer D

Explanation Chengazhikodan Nendran banana, also known as Chengazhikode banana, is one of the most popular traditional fruits grown in the Thrissur district of Kerala. This variety of Nendran banana is known for its unique taste, bunch shape and fruit color. The crops are mainly cultivated organically, and the crop duration is 13-14 months. In 2014, the Chengalikodan Nendran banana grown in Kerala received the Geographical Indication (GI) label. Geographical indication refers to any sign that identifies a product as originating from a specific location where the given quality, reputation or other characteristics of the product can basically be attributable to its geographic origin.
46) Crop duration of Chengazhikodan Nendran banana is ____________.

A. 12-14 months  
B. 13-14 months  
C. 11-13 months  
D. 10-12 months

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Chengazhikodan Nendran banana, also known as Chengazhikode banana, is one of the most popular traditional fruits grown in the Thrissur district of Kerala. This variety of Nendran banana is known for its unique taste, bunch shape and fruit color. The crops are mainly cultivated organically, and the crop duration is 13-14 months. In 2014, the Chengalikodan Nendran banana grown in Kerala received the Geographical Indication (GI) label.

47) Rashtriya Gokul Mission is launched in ____________.

A. 2011  
B. 2012  
C. 2013  
D. 2014

**Answer D**

**Explanation** Rashtriya Kamadhenu Aayog was established to organize animal husbandry in accordance with modern and scientific methods. It will take steps to improve the breed of dairy cows and prohibit the slaughter of dairy cows. It is an integral part of Rashtriya Gokul Mission. The mission is to protect and develop indigenous cattle breeds. The mission was launched in 2014 according to the National Programme for Bovine Breeding and Dairy Development.

48) In Which year India agreed to introduce Japan's high-speed bullet train Shinkansen system?

A. 2015  
B. 2017  
C. 2019  
D. 2021

**Answer A**
**Explanation** The nuclear agreement between India and Japan was signed in 2016. As, India is not a member of the Nuclear Proliferation Treaty, the agreement has attracted attention. For India, this transaction is necessary because it is the key to India's dealings with French and American nuclear companies that have shares in Japan or are owned by Japanese companies. In 2015, India agreed to introduce Japan's high-speed bullet train Shinkansen system. India and Japan formed the "Act East Forum" to expand cooperation between India in the Northeast region and Japan.

49) **The nuclear agreement between India and Japan was signed in**

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

**Answer B**

**Explanation** The nuclear agreement between India and Japan was signed in 2016. As, India is not a member of the Nuclear Proliferation Treaty, the agreement has attracted attention. For India, this transaction is necessary because it is the key to India's dealings with French and American nuclear companies that have shares in Japan or are owned by Japanese companies. In 2015, India agreed to introduce Japan's high-speed bullet train Shinkansen system. India and Japan formed the "Act East Forum" to expand cooperation between India in the Northeast region and Japan.

50) **IUCN status of Asian Elephants is**

A. Vulnerable  
B. Critically endangered  
C. Endangered  
D. Extinct

**Answer C**

**Explanation** The number of elephants in India is 27,312. The Indian elephant is one of the three subspecies of the Asian elephant. In 1986, Asian elephants were listed as "endangered" in the IUCN Red List. They have been included in Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora. India launched the "Elephant Project" in 1992 to provide financial and technical support for wildlife management.

51) **How many elephant corridors are in India?**
Answer D

Explanation There are 138 elephant corridors in India. 28 of these states are interstate highways, and 17 are international state corridors. The Elephant Corridor is a narrow land that connects two large elephant habitats. They are essential to reduce animal deaths caused by accidents.

52) Project Elephant was launched on ____________.

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

Answer A

Explanation In 1986, Asian elephants were listed as "endangered" in the IUCN Red List. They have been included in Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora India launched the "Elephant Project" in 1992 to provide financial and technical support for wildlife management. The project plans to extend the life of elephants in their natural habitat by protecting their habitat and migration corridors. There are 138 elephant corridors in India. 28 of these states are interstate highways, and 17 are international state corridors.

53) Global Influenza Strategy was launched by the World Health Organization for _______________.

A. 2019-2020
B. 2019-2030
C. 2019-2040
D. 2019-2031

Answer B

Explanation Influenza viruses are categorised into types A, B and C. It is known that influenza A viruses only infect animals and are zoonotic. This means that type A can also infect humans. The
subtypes of avian influenza are H5N1, H7N9 and H9N2. The subtypes are classified according to surface proteins called neouracilase and hemagglutinin. This is the global influenza surveillance and response system initiated by the World Health Organization in 1952. It monitors global seasonal trends and potential pandemic influenza. It is the backbone of the global flu alert system. Global Influenza Strategy was launched by the World Health Organization for 2019-2030. It aims to prevent seasonal influenza and control the spread of viruses from animals to humans.

54) Global influenza surveillance and response system initiated by the World Health Organization in ____________.

A. 1950
B. 1951
C. 1952
D. 1953

Answer C

Explanation The subtypes of avian influenza are H5N1, H7N9 and H9N2. The subtypes are classified according to surface proteins called neouracilase and hemagglutinin. This is the global influenza surveillance and response system initiated by the World Health Organization in 1952. It monitors global seasonal trends and potential pandemic influenza. It is the backbone of the global flu alert system. Global Influenza Strategy was launched by the World Health Organization for 2019-2030. It aims to prevent seasonal influenza and control the spread of viruses from animals to humans.

55) Virtual Hackathon Toycathon launched by ____________.

A. Ministry of Education
B. Ministry of Women and Child Development
C. All India Technical Education Commission
D. All the above

Answer D

Explanation The government has launched the virtual toy hackathon "Toycathon 2021". This is an initiative of the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Women and Child Development, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, and the All India Technical Education Commission.

56) Yakshagana is a traditional theater form in ____________.
A. Karnataka
B. Kerala
C. Andhra
D. Telangana

Answer A

Explanation: The Yakshagana artist died while performing on the stage. Yakshagana is a traditional theater form in Karnataka. This is a temple art form depicting myths and Pune.

57) The oldest inscriptions available in Tulu are from the _______________ century AD.

A. 14th to 16th
B. 14th to 15th
C. 13th to 15th
D. 14th to 17th

Answer B

Explanation: The oldest inscriptions available in Tulu are from the 14th to 15th century AD. It is played with percussion instruments such as chenda, maddalam, jagatta or chengila (cy) and chakratala or elathalam (small). The most popular episodes are from Mahabharata, namely Draupadi swayamvar, Subhadra vivah, etc., and Ramayana, namely Rajyabhishek, Lav-Kush yuddh, etc.

58) Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LEDs for All is launched on _____________.

A. 2010
B. 2011
C. 2012
D. 2015

Answer D

Explanation: UJALA: The plan was launched in 2015. The goal is to replace 770 million incandescent lamps with LED bulbs and eliminate the high cost of LEDs, which have previously been used in energy-saving systems. Implement this program to establish phased LED distribution. The purpose is to promote efficient lighting and increase awareness of using efficient equipment to reduce electricity bills and protect the environment. This is the largest home
lighting project in the world.

59) Who issued the Delhi School Bag Policy?

A. NCERT  
B. AICTE  
C. GOI  
D. None of the above

**Answer A**

**Explanation** The Directorate of Education has issued a notice requiring schools to follow the new "School Bag Policy 2020" released by the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT).

60) What must be the weight of school bags of Class 1 and 2 according to Delhi School Bag Policy?

A. 1.7 - 2.5 kg  
B. 1.6 - 2.2 kg  
C. 1.7 - 2.4 kg  
D. 1.7 - 2.3 kg

**Answer B**

**Explanation** According to the policy, the weight of school bags should be:
1. Classes I and II students --> 1.6 - 2.2 kg
2. Classes III, IV and V students --> 1.7 - 2.5 kg
3. Classes VI and VII --> 2 - 3 kg
4. Class VIII --> 2.4 - 4 kg
5. Classes IX and X --> 2.5 - 4.5 kg
6. Classes XI and XII --> 3.5 - 5 kg

61) What must be the weight of school bags of Class 3 and 4 according to Delhi School Bag Policy?

A. 1.6 - 2.2 kg  
B. 1.7 - 2.5 kg  
C. 2.4 - 4 kg  
D. 1.5 - 2.5 kg

**Answer B**
**Explanation** According to the policy, the weight of schoolbags should be:

1. Classes I and II students --> 1.6 - 2.2 kg
2. Classes III, IV and V students --> 1.7 - 2.5 kg
3. Classes VI and VII --> 2 - 3 kg
4. Class VIII --> 2.4 - 4 kg
5. Classes IX and X --> 2.5 - 4.5 kg
6. Classes XI and XII --> 3.5 - 5 kg

62) GCC is a political, economic, social, and regional organisation which was established by an agreement concluded in ___________.

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

**Answer C**

**Explanation** GCC is a political, economic, social, and regional organisation which was established by an agreement concluded in the year 1981 among Oman, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and UAE in the view of countries geographic proximity, special relations, similar political systems based on Islamic beliefs, joint destiny & common objectives. The structure of GCC consists of the Supreme Council which is the highest authority, the Secretariat General and the Ministerial Council. The secretariat of GCC is found in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

63) Where is the secretariat of GCC?

A. Kuwait  
B. Oman  
C. Qatar  
D. Saudi Arabia

**Answer D**

**Explanation** GCC is a political, economic, social, and regional organisation which was established by an agreement concluded in the year 1981 among Oman, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and UAE in the view of countries geographic proximity, special relations, similar political systems based on Islamic beliefs, joint destiny & common objectives. The structure of GCC consists of the Supreme Council which is the highest authority, the Secretariat General and the Ministerial Council. The secretariat of GCC is found in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

64) Which is longest river in Africa?
A. River Nile  
B. River Congo  
C. River Niger  
D. River Blue Nile

**Answer A**

**Explanation** The River Nile is that the longest river in Africa. It is the middle of a decade-long complex dispute involving multiple countries that believe river waters.

65) **Which of the following countries involved in Conflict over nile river?**

A. Ethiopia  
B. Sudan  
C. Egypt  
D. All the above

**Answer D**

**Explanation** The 145-meter (475-foot-high) hydropower project initiated by Ethiopia was the cause of the conflict. Given the dams location on the Blue Nile tributary, it might allow Ethiopia to realize control of the flow of the rivers waters. The River Blue Nile may be a tributary of the Nile, which carries about two-thirds of the river's water and most of the silt. Ethiopia, Egypt and Sudan are the forefront of this dispute.

66) **Which of the following years are considered as Warmest years according to IMD?**

A. 2016  
B. 2009  
C. 2015  
D. All the above

**Answer D**

**Explanation** In the year 2020, the annual mean land surface air temperature is 0.29 degrees Celsius higher than normal (based on data from 1981-2010). The five warmest years on record are: 2016, 2009, 2017, 2010 and 2015. The 2020 Northeast monsoon season (October to December) for the entire country has normal rainfall (101% of LPA).
67) Which of the following years are not considered as Warmest years according to IMD?

A.2016  
B.2009  
C.2015  
D.2001

**Answer D**

**Explanation** It also shows a clear increasing trend in the highest temperature (0.99 degrees Celsius/100 years), and a relatively low increasing trend (0.24 degrees Celsius/100 years) in minimum temperature. In the year 2020, the annual mean land surface air temperature is 0.29 degrees Celsius higher than normal (based on data from 1981-2010). The five warmest years on record are: 2016, 2009, 2017, 2010 and 2015. The 2020 Northeast monsoon season (October to December) for the entire country has normal rainfall (101% of LPA).

68) India announced the primary outbreak of avian influenza in ____________.

A.2006  
B.2001  
C.2003  
D.2004

**Answer A**

**Explanation** India announced the primary outbreak of avian influenza in 2006. Although the disease is zoonotic, India has not yet reported human infections. There is no evidence that the AI virus are often transmitted to humans through the consumption of contaminated poultry products. The implementation of management practices that combine biosafety principles, personal hygiene, and cleaning and disinfection protocols may be a critical means to regulate the spread of AI viruses. In India, it is particularly spread by migratory birds entering India during winter (ie September-October to February-March).

69) The Prime Minister of India held the unveiling ceremony of the Basaveshwara statue on the banks of the ____________.

A. Nile  
B. Thames  
C. Niger
D.Ganga

Answer A

**Explanation** Basava advocates pious worship, rejects the temple worship and rituals led by Brahmanism, and replaces Shiva with personalized direct worship of Shiva through the practice of personally wearing icons and uvulas. Basaveshwara was the first Kannadiga created to commemorate his social reforms. In November 2015, the Prime Minister of India held the unveiling ceremony of the Basaveshwara statue on the banks of the R. Thames in Lambeth, London.

70) **Basaveshwara statue was unveiled on ____________.**

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

**Answer C**

**Explanation** Basava advocates pious worship, rejects the temple worship and rituals led by Brahmanism, and replaces Shiva with personalized direct worship of Shiva through the practice of personally wearing icons and uvulas. Basaveshwara was the first Kannadiga created to commemorate his social reforms. In November 2015, the Prime Minister of India held the unveiling ceremony of the Basaveshwara statue on the banks of the R. Thames in Lambeth, London.

71) **About ____________ of Egypt's drinking water and irrigation supplies depend on the Nile.**

A. 97%  
B. 96%  
C. 95%  
D. 94%

**Answer A**

**Explanation** Ethiopia believes that the dam will generate approximately 6,000 megawatts of electricity and will support its industrial development. It can also export excess electricity to neighboring areas to generate income. Egypt's Concern: Egypt lies downstream and cares that Ethiopia's control over the water could end in lower water levels within its own borders. About
97% of Egypt's drinking water and irrigation supplies depend on the Nile. The dam will endanger the food, water security and livelihoods of ordinary Egyptian citizens.

**72) What must be the weight of school bags of Class 11 and 12 according to Delhi School Bag Policy?**

A. 3.5 - 5.5 kg  
B. 3.5 - 5 kg  
C. 3.5 - 4.5 kg  
D. 3.5 - 5.4 kg  

**Answer B**

**Explanation** According to the policy, the weight of schoolbags should be:  
1. Classes I and II students --> 1.6 - 2.2 kg  
2. Classes III, IV and V students --> 1.7 - 2.5 kg  
3. Classes VI and VII --> 2 - 3 kg  
4. Class VIII --> 2.4 - 4 kg  
5. Classes IX and X --> 2.5 - 4.5 kg  
6. Classes XI and XII --> 3.5 - 5 kg

**73) Bharat Griha Raksha Policy is related to _____________.**

A. IRDAI  
B. LIC  
C. Both A and B  
D. None  

**Answer A**

**Explanation** According to the Bharat Griha Raksha policy, IRDAI (Insurance Regulatory Development Authority of India) will introduce a standard housing insurance policy that will cover fire risks and other related hazards.

**74) When is the World Hindi Day Celebrated?**

A. Jan 10  
B. Jan 09  
C. Jan 08  
D. Jan 11  

**Answer A**
Every year, World Hindi Day is celebrated on 10 January to promote the language around the world. It is marked by Indian embassies all over the world. Since 2006, this day has been celebrated across the globe.

75) When was the first World Hindi Celebrated?

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

Answer B

Hindi is the 5th most spoken language in the world. It is used in Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, United Kingdom, United States, New Zealand, Germany, Uganda, UAE, Guyana, Trinidad, Suriname, South Africa and Mauritius. More than 43 core personnel in the world use this language.

76) Hindi is the ____________ most spoken language in the world

A. 1st  
B. 3rd  
C. 5th  
D. 10th

Answer C

77) In the given below which of the following country/countries speak Hindi language?

A. Pakistan  
B. Nepal  
C. Mauritius  
D. All the above
Answer D

Explanation Hindi is the 5th most spoken language in the world. It is used in Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, United Kingdom, United States, New Zealand, Germany, Uganda, UAE, Guyana, Trinidad, Suriname, South Africa and Mauritius. More than 43 core personnel in the world use this language.

78) When was National Hindi day celebrated?

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

Answer A

Explanation National Hindi Day is different from World Hindi Day which is celebrated on 14 September every year. Two awards are awarded on the National Hindi Day every year, Rajbhasha Kirti Puraskar and Rajiv Gandhi Rashtriya Gyan-Vigyan Maulik Pustak Lekhan Puraskar. The Rabhasha Prize was awarded to various ministries, PSU and state-owned banks. Since 14 September is Beohar Rajendra Simha's birthday, it was chosen as the National Hindi Day.

79) Who's birthday is celebrated as National Hindi day?

A.Rajiv Gandhi  
B.Beohar Rajendra Simha  
C.Rajbhasha  
D.None of the above

Answer B

Explanation National Hindi Day is different from World Hindi Day which is celebrated on 14 September every year. Two awards are awarded on the National Hindi Day every year, Rajbhasha Kirti Puraskar and Rajiv Gandhi Rashtriya Gyan-Vigyan Maulik Pustak Lekhan Puraskar. The Rabhasha Prize was awarded to various ministries, PSU and state-owned banks. Since 14 September is Beohar Rajendra Simha's birthday, it was chosen as the National Hindi Day.

80) Hindi was decided as the official language of India on Beohar Rajendra Simha's ____________ birthday.
National Hindi Day is different from World Hindi Day which is celebrated on 14 September every year. Two awards are awarded on the National Hindi Day every year, Rajbhasha Kirti Puraskar and Rajiv Gandhi Rashtriya Gyan-Vigyan Maulik Pustak Lekhan Puraskar. The Rabhasha Prize was awarded to various ministries, PSU and state-owned banks. Since 14 September is Beohar Rajendra Simha's birthday, it was chosen as the National Hindi Day. Beohar Rajendra Simha is an Indian scholar, theologian, historian, Sanskrit, Savodyanist, politician, journalist and Gandhian. Hindi was decided as the official language of India on his 50th birthday. This word is transferred from the Sanskrit "Sindhu". After the Iranians entered India, the term "Sindh" became "India".

81) Which of the following are participating countries in NCAVES India Forum?

A. China  
B. Brazil  
C. Mexico  
D. All the above

Answer D

Explanation The NCAVES project is funded by the eu Union (EU). NCAVES is Jointly implemented by the subsequent agencies: United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), United Nations Environment Programme - UNEP & Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity - CBD. In India, it's implemented by the subsequent agencies: the Ministry of Statistics and Planning and therefore the Ministry of Environment, Forests & global climate change (MoEF&CC) and therefore the National Remote Sensing Center (NRSC) in close cooperation. India is one among five countries participating during this project. Other participating countries are China, Brazil, South Africa and Mexico.

82) What is the purpose of G Kishan Reddy Committee?

A. To guard the language, culture and land of Meghalaya  
B. To guard the language, culture and land of Manipur
C. To guard the language, culture and land of Ladakh
D. To guard the language, culture and land of Assam

**Answer C**

**Explanation** The Government decided to line up a committee to guard the language, culture and land of Ladakh and ensure citizen participation within the development of the Union Territory.

**83) India's 7th national trading policy Review (TPR) began in ___________.**

A. January 2021
B. February 2021
C. March 2021
D. April 2021

**Answer A**

**Explanation** India's 7th national trading policy Review (TPR) began in January 2021 at the planet Trade Organization in Geneva.

**84) When was the last trading policy Review held?**

A. 2011
B. 2015
C. 2013
D. 2014

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Trade Policy Review (TPR) may be a crucial mechanism under the WTO's monitoring function, which involves a comprehensive referee of the national trade policies of member countries. The last TPR in India occurred in 2015. The India's Commerce Secretary stated that since the last TPR, the GOI has taken sort of measures to reform and transform the entire economic ecosystem to satisfy the socio-economic demands of all Indians.

**85) Where is the World Trade Organization?**

A. Switzerland
B. Paris
C. New York
D. Geneva

Answer D

Explanation India's 7th national trading policy Review (TPR) began in January 2021 at the planet Trade Organization in Geneva.

86) The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) celebrates its ____________ anniversary in 2021

A. 75th
B. 74th
C. 73rd
D. 71st

Answer B

Explanation The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) celebrates its 74th anniversary. BIS (Bureau of Indian Standards) is that the National Standards Body of India established under the "Bureau of Indian Standards Act" of 2016.

87) Indian Standards Institution (ISI) was established in ____________.

A. 1948
B. 1947
C. 1946
D. 1945

Answer C

Explanation The body was established as a BIS (Statutory Body) in 1986. Its predecessor was the Indian Standards Institution (ISI) established in 1946. The 2016 Act positioned it because the National Standards Body.

88) Telangana becomes the ____________ State to finish the Urban Local Bodies reforms.

A. 1st
B. 3rd
C. 5th
Telangana has become the 3rd State in India to successfully implement the "Urban Local Bodies (ULB)" reform prescribed by the Finance Ministry and Department of Expenditure. Therefore, the State is eligible to mobilize additional financial resources of Rs 25.08 crore through Open Market Borrowings.

89) With Whom Indian army signed contract to procure UAV?
A. ideaForge
B. Ford
C. Accenture
D. Jaxa

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

90) What is the India's rank in Henley Passport Index?
A. 75th
B. 85th
C. 95th
D. 100th

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

91) When was Henry Passport Index launched?
A. 2000
B. 2005
C. 2006
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D.2010

Answer C

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

92) Which country ranks 1st in Henry Passport Index?
A. Singapore
B. Germany
C. South Korea
D. Japan

Answer D

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

93) Which country ranks 2nd in Henry Passport Index?
A. Japan
B. South Korea
C. Germany
D. Singapore

Answer D

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

94) Which country ranks 3rd in Henry Passport Index?

A. Japan 
B. Germany 
C. South Korea 
D. Both B and C 

Answer D

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

95) What is the rank of Pakistan in Henry Passport Index 2021?

A. 107 
B. 106 
C. 105 
D. 104 

Answer A

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

96) What is the rank of Nepal in Henry Passport Index 2021?

A. 102 
B. 104 
C. 106 
D. 108
Answer B

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

97) Where is Ajanta Caves located?

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

Answer A

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

98) Where is Elephanta Caves located?

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

Answer C

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

A. 12 January  
B. 11 January  
C. 13 January  
D. 14 January

Answer B

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

100) When was Tiruvalluvar day celebrated in 2021?

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

Answer D

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

101) Lohri Day is celebrated on ____________.

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

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

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

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

Answer D

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

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

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

Answer B

Explanation CARA (Central Adoption Resources Authority) is the statutory body of the Ministry of Women and Child Development of the Government of India. CARA serves as a nodal agency for the adoption of Indian children, and is mandated to supervise and regulate domestic and international adoptions.
104) When was the 1st edition of Aero India was held?

A. 1996  
B. 1997  
C. 1998  
D. 1999

**Answer A**

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

105) When was National Defence Exhibition Organization established?

A. 1980  
B. 1981  
C. 1982  
D. 1983

**Answer B**

**Explanation**  
The National Defence Exhibition Organization was established in 1981. The Defence Exhibition organization was established to promote the export potential of India’s Defence industry. The National Defence Exhibition Organization is responsible for organizing international exhibitions such as DEFEXPO.

106) Who released the International Migration 2020 Highlights report?

A. GoI  
B. UK  
C. UN  
D. USA

**Answer C**

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

107) As of 2020, more than ____________ million people from India are living outside India.

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

Answer D

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

108) Which diaspora is largest in the world?

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

Answer A

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

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

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

Answer D

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

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

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

Answer D

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

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

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

Answer A

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

112) In ______________, more than 35 countries signed the Open Skies treaty.
Answer B

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

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

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

**Answer C**

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

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

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

**Answer D**

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

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

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

Answer A

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

116) India has completely eradicated polio in__________.

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

Answer A

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

117) The first official report of Ndrangheta was submitted in ____________.
A. 1792
B. 1793
C. 1794
D. 1795

**Answer A**

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

**118) When did Mafia begin?**

A. 17th century
B. 18th century
C. 19th century
D. 20th century

**Answer B**

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

**119) When was National Road Safety Month celebrated?**

A. 16th January 2021 to 15th February 2021
B. 20th January 2021 to 19th February 2021
C. 18th January 2021 to 17th February 2021
D. 18th January 2021 to 16th February 2021

**Answer C**

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

**120) When was Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana Gramin launched?**
A.2016
B.2017
C.2018
D.2019

**Answer A**

**Explanation** The PMAY-G scheme was launched in 2016, and its goal is to provide pucca houses with basic facilities for all homeless households and families living in kutcha and dilapidated houses by 2022. Convenience facilities include water, gas, toilet and electricity supply for all households. Under PMAY-G, new technologies are being used to build houses.

121) The PMAY-G scheme aims to completes its target by ____________.

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

**Answer B**

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

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

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

**Answer C**

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

**123) Where is Ratle Hydropower project located?**

A. R.Chenab  
B. R.Beas  
C. R.Ravi  
D. R.Sutlej

**Answer A**

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

**124) When was foundation stone for Ratle Hydropower Project laid?**

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

**Answer B**

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

**125) When did World Bank allowed India to build dams?**
A.2015  
B.2016  
C.2017  
D.2018

**Answer C**

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

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

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

**Answer D**

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

127) Where was Avalokana Software launched?

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

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

128) **Avalokana Software is related to ____________**

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

**Answer B**

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

129) **How many programs can be accessed by Avalokana Software ?**

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

**Answer C**

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

A. Consolidated Fund of India  
B. Contingency Fund of India  
C. Public Account of India  
D. All the above

**Answer D**

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

131) Which of the places has dragon fruit cultivation?

A. Southeast Asia  
B. India  
C. Australia  
D. All the above

**Answer D**

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

132) Which climate is suitable for Dragon Fruit?

A. Autumn  
B. Spring  
C. Summer  
D. Winter

**Answer C**

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

133) What is the total life span of Dragon Fruit?

A. 10 to 20 yrs  
B. 15 to 20 yrs  
C. 15 to 25 yrs  
D. 15 to 21 yrs  

**Answer B**

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

134) What is India's import percentage of Dragon fruit?

A. 95  
B. 90  
C. 80  
D. 50  

**Answer A**

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

135) Exercise Kavach to be held under ________________.

A. Andaman Command  
B. Nicobar Command
C. Both A and B
D. None

**Answer C**

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

**136) Guru Gobind Singh Jayant was observed on ____________.**

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

**Answer B**

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

**137) When was Guru gobind Singh born?**

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

**Answer C**

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

**138) At what age Guru gobind singh died?**

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

Answer D

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

139) MoU between India and Uzbekistan for cooperation in the field of ____________.
A. Solar Energy
B. Trade and Commerce
C. Import and Export
D. Science and Tech

Answer A

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

140) DPIIT has launched the Regulatory Compliance Portal in ____________.
A. January 2020
B. January 2021
C. January 2019
D. January 2018

Answer B

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

A. France  
B. USA  
C. Singapore  
D. China  

**Answer C**

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

142) Foundation Day of NDRF was Observed on ____________.

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

**Answer D**

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

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

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

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

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

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

Answer D

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

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

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

Answer B

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

146) When did Great Green Wall is initiative initiated?
A.2005
B.2006
C.2007
D.2008

Answer C

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

147) Risa culture is related to ____________.
A. Tripura
B. Kerala
C. Karnataka
D. Tamilnadu

Answer A

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

148) Kokborok Day is celebrated on ____________.
A. January 18
B. January 19
C. January 17
D. January 16

Answer B

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

149) In which year Kokborok language recognized as official language?
A. 1976 
B. 1977 
C. 1978 
D. 1979 

Answer D

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

150) Which of the following statements are true? a. The Signal is a cross-platform centralized encrypted messaging services. It is developed by the Signal Technology Foundation and Signal Messenger LLC. b. The non-profit Signal Foundation was established in 2018 with an initial investment of US$50 million by Brian Acton.
A. Only A 
B. Only B 
C. Both A and B 
D. Neither A nor B

Answer A 

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

151) When was non-profit Signal Foundation established?
A. 2001
B.2011  
C.2015  
D.2018

**Answer D**

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

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

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

**Answer B**

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

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

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

**Answer A**

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

154) When did China attack the Assam rifles?
A. 1960  
B. 1956  
C. 1959  
D. 1966

Answer C

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

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

Answer A

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

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

**Answer A**

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

**157) When the statehood day of Tripura was celebrated?**

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

**Answer A**

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

**158) January 21, 2021 is the __________ anniversary of the establishment of North-eastern states of Meghalaya, Manipur and Tripura.**

A. 46th
B. 47th
C. 48th
D. 49th

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

159) Meghalaya is part of Assam and has obtained full statehood under the Northeast Region (Reorganization) Act of ____________.

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

Answer B

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

160) Manipur and Tripura were merged into India in ____________.

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

Answer A

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

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

Answer C

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

162) To whom the Raksha Mantri Padak was awarded?
A.NCC Cadets
B.NSS Volunteer
C.YRC Volunteer
D.None of the above

Answer A

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

163) 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.

**164) 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.

**165) 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.

**166) 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.

167) 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.

168) 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

169) 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.

170) 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.

171) 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.

172) 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.

173) 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.

174) 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.

175) 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'.

176) 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.

177) 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.

178) As of November 2020, India’s 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.

179) 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'.

180) 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.

181) 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'.

182) ____________ 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'.

183) 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.
184) 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.

185) 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 2021, 102 were awarded Padma Shri.

186) 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.

187) 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).

188) 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).

189) How many Padma Shri Awardees in 2021?

A. 100  
B. 101  
C. 102  
D. 103
**190) 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).

**191) 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.

**192) 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.

193) 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.

194) 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.
195) 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.

196) 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.

197) 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.

198) 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.

199) When did Jail Tourism begin in Maharashtra?

A. January 26, 2021  
B. January 26, 2020  
C. January 26, 2019  
D. January 26, 2018

Answer A

Explanation 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.

200) 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.

201) 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.

202) 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.

203) 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.

204) Elon Musk's SpaceX has launched 143 satellites on a single rocket called 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.

205) 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.

206) 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.

207) 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.

208) 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.

209) **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.

210) **The KAVACH exercise used to defend the Andaman and Nicobar Islands is also part of _____________.**

A. AMPHEX-21
B. AMPHEX-22
C. AMPHEX-23
D. AMPHEX-24

**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.

211) **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).

**212) 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).

**213) 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.

**214) 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.

**215) 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.

**216) 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.

217) 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.

218) By 2030, India will restore ____________ million hectares of degraded land.

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

**Answer A**

**Explanation** 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.

219) 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.

220) 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 Bharat Parv annual event is Aatmanirbhar Bharat and Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat.

221) When was Bharat Parv started?

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

**Answer B**

**Explanation** 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.

**222) When is International Holocaust Remembrance Day observed?**

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

**Answer A**

**Explanation** 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".

**223) 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**

**Explanation** 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.

**224) Nazi Germany was a German state from ____________.**

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

225) 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).

226) 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.

227) 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.

**228) 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).

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

A. 1974
B. 1973
C. 1972
D. 1971

**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).

**230) 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.

**231) 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.

**232) Where is the headquarters of World Economic Forum?**

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

**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.

**233) 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.

**234) 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.

**235) 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.

236) 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).

237) 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).

238) 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.

239) United Nations Security Council (UNSC), which is the worlds 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 worlds highest body and consists of 15 members.

240) 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.

241) 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.

242) 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.

243) 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.
244) 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.

245) 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 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.

246) 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".

247) 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.

248) 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.

249) 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.

250) 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.

251) 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.

252) 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.

253) 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.

254) 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.
255) 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.

256) 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.

257) 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.

258) 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.

259) 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.

260) 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.

261) 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.

262) 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.

263) 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, she 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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