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NICSI Celebrated 25 years of Its Establishment



The Public Sector Enterprise under National Informatics Centre (NIC), Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY), National Informatics Centre Services Incorporated (NICSI), celebrated 25 years of its establishment on 28th January 2021. On this occasion Union Minister for Communications, Electronics & Information Technology and Law & Justice, Ravi Shankar Prasad, launched TEJAS, a Visual Intelligence Tool (equipped with the best features comparable to market-leading BI tools),

e-Auction India (the electronic forward and reverse auction requirements of the Government departments and organizations), Work from AnyWhere (meant to ease and enhance accessibility of key applications to the Government employees), NIC Products Portfolio (for International Offering to augment Digital India branding through promotion of productized software applications at global level) and distributed the Silver Jubilee e-Brochure of NICSI.

Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank Received 'Canada Sahitya Gaurav'



Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank was honored with international honour 'Canada Sahitya Gaurav' for his dedication to literature

despite being a popular political leader who has served people as an MLA, an MP, a chief minister and now a Union Minister. This most coveted title was conferred upon him by Hindi Writers' Guild, Canada. Uttarakhand governor Baby Rani Maurya bestowed this award at the Raj Bhawan. It is worth learning here that Pokhriyal has an honorary doctoral degree, D.Litt in the field of literature by Graphic Era, Deemed to be University, Uttarakhand. He authored over 75 books on wide ranging issues, which have also been translated into many national and foreign languages. Prior to this, in December, 2020, Nishank was honored with 'Watan Shikhar Samman' by the Watan-UK organisation of London.

PM Narendra Modi : The CERAWEEK Global Energy & Environment Leadership Awardee

The Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been chosen for the CERAWEEK Global Energy and Environment Leadership Award for his commitment to sustainability in energy and the environment in India as well as abroad. He will be honored with this prestigious award in the ongoing world's preeminent energy conference, CERAWEEK by IHS

Markit that started on 1st March and will continue till 5th March 2021. The year 2021 marks the 39th edition of this conference and Daniel Yergin is Vice Chairman of IHS Markit as well as the conference chair. He praised India's leadership in meeting climate objectives for a sustainable future while ensuring universal energy access. He acknowledged the fact that India has emerged at the center of global energy and the environment by paving its path towards economic growth, poverty reduction and a new energy future.

Chenab Bridge Will Be The World's Highest Rail Bridge



The Konkan Railway Corporation Limited (KRCL) has begun construction of the Chenab bridge over a challenging 111 km-stretch under the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) project that will connect the Valley with the rest of the country through railways. This Chenab bridge, which is being

constructed 359 metres above Chenab's river bed will be 35 metres taller than the Eiffel Tower (which has a height of 324 metre) and thus it will be the world's highest railway bridge. This engineering marvel will be 1,315 metres in length with 17 spans, among which, the span of the main arch across Chenab river will be 467 metres. The viaduct portion will comprise a straight and curved portion. The curvilinear portion will be located on a 2.74-degree sharp curve.

IAF Contingent In Sri Lanka Air Force's 70th Anniversary Celebrations

The Indian Air Force aerobatic display teams, the fixed wing "Suryakiran" and rotary wing 'Sarang', along with Light Combat Aircraft Tejas reached Colombo, Sri Lanka to participate in an Air Show at Galle Face, Colombo, scheduled from 3rd March to 5th Mar 2021 as part of the 70th anniversary celebrations of the Sri Lanka Air Force (SLAF). On February 28, 2021, India described Sri Lanka as "Priority One" partner in the defence sphere and its participation in the event will boost the growing cooperation, camaraderie and friendship between the two militaries. It is worth recalling here

that the IAF Suryakiran Aerobatic Team (SKAT) had earlier toured Sri Lanka in 2001 for the 50th-anniversary celebrations of SLAF.

The Recognition Of The Gymnastics Federation of India

The Sports Ministry Of India restored the recognition of the faction-ridden Gymnastics Federation of India after 10 years, for the period till 31st December 2021. It has acknowledged Sudhir Mittal's election as president in the polls held in November 2019. The past reveals that the Gymnastics Federation of India was de-recognised by the ministry in 2011 on account of infighting in the body, and since then it stood de-recognized. It should be noted that currently the ministry has taken on record the election of treasurer Kaushik Bidiwala, while a decision on the acceptance of Shanti Kumar Singh as general secretary will be taken after Manipur High Court's judgment on a pending writ petition. It is worth recalling here that Shanti Kumar was elected as general secretary in the polls held on November 5, 2019, but the ministry had objected to his election on the ground of tenure-rule violation of the Sports Code

of 2011. Shanti Kumar had earlier served a term each as treasurer and general secretary, so his re-election as general secretary for a second term was seen as violation of the Sports Code.

NCSM Inaugurates Science Centre at Udaipur

The Governor of Tripura, Ramesh Bais dedicated the newly inaugurated Udaipur Science Centre, at Udaipur, Tripura to people in presence of Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Culture and Tourism, Govt. of India Prahlad Singh Patel, who was the Chief Guest on the occasion. This Udaipur Science Centre is the 22nd Science Centre which has been developed by National Council of Science Museums (NCSM) at the expenditure of Rs 6 crore, which was funded by both the Ministry of Culture, Govt of India and Department of Science, Technology & Environment, Tripura Government. Besides this, NCSM has also established science centres across the north eastern states. It is worth knowing here that NCSM is an organization that has the largest chain of science centres or museums which works under a single administrative umbrella across the globe. It comprises 24 science

centres or museums of its own, training centres and one R & D laboratory, meant for coordinating all the informal science communication activities in the arena of museum. The “Birla Industrial and Technological Museum (BITM)” (May 1959) and “Visvesvaraya Industrial & Technological Museum (VITM)” (July 1965) were the first two science centres that came into existence.

Appearance Of A New Mammal ‘Himalayan Serow’ In Assam

A Himalayan mammal that lies somewhere between a goat and an antelope, has been recently confirmed as the newest creature to get spotted in Assam. It was spotted in the Manas Tiger Reserve of Assam on 3rd December 2020. This new mammal is a high-altitude dweller which is usually found around 2000 to 4000 metres above the sea level. It is a subspecies of mainland serow native to the Himalayas. It was previously considered its own species as ‘Capricornis thar’. It is blackish along with the flanks, hindquarters and its upper legs are rusty red in colour while the lower legs are whitish. The species has been enlisted in CITES Appendix I.

A New Device For Pest Management

Dr. Mayabini Jena, former Principal Scientist and Head of Crop Protection Division, and Dr. Shyamal Ranjan Das Mohapatra, Principal Scientist (Entomology) of ICAR- National Rice Research Institute, Cuttack devised a device for pest management called 'Alternate Energy Light Trap (AELT)' device to help the farmers in identifying and managing the insect types that usually lurk in the fields. They have also got a patent for the invention. Equipped with a light trap unit in order to attract flying insects and a collector unit for receiving the lured insects, the device will be able to save crops worth thousands of crores as well as lives of people from pesticides that are used in farmlands for killing insects. The device is eco-friendly and cost effective, sufficient enough for handling a large number of insects.

The 'Maritime India Summit 2021'

On 2nd March 2021 Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated a three-day second edition of 'Maritime India



Summit 2021' to visualise a roadmap for India's Maritime sector for next decade and work to propel India to the forefront of the Global Maritime Sector. Denmark is the partner country for the event. Organised by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways with EY as the knowledge partner and FICCI as the Industrial Partner on a virtual platform www.maritimeindiasummit.in, the summit is making way for operationalizing 23 domestic waterways by 2023. Around 20,000 delegates as well as 24 partner countries are participating in the event displaying more than 400 projects.

Manpreet Vohra : India's New High Commissioner to Australia

1988-batch Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer, Senior diplomat Manpreet Vohra got appointed as India's next High Commissioner to Australia. The appointee is currently Additional Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs as well as Ambassador of India to Mexico. It is worth recalling here that India first established a Trade Office in Sydney, Australia in 1941, which is currently represented by a High Commissioner in the embassy at Canberra and Consulate generals in

Sydney, Perth and Melbourne. And Australia has a High Commission in New Delhi, India and Consulates in Mumbai and Chennai. In 2018, the Australian government had aired an announcement about setting up a Consulate-General in Kolkata to encourage business with India's growing mining sector. Presently, India and Australia are stepping up cooperation particularly in the Indo-Pacific region.

Global Bio-India-2021 being held from March 1 to 3 on a digital platform

The Union Minister for Science & Technology, Earth Sciences and Health & Family Welfare Dr. Harsh Vardhan inaugurated the second edition of Global Bio-India-2021 in New Delhi via virtual mode. The three-day event started on 1st March and will continue till 3rd March 2021 on "Transforming lives" theme with the tagline "Biosciences to Bioeconomy". The Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science & Technology and Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC) in partnership with Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), Association of Biotechnology Led Enterprises (ABLE) and Invest India are organizing this event.

Tarun Bajaj Will Also See Revenue

The Government of India shared the information that 1988 batch Indian Administrative Service Officer of Haryana cadre as well as the Economic Affairs Secretary, Tarun Bajaj has been given additional charge of Revenue Secretary upon "superannuation" of Dr Ajay Bhushan Pandey on February 28, 2021. His predecessor Pandey is a 1984 batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) Officer of Maharashtra cadre, who had become the Revenue Secretary in the Finance Ministry on November 30, 2018. Later, being senior among five Secretaries in the Finance Ministry, he was designated as Finance Secretary. He has taken exit from the office at a time when Parliament is ready to discuss Finance Bill and expenditure provisions of Union Budget 2021-22 after 8th March 2021.

Indore Topped The Municipal Performance Index 2020



Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri has put out the government's Municipal Performance Index (MPI) 2020 that classified municipalities based on their population viz. Million+ (municipalities having over a million population) and Less than Million Population. Indore of Madhya Pradesh has emerged as the topper in the Million+ category. It has been followed by Surat and Bhopal at the second and the third spots respectively. New Delhi Municipal Council has topped in the Less than Million category, followed by Tirupati and Gandhinagar

March 4 : Chabahar Day

India commemorated 'Chabahar Day' on 4th March 2021 on the sidelines of the Maritime India Summit 2021 in New Delhi. The virtual event saw the participation of ministers from Afghanistan, Armenia, Iran, Kazakhstan, Russia and Uzbekistan. While addressing the Chabahar day Session, Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Mansukh Mandaviya, informed that the Chabahar Port project in Iran will be developed as a transit hub for cross connectivity between India and Eurasia. It is worth recalling here that in

December 2020, the first trilateral working group meeting on the joint use of Chabahar port for trade, transit, and enhanced regional connectivity was virtually held by India, Iran, and Uzbekistan. Chabahar is a seaport in south-eastern Iran in the north of the Oman Sea as well as it is the only oceanic port of Iran. It further consists of two-port complexes viz. the Shahid Kalantari port and Shahid Beheshti port. With more than 300 km of marine border, Chabahar port is the entrance gate to the International North-South Corridor and eastern development route of the country.

Ease of Living Index 2020

Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri released Ease of Living Index 2020. Among cities with a population of more than a million, the ease of living was found the highest in Bengaluru, Pune and Ahmedabad while it was found the lowest in Bareilly, Dhanbad and Srinagar. While in cities with population less than a million, Shimla emerged as topper and Muzaffarpur in Bihar scored the lowest rank. This ranking holds significance as it will help in shaping government policies.

India In QS World University Rankings

In the latest released QS World University Rankings 2021 in terms of subject, 12 Indian institutions succeeded in securing a position in the top 100 viz. IIT Bombay, IIT Delhi, IIT Madras, IIT Kharagpur, IISC Bangalore, IIT Guwahati, IIM Bangalore, IIM Ahmedabad, JNU, Anna University, University of Delhi, and O.P Jindal University. Besides this, the top Engineering Indian Institutes in top 500 are IIT Bombay (49th position), IIT Delhi (54th position), IIT Madras (94th position), IIT Kharagpur (101th position), Indian Institute of Science (103th position), IIT Kanpur (107th position), IIT Roorkee (176th position), IIT Guwahati (253), Anna University (388th position), Birla Institute of Technology and Science, Pilani (401-450), The University of Delhi (401-450) and Vellore Institute of Technology (401-450).

‘India Telecom 2021’ International Business Expo

Telecom Equipment Export Promotion Council (TEPC) organised ‘India Telecom 2021’ in virtual mode on March 3 & 4, 2021, which was an Exclusive International Business Expo for

convergence of technologies, telecom buyers from over 45 countries under Market Access Initiative Scheme (MAI) of Department of Commerce, Government of India and with support of Department of Telecommunications & Ministry of External Affairs. Sanjay Dhotre, Minister for State for Communications, Education and Electronics & Information Technology had inaugurated this event. More than 1,000 delegates, out of which more than 200 were foreign delegates from over 45 countries participated in this event and more than 40 Indian telecom companies displayed their state-of-the-art products and capabilities at the exhibition.

The First Survey Of Backward Classes In Odisha

The Odisha government has announced to begin the first state survey of “social and educational conditions” of people belonging to the backward classes from 1st May to 20th May 2021. The State accommodates around 209 communities which are identified as the Socially And Educationally Backward Classes (SEBCs), which account for 54% of the Population in Odisha. The Odisha State Commission

for Backward Classes (OSCBC) had given approval for the same on February 26, 2021. The upcoming survey will cover the details like their occupation, and education standard etc.

The All India State Judicial Academies Directors' Retreat

President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated a two-day All India State Judicial Academies Directors' Retreat at Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh to highlight the fact that objective of the judicial system is not merely to resolve disputes, but also to uphold justice. This could be accomplished by removing obstacles like delay in the delivery of justice. He also applauded the use of technology in the judicial system that is increasing rapidly and as of January 2021, around 18,000 courts have been computerized in the country and around 76 lakh cases were heard in virtual courts across India. The initiatives like National Judicial Data Grid, Unique Identification Code and QR Code as well as e-courts, video conferencing, e-proceedings, e-filing and e-sevacenters have helped the judicial administration to dispense justice faster than before.

Partnership Of Atal Innovation Mission & MathWorks

Atal Innovation Mission of NITI Aayog & MathWorks collaborated to strengthen India's deep-tech startup ecosystem. With this, the incubators and startups will gain the technology and domain expertise of MathWorks in areas of technical computing, engineering design and AI based innovations. Startups supported by Atal Innovation Mission will get access to steps of the art MathWorks tools including MATLAB and Simulink, engineering support, online training, access to MATLAB community, and opportunities for developing awareness of the startup products through their domestic and global reach. The expected advantages are aimed at fostering innovation and accelerating product development at these early stage companies. MathWorks is the developer of mathematical computing software for scientists and engineers.

139 Is For Railways

Indian Railway has integrated all its railway helplines into single number '139' which is now a Rail Madad Helpline for quick grievance redressal and enquiry during the journey. The new helpline

number '139' will take over all the existing helpline numbers, and it will be easy for the passengers to remember this number and convey their needs after connecting with Railways during the travel. This integrated Rail Madad Helpline '139' will be available in a total of twelve languages. In addition to this, Indian Railway passengers have an option for the Interactive Voice Response System (IVRS), or can directly connect to the call-centre executive by pressing the * (asterisk) symbol.

Uttarakhand Conceived India's First Forest Healing Centre

India's first Forest Healing Centre has been inaugurated by noted environmentalist Joginder Bisht at Ranikhet in Kalika Uttarakhand. The

Research Wing of Uttarakhand Forest Department after an extensive research on healing properties of the forests and its revitalizing influence on overall health and well being, developed this forest healing centre in an area of around 13 acres. It is interesting to learn that the development of this centre is based on an inspiration from the Japanese technique of forest bathing (shinrin - yoku), which is about immersing oneself in the forest and soaking in the atmosphere through the senses. For this reason the signboards on either side of its slopey entrance advise visitors to hug trees, walk barefoot on the grass, lie on their back and gaze at the swaying trees or the ever changing sky above to soothe their senses.



The Rise In Global Military Expenditure

According to a British think-tank, International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS), despite the impact of the coronavirus pandemic and ensuing economic contraction, the global military spending reached a record level of \$1.8 trillion in 2020, which is said to be a 3.9% increase in real terms in comparison to the figures for 2019. And the U.S. remained the world's largest defence spender in 2020, accounting for 40% of \$738 billion globally. In comparison to the US, China accounted for 10.6% or \$193.3 billion. It is worth knowing here that Beijing's military spending was the driving force behind growth in Asia's overall defence expenditure, and accounted for 25% of the continent's spending in 2020. The total European defence spending has grown by 2% in real terms in 2020.

Indian Economist Ligia Noronha : The New UN's Assistant Secretary-General

Indian Economist Ligia Noronha, who holds more than 30 years of international experience on sustainable development, has been appointed as the new UN's Assistant Secretary-General in place of fellow Indian and development economist Satya Tripathi. Besides that, she has also become the Head of the New York Office of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). The appointee has worked since 2014 as Director of UNEP's Economy Division based in Nairobi, and has given UNEP's work on climate mitigation and energy transitions the requisite impetus. Her work involved green economies, sustainable consumption and production, as well as trade and sustainable finance, and the nexus of environment, pollution and health. Before joining UNEP, she served at The

Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) in New Delhi, as Executive Director (Research Coordination) and as Director of the Division on Resources, Regulation and Global Security. She had also been a Secretary of the Asian Energy Institute and as Coordinator of the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnerships (REEEP), South Asia and worked with the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Canada on ecosystem approaches to human health.

World Wildlife Day 2021



Globe celebrated World Wildlife Day 2021 on 3rd March 2021 on “Forests and Livelihoods: Sustaining People and Planet” theme. It was to raise awareness with respect to the issue regarding wildlife and make people realize the significance of forests and ecosystems and illustrate the fact that sustainable

lifestyle is beneficial for livelihood. It was also to highlight the threats like poaching, pollution, urbanization, destruction of wildlife habitat that the wild animals are facing and the urgency that governments, private sector, civil society and individuals are required to take by adding their voices and taking actions so as to help in the conservation of the wildlife. Measures concerning contribution of humans towards the conservation efforts were discussed at length. On suggestion of Thailand 3rd March was instituted as World Wildlife Day as it marked adoption of “Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)” or “Washington Convention” in 1972.

Japan-China Row Over Senkaku Islands

Japan dismissed China’s claim over disputed Senkaku islands in the East China Sea, and Japan’s Defense Minister Kishi Nobuo proclaimed that the Senkaku Islands are an inherent part of Japanese territory, in terms of history and international law and China and Taiwan’s claim over the disputed islands is sheer

violation of international law. The tension began when China's Defense Ministry justified the country's activities off the Senkaku Islands in the East China Sea as legitimate. In response Japan's defense minister said Chinese coast guard activities that are based on China's unilateral claims violate international law and are unacceptable and decided to step up surveillance of the areas around the disputed islands as well as threatened to employ weapons against a forceful landing attempt if necessary, under the pretext of responding to a serious and heinous crime.

Demise Of Vernon Jordan

U.S. civil rights activist and lawyer, Vernon Jordan passed away at the age of 85. The deceased was Washington, D.C., power broker who had the close ear of politicians and presidents like Bill Clinton for decades. The highly influential figure in American politics, began his career in law after graduating from Howard University and had worked in capacities of the Georgia field director for the NAACP, the executive director of the United Negro College Fund. Pretty soon in his 30s in 1971, he became the head of

the National Urban league. He had also served on several corporate boards, including companies like American Express, JCPenney, Asbury Automotive and the Dow Jones & Company.

Discovery Of 140 million years Old Fossils of Titanosaur Dinosaur

On 1st March 2021, Researchers announced the discovery of 140 million year old fossils of Dinosaurs 'Ninjatitanzapatai' commonly known as Titanosaur in south of Neuquen city in Argentina. It is said to be the oldest-known member of the dinosaur group that included the largest land animals in Earth's history. Ninjatitan was a large dinosaur 65 feet in length but it is much smaller than later discovered titanosaurs like Argentinosaurus that reached a length of around 115 feet (35 meters). Titanosaurs were long-necked plant-eating dinosaurs that walked on four pillar-like legs that lived in North America during the Jurassic Period that preceded the Cretaceous Period. As per the researchers of National Council for Scientific and Technical Research of Argentina (CONICET), the existence of

such an early titanosaur in Patagonia supports the theory that titanosaurs originated in the Southern Hemisphere. This study was published in a scientific journal called Ameghiniana.

Beginning Of Multinational Exercise 'Desert Flag'

Multinational Exercise 'Desert Flag' began on 3rd March 2021 in the strategically-located Persian Gulf region, Al-Dhafra air base in UAE. The exercise will engage fighter jets and heavy-duty airlift aircraft of different kinds like French Dassault Rafales, Mirage-2000s, Russian Sukhoi and American F-15s and F-16s etc. This annual multinational large force employment warfare exercise, which will continue till 27th March 2021, will witness participation of ten countries viz. the United States (US), France, South Korea, United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Greece, Jordan, Kuwait and Egypt and among them Greece, Jordan, Kuwait and Egypt will be observers. This is the first time India will also be participating in this event with six IAF Su-30-MK1 fighters as well as two C-17s. Further, this will be the fourth time when IAF will be participating in such a

multilateral exercise in the last five years after the Australian "Pitch Black" wargames in 2018, Israeli "Blue Flag" in 2017 and the American "Red Flag" in 2016.

The 78th Golden Globe Awards

Winners of the 78th Golden Globe Awards for performance in films and television in the US in 2020 has been



announced. Winners selected by the Hollywood Foreign Press Association includes 'Nomadland' (Best Motion Picture-Drama award) ; 'Borat Subsequent Movie Film' (Best Motion Picture-Musical or Comedy award); Chadwick Boseman in 'Ma Rainey's Black Bottom' (Best Performance in a Motion Picture (Drama): Actor) ; Andra Day in 'The United States vs. Billie Holiday' (Best Performance in a Motion Picture (Drama): Actress) ; Sacha Baron Cohen in 'Borat Subsequent Movie film' (Best Performance in a Motion Picture (Musical or Comedy): Actor) ; Rosamund

Pike in 'I Care a Lot' (Best Performance in a Motion Picture (Musical or Comedy); Jodie Foster, The Mauritanian (Best Supporting Actress - Motion Picture); Daniel Kaluuya, Judas and the Black Messiah (Best Supporting Actor - Motion Picture); Chloe Zhao, Nomadland (Best Director - Motion Picture); Aaron Sorkin, The Trial of the Chicago 7 (Best Screenplay - Motion Picture); Soul (Best Picture - Animated); Minari, US (Best Picture - Foreign Language); Soul, Jon Batiste, Atticus Ross and Trent Reznor (Best Score Motion Picture); Io Si (Seen), The Life Ahead (Best Song - Motion Picture); The Crown (Best Drama Series); Schitt's Creek (Best Musical/ Comedy Series); The Queen's Gambit (Best Television Motion Picture); Anya Taylor-Joy, The Queen's Gambit (Best Actress - Television Motion Picture); Mark Ruffalo, I Know This Much Is True (Best Actor - Television Motion Picture); Emma Corrin, The Crown (Best Television Actress - Drama Series); Josh O'Connor, The Crown (Best Television Actor - Drama Series); Catherine O'Hara, Schitt's Creek (Best Television Actress - Musical/ Comedy Series); Jason Sudeikis, Ted Lasso (Best Television Actor - Musical/

Comedy Series); Gillian Anderson, The Crown (Best Supporting Actress - Television) and John Boyega, Small Axe (Best Supporting Actor - Television).

Russia's First "Arktika-M" Satellite



The Russian Space agency, Roscosmos, has successfully launched its first ever Arctic-monitoring satellite, "Arktika-M" via Soyuz-2.1b carrier rocket from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan. This satellite is meant to collect information to solve operational meteorology and hydrology problems, and monitoring the climate and environment in the Arctic region. Besides this, the satellite will also be able to retransmit distress signals from ships, aircraft or people in remote areas as part of the international Cospas-Sarsat satellite-based search and rescue programme. Further, Moscow is planning to develop the energy-rich

region by investing in the Northern Sea Route for shipping across its long northern flank as ice melts.

March 1 : Zero Discrimination Day



United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS (UNAIDS) observed Zero Discrimination Day on March 1, 2021. The day aimed at creating awareness about the urgent need to take action to end the inequalities surrounding income, sex, age, health status, occupation, disability, sexual orientation, drug use, gender identity, race, class, ethnicity and religion that are prevalent around the world. The existing inequalities are disfiguring society and undermining justice and dignity. The United Nations is constantly promoting the day by organizing various campaigns and activities to celebrate an individual's right to live life with dignity and honour

irrespective of their age, sex, religion, caste, colour, nationality, height, weight and profession.

Gina Raimondo : The New US commerce secretary

American senate confirmed Rhode Island Governor Gina Raimondo as the new US commerce secretary with 84-15 votes. The 49-year-old former venture capitalist, Raimondo has cut short her second term as governor of Rhode Island and has taken oath for the new post. She along with the Consumer Technology Association will foster innovation and ensure US economic competitiveness. She will enhance efforts to revitalize US manufacturing. She has underscored structural inequities being faced by minorities and families with lower incomes and stressed on the need for the commerce department to support businesses and workers in a pandemic-ravaged economy.

2023 Will Be The International Year of Millets

The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) has declared the year 2023 as "International Year of Millets". The resolution for this declaration, which has

been adopted by more than 70 nations among 193 nations across the globe, was sponsored by India and was co-sponsored by Bangladesh, Senegal, Nepal, Russia and Nigeria besides the members of the United Nations. According to India's Permanent Representative to US, Ambassador TS Tirumurti this move is a big step that will promote the ecological and nutritional benefits of millets worldwide. After this declaration now the millets will be promoted as a key component of the food basket and effective policy change.

The First World Report on Hearing

The World Health Organization (WHO) has published the first world report on hearing on the occasion of World Hearing Day i.e. 3rd March 2021. As per the report currently more than 5% of the global population have disabling hearing loss which accounts for 432 million adults and 34 million children. Further, one in every four individuals across the world will be experiencing mild-to-profound hearing loss by 2050, which roughly accounts for 2.5 billion people across the world. Billion young people in

the age group of 12–35 years are at risk of hearing loss on account of noise pollution in recreational settings. In India, Union Minister for Health & Family Welfare, Harsh Vardhan virtually inaugurated six new 'Outreach Service Centers for Communication Disorders' across the country by All India Institute of Speech and Hearing (AIISH), Mysuru, Karnataka in Bihar (1), Odisha (1), and Karnataka (4). He also released the Pictorial guidebook on 'Prevent Hearing Loss' made by Directorate General of Health Services(DGHS)- Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education & Research(PGIMER).

Australia Will Conceive World's First Platypus Sanctuary

Australian conservationists announced their plans of building the world's first refuge for the platypus, to promote breeding and rehabilitation on pretext of danger of extinction of the duck-billed mammal due to climate change. The Taronga Conservation Society Australia in collaboration with the New South Wales State government will build this specialist facility, made up of burrows and ponds,

for the semi-aquatic creatures, at a zoo 391 km from Sydney, by 2022. It will accommodate 65 platypuses. It is worth learning here that Platypuses are one of the three mammals that produce venom among slow loris and European moles. Platypuses are one of the two mammals that lay eggs and the other one is echidna also known as the spiny anteater. Platypuses are amphibians that are rarely seen in the wild.

The Food Waste Index Report-2021

The United Nation Environment Programme (UNEP) has put out the “Food Waste Index Report, 2021”, which revealed a disheartening news that 931 million tonnes of food were wasted across the globe in 2019. In this India’s contribution is around 68 million tonnes. In 931 million tonnes of food waste, 61% came from households, 26% from food service and 13% from retail. It is worth knowing that this weight roughly equals that of 23 million fully loaded 40-tonne trucks bumper-to-bumper, sufficient to circle the Earth seven times according to the UN agency.

Australia Suspended Defence Cooperation with Myanmar

On pretext of the military takeover of the government of Myanmar and detention of the Australian citizen in Myanmar, the government of Australia decided to suspend its defence cooperation with Myanmar and redirect the humanitarian aid which the country was providing to the government of Myanmar. Moreover, Australia has also suspended its defense training program with Myanmar which was worth 1.5 million Australian dollars over the five years. This program was limited to the non-combat areas like English-language training. The deeper story reveals that the Australian diplomats were permitted to reach the economic policy adviser Sean Turnell only twice after he was detained in February 2021 in Myanmar. He had come to Myanmar to take up the job as adviser to the government of Aung San Suu Kyi. The move was considered as a limited consular support for the diplomat by the Australians.

‘SwadhintaPuraskar’: Highest Civilian Honour of Bangladesh

Bangladesh announced the winners of the Highest Civilian Award of Bangladesh called “Independence Award” for the year 2021. Four individuals viz. A K M Bazlur Rahman, Brig Gen. Khurshid Uddin Ahmed, Ahsan Ullah Master and Akhataruzzaman Chowdhury Babu have been selected posthumously under the category of freedom fighters with respect to their contribution to the liberation war of Bangladesh. Besides them, Dr.Mrinmoy Guha Niyogi was chosen for contributing to science and technology; MahadevSaha for his contributions in literature; Ataur Rahman and Gazi Mazharul Anwar for their contribution in Culture and Dr. M Amzad Hossain for his social & public service. In addition to them, “Bangladesh Agriculture Research Council” organization was nominated for the award for “Research & Training”.

Demise Of French billionaire MP Olivier Dassault

69 year old politician and scion of the Dassault aircraft-making family, and the owner of Le Figaro newspaper, French billionaire Olivier Dassault died in a

helicopter crash near the upmarket coastal resort of Deauville in northwest France. The Dassault Aviation group that builds Rafale warplanes has been a leading French plane manufacturer for the last 70 years and is just behind the Falcon private jet, the Mirage warplan. Dassault was the son of industrialist Serge Dassault and was elected to the National Assembly - France's lower house of parliament in 2002 and represented the Oise area of northern France. It is worth remembering that the MP from the centre-right Republicans, was considered the 361st richest man in the world - with an estimated €6.3bn (\$7.3bn; £5.2bn) as per Forbes.

International Women’s Day



Globe celebrated the annual International Women’s Day on March 8, 2021 to help in shaping a gender equal

world on “Women in leadership: Achieving an equal future in a COVID-19 world” theme. The day was observed to cheer the achievements of women and highlight the increasing visibility of women in every sphere of life. On this occasion, Google introduced “Women Will” Web Platform to provide its support to 1 million rural women in India and help them become entrepreneurs with the help of accelerator programmes, business tutorials and mentorship. The Ministry of Women and Child Development chose this occasion to classify all its major schemes under 3 Umbrella Schemes viz. Mission Poshan 2.0, Mission Vatsalya and Mission Shakti.

The Economic Freedom Index

The US conservative think-tank, the Heritage Foundation has put out the

latest Economic Freedom Index in which Singapore emerged as the topper with 89.7 points. The index was prepared on 12 indicators from property rights to financial freedom under four categories viz. rule of law, size of government, regulatory efficiency and open markets. Singapore showed major improvement in government spending. It was followed by New Zealand (83.9 points), Australia (82.4 points), Switzerland (81.9 points) and Ireland (81.4 points) to complete the top five. While the ranks and points of some major economies were the United Kingdom (7th; 78.4 points), United States (20th; 74.8 points), Japan (23rd; 74.1 points), Germany (29th; 72.5 points) and China (107th; 58.4 points). India was ranked 121st in the latest Economic Freedom Index but 26th in Asia-Pacific in the latest Economic Freedom Index.



Mumbai City FC Won ISL League Football Shield



In the last week of February 2021, Mumbai City FC registered a 2-0 victory over ATK Mohun Bagan (ATKMB) at the GMC Stadium in Bambolim, Goa and won the ISL League Winners Shield and the coveted AFC Champions League spot that comes with it. Apart from this, in the world of football, the All-India Football Federation has announced that Odisha will host the Indian Women's League (IWL) and the dates for the same will be announced later on. Indian Women's League is the top division women's professional football league which is

organised in India. The first session of the league was organised in Cuttack in October 2016. Organised by the All-India Football Federation (AIFF), the tournament provides a platform for a lot of budding footballers to highlight their talents and provides them opportunities to pursue football as a career.

Russian Athletics Federation Again Became Member of World Athletics

The World Athletics Council approved Russian Athletics Federations reinstatement plan to the membership of World Athletics. Three international experts appointed by World Athletics had worked closely together with the Russian Athletics Federation for the drafting of this approved Reinstatement Plan. The Plan seems fit for the purpose of embedding in Russian athletics the deep-rooted change in culture that the Council has been demanding for the past five years. And this plan was recommended to the Council last week

by the World Athletics' Russia Taskforce. Now the Russian Athletics Federation President Peter Ivanov will have to step down for two years because of his latest appointment as a senior official of the Russian Government under the reinstatement plan and meanwhile the Federation will be operated under the temporary leadership of RusAF Vice-President Irina Privalova as acting President.

Virat Kohli : The First Cricketer With 100 Million Followers on Instagram



India captain Virat Kohli became the first cricketer across the globe to have 100 million followers on social media platform Instagram. Currently, the 32-year-old cricketer is also the fourth most followed sportsperson on Instagram after Portugal football star Cristiano Ronaldo(265 million followers), Argentina football captain and FC

Barcelona legend Lionel Messi (186 million followers) and Brazil's Neymar (147 million). Timeline of Virat Kohli's cricket career reveals that he had made his debut in the ODI format in August 2008. Currently, he holds the top spot in the ODI batting rankings of the International Cricket Council. He has scored 12,040 runs in 251 ODIs at an average of 59.31. He played 90 test matches for India and has scored 7,490 runs with the highest of 254. In T20I format, he played 85 matches and has scored 2,928 runs at a strike rate of 138.43.

VineshPhogat Bagged Gold In Ukraine



On 28th February 2021, VineshPhogat of India got an edge over V. Kaladzinskay of Belarus in the final to win gold in women's 53 kg freestyle at the Outstanding Ukrainian Wrestlers and Coaches Memorial tournament at Kiev,

Ukraine. This is the Asian Games champion's second gold medal in two weeks, as prior to this Vinesh won the 53kg title at the Matteo Pellicone Rankings Series in Rome. At that time Vinesh defeated Canada's Diana Weicker by 4-0. It is worth recalling here that Vinesh had earlier qualified for the postponed 2020 Tokyo Olympics by winning bronze at the 2019 World Championships. The Olympics was scheduled from July 24 to August 9, 2020. It will now start from July 23 to August 8, 2020.

Deepak Kumar Clinched Silver In Sofia

On 27th February 2021, Indian Boxer Deepak Kumar lost the flyweight (52kg) final on a split verdict to Bulgaria's Daniel Asenov at the 72nd Strandja Memorial boxing tournament in Sofia, Bulgaria. He settled for silver after suffering defeat at the hands of two-time European championships gold-medallist Daniel Asenov. Earlier in the semifinal Deepak had created a flutter when he stunned reigning Olympic and World champion Shakhobidin Zoirov of Uzbekistan. Although Deepak missed the title, yet the Boxing Federation of India praised him

for winning the hearts with his attacking game

Indians In ISSF Shotgun World Cup



Indian men's skeet team comprised of trio Angad Vir Singh Bajwa, Mairaj Ahmed Khan, and Gurjoat Khangura, after 7 rounds of qualifications, managed the bronze medal after defeating the Kazakhstan team by 6-2 in the men's skeet team event at the International Shooting Sport Federation Tournament- ISSF Shotgun World Cup in Cairo, Egypt. The trio got an edge over their counterparts Eduard Yechshenko, David Pochivalov, and Alexander Mukhamediyev in the bronze medal match on the 3rd day of the competition of the ISSF. The Indian team scored 491 to claim the bronze.

Ladakh Sqay Claimed The 21st National Sqay Championship

Ladakh Sqay Team earned 8 medals in 21st National Sqay Championship that

was held at Jaipur in Rajasthan. The Sqay Federation of India bestowed an Outstanding Performance Award to the winning team. The medal tally reveals that amongst the medals won by the team included two silver medals by UmmulBaneen and Muzaffer Ali Khan in Junior Category; two bronze medals by Nissar Ali and Mohd Hassan in Senior Category; three bronze medals by RenchenDolkar, Iftiqar Hussain and AsiyaBanoo in Junior Category and one bronze by ArchoBilques Fatima in Sub-Junior Category.

J&K Championed Khelo India Winter National Games



J&K emerged as the topper of the Khelo India Winter National Games in Gulmarg with 11 Gold medals, 18 silver as well as 5 bronze medals. Organised by the Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports in collaboration with the J&K Sports Council and the Winter Games Association of Jammu and Kashmir, the event is seen as

a major step towards making Jammu and Kashmir a hub of the winter games. The event witnessed participation of more than 1,000 athletes from 27 states and union territories.

Mary Kom : The New Chairperson of AIBA's Champions And Veterans Committee

Six-time world champion boxer Mary Kom has become the Chairperson of Champions and Veterans Committee of the International Boxing Association (AIBA). AIBA's board of directors had voted on 3rd March 2021 to bring the 37-year-old to the post. It is worth learning that the prestigious committee that came into existence in December 2020, has the world's most respected boxing veterans and champions who have made significant achievements in their time and are ready to share their experiences.

Wrestler Bajrang Punia Regained Top Position

Indian wrestling champion, Bajrang Punia, has regained the world number one ranking after winning second successive gold medal at Matteo Pellicone Ranking Series. On 7th March 2021, the Indian wrestler got an edge

over Tugatumur-Ochir of Mongolia by 2-2 criteria in 65 kg the final freestyle event which was organised in Rome. He won the game after getting a two-pointer in the last 30 seconds of the bout. Currently, He has a total of 14 points, which is the highest among the others. This was the first international competition of Bajrang Punia since the Covid-19 outbreak.

India Won Anthony de Mello Trophy



The Indian Cricket Team bagged the Anthony de Mello Trophy by defeating England in the 4th Test Match held at Narendra Modi Stadium, Ahmedabad, Gujarat and with this, it won the Test series by 3-1 and retained the Anthony de Mello Trophy. Ravichandran Ashwin was adjudged as the Player of the Series. This trophy was already with the Indian Team as they had championed the Test

Series, which was held in 2016-17. After the fresh triumph, India has now qualified for the World Test Championship finals that will be held at Southampton's Ageas Bowl Stadium, UK (shifted from Lord's Cricket Ground due to Pandemic) from 18th June to 22nd June 2021. India will play with New Zealand in the finals.

Swiss Open Escaped From PV Sindhu's Grip

World Champion P V Sindhu suffered defeat at hands of Carolina Marin of Spain in a lop-sided women's singles title clash in Basel on March 7, 2021. The 25-year-old Indian, who had won the coveted World Championship gold medal in 2019, lost to Marin with 12-21, 5-21 in this final that lasted for 35 minutes. Flashback says that it was Sindhu's third successive loss to Marin, who had won both the Super 1000 events in Thailand in January before finishing runners-up at the HSBC BWF World Tour Finals. Now PV Sindhu is looking forward to competing at the All England Championships.

Indians InBoxam International Boxing

In the 35th edition of Boxam International Boxing Tournament in Castellon, Spain, Indian boxers Simranjit Kaur (60kg), Pooja Rani (75kg) and Jasmine (57kg) won silver medals, while M C Mary Kom (51kg) had ended with a bronze after a semifinal loss. Jasmine (57kg) lost to Irma Testa of Italy. Simranjit missed the 60 Kg category title after her semifinal opponent, Rashida Ellis of USA tested positive for COVID-19. Pooja lost 0-5 to an American Melissa Graham.

The Uganda International Badminton Tournament

India's Varun Kapur and Malvika Bansod booked the men's and women's singles titles respectively at the 2021 Uganda International Badminton tournament in Kampala. The Junior World No. 2 Varun achieved this feat by defeating his compatriot 7th seeded Sankar Muthusamy by 21-18, 16-21, 21-17 in the men's singles final. And second seeded Malvika got an edge over her compatriot Anupama Upadhyaya in the women's singles summit clash by 17-21, 25-23, 21-

10. Sankar and Anupama settled for silver medals in the four-day tournament which saw participation of shuttlers from India, Germany and African countries.

Kieron Pollard : The Third Man to Hit 6 Sixes In An Over In International Cricket



West Indies white-ball captain Kieron Pollard got recorded as the third man to hit 6 sixes in an international match during the opening T20I against Sri Lanka on 3rd March 2021 after South Africa's Herschelle Gibbs (2007 World Cup against Netherlands) and India's Yuvraj Singh (2007 T20 World Cup against England), who achieved this rare feat in the past. Pollard posted this record in reply to Sri Lankan cricketer Akila Dananjaya's attack in the first T20I of the three-match series against Sri Lanka at the Coolidge Cricket Ground in Osbourn, Antigua.



1. Which of the following won ACI World's 'Voice Of The Customer' Award?
 - (a) Chennai International Airport, Chennai
 - (b) Cochin International Airport, Kochi
 - (c) Kempegowda International Airport, Bangalore
 - (d) Rajiv Gandhi International Airport, Hyderabad
 - (e) Goa International Airport, Goa

2. wildlife photographer, Robert Irwin won Wildlife Photographer of the Year 2021.

(a) American	(b) Australian	(c) Swiss
(d) Swedish	(e) French	

3.'s new book "The Terrible, Horrible, Very Bad Good News" will be released in April 2021.

(a) Shashi Tharoor	(b) Khushwant Singh	(c) Meghna Pant
(d) Arundhati Roy	(e) Ruskin Bond	

4. The SKOCH Chief Minister of the Year Award has been given to the Chief Minister of

(a) Punjab	(b) Haryana	(c) Uttar Pradesh
(d) Madhya Pradesh	(e) Andhra Pradesh	

5. became IPL's most expensive player at the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2021 auction in Chennai.

(a) Pat Cummins	(b) Sheldon Cottrell	(c) Chris Morris
(d) Glenn Maxwell	(e) Nathan Coulter	

6.authored a New Novel Titled '1857 — The Sword of Mastaan'
- (a) Vineet Bajpai (b) Aparna Vaidik (c) Ruth Vanita
(d) M. R. Raghava Varier (e) KesavanVeluthat
7. Which of the following joined hands with Zomato to take street food vendors online under Mobile Application for PM SVANidhi Se Samriddhi?
- (a) Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution
(b) Ministry of Food Processing Industries
(c) Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
(d) Ministry of Rural Development
(e) Ministry of Road Transport and Highways
8. Which edition of JanAushadhiDiwas celebrations started on 1st March 2021?
- (a) First (b) Second (c) Third
(d)Fourth (e) Fifth
9.& Boeing completed the first test of fighter-like pilotless jet.
- (a) Britain (a) (b)Germany (b) (c) Indonesia
(c) (d)Australia (d) (e) Pakistan
10. Which edition of the Civil Accounts Day was celebrated on 1st March 2021?
- (a) 45th (b)46th (c) 47th
d) 48th (e) 49th
11. became the world's first nation to receive COVAX vaccines.
- (a) Benin (b) Burkina Faso (c) Ghana
(d) Guinea (e) Ivory Coast

12. According to Hurun Global Rich List 2021, which was released in March 2021, Mukesh Ambani is the richest person in the world.
- (a) 5th (b) 6th
(c) 7th (d) 8th (e) 9th
13. appointed Bikram Singh Bedi as MD for India.
- (a) Amazon Web Services (b) Google Cloud (c) Microsoft Azure
(d) DigitalOcean (e) IBM Bluemix
14. Which of the following states has launched 'PANKH Abhiyan' for Girl Child?
- (a) Gujarat (b) Odisha (c) Bihar
(d) Rajasthan (e) Madhya Pradesh
15.received Google Cloud Partner Status.
- (a) Wipro (b) HCL Technologies (c) Infosys
(d) Larsen & Toubro Infotech (e) Tata Consultancy Services
16. WIPRO group became a knowledge partner of for establishment of a Software Development Centre.
- (a) Uttar Pradesh (b) Madhya Pradesh
(c) Gujarat (d) Bihar (e) Karnataka
17. Which of the following recognized 'AtmaNirbharta' as the Hindi Word of 2020?
- (a) Oxford (b) Cambridge (c) Longman
(d) Macmillan Macmillan (e) Merriam-Webster

- 18.** Which of the following banks launched WhatsApp Banking?
(a) HDFC Bank (b) ICICI Bank (c) Axis Bank Ltd
(d) Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd (e) IndusInd Bank Ltd
- 19.** Which of the following states launched 'UdyamSarathi App' for Youths ?
(a) Uttarakhand (b) Himachal Pradesh
(c) Uttar Pradesh (d) Bihar (e) Gujarat
- 20.** Which of the following states launched the 'Har GharPani, Har GharSafai' mission?
(a) Himachal Pradesh (b) Maharashtra (c) Punjab
(d) Uttar Pradesh (e) Bihar
- 21.** Jal Shakti Ministry launched a-day campaign, called 'Catch the Rain' to promote water conservation from March 2021.
(a) 30 (b) 60 (c) 90
(d) 100 (e) 120
- 22.** Centre appointed Praveen Sinha as interim Director of
(a) Research and Analysis Wing
(b) Intelligence Bureau
(c) National Investigation Agency
(d) Central Bureau of Investigation
(e) Narcotics Control Bureau
- 23.** Which of the following states approved a new programme to conserve water ?
(a) Gujarat (b) Maharashtra (c) Bihar
(d) Madhya Pradesh (e) Karnataka

- 24.** A team of astronomers led by Alok Chandra Gupta from..... detected a huge optical flare from a super massive black hole.
(a) ARIES (b) TAURUS (c) GEMINI
(d) AQUARIUS (e) PISCES
- 25.** India's first Thunderstorm Research Testbed was established in
(a) West Bengal (b) Odisha (c) Kerala
(d) Tamil Nadu (e) Karnataka
- 26.** Who among the following launched 'Sugamya Bharat' App and handbook 'Access - The Photo Digest'?
(a) Nitin Gadkari (b) Ravi Shankar Prasad
(c) Thawar Chand Gehlot (d) Prakash Javdekar (e) Smriti Irani
- 27.** Satishwar Balakrishnan has been appointed as MD & CEO of
(a) Life Insurance Corporation of India
(b) Max Life Insurance Company
(c) HDFC Life Insurance Company
(d) ICICI Prudential Life Insurance
(e) AEGON Life Insurance Company
- 28.** India has challenged in the Singapore High Court an international arbitration tribunal's verdict that overturned its demand for Rs 22,100 crore in back taxes fromtelecom giant, Vodafone Group Plc.
(a) American (b) British (c) Spanish
(d) Russian (e) French

29. Jal Shakti Ministry launched a-day campaign, called 'Catch the Rain' to promote water conservation from March 2021.
- (a) 30 (b) 60 (c) 90
(d) 100 (e) 120
30. Vice Admiral Ajendra Bahadur Singh, who won VishishtSeva Medal in, has become the Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief (FOC-in-C) of Eastern Naval Command (ENC).
- (a) 2010 (b) 2011 (c) 2012
(d) 2013 (e) 2014
31. Mutual Fund launched its first international fund.
- (a) ICICI (b) HDFC (c) SBI
(d) BoB (e) IDBI
32. Which of the following nations celebrated Lunar New Year on February 12, 2021?
- (a) Japan (b) China (c) France
(d) Indonesia (e) Malaysia
33. J&K topped the medals tally at Khelo India Winter National Games in Gulmarg with Gold medals.
- (a) 9 (b) 10 (c) 11
(d) 12 (e) 13
34. Which of the following states launched a Digital Economy Mission Office?
- (a) Kerala (b) Karnataka (c) Tamil Nadu
(d) Andhra Pradesh (e) Telangana

- 35.** “Mercantile Marine Domain Awareness Centre” named has been launched during the Maritime India Summit-2021.
(a) Sagar Manthan (b) Samudra Manthan
(c) Sindhu Manthan (d) Ratnakar Manthan (e) Payodhi Manthan
- 36.** The CCTNS Hackathon and Cyber Challenge 2020-21 of the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) was inaugurated.
(a) First (b) Second (c) Third
(d) Fourth (e) Fifth
- 37.** Which edition of the field assessment of Swachh Survekshan 2021 has been launched in March 2021?
(a) Third (b) Fourth (c) Fifth
(d) Sixth (e) Seventh
- 38.** Jaideep Bhatnagar became Principal Director General of
(a) Asian News International (b) Hindusthan Samachar
(c) Indo-Asian News Service (d) Press Information Bureau
(e) Samachar Bharti
- 39.** The three-day famous “Mandu Festival” was held at the historic town of Mandu in district of Madhya Pradesh.
(a) Dhar (b) Rajgarh (c) Tikamgarh
(d) Mandla (e) Satna
- 40.** A rare mandarin duck was spotted in after 118 Years.
(a) Tripura (b) Manipur (c) Mizoram
(d) Arunachal Pradesh (e) Assam

- 41.** Nitin Gadkari launched India's first CNG tractor, which can help farmers save more than Rs annually on fuel costs.
- (a) 50,000 (b) 1 lakh (c) 1.5 lakhs
(d) 2 lakhs (e) 2.5 lakhs
- 42.** Justice Puligoru Venkata Sanjay Kumar sworn-in as Chief Justice of High Court.
- (a) Allahabad (b) Manipur (c) Bombay
(d) Delhi (e) Jharkhand
- 43.** Marc Llistosella has been appointed as the new CEO & MD of
- (a) Maruti Suzuki (b) Hyundai India (c) Tata Motors
(d) Mahindra & Mahindra (e) Honda Cars
- 44.** Book 'Unfinished' is a memoir of
- (a) Sushmita Sen (b) Priyanka Chopra (c) Urvashi Rautela
(d) Aishwarya Rai (e) Deepika Padukone
- 45.** Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Mahabahu-Brahmaputra project in
- (a) Arunachal Pradesh (b) Assam (c) Nagaland
(d) Manipur (e) Mizoram
- 46.** L&T delivered K9 Vajra tracked a self-propelled howitzer to the Army.
- (a) 50th (b) 65th (c) 75th
(d) 85th (e) 100th

- 47.** Former and Jharkhand Governor & Jurist M Rama Jois, passed away.
- (a) Uttar Pradesh (b) Madhya Pradesh
(c) Bihar (d) Gujarat (e) Rajasthan
- 48.** Indian wicketkeeper-batsman and cricketer Naman Ojha announced retirement from all forms of cricket.
- (a) Uttar Pradesh (b) Madhya Pradesh
(c) Bihar (d) Gujarat (e) Rajasthan
- 49.** ICICI Lombard joined hands with Frost and Sullivan, a leading management consulting firm for tracking risk exposure insectors.
- (a) 11 (b) 12 (c) 13
(d) 14 (e) 15
- 50.** Veteran retired Major General BK Mahapatra, who participated in the Indo - Pak war of and 1971 passed away.
- (a) 1964 (b) 1965 (c) 1966
(d) 1967 (e) 1968



ANSWERS



- 1.(c)** Kempegowda International Airport, Bangalore won ACI World's 'Voice Of The Customer' Award. It gathered passenger feedback through ACI's Airport Service Quality (ASQ) programme. The 'Voice of the Customer' recognises airports that continued to prioritise their customers and remained committed to ensuring that their voice was heard during the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020.
- 2.(b)** An Australian wildlife photographer, Robert Irwin won Wildlife Photographer of the Year 2021 for the image titled 'bushfire', which is the picture of the devastating Australian Bushfire in 2020. He captured the picture using a drone, near the Steve Irwin Wildlife Reserve in Cape York, Queensland. This image shows a line of fire burning in between the bushes, dividing it into parts.
- 3.(c)** Meghna Pant's new book "The Terrible, Horrible, Very Bad Good News" will be released in April 2021. The Award-winning writer, journalist and speaker has penned a new book "The Terrible, Horrible, Very Bad Good News" and a major motion picture with the title BadnamLadoo will be made on this book. It is about a small-town woman, Ladoo, who scandalizes her conservative family when she decides to use a sperm donor to have a baby while continuing to look for Mr Right.
- 4.(e)** The SKOCH Chief Minister of the Year Award has been given to the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy. The State has taken several revolutionary measures in the past two years to make governance more efficient and transparent.

- 5.(c)** Chris Morris became IPL's most expensive player at the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2021 auction in Chennai. He is the former Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) superstar and South African all-rounder who has been bought by Rajasthan Royals for a whopping INR 16.25 crore.
- 6.(a)** Vineet Bajpai authored a New Novel Titled '1857 — The Sword of Mastaan'. It is a period drama cum historical thriller written by HT Nielsen chart-topping author. He has penned 7 books and his business and inspirational books like Build From Scratch (2004), The Street to the Highway (2011) and The 30 Something CEO (2016) have been highly acclaimed.
- 7.(c)** Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs joined hands with Zomato to take street food vendors online under PM SVANidhi Se Samriddhi mobile app, which is about Socio-economic profiling of PM SVANidhi beneficiaries and their families to link them to various Central Government Schemes. Under the MoU, initially MoHUA and Zomato will run a pilot program by on-boarding 300 vendors across six cities namely – Bhopal, Ludhiana, Nagpur, Patna, Raipur, Vadodara.
- 8.(c)** The third edition of Jan AushadhiDiwas celebrations started on 1st March 2021. As part of celebration the Jan AushadhiKendras are conducting the Health Check-up Camps. In this context it is worth recalling here that Pradhan Mantri BharatiyaJanaushadhiPariyojana (PMBJP) was launched in 2008 by the Department of Pharmaceuticals to provide quality medicines at affordable prices and specialkendras named as “Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya JanaushadhiPariyojana Kendra” were set up in order to provide generic drugs at lesser prices but equivalent in quality and efficacy of branded drugs.

- 9.(d)** Australia & Boeing completed the first test of fighter-like pilotless jet, 'Loyal Wingman Aircraft'. The Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) and Boeing Co were involved in this test of "Loyal Wingman", which is the first military aircraft that has been designed and manufactured in more than 50 years in Australia at the cost of A\$40 million. It is 38 feet long and has a range of 2,000 nautical mile or 3,704 km. It can also act like a shield to protect several expensive manned fighter jets.
- 10.(a)** The 45th Civil Accounts Day was celebrated on 1st March 2021. The Indian Civil Accounts Service (ICAS) observed the "Civil Accounts Day" in presence of Chief Guest and Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman; G.C. Murmu, Comptroller & Auditor General of India and Soma Roy Burman, Controller General of Accounts, amongst others. The annual observation of this day was started in 1976.
- 11.(c)** Ghana became the world's first nation to receive COVAX vaccines through the United Nations-backed COVAX initiative with a delivery of 600,000 doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine made by the Serum Institute of India.
- 12.(d)** According to the 10th edition of Hurun Global Rich List 2021, which was released in March 2021, Mukesh Ambani is the 8th richest person in the world with a fortune of \$83 billion, Reliance accounts for 8% of the country's exports and 5% of India's total revenues from customs and excise duty. Globally India rose to third spot with 177 billionaires, 40 more than year 2020. In this Hurun Global Rich List 2021 of 68 countries, Tesla chief Elon Musk bagged the top spot with his net worth to \$197 billion. He was followed by Amazon.com Inc 's Jeff Bezos with \$189 billion in net worth.

- 13.(b)** Google Cloud appointed Bikram Singh Bedi as MD for India. He succeeded Karan Bajwa, who has been elevated as Vice president for the Asia Pacific (APAC) region cloud operations at Google Cloud. Google Cloud is also on track to launch its Delhi cloud region in India this year. It is second after Mumbai that was launched in 2017.
- 14.(e)** Madhya Pradesh has launched 'PANKH Abhiyan' for Girl Child. 'PANKH Abhiyan' is a year-long programme in which 'P' stands for protection, 'A' (awareness of their rights), 'N' (nutrition), 'K' (knowledge), and 'H' (health). The CM also announced scholarships worth Rs 6.47 crore for 26,099 girls under Ladli Laxmi Yojana.
- 15.(d)** Infosys has been accredited with the Google Cloud Partner Specialization in the data and analytics space. The company has successfully demonstrated end-to-end capabilities on Google Cloud including warehousing on the cloud and data ingestion. It has displayed robust methodology, strong industry expertise, technical proficiency, success in specialized data and analytics solutions, and service areas.
- 16.(b)** WIPRO group became a knowledge partner of Madhya Pradesh for establishment of a Software Development Centre in Bhopal. Azim Premji Foundation has been given 50 acres of land for the proposed university in Bhopal. Its First Phase will start soon. The goal is to start the university in the next 18 months.
- 17.(a)** Oxford recognized 'AtmaNirbharta' as the Hindi Word of 2020. The word gained importance after Prime Minister Narendra Modi emphasised on

'AtmaNirbharta' (self-reliance) as a response to the COVID-19 pandemic last year. It was chosen as it "validated the day-to-day achievements of the countless Indians who dealt with and survived the perils of a pandemic".

- 18.(c)** Axis Bank Ltd launched WhatsApp Banking to help and address the banking needs of its customers. The customer can chat with the Axis Bank on their designated number for their queries and ask the details regarding banking transaction, nearest branch details, loan centre location and ATM centre location etc. and apply to avail various banking services and products. WhatsApp services can also be used to block credit or debit cards through secure end-to-end encrypted messaging platforms.
- 19.(c)** Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister, Yogi Adityanath has launched the 'UdyamSarathi App' on the 71st Foundation Day of the state i.e. 24 January 2021. The app will enable the youths to get every information related to self-employment and the job industry, across the state. The theme of this year's foundation day was 'Respect for self-reliant Uttar Pradesh, women young farmers, development of all'.
- 20.(c)** Punjab launched 'Har GharPani, Har GharSafai' mission to achieve the goal of 100 per cent potable piped water supply in all rural households by March 2022. Besides this, the Chief Minister also inaugurated one Mega Surface Water Supply Scheme covering 85 villages in the Moga district, 144 new water supply schemes for 172 villages, 121 Arsenic, and Iron removal plants.
- 21.(d)** Jal Shakti Ministry launched a 100-day campaign, called 'Catch the Rain' to promote water conservation from March 2021. Emphasizing the need for water conservation, the Prime Minister said that water is significant for the growth of human life.

- 22.(d)** Centre appointed Praveen Sinha as interim Director of Central Bureau of Investigation. He has been appointed in place of the incumbent chief RK Shukla, whose tenure came to an end on February 03, 2021.
- 23.(b)** Maharashtra approved a new programme to conserve water. The new water conservation scheme aims at restoring the irrigation capacity by repairing the water sources. Around 7,900 water sources will be repaired with a fund of Rs 1,340.75 crore.
- 24.(a)** A team of astronomers led by Alok Chandra Gupta from Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES) detected a huge optical flare from a super massive black hole called BL Lacertae. Blazars emit jets of charged particles travelling nearly at the speed of light and are one of the most luminous and energetic objects in the Universe.
- 25.(b)** India's first Thunderstorm Research Testbed was established in Balasore district, Odisha. The Ministry of Earth Sciences, IMD, Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) together had set up this Research testbed to minimize human fatalities and loss of property due to lightning strikes. Besides this, the IMD is also planning to set up a first-of-its-kind monsoon testbed near Bhopal.
- 26.(c)** Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment Thaawar Chand Gehlot launched the 'Sugamya Bharat' App and a handbook titled 'Access - The Photo Digest'. Developed by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, the app will gather issues related to accessibility being faced by Divyangjan and others through Jan-Bhagidaari. It will include registration of

complaints of inaccessibility across the broad pillars like environment, transportation sector and Information and Communication Technology ecosystem, positive feedback of examples and best practices worth emulating being shared by people as Jan-Bhagidaari.

- 27.(e)** Satishwar Balakrishnan has been appointed as MD & CEO of India's first digital-only life insurance company, AEGON Life Insurance Company. Satishwar had joined the company in July 2019 as Chief Financial Officer and under his leadership, the company had defined a new vision to be at the forefront of the digital insurance wave and use technology to redefine its strategy.
- 28.(b)** India has challenged in the Singapore High Court an international arbitration tribunal's verdict that overturned its demand for Rs 22,100 crore in back taxes from British telecom giant, Vodafone Group Plc. An international arbitration court had in September 2021 rejected tax authorities' demand for Rs 22,100 crore in back taxes and penalties relating to Vodafone's 2007 acquisition of an Indian operator. The demand was regarding Vodafone's USD 11-billion acquisition of 67 per cent stake in the mobile phone business owned by Hutchison Whampoa.
- 29.(d)** Jal Shakti Ministry launched a 100-day campaign, called 'Catch the Rain' to promote water conservation from March 2021. Emphasizing the need for water conservation, the Prime Minister said that water is significant for the growth of human life.
- 30.(b)** Vice Admiral Ajendra Bahadur Singh, who won VishishtSeva Medal in 2011 and AtiVishishtSeva Medal in 2016, has become the Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief (FOC-in-C) of Eastern Naval Command (ENC) in place of Vice Admiral Atul Kumar Jain.

- 31.(c)** SBI Mutual Fund launched its first international fund. The country's largest fund house floated the new fund offer of SBI International Access - US Equity FOF. SBI International Access FoF may also invest in other mutual funds/ ETFs domiciled overseas and invest predominantly in US markets. The scheme will be benchmarked to the S&P 500 Index after converting it to Indian Rupee.
- 32.(b)** China celebrated Lunar New Year on February 12, 2021. It entered into the Year of the Ox, which is one of the most important Chinese festivals, also known as the Chinese New Year or Spring Festival. The festival continued for 15 days.
- 33.(c)** J&K topped the medals tally at Khelo India Winter National Games in Gulmarg with 11 Gold medals, 18 silver as well as 5 bronze medals. The event was organised by the Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports in collaboration with the J&K Sports Council and the Winter Games Association of Jammu and Kashmir.
- 34.(b)** Karnataka launched a Digital Economy Mission Office on a public-private partnership model for increasing the digital economy contribution to Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) by 30%. In addition to this a "Beyond Bengaluru" report was also published which will facilitate to achieve the target of increasing the contribution. The mission will attract the investments for the IT sector in the state and will create 10 lakh jobs by 2025.
- 35.(a)** "Mercantile Marine Domain Awareness Centre" (MMDAC) named Sagar Manthan has been launched during the Maritime India Summit-2021. It is a "Real-time Vessel Tracking System" in order to help the seafarers and fishermen as and when they need.

- 36.(b)** The second CCTNS Hackathon and Cyber Challenge 2020-21 of the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) was inaugurated in New Delhi. The Union Home Secretary presided over the function to enhance analysis and deepen understanding of police personnel. A Mobile App, “Locate Nearest Police Station” was also launched at the function.
- 37.(d)** The sixth edition of the field assessment of Swachh Survekshan 2021 has been launched in March 2021 by the Secretary of Ministry of Housing and Housing Affairs (MoHUA), Durga Shanker Mishra. It is to encourage the cities to improve their status of urban sanitation. This survey was done for the first time in year 2016.
- 38.(d)** Jaideep Bhatnagar became Principal Director General of the Press Information Bureau in place of Kuldeep Singh Dhatwalia. Bhatnagar has worked in PIB for six years in different capacities. He is 1986-batch Indian Information Service (IIS) officer, who earlier served in Doordarshan News as head of the Commercial, Sales and Marketing Division.
- 39.(a)** The three-day famous “Mandu Festival” was held at the historic town of Mandu in Dhar district of Madhya Pradesh. The state government organized this festival to showcase each and every aspect of the ancient Mandu city, ranging from food, music, history & heritage, art & craft etc. Tourism minister Usha Thakur inaugurated the newly constructed Dino Adventure Park and Fossils Museum in Mandu and construction of Astro Park building at a cost of Rs 59 lakh. The Dinosaur Park is the first modern fossil park in India which has 24 eggs and other fossils of dinosaurs on display.
- 40.(e)** Wildlife Trust of India spotted a rare mandarin duck in Assam after 118 Years. The colourful duck was seen in the wetland Maguri Motapung Beel, near Baghjan in Tinsukia, Assam. It is worth knowing that a natural gas explosion happened in Oil India Limited's Baghjan Oilfield on 27th May 2020.

- 41.(b)** Nitin Gadkari launched India's first CNG tractor, which can help farmers save more than Rs 1 lakh annually on fuel costs. The diesel-converted CNG tractor is owned by Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari. It has been launched after six months of trial-run.
- 42.(b)** Justice Puligoru Venkata Sanjay Kumar sworn-in as Chief Justice of Manipur High Court. Prior to this, he served as a Judge in the Punjab and Haryana High Court. Manipur Governor Dr. Najma A. Heptulla administered the oath of office to the new Chief Justice with strict adherence of COVID-19 SOPs.
- 43.(c)** The former president and CEO of Fuso Truck and Bus Corp. and head of Daimler Trucks in Asia, Marc Llistosella has been appointed as the new CEO & MD of Tata Motors. The appointment of Llistosella will be effective from July 1, 2021. He will take the place of Guenter Butschek, who had expressed his desire to relocate to Germany at the end of the contract for personal reasons.
- 44.(b)** Book 'Unfinished' is a memoir of Priyanka Chopra in which she described her "honest, raw and vulnerable" version. It covers her 20-year-long career as an actor and producer and her work as a UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador.
- 45.(b)** Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Mahabahu-Brahmaputra project in Assam. He also laid the foundation stone of Dhubri-Phulbari Bridge and performed Bhoomi Poojan for construction of Majuli Bridge during the function.
- 46.(e)** L&T delivered 100th K9 Vajra tracked a self-propelled howitzer to the Army. With this, L&T had completed the delivery of all the howitzers under the contract awarded in May 2017 ahead of schedule. The 155mm, 52 calibre K9 Vajra has been built with technology transfer from South Korean defence major Hanwha Defense, and is based on its K9 Thunder

- 47.(c)** Former Bihar and Jharkhand Governor & Jurist M Rama Jois, passed away. He had also served as the Chief Justice of Punjab and Haryana High Court and was also a senior advocate in the Supreme Court of India.
- 48.(b)** Indian wicketkeeper-batsman and Madhya Pradesh cricketer Naman Ojha announced retirement from all forms of cricket. He represented Team India in all the three formats of the game. He made his international debut for India in 2010, but ended up playing the only one ODI, against Sri Lanka at Harare. He played two T20Is for India, both against Zimbabwe at Harare. He remained a stalwart in the domestic circuit and scored 7,861 runs in the Ranji Trophy and became the eighth highest run-getter in the tournament, for his state team Madhya Pradesh. As wicketkeeper, he achieved 351 dismissals in the Ranji Trophy, which is the highest in the tournament's history.
- 49.(e)** ICICI Lombard joined hands with Frost and Sullivan, a leading management consulting firm for tracking risk exposure in 15 sectors. These 15 sectors are IT/ITeS, BFSI, healthcare, pharmaceuticals and biotech, energy, automotive and ancillary, hospitality/tourism, manufacturing, FMCG/retail, infrastructure and realty, metals and mining, transportation and logistics, media and telecommunications, chemicals and petrochemicals, e-commerce and new age.
- 50.(b)** Veteran retired Major General BK Mahapatra, who participated in the Indo - Pak war of 1965 and 1971 passed away. He belonged to Bhubaneswar in Odisha and was commissioned into the armoured corps (Tanks) of the Indian Army as a Combat Officer and was popularly known as 'Tank Man'. He was honored with the prestigious AtiVishishtSeva Medal (AVSM).