Table of Contents

1. INDIAN AFFAIRS ........................................ 3
2. SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY ................................. 11
3. DEFENCE .................................................. 13
4. AWARDS AND HONOURS ............................... 14
5. OBITUARY .................................................. 15
6. SUMMITS & CONFERENCE .............................. 16
7. IMPORTANT DAYS ......................................... 18
8. INDEX / LIST ............................................... 20
9. FESTIVALS .................................................. 21
10. QUIZ CORNER ............................................. 22
INDIAN AFFAIRS

Kerala to set up First International Women's Trade Centre in India

Kerala State Government aims to set up India's first International Women's Trade Centre (IWTC), in consonance with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at Angamaly. The aim is to accelerate women entrepreneurship.

IWTC:
The Centre will secure gender parity and provide women with a safe place away from home to start new businesses, set up or expand, and get their products marketed globally.

Scaling up opportunities for MSME Women Entrepreneurs in Kerala is organized by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) Kerala State Council.

Resource Enhancement Academy for Career Heights (REACH) is aimed to empower women with the required skills to ensure success in life.

It aims to scale up the women-led endeavours through comprehensive support measures.

It aims to enhance its competitiveness to tap market opportunities.

IWTC will enable women entrepreneurs to come forward and participate in international trade, enjoy greater economic benefits.

Jal Jeevan Mission to measure and monitor water supply

Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) aims to create a smart rural water supply eco-system to measure and monitor the service delivery of the water supply in rural areas. The National JJM has constituted a Technical Expert Committee. The aim is to prepare a road map for measurement and monitoring of the water service delivery system in rural areas. The committee constitutes members from academia, administration, technology, and specialists from the water supply sector.

Highlights:

National Jal Jeevan Mission and Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) is to conduct an ICT Grand Challenge.

The ICT grand challenge is to bring an innovative, modular, and cost-effective
solution to develop a Smart Water Supply Measurement and Monitoring System' to be deployed at the village level. The ICT grand challenge will invite proposals from Indian Tech start-ups, the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), Indian Companies, Indian LLPs. JJM has partnered with State Governments and sector partners and started facilitating a sensor-based water supply system on a pilot basis in various villages. Gujarat State govt. has begun navigating the sensor-based rural water supply systems in 1,000 villages spread across five districts. Pilot projects have been started in other States. The project will ensure to minimize service delivery outage and water loss and monitor the quantity and quality on a long-term basis.

**Dept of Fertilizers to observe Swachhta Pakhwada from 1-15th September**

Union Department of Fertilizers, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, is observing **Swachhta Pakhwada** from 1st to 15th September 2020. All Public sector undertakings (PSUs) and other Organizations under the Department are participating in the Swachhta Abhiyan.

**Highlights:**

In the view of the COVID-19 pandemic, Swachhta Pakhwada has become more relevant. Swachhta Pakhwada initiative was launched to bring a fortnight of intense focus on the issues and the practices of Swachhata by engaging the Government of India Ministries/Departments in their jurisdictions. The Ministries/ Departments observing Swachhata Pakhwada are monitored closely with the help of the online monitoring system of Swachhata Samiksha.

**India to achieve 100 MT coal gasification target by 2030 yr**

Government of India is aiming for **100 million tonnes (MT) coal gasification by 2030**. The announcement was made by Pralhad Joshi, Union Minister of Coal and Mines at a webinar organized by the Ministry of Coal (MoC) in New Delhi.

**Highlights:**

To achieve the target, Centre is to invest over Rs.4 lakh crores.
The aim of the revised target is to boost the production of synthetic natural gas, energy fuel, urea for fertilizers, and the production of other chemicals. Earlier, in order to encourage the use of clean sources of fuel, GoI has provided for a concession of 20% on the revenue share of coal used for gasification. These will fall under the development of Surface Coal Gasification in India.

Also, in this regard, GoI has constituted a Steering Committee under the chairmanship of Dr. V.K. Saraswat, Member of NITI Aayog. The board comprises members from the Ministry of Coal. On the other hand, CIL is to set up at least 3 gasification plants (besides Dankuni) on Build-Own-Operate (BOO) basis through global tendering. For this, CIL has signed an MOU with GAIL for marketing synthetic natural gas.

**What is Coal Gasification?**

The process by which coal gets converted into synthesis gas is referred to as Coal Gasification. The synthesis gas is also called Syngas. Syngas is a mixture of Carbon Monoxide, Hydrogen, Carbon Dioxide. This gas is used in applications like making fertilizers.

---

**CSIR-CMERI develops Worlds Largest Solar Tree**

**Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)-Central Mechanical Engineering Research Institute (CMERI) has developed the World's Largest Solar Tree** at Durgapur, West Bengal. The capacity of the installed Solar Tree is above 11.5 kilowatts peak (kWp). It has the annual capacity to generate 12,000-14,000 units of Clean and Green Power.

**Solar Tree:**

The Solar Tree is designed in a way that it will ensure maximum exposure of each Solar photo-voltaic (PV) Panel to Sunlight. It creates the least amount of shadow area beneath.

A total of 35 Solar PV Panels are there in each tree with a **capacity of 330 wp each.**

The unique feature is that the **inclination of the arms holding the Solar PV Panels are flexible** and can be adjusted as per requirement. This is not available in Roof-Mounted Solar facilities.

The data of the energy generated can be monitored either in real-time or on a daily basis.
The design of the Solar Trees potentially makes it available for widespread usage in Agricultural activities such as High Capacity Pumps, e-Tractors, and e-Power Tillers.

The solar trees should be aligned with Agriculture for substituting price-volatile fossil fuels as the Solar Tree has the potential to save 10-12 tons of CO2 emissions being released into the atmosphere as Greenhouse Gases (GHG) when compared with fossil fuel-fired energy generation.

Each Solar Tree will cost Rs 7.5 lakhs and the interested MSMEs can align their Business Model with the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evem Utthan Mahabhiyan (PM KUSUM) Scheme for farmers, for developing a Renewable Energy based Energy Grid.

**Japan announced emergency loan of Rs.3,500 crore for India to fight Covid-19 pandemic**

*Japan* has announced an **emergency support loan of up to 50 billion yen (over Rs.3,500 crore)** to support India's fight against the Covid-19 pandemic. The loan will be used for the implementation of health and medical policies and the development of hospitals equipped with ICUs.

**Highlights:**

Government of India has taken several measures, including health sector reforms, in response to the spread of the Covid-19 outbreak.

It should be noted that this the largest amount of financial assistance announced by any country so far to support India's response to the Covid-19 crisis.

As per the terms & conditions of the loan, an interest rate of 0.01% per annum (pa) and a redemption period of 15 years, including a four-year grace period.

Japan also exchanged notes for the provision of grant aid worth 1 billion yen under Japan's Official Development Assistance scheme for India's Economic and Social Development Programme.

Under the programme, oxygen generators will be employed to the Government of India for the treatment of Covid-19 patients under critical conditions.

The programme will lead to the strengthening of India's infectious disease countermeasures, and health and medical systems.

The loan extended by Japan will provide the necessary funds for emergency response in the fight against Covid-19 in India.
Cabinet approvals

The Union Cabinet headed by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the following:

1) Cabinet approved MoU between India and Finland for cooperation in the field of Geology and Mineral Resources. The MoU will enhance the cooperation in the field of geology and mineral resources between the Geological Survey of India (GSI), Ministry of Mines, the Government of India (GoI), and Geological Survey of Finland, Ministry of Employment and the Economy, Finland.

**Provisions of MoU:**

The MoU will facilitate cooperation between the two countries in the field of geology, training, 3/4D modeling, mineral prognostication, and suitability analysis, Seismic and other Geophysical surveys with the intent to reinforce and strengthen scientific links between the two Organisations.

Under the MoU, a framework and a platform will be provided to promote cooperation in the fields of geology, mineral resources between the Participants for mutual economic, social, and environmental benefit.

Both the countries will share experiences on geological data management and information dissemination to promote exploration and mining, in the areas of geology and mineral resources.

2) Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between Textiles Committee, India, and M/s Nissenken Quality Evaluation Centre, Japan. The MoU was aimed to improve the quality and testing of Indian textiles and Clothing for the Japanese market.

**MoU Provisions:**

M/s Nissenken Quality Evaluation Centre, Japan will assign the Textile Committee as their cooperative Testing and Inspection service providers in India for Textiles & Apparel products including Technical Textiles and any other products that are mutually agreed upon at a later date for both domestic and overseas clients/buyers.

**Third Annual Leadership Summit of the USISPF is being held**

The Third Annual Leadership Summit of the US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF) is being held from 31st August. Prime Minister Narendra Modi
will deliver the Special Key Note Address at the USISPF 3rd Annual Leadership Summit through video conference.

**Highlights:**

The summit will be held for 5 days from 31 August.

The theme of the 5-day Summit is "US-India Navigating New Challenges."

The theme will cover various subjects such as India's potential in becoming a Global Manufacturing Hub, Opportunities in India's Gas Market, Ease of Doing Business to attract Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in India.


Union Ministers and Senior Officials from India are participating in the Virtual Summit.

USISPF - The US-India Strategic Partnership Forum is a non-profit organization that works for the partnership between India and the United States.

**Cabinet approved Mission Karmayogi**

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the launch of "Mission Karmayogi", a National Programme for Civil Services Capacity Building (NPCSCB). The programmes include institutional framework namely Prime Minister's Public Human Resources (HR) Council, Capacity Building Commission, Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) for owning and operating the digital assets

And the technological platform for the online training and Coordination Unit headed by the Cabinet Secretary. Teh commission will suggest policy interventions required in the areas of HR Management and Capacity Building to the Government.

**Mission Karmayogi:**

Mission Karmayogi is aimed to prepare the Indian Civil Servant for the future by making them more constructive, imaginative, creative, innovative, proactive, progressive, professional, energetic, transparent, and technology-enabled. When the civil servants are empowered with specific role-competencies, they will be able to ensure efficient service delivery of the highest quality standards.

**Highlights:**

The Capacity Building Commission was aimed to ensure a uniform approach in regulating and managing the capacity building ecosystem on a collaborative and co-
sharing basis.

The commission will assist the PM Public Human Resources Council in approving the Annual Capacity Building Plans.

The commission will also coordinate and supervise the implementation of the Capacity Building Plans with the stakeholder Departments.

It will also exercise functional supervision over all Central Training Institutions dealing with civil services capacity building.

It will make recommendations on the standardization of training and capacity building, pedagogy, and methodology.

The Capacity Building Commission will set norms for common mid-career training programs across all civil services.

The Capacity Building Commission suggests policy interventions required in the areas of HR Management and Capacity Building to the Government.

**iGOT-Karmayogi platform:**

Mission Karmayogi will be delivered by setting up an *(Integrated Government Online Training)* iGOTKarmayogiPlatform. The platform will evolve into a world-class market place for content were carefully curated and vetted digital e-learning material will be made available. Apart from capacity building, the platform will help to integrate service matters like confirmation after probation period, deployment, work assignment, and notification of vacancies, etc. with the proposed competency framework.

### JK govt set up a 10-member council for the conservation of biological diversity

The Jammu & Kashmir government has set up a **10-member council for conservation of biological diversity** and sustainable use of its components in the Union territory, officials said. As per an order issued by the General Administrative Department (GAD), sanction has been accorded to constitute the **Jammu and Kashmir Biodiversity Council**.

**Highlight:**

The Council will be headed by the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests as chairman of the 10-member panel.

The council will include five non-official members.

The director of the Forest Research Institute, J&K, will serve as the member secretary of the council.
Other members are the chief wildlife warden, a representative of the Department of Forest, and others. Non-official members include former IFS officers Dr C M Seth, Dr Om Prakash Sharma, professor Geeta Sumbli, Dr Anzar Khuroo and Dr Sushi Verma.

The term of office of the non-official members of the council will be for a period of three years.

The council will constitute a fund known as "Jammu and Kashmir Biodiversity Council Fund".

All the charges, fees, and benefit sharing amount that are received by the council will be credited to the fund.

The council will perform the functions within the jurisdiction of the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.

The council will function upon the consultation with the National Biodiversity Authority, notify the format and procedures for seeking approvals with regard to biodiversity issues.

THE World University Rankings 2021 released

Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings 2021 has been released and under the overall category, University of Oxford, United Kingdom, has topped the list. From India, the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, has been placed in the 301-350 category in overall global rankings.

**Highlights:**

The IISc Bengaluru has slightly improved its overall score, from 45.6 to 47.9.

The seven older IITs did not participate in the THE-World University Rankings 2020.

The THE World University Rankings 2021 includes more than 1,500 universities across 93 countries and regions in 2020.

The participating universities are ranked based on their performance in knowledge transfer, teaching, research, and international outlook.

THE World University Rankings analyzed more than 80 million citations across over 13 million research publications and included survey responses from 22,000 scholars globally.
IIT Bombay students launched Indian alternative to Scanning Apps

Students from the Indian Institutes of Technology, Bombay (IIT-Bombay) has AIR Scanner, a free-of-cost mobile application. It was developed by Rohit Kumar Chaudhary and Kavin Agrawal from IIT-Bombay. The mobile application falls in line with the Aatma Nirbhar Bharat. The innovation is aimed to help people in education.

AIR Scanner app:
The Artificial Intelligence (AI) based Reading Assistant & Document Scanner app can scan documents. It can be used to read to users who have difficulty in reading English.

The document that is scanned using the mobile camera will be saved in PDF format and will be stored in the device only.

The app will not collect any information about the user and all the documents are stored in the phone's local storage.

AIR Scanner app is free of cost and secure.

The AI feature of the app reads out the scanned pages. It also provides the meaning of the selected word to the user in 40 different languages.

This new indigenous app is an alternative to Chinese document-scanning apps. It has been launched after the Government of India's decision to ban 59 Chinese mobile apps.

The app can be downloaded from the Google Play Store.

MoD developed Healthy Air, a Herbal-based Immunity Boosting Room Freshener

Defence Institute of Advanced Technology (DIAT), a Deemed to be University, Pune, under Ministry of Defence has developed "Healthy Air", herbal-based immunity to boost room freshener product. The product was developed with an aim to contain the spread of the COVID-19.

Highlights:
Healthy Air has been developed by the Department of Metallurgical and Materials Engineering.

The product consists of various extracts of herbal oils like Neem, Neelgiri,
Camphor, Daalcheeni, Tulsi, Lemon, Turmeric, Laung, Ajwain, Lavender, Elaichi, Turmeric, Natural Vetiveru, Raimuniya, and Pine Oil.

The product consists of a blended solution of the natural herbal oils, which instinctively acts as an immunity booster for the body, and exhibits Anti-cancerous, Anti-microbial, Anti-viral and Anti-fungal properties.

The product is herbal-based product is non-mutagenic, non-carcinogenic, non-toxic.

The product purifies the air and makes it breathable.

The product is used in any room, conference halls, at public places, hospitals, malls, cinema halls, waiting for lounges, rooms of Airports, Railway Station etc. The product is packed in a container with a wick also will be loaded in a dispenser.
DEFENCE

GoI inks Rs.2,580 crore contracts to supply Army regiments with Pinaka missiles

The Ministry of Defence has signed a contract to supply six Pinaka regiments, a system of rocket launchers, to the Indian Army. The approximate cost of the missiles is Rs.2,580 crore by 2024.

Highlights:
The contract has been approved by the Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.
The contract is signed with the Bharat Earth Movers Ltd, Tata Power Company Ltd and Larsen & Toubro.
In this project, atleast 70% of indigenous content will be used.
The 6 Pinaka regiments are expected to be made operational along the country's Northern and Eastern borders.
The aim is to enhance the Indian Army's preparedness in the region against the increased provocative military movements of the Chinese troops.

Pinaka:
Pinaka is a multi-barrel rocket launch (MBRL) system produced in India for the Indian Army. It is developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO). These missiles have a guidance kit bolstered by an advanced navigation and control system. It has an extended range of 70 to 80 km. It has 6 launcher vehicles, each has 12 rockets with 6 loader-replenishment vehicles. Pinaka has 2 command post vehicles with fire control computer and a DIGICORA MET radar. It has the ability to fire all the rockets at a time or only a few in a different direction with the help of its control computer. Pinaka saw service during the Kargil War, where it was successful in neutralizing enemy positions on the mountain tops.
RPF personnel honoured with Jeewan Raksha Medals

Three RPF personnel were awarded Jeewan Raksha Medals by President of India Ram Nath Kovind. The honoured Railway Protection Force (RPF) personnel are Late Shri Jagbir Singh, Shri Shivcharan Singh, Shri Mukesh Kumar Meena.

Highlights:
1. Sanvottam Jeevan Raksha Padak (posthumous) - Late Shri Jagbir Singh, Constable/Northern Railway
   Recognized For:
   Late Shri Jagbir Singh was honoured as he laid down his life on duty while saving the precious lives of 4 children on railway premises. He saved them near Adarshnagar-Azadpur railway section Delhi. He went beyond the call of his duty and without caring for his own life saved the lives of these children.
2. Uttam Jeevan Raksha Padak - Shri Shivcharan Singh, Constable/ Western Railway
   Recognized For:
   On 10 August 2019, Shivcharan Singh while performing train escorting duty on Train No. 12959 noticed some persons trapped in heavy flood shouting for help, when the train stopped due to waterlogging on the tracks near Shymkhayali railway station. Without caring for his own life, he rushed to their rescue and saved the precious lives of 9 persons.
3. Uttam Jeevan Raksha Padak - Shri Mukesh Kumar Meena Head Constable/North Western Railway
   Recognized For:
   On 19 September 2018, Mukesh Kumar Meena, Head Constable/RPF/Jodhpur division, while on train escorting duty in Train No. 22478, saved the life of a lady passenger along with 2 children. Mukesh Meena jumped from the running train and pulled out the lady passenger from the gap between the platform and the train alongwith both her children.
OBITUARY

Former President Pranab Mukherjee passed away

Former President Pranab Mukherjee passed away on 31 August 2020. He was 84 years old. He passed away due to ill health. He was one of the most admired political leaders in India.

Pranab Mukherjee:
The veteran Congress leader Pranab Mukherjee has five decades-long political career. Before his political career, Mukherjee worked as a teacher and journalist. He served as a Member of Parliament seven times, serving in the cabinet of several prime ministers. His political career started in 1969, when he was elected to the Rajya Sabha during the period of the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. He served as the Leader of the Lok Sabha from 2004-2012.
From 2006 to 2009, Mukherjee served as the Minister of External Affairs. He then became the Minister of Defence (2004-2006), and as the Minister of Finance from 2009-2012. In 2012, Mukherjee was elected as the President of India. He served as the 13th President of India from 2012 to 2017. The great leader was awarded Padma Vibhushan, India's second highest civilian award in 2008 and Bharat Ratna, India's highest civilian award in 2019.
SUMMITS & CONFERENCE

India, Japan, Australia agree to launch a resilient supply chain initiative in the Indo-Pacific region

**Australia-India-Japan Economic Ministers' Joint Statement on Supply Chain Resilience** was held on 1st September. The virtual meeting comprised of India's Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal, Australia's Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment, Senator Simon, and Japan's Minister of Economy, Trade, and Industry, Kajiyama Hiroshi.

**Highlights:**
India-Japan-Australia has agreed to launch an initiative to build a resilient supply chain in the Indo-Pacific region.
The aim is to create a free and transparent trade & investment environment.
The Ministers reaffirmed their agreement to take a lead in delivering a free, fair, transparent, inclusive, non-discriminatory, predictable, and stable trade and investment environment and in keeping their markets open.
During the meeting, the Ministers shared their intention to work toward the launch of a new initiative to achieve the objective through cooperation.
GoI had taken the call at the highest levels to become part of the global supply chain and is emerging as an alternative to China.

Arjun Munda inaugurates the two day National Tribal Research Conclave

The two days **National Tribal Research Conclave** will be held virtually on 3rd and 4th September 2020. The Conclave Minister for Tribal Affairs Shri Arjun Munda will chair the two day National Tribal Research Conclave. The Conclave is organized by the **Ministry of Tribal Affairs and the Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA).**

**Highlights:**
The conclave is conducted by IIPA as it is working on Tribal Talent Pool and aims to Strengthen of TRIs in partnership with Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA).
This is the second workshop of its kind. The first workshop was organized in January 2020.
The themes of the conclave are Health, Livelihood, Education, digitalisation, water conservation, data sciences and development models for aspiration and model
villages.

During the conclave, the outcome of various projects will be implemented under different partnerships and the best practices to be showcased to all stakeholders. In the conclave, 10 research partners will be sharing their projects.

MoTA funds over 24 TRIs for research under Grant to TRIs. The Ministry is engaged in quality research in collaboration with Government and Non Government Organizations across the country.

The move by the Ministry is to provide end to end solution, identifying problem, finding solution and execution of the project as part of Action research which can be implemented by policy initiatives.
IMPORTANT DAYS

International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances observed on 30 August

International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances is observed on 30 August. The day aims to lift awareness on enforced or involuntary disappearances that occur with arrest, detention, abduction, or deprivation of the State with support by a refusal to acknowledge the deprivation of liberty or by concealment of the fate.

History:
International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances was established by the international organization General Assembly resolution. The UN General Assembly (UNGA) passed a resolution because of its concern to the increased enforced or involuntary disappearances in various regions of the world. The reason for the disappearances included arrest, detention, and abduction. The UNGA adopted the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance. It then decided to declare 30 August the International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances. The day was first observed in 2011. Enforced disappearance became a global issue as it was not restricted to a particular region of the world. The day also aims to stop the rising issues concerning the ill-treatment, harassment, and intimidation of witnesses of disappearances or relatives of persons who have disappeared.

World Coconut Day is observed on 2nd September

World Coconut Day is observed on 2 September every year. The aim of the day is to create awareness about the importance of coconut across the world. The day also encourages investments and promote the development of the coconut industry in the Asian and Pacific Coconut Community (APCC) member countries. The day is observed to highlight the uses and importance of coconuts.

History:
World Coconut Day was established to commemorate the founding day of APCC. The community functions under the aegis of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN-ESCAP). Coconut Day was initiated to interpret policies and express the plan of action in this sector.

APCC:
Type: Inter-governmental organization
Headquarters: Jakarta, Indonesia
Membership: 18 countries
APCC aims to promote, coordinate, and harmonize coconut developmental activities of the Asian Pacific region.
India ranks 48 on 2020 Global Innovation Index

India has ranked 48th position in the Global Innovation Index (GII) 2020. India has jumped to four places since 2019. The index was compiled by the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) along with Cornell University and the INSEAD business school, presents the latest global innovation trends and annual innovation ranking of 131 economies.

Highlights:
Switzerland topped the GII ranking. It is followed by Sweden, the United States of America, the United Kingdom, and the Netherlands.

As per the Index, India became the third most innovative lower-middle-income economy in the world. It is attributed to newly available indicators and improvements in various areas of the GII.

China is the only middle-income economy that ranked among the top 30 and currently holds the 14th place.

India:

India ranked in the top 15 in indicators such as ICT services exports, graduates in science and engineering, government online services, and R&D intensive global companies.

As per the report, India increased the most in Institutions (61st), business sophistication (55th), and creative outputs (64th).

The report also stated that India, China, the Philippines, and Vietnam have made the most progress on the index in recent years.
FESTIVALS

Onam Festival is celebrated in Kerala on 31st August

Onam Festival is celebrated in Kerala on 31st August. In 2020, the Onam festival began on 22 August. The main celebrations were held on 31 August on Thiruvonam Day or the Sacred Onam Day. The festival ends on 2 September. The festival is celebrated in Kerala.

History:

According to the Legends, the festival is celebrated to welcome King Mahabali, whose spirit is said to visit Kerala at the time of Onam.

Onam is celebrated as the festival of paddy harvest.

During the Onam festival, people dress in their traditional attire and prepare the Onam Sadhya. They take part in a variety of group activities such as the Pookolam (rangoli made with fresh flowers), Vallam Kali (boat race), Pulikali (tiger dance), Kai Kottu Kali (Onam dance), Kummattikali (mask dance), and various other activities.
QUIZ CORNER

1) When is the International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances observed?

A. 30 August  
B. 31 August  
C. 1 September  
D. 2 September

Answer A

Explanation: International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances is observed on 30 August. The day aims to lift awareness on enforced or involuntary disappearances that occur with arrest, detention, abduction, or deprivation of the State with support by a refusal to acknowledge the deprivation of liberty or by concealment of the fate.

2) Which state govt. is to set up India's First International Womens Trade Centre?

A. Uttar Pradesh  
B. Bihar  
C. Kerala  
D. Tamil Nadu

Answer C

Explanation: Kerala State Government aims to set up Indias first International Womens Trade Centre (IWTC), in consonance with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at Angamaly. The aim is to accelerate women entrepreneurship.

3) When was the first International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances observed?

A. 2011  
B. 2013  
C. 2015  
D. 2017
International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances was established by the international organization General Assembly resolution. The day was first observed in 2011. Enforced disappearance became a global issue as it was not restricted to a particular region of the world.

4) Which State celebrated the Onam festival?

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

Answer B

Onam Festival is celebrated in Kerala on 31st August. In 2020, the Onam festival began on 22 August. The main celebrations were held on 31 August on Thiruvonam Day or the Sacred Onam Day. The festival ends on 2 September. The festival is celebrated in Kerala.

5) Which state has begun navigating the sensor-based rural water supply systems in 1,000 villages spread across five districts?

A. Bihar  
B. Uttar Pradesh  
C. Gujarat  
D. Odisha  

Answer C

Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) aims to create a smart rural water supply eco-system to measure and monitor the service delivery of the water supply in rural areas. Gujarat State govt. has begun navigating the sensor-based rural water supply systems in 1,000 villages spread across five districts.

6) Former President Pranab Mukherjee who passed away recently served as the President of India from ________.

A. 2009-2014
B. 2010-2015
C. 2011-2016
D. 2012-2017

Answer D

Explanation Former President Pranab Mukherjee passed away on 31 August 2020. He was 84 years old. He passed away due to ill health. He served as the 13th President of India from 2012 to 2017.

7) GoI signed _________ contracts to supply Army regiments with Pinaka missiles.
   A. Rs.800 crore
   B. Rs.1,675 crore
   C. Rs.2,580 crore
   D. Rs.3,285 crore

Answer C

Explanation The Ministry of Defence has signed a contract to supply six Pinaka regiments, a system of rocket launchers, to the Indian Army. The approximate cost of the missiles is Rs.2,580 crore by 2024.

8) Who developed World's Largest Solar Tree?
   A. IMD
   B. CSIR-CMERI
   C. SCTIMST
   D. HAL

Answer B

Explanation Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)-Central Mechanical Engineering Research Institute (CMERI) has developed the Worlds Largest Solar Tree at Durgapur, West Bengal. The capacity of the installed Solar Tree is above 11.5 kilowatts peak (kWp). It has the annual capacity to generate 12,000-14,000 units of Clean and Green Power.

9) Which is the multi-barrel rocket launch (MBRL) system produced in India?
A.Hanna  
B.Agni  
C.Pinaka  
D.Nag

**Answer C**

**Explanation** Pinaka is a multi-barrel rocket launch (MBRL) system produced in India for the Indian Army. It is developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO). These missiles have a guidance kit bolstered by an advanced navigation and control system.

10) **India aims to achieve 100 MT coal gasification target by ________.**

A.2024  
B.2025  
C.2028  
D.2030

**Answer D**

**Explanation** India is currently aiming for 100 million tonnes (MT) coal gasification by 2030. The announcement was made by Pralhad Joshi, Union Minister of Coal and Mines at a webinar organized by the Ministry of Coal (MoC) in New Delhi.

11) **Who develops Pinaka Missiles in India?**

A.HAL  
B.DRDO  
C.Honeywell  
D.IBM

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Pinaka is a multi-barrel rocket launch (MBRL) system produced in India for the Indian Army. It is developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO). These missiles have a guidance kit bolstered by an advanced navigation and control system.

12) **Who is the current Union Minister of Coal and Mines?**

A.Suresh Angadi
B.D. V. Sadananda Gowda  
C. Jagadish Shettar  
D. Pralhad Joshi

**Answer D**

**Explanation** Pralhad Venkatesh Joshi is the current Minister of Coal of India, with an additional portfolio of Parliamentary Affairs and Mines in the central cabinet under Prime Minister Modi since May 2019.

**13) Which department is observing Swachhta Pakhwada from 1st to 15th September 2020?**

A. Department of Statistics  
B. Department of Fertilizers  
C. Department of AYUSH  
D. Department of Coal

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Union Department of Fertilizers, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, is observing Swachhta Pakhwada from 1st to 15th September 2020. All Public sector undertakings (PSUs) and other Organizations under the Department are participating in the Swachhta Abhiyan.

**14) The process of converting coal into synthesis gas is called ________.**

A. Congas  
B. Syngas  
C. Coal-Syncgas  
D. HydroCarbon gas

**Answer B**

**Explanation** The process by which coal gets converted into synthesis gas is referred to as Coal Gasification. The synthesis gas is also called Syngas. Syngas is a mixture of Carbon Monoxide, Hydrogen, Carbon Dioxide. This gas is used in applications like making fertilizers.

**15) India, Japan, and ________ agreed to launch a resilient supply chain initiative in the Indo-Pacific region.**
A. Australia  
B. China  
C. Russia  
D. Sri Lanka  

Answer A

Explanation Australia-India-Japan Economic Ministers Joint Statement on Supply Chain Resilience was held on 1st September. The virtual meeting comprised of India's Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal, Australia's Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment, Senator Simon, and Japan's Minister of Economy, Trade, and Industry, Kajiyama Hiroshi.

16) The ___________ Annual Leadership Summit of the US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF) is being held virtually from 31st August.

A. 3rd  
B. 4th  
C. 6th  
D. 8th  

Answer A

Explanation The Third Annual Leadership Summit of the US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF) is being held from 31st August. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will deliver the Special Key Note Address at the USISPF 3rd Annual Leadership Summit through video conference.

17) Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the launch of _______, a National Programme for Civil Services Capacity Building (NPCSCB).

A. Mission Naukar  
B. Mission Karmayogi  
C. Mission Seva  
D. Sev Bharat  

Answer B

Explanation The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the launch of "Mission Karmayogi", a National Programme for Civil Services Capacity Building (NPCSCB). The programmes include institutional framework namely Prime Minister's Public
Human Resources (HR) Council, Capacity Building Commission, Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) for owning and operating the digital assets.

18) What is the theme of the USISPF Annual Leadership Summit?

A. US-India Navigating Covid-19 Pandemic  
B. US-India Resolving & Retaining Normalcy  
C. US-India Fostering New-Tech  
D. US-India Navigating New Challenges

Answer D

Explanation The Third Annual Leadership Summit of the US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF) is being held from 31st August. The theme of the 5-day Summit is "US-India Navigating New Challenges."

19) When is the World Coconut Day observed?

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

Answer B

Explanation World Coconut Day is observed on 2 September every year. The aim of the day is to create awareness about the importance of coconut across the world. The day also encourages investments and promote the development of the coconut industry in the Asian and Pacific Coconut Community (APCC) member countries. The day is observed to highlight the uses and importance of coconuts.

20) Cabinet approved MoU between India and ________ for cooperation in the field of Geology and Mineral Resources.

A. Sweden  
B. France  
C. Finland  
D. Germany
Answer C

Explanation Cabinet approved MoU between India and Finland for cooperation in the field of Geology and Mineral Resources. The MoU will enhance the cooperation in the field of geology and mineral resources between the Geological Survey of India (GSI), Ministry of Mines, the Government of India (GoI), and Geological Survey of Finland, Ministry of Employment and the Economy, Finland.

21) How many member countries are there under the Asian and Pacific Coconut Community (APCC)?

A.12
B.18
C.25
D.34

Answer B

Explanation Asian and Pacific Coconut Community (APCC) has 18 member countries. APCC aims to promote, coordinate, and harmonize coconut developmental activities of the Asian Pacific region.

22) Cabinet approved MoU signed between India, and ________ to improve the quality and testing of Indian textiles.

A.New Zealand
B.China
C.Australia
D.Japan

Answer D

Explanation Cabinet approved the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between Textiles Committee, India, and M/s Nissenken Quality Evaluation Centre, Japan. The MoU was aimed to improve the quality and testing of Indian textiles.

23) Where is the headquarters of the Asian and Pacific Coconut Community (APCC) located?

A.India
B. Indonesia
C. Thailand
D. Uzbekistan

**Answer B**

**Explanation** The headquarters of the Asian and Pacific Coconut Community (APCC) is located at Jakarta, Indonesia. APCC aims to promote, coordinate, and harmonize coconut developmental activities of the Asian Pacific region.

24) Japan announced emergency loan of _________ for India to fight Covid-19 pandemic.
A. Rs. 1,500 crore
B. Rs. 2,500 crore
C. Rs. 3,500 crore
D. Rs. 5,000 crore

**Answer C**

**Explanation** Japan has announced an emergency support loan of up to 50 billion yen (over Rs. 3,500 crore) to support Indias fight against the Covid-19 pandemic. The loan will be used for the implementation of health and medical policies and the development of hospitals equipped with ICUs.

25) When was Geological Survey of India (GSI) established?
A. 1831
B. 1941
C. 1851
D. 1861

**Answer C**

**Explanation** The Geological Survey of India is a scientific agency of India. It was founded in 1851, is a Government of India Ministry of Mines organisation, one of the oldest of such organisations in the world.

26) Who inaugurated the two days National Tribal Research Conclave?
A. Babulal Marandi  
B. Raghubar Das  
C. Arjun Munda  
D. Shibu Soren  

**Answer C**  

**Explanation** The two days National Tribal Research Conclave will be held virtually on 3rd and 4th September 2020. The Conclave Minister for Tribal Affairs Shri Arjun Munda will chair the two day National Tribal Research Conclave. The Conclave is organized by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and the Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA).

**27) Who developed and launched "Healthy Air", herbal-based immunity to boost room freshener product, to contain the spread of COVID-19?**  
A. DIAT  
B. BHERML  
C. DRDO  
D. CSIR  

**Answer A**  

**Explanation** Defence Institute of Advanced Technology, a Deemed to be University, Pune, under the Ministry of Defence has developed "Healthy Air", herbal-based immunity to boost room freshener product. The product was developed with an aim to contain the spread of COVID-19.

**28) Who organized National Tribal Research Conclave?**  
A. Ministry of Tribal Affairs  
B. Indian Institute of Public Administration  
C. NITI Aayog  
D. A&B  

**Answer D**  

**Explanation** The two days National Tribal Research Conclave will be held virtually on 3rd and 4th September 2020. The Conclave Minister for Tribal Affairs Shri Arjun Munda will chair the two day National Tribal Research Conclave. The Conclave is organized by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and the Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA).
29) Which State government has set up a council for the conservation of biological diversity?

A. Tamil Nadu  
B. Karnataka  
C. Uttar Pradesh  
D. Jammu & Kashmir

**Answer D**

**Explanation** The Jammu & Kashmir government has set up a 10-member council for the conservation of biological diversity and sustainable use of its components in the Union territory, officials said. As per an order issued by the General Administrative Department (GAD), sanction has been accorded to constitute the Jammu and Kashmir Biodiversity Council.

30) When was the Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA) established?

A. 1950  
B. 1954  
C. 1962  
D. 1966

**Answer B**

**Explanation** The Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA) was established in 1954 and is a research and training organization under the Ministry of Personnel of the Government of India.

31) Which of the following RPF Personnel was honoured with Jeewan Raksha Medals?

A. Late Shri Jagbir Singh  
B. Shivcharan Singh  
C. Mukesh Kumar Meena  
D. All the above

**Answer D**

**Explanation** Three RPF personnel was awarded Jeewan Raksha Medals by President of India Ram Nath Kovind. Sanvottam Jeevan Raksha Padak (posthumous) - Late Shri Jagbir Singh,
Constable/Northern Railway Uttam Jeevan Raksha Padak- Shri Shivcharan Singh, Constable/Western Railway Uttam Jeevan Raksha Padak- Shri Mukesh Kumar Meena Head Constable/North Western Railway

32) India has ranked ____________ position in the Global Innovation Index (GII) 2020.

A. 30th  
B. 35th  
C. 48th  
D. 52nd

**Answer C**

**Explanation** India has ranked 48th position in the Global Innovation Index (GII) 2020. India has jumped to four places since 2019. The index was compiled by the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) along with Cornell University and the INSEAD business school, presents the latest global innovation trends and annual innovation ranking of 131 economies.

33) Which Institute topped the Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings 2021?

A. Stanford University  
B. University of Oxford  
C. University of Cambridge  
D. Harvard University

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings 2021 has been released and under the overall category, the University of Oxford, United Kingdom, has topped the list.

34) Which country topped the Global Innovation Index (GII) 2020?

A. Switzerland  
B. Sweden  
C. United States of America  
D. The Netherlands
Answer A

Explanation Switzerland topped the Global Innovation Index (GII) 2020 ranking. It is followed by Sweden, the United States of America, the United Kingdom, and the Netherlands.

35) From India, _________ has been placed in the 301-350 category in overall global rankings of Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings 2021.

A. IIT-Madras
B. IISc, Bengaluru
C. IIM-Ahmedabad
D. IIT-Mumbai

Answer B

Explanation Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings 2021 has been released and under the overall category, the University of Oxford, United Kingdom, has topped the list. From India, the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, has been placed in the 301-350 category in overall global rankings.
Don't Miss These Other Useful PDFs

March 2020 Current Affairs

April 2020 Current Affairs

May 2020 Current Affairs

June 2020 Current Affairs

July 2020 Current Affairs

August 2020 Current Affairs

Fresherslive provides current affairs for competitive exams like UPSC, PSC, IAS, RRB, IBPS PO Clerk, SBI, RBI, SSC, PSU, and so on.