

AUGUST 2021

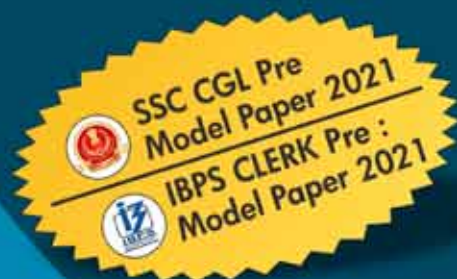
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Master in Current Affairs

For All Competitive Exams



Assam-Mizoram Border Dispute



NARENDRA
MODI

2021

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS
WITH PORTFOLIOS



PEGASUS
(a mythical winged
divine horse)



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TOP NOTCH CAPTIVATORS OF THE MONTH

1



Novak Djokovic wins his sixth Wimbledon Tennis title.

Ramappa Temple and Dholavira on the UNESCO World Heritage List.



2

3



In Mizoram, a new snake species gets named after local warrior Vanhnuailiana.

Jeff Bezos carried out Blue Origin's inaugural space voyage.



4

5



Singapore unveils one of world's largest floating solar panel farms.

Rani, the dwarf cow is making news in Bangladesh.



6

7



Abhimanyu Mishra becomes youngest Grandmaster in Chess.

Nitin Gadkari becomes Brand Ambassador of Khadi Prakritik Paint.



8

9



Saikhom Mirabai Chanu Wins India's First Medal At Tokyo Olympics 2020.

Renowned Odia poet Dr Rajendra Kishore Panda awarded with Kuvempu Rashtriya Puraskar.



10



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Council of Ministers With Portfolios



Assam-Mizoram Border Dispute



Pegasus (a mythical winged divine horse)



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Editorial



“Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap, but by the seeds that you plant.”

- Robert Louis Stevenson

Dear Aspirants,

We feel delighted to present to you the "August 2021" edition of "Master in Current Affairs". MICA is a comprehensive magazine focused on both the intellectual and competitive nature of learning. Apart from the competitive edge, MICA is intended to provide you with a vision of self-enhancement. MICA includes highly acclaimed sections such as, Newsletters, News Diary, One Liner, World of English, which are directly related to your preparation for competitive examinations. Chalte - Chalte is one of the most steering elements of MICA on the go, which is mentioned below every page. This edition creates a forum where all candidates and guidance personnel can meet the important issues of this month which may play a vital role in the forthcoming examination. The important topics covered in this edition are:

Assam–Mizoram Border Dispute- At the heart of the dispute over the 165-km Assam-Mizoram boundary are two border demarcations that go back to the days of British colonial rule, and disagreement over which demarcation to follow. British tea plantations surfaced in the Cachar plains – the Barak Valley that now comprises the districts of Cachar, Hailakandi and Karimganj — during the mid-19th century and their expansion led to problems with the Mizos whose home was the Lushai Hills.

Pegasus (a mythical winged divine horse)- Pegasus is a mythical winged divine horse, and one of the most recognized creatures in Greek mythology. Pegasus is a spyware developed by the Israeli cyber arms firm NSO Group that can be covertly installed on mobile phones (and other devices) running most versions of iOS and Android. Pegasus first garnered limelight in 2016 after it was discovered on a smartphone that belonged to a human rights activist.

Council of ministers with portfolios- The President of India, as advised by the Prime Minister, has directed the allocation of portfolios among the members of the Council of Ministers. The list is provided:-

In this edition as a wish for your bright and prosperous future we are providing “IBPS CLERK PRE MODEL PAPER 2021” and “SSC CGL PRE MODEL PAPER 2021” for your self-assessment. You can also test your Current Affairs by visiting the Quiz Time section for self-assessment, which includes all possible multiple-choice questions from the current affairs of this month. To serve you better we will diligently serve you our level best with various new topics and news that is important from the examination point of view.

Best of luck for your exams.

Your suggestions will be highly valuable and welcomed.

With Best Wishes

Editor : N.K. Jain

“Your Success is Our Success”

PERSONAL DETAILS**Alok Kumar****Father's Name** : Mr. Ram Lakhan**Mother's Name** : Mrs. Kushama Devi**Hobbies** : Music**Prior Selection** : None**Name of the Exam** : Prathama UP Gramin Bank**Roll No. of Qualified Exam** : 3011019608**Roll No. of Mahendra Institute** : KKN0220336447**English Language**

Reading newspaper regularly and grammar.

Reasoning Ability

Daily practice puzzle and basics.

Numerical Ability

Daily practice DI & DS and basics.

General Awareness

Daily read GA and Current Affairs (MICA).

Computer Knowledge

Reading notes.

MICA : Mahendra's family expresses its heartfelt congratulations on your success.

Alok : Thank You!

MICA : To whom do you want to give the credit of your selection?

Alok : Mahendra's Faculty and my father.

MICA : After how many attempts did you succeed in this examination?

Alok : It was my 6th attempt.

MICA : What is the role of Mahendra's institute in your selection?

Alok : Mahendra's boost up preparation.

MICA : How did you prepare for the examination?

Alok :

MICA : What would you say about "Master in Current Affairs" Magazine (MICA) and Mahendra's Website?

Alok : It helps to understand what is happening around us. It is very useful.

MICA : What is the best thing about our coaching institute, according to you?

Alok : Faculty clears the doubt of students. PSS helps a lot to clear our doubts.

MICA : What is the role of "Time Management" in one's success?

Alok : It plays a very important role. Without Time Management it is very tough to clear Prelim of exam.

MICA : How did you prepare for the Interview?

Alok : Mahendra's mock interview classes.

MICA : Tell us about the Interview Board and the questions asked?

Alok : Most of the questions asked about family members, types of Agriculture etc.

The questions asked were:

I. Tell me more about yourself.

II. Types of crops, What is Fasal Bima Yojana, What is PMJJY?

III. What is CRR & SLR?

IV. How you manage yourself in village area?

V. What are the other exam you appearing for?

MICA : From whom did you get information of your selection and what was your reaction?

Alok : Through internet and I am so happy to see that I am selected.

MICA : What message do you want to convey to other aspirants?

Alok : Practice, Practice and Practice. It is the key to success.

MICA : Congratulations! once again on your success. Your success is our success.

Alok : Thank You!

Indian Super League (ISL) side Bengaluru FC have extended by two years the contract of Gabonese defender Yrondou Musavu King, who was earlier on a short term pact with the club.

ONE Liner

PERSONS IN NEWS

- ✎ The Magma Fincorp appointed which person as chairman as part of a management overhaul?
- **Adar Poonawalla**
- ✎ Who has assumed Charge as Director General Naval Operations?
- **Rajesh Pendharkar**
- ✎ Recently Yu Sang Chul Goalkeeper, passed away, belong to which country?
- **South Korea**
- ✎ Recently who has appointed as the Election Commissioner in the Election Commission of India?
- **Anup Chandra Pandey**
- ✎ Who has been elected to the board of the International Dairy Federation?
- **R S Sodhi**
- ✎ Who has been appointed as a Unilever Bangladesh's Chairman and Managing Director?
- **Kedar Lele**
- ✎ Who has been appointed as its Chief Information Officer (CIO) of Wipro?
- **Anoop Purohit**
- ✎ Recently Radhamohan has passed away, he was related to which profession?
- **Environmentalist**
- ✎ Recently actor Sanchari Vijay has been passed away, he is related to which film industry?
- **Kannada film industry**
- ✎ IT Company Wipro has appointed _____ as its Chief Information Officer (CIO).
- **Anoop Purohit**
- ✎ The National Assembly of which country has passed a bill to allow appeals in High Courts against the conviction of Indian citizen Kulbhushan Jadhav?
- **Pakistan**
- ✎ Bharti Airtel's Chief Operating Officer _____ has been re-elected as the chairman of the industry association for the year 2021-22.
- **Ajay Puri**
- ✎ Which company has appointed Indian-American citizen Satya Nadella as its new chairman?
- **Microsoft**
- ✎ ER Selvam BJP MLA has been elected unopposed as Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of which state/UT?
- **Puducherry**
- ✎ Recently Kenneth David Kaunda has been passed away, he was president of which country?
- **Zambia**
- ✎ Recently sprinter Milkha Singh has been passed away, he was related to which sport?
- **Sprinter**

AWARDS

- ✎ Which player has been awarded the Kiwi Cricketer of the year award?
- **Kyle Jamieson**
- ✎ Who has won the prestigious 2021 Nature TTL Photography Awards?
- **Thomas Vijayan**
- ✎ The UAE government awarded whom with its Golden Visa?
- **Sanjay Dutt**
- ✎ Which country has topped the "World Competitiveness Index" 2021?
- **Switzerland**
- ✎ Asian Games gold medalist former boxer Dinko Singh passes away he was related which sport?
- **Boxing**

SCHEMES AND LAUNCHES

- ✎ Which government has approved the draft of "Mukhyamantri Kisan Mitra Urja Yojna"?
- **Rajasthan**
- ✎ Which digital Payment Company has launched the facility to book vaccine slots?
- **Paytm**
- ✎ Which Bollywood actor is launching a scholarship for free IAS exam coaching?
- **Sonu Sood**
- ✎ Which Ministry has launched the 'PRABANDH' portal?
- **Ministry of Education**
- ✎ Which state government announced the launch of the "Ankur scheme" under which citizens will be awarded for planting trees during the monsoon?
- **Madhya Pradesh**
- ✎ FakeBuster is a unique facial detector tool has launched by which institution?
- **IIT Ropar**

- ✎ Who has launched Directorate General National Cadet Corps (NCC) Mobile Training App Version 2.0 in New Delhi? - **Ajay Kumar**
- ✎ Which State government has launched "Bal-Seva Yojana" for the children? - **Uttar Pradesh**
- ✎ Who launched the Ayush Clinical Case Repository portal and the third version of the Ayush Sanjivani App in a virtual event? - **Kiren Rijiju**
- ✎ _____ has launched Directorate General National Cadet Corps (NCC) Mobile Training App Version 2.0 in New Delhi. - **Ajay Kumar**
- ✎ Which company has launched ML (Machine Learning) Summer School? - **Amazon**
- ✎ Which government has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Survey of India to implement the ownership scheme in the state? - **Assam**
- ✎ Who has launched M-Yoga App on 7th International Day of Yoga 2021? - **Narendra Modi**
- ✎ Which States/UT has launched the 'Jahan Vote, Wahan Vaccination' program? - **Delhi**
- ✎ Which State has announced the "Pran Vayu Devta Pension Scheme"? - **Haryana**
- ✎ Which State has been adjudged as the worst performer in Niti Aayog's 3rd edition of SDG India Index 2020-21? - **Bihar**
- ✎ Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has inaugurated 12 roads constructed by BRO (Border Roads Organisation) in which state? - **Assam**
- ✎ The Central Government has approved the pending proposal to reconstitute the _____ year old Ordnance Manufacturing Board regarding Ordnance Factories. - **200**
- ✎ Which State has been announced a COVID assistance package of Rs 1,690.46 crore for those belonging to the economically and socially weaker sections? - **Odisha**
- ✎ Who has addressed the 27th Water talk organized by the National Water Mission (NWM) under the Ministry of Jal Shakti? - **Rattan Lal Kataria**
- ✎ New Lakshadweep Orders Spawn Censure from All Parties in Kerala Assembly, who is Administrator of Lakshadweep? - **Praful Patel**
- ✎ How much amount Bihar government has to provide per Month to Children Orphaned by Covid? - **1500**
- ✎ How much amount has been released by the government to 8 North Eastern States under Jal Jeevan Mission? - **1605 cr**
- ✎ Which State/UT license holders have been allowed "home delivery" of liquor purchased through the app or website? - **Delhi**
- ✎ Who has took over as the Director General of Assam Rifles, the oldest paramilitary force from the country? - **Pradeep Chandran Nair**
- ✎ In which places Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) set up has a 500-bed COVID Care Hospita? - **Haldwani**
- ✎ Which State has first rank in NITI Aayog's "SDG India Index" 2020-21? - **Kerala**
- ✎ Which State announced a package of Rs 20,000 crore to deal with the crisis arising out of the second wave of Covid-19? - **Kerala**
- ✎ The National Helpline of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare for COVID-related queries is: - **1075**
- ✎ The Government has targeted to reduce road accident deaths by 50% by which year? - **2024**
- ✎ How many States/Union Territories achieved a 100% level of birth registrations? - **14**

NATIONAL & STATE

- ✎ Which airlines will start flight services connecting Darbhanga with Kolkata and Hyderabad from July 5? - **IndiGo**
- ✎ Who has took charge as the new Chief Secretary of Tripura? - **Alok Kumar**
- ✎ In how many Aspirational Districts the "Surakshit Hum Surakshit Tum Abhiyaan" has Launched by NITI Aayog & Piramal Foundation? - **112**
- ✎ Which State government has launched a solar-based rural electrification drive for rural households? - **Goa**
- ✎ Which State has launched "Knowledge Economy Mission"? - **Kerala**
- ✎ Who has been taken over as Director of Human Resources of Power System Operation Corporation? - **Anshul Bhargava**
- ✎ OP Jindal Global University has once again been adjudged as India's number one private university by the Q World University Rankings 2022. This university is located in which state? - **Haryana**

AYUSH Minister Kiren Rijiju launched Ayurveda dataset on The Clinical Trials Registry India CTRI Portal.

CURRENT AFFAIRS | One Liner

INTERNATIONAL

- ✎ Which nation has reported a new hybrid variant of COVID-19? - **Vietnam**
- ✎ Which country has been fined on Facebook and Telegram? - **Russia**
- ✎ Which country has hold the Presidency of the 47th G7 Summit? - **UK**
- ✎ First commercial consignment of GI certified "Jardalu mangoes" from Bihar exported to which country? - **United Kingdom**
- ✎ Which country's legislature has approved a new law against foreign sanctions that aims to provide a legal basis for the country's countermeasures against such actions? - **China**
- ✎ Lt Gen SM Shafiuddin Ahmed was named the next Chief of Army Staff of which country? - **Bangladesh**
- ✎ Which country's Shenzhou-12 spacecraft has left for space for 90 days carrying 3 astronauts? - **China**
- ✎ The 1st edition of the Arab-India Energy Forum was chaired by India and which country? - **Morocco**
- ✎ Who is the second largest producer of stainless steel in 2021? - **Indonesia**
- ✎ Tigray region, recently seen in news, is located in which country? - **Ethiopia**
- ✎ In which cities did Prime Minister Narendra Modi give a virtual address at "VivaTech" 2021? - **Paris**
- ✎ The Air defence Anti-missile system S-400 is designed and manufactured by which country? - **Russia**
- ✎ Recently the EU and India conducted a joint naval exercise in the conducted in which Sea? - **Gulf of Aden**
- ✎ Which country launched the first bullet train service near India border? - **China**
- ✎ Which country is not on the policymakers list of the First Asia Pacific Public Sector Cyber Security Executive Council? - **India**
- ✎ Who is the President of France? - **Emmanuel Macron**
- ✎ In which sea the navies of India and Thailand began a three-day coordinated surveillance exercise? - **Andaman Sea**

- ✎ Who the US Senate has been approved the nomination of Pakistani American to the District Court in New Jersey? - **Zahid Qureshi**
- ✎ Who has been won the presidential election in Iran by a huge margin? - **Ibrahim Raisi**

FINANCIAL AWARENESS

- ✎ Which bank has released a growth report India GDP: Marathon effort ahead? - **Yes Bank**
- ✎ With which State/ UT CESL has signed an MoU to make the carbon neutra? - **Ladakh**
- ✎ The Union Cabinet has approved MoU between India and Argentina in which field? - **Mineral Resources**
- ✎ How much amount has net profit of 14 regional rural banks under the country's largest lender State Bank of India in financial year 2021? - **Rs 1,004.28 crore**
- ✎ The HDFC Bank has become carbon neutral by which year? - **2031-32**
- ✎ How much amount has been the net profit for the fourth quarter ended March 2021 of State-owned Indian Overseas Bank? - **Rs 349.77 crore**
- ✎ Mahindra Rural Housing Finance signed an agreement with which bank for cash management solutions? - **India Post Payments Bank**
- ✎ Cabinet approves MoU between on "cooperation in field of sustainable urban development" between which country? - **India & Maldives**
- ✎ How much the Reserve Bank of India has projected retail inflation for the current financial year 2021-22? - **5.1 per cent**
- ✎ Ministry of Ports and Ministry of Culture has signed a MoU for "Cooperation in Development of National Maritime Heritage Complex" in which State? - **Gujarat**
- ✎ Who has taken over as a president Association of National Exchanges Members of India (ANMI)? - **KK Maheshwari**
- ✎ How much amount the NLC India has raised through issuance of commercial paper? - **Rs 500 crore**
- ✎ Recently which company acquired by BharatPe? - **Payback India**
- ✎ Who has inaugurated Border Roads Organisation (BRO)'s two Centres for Excellence to promote road safety & road construction? - **Rajnath Singh**

SPORTS

- ✎ Sanjeet Kumar is an Indian sports person related to which sports category? - **Weightlifting**
- ✎ Who won her 2nd Asian Boxing Championships gold in the 75kg final in Dubai? - **Pooja Rani**
- ✎ Who has won the 7th International Online Shooting Championships? - **Martin Strepfe**
- ✎ Who has won the women's singles title at the "RSL Lithuanian International Badminton Tournament"? - **Malvika Bansod**
- ✎ India's _____ has won the gold medal with a throw of 83.18 m in the javelin throw event at the Cidade de Lisboa, Lisbon in her sixth and final attempt. - **Neeraj Chopra**
- ✎ In whose name was the Mohali International Stadium renamed? - **Balbir Singh Stadium**
- ✎ Which rank of Indian golfer Shubhankar Sharma finished joint in the "Mad in Himmerland Golf Tournament"? - **8th**
- ✎ On which day the "World Bicycle Day" is celebrated? - **03-Jun**
- ✎ Who will be captain the Indian men's hockey team at the Tokyo Olympics? - **Manpreet Singh**

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

- ✎ Which IIT's a group of scientists has developed a new way of early detection of severe cyclonic storms? - **IIT Kharagpur**
- ✎ Which company has announced a partnership with tech giant Google to offer a "learning solution" for schools? - **Byju**
- ✎ Which Hospital has begun screening children aged between 12-18 years for Covaxin Clinical Trials? - **AIIMS**
- ✎ Who has addressed the WHO High-Level Coalition on "Health and Energy Platform of Action"? - **Dr. Harsh Vardhan**
- ✎ National Geographic Society South Ocean has been recognized as the _____ Ocean of the world. - **Fifth**
- ✎ Which Drug maker has finally won a ten-year battle with French company SCR Pharmatop over the patent rights to the drug Paracetamol? - **Venus Remedies**
- ✎ How much amount the IREDA has invited bids for Solar PLI scheme? - **Rs. 4500 crore**

- ✎ The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has refused to quash the environmental clearance for the modernization of Navlakhi port, where is Navlakhi port located? - **Gujarat**
- ✎ What is the 'Kappa' and 'Delta'? - **Viruses**

MISCELLANEOUS

- ✎ Who has released an E-booklet titled "20 Reforms in 2020", highlighting the major reforms undertaken by Ministry of Defence (MoD) in 2020, in New Delhi on June 07, 2021? - **Rajnath Singh**
- ✎ Who has digitally addressed FSSAI's World Food Safety Day Event? - **Dr Harsh Vardhan**
- ✎ When is the National Best Friends Day being observed? - **8th June**
- ✎ What is the rank of India in the annual "Global Competitiveness Index" 2021 of the Institute for Management Development (IMD)? - **43rd**
- ✎ Who has been become the Brand Ambassador of "Mylab Discovery Solutions"? - **Akshay Kumar**
- ✎ World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought has been celebrated as which day? - **17-Jun**
- ✎ Which organization celebrated its 18th Foundation Day? - **National Internet Exchange of India**
- ✎ On which day "Hindi Journalism Day" is celebrated? - **30-May**
- ✎ In which organisation has to release the "SDG India Index & Dashboard", 2020-21? - **NITI Aayog**
- ✎ In which Day the Telangana State formation day celebrated? - **02-Jun**
- ✎ International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression is a United Nations observance held on _____ every year. - **04-Jun**
- ✎ Which day the "International Yoga Day" has been celebrated? - **21-Jun**
- ✎ Which day the "All India Forward Bloc" was established by Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose? - **22-Jun**
- ✎ What is the rank of India in the "World Competitiveness Index" 2021? - **43**
- ✎ What is the theme of the 2021 International Yoga Day? - **Yoga for well-being**

The Iraqi Ministry of Health has launched a vaccination plan in government institutions, in an effort to accelerate the country's inoculation campaign to curb the spread of Covid-19.

SPOTLIGHT | ALL THAT MATTERS

ABBREVIATIONS

DGCI&S	: Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics
EEFC	: Exchange Earners Foreign Currency
FEMA	: Foreign Exchange Management Act
IBRD	: International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
KVIC	: Khadi and Village Industries Corporation
NBFC	: Non-Banking Financial Companies
OLTAS	: Online Tax Accounting System
SDDS	: Special Data Dissemination Standards

IMPORTANT DAYS AND DATES

06th August	Hiroshima Day
07th August	National Handloom Day
08th August	Quit India Movement Day
09th August	Nagasaki Day
12th August	International Youth Day
12th August	World Elephant Day
13th August	World Organ Donation Day
15th August	Independence Day
20th August	Indian Akshay Urja Day
26th August	Women's Equality Day
29th August	National Sports Day
30th August	Small Industry Day

ECONOMIC GLOSSARY

Austerity

Austerity, in economics, refers to a set of economic policies that the government implements to control public sector debt. Measures of austerity are the government's response to address a high default risk of a huge public debt, or it's the inability to service repayments or debt obligation.

Austerity occurs when the difference between government receipts and government expenditures reduces. A reduction in government's expenditure doesn't simply equate to austerity measures. There are three main types of austerity measures.

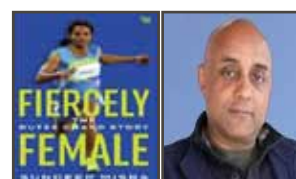
The first type is the revenue generation (higher taxes) which often supports more government spending. The goal is to prompt increased growth with spending and be benefitted by taxation.

The second type is the Angela Merkel model that works on raising taxes while cutting non-essential government functions.

The third type features lower taxes and lower government spending; this is the desired method of free-market advocates.

BOOKS & AUTHORS

01 | FIERCELY FEMALE: THE DUTEE CHAND STORY



: - Sundeep Misra



: - Khemlata Wakhlu

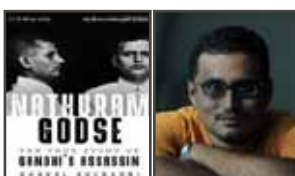
KASHMIRI CENTURY: PORTRAIT OF A SOCIETY IN FLUX

02

03 | LADY DOCTORS: THE UNTOLD STORIES OF INDIA'S FIRST WOMEN IN MEDICINE



: - Kavitha Rao



: - Dhaval Kulkarni

NATHURAM GODSE: THE TRUE STORY OF GANDHI'S ASSASSIN

04

05 | ANOMALIES IN LAW AND JUSTICE



: - RV Raveendran

APPOINTMENTS | THE PEOPLE

Sher Bahadur Deuba

New PM of Nepal Sher Bahadur Deuba wins vote of confidence in House of Representatives

Nepal's new Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba has won a vote of confidence in the House of Representatives. Mr Deuba, chief of the Nepali Congress, secured 165 votes in the 275-member house. A total of 136 votes were required for Deuba to win the vote of confidence. Mr Deuba was appointed as the prime minister of Nepal as per the Article 76(5) of the Constitution on July 12 following Supreme Court's intervention. Mr Deuba took the oath of office and secrecy for a record fifth time on July 13, a day after a five-member Constitutional Bench reinstated the dissolved House of Representatives for the second time in five months.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated Mr Deuba for winning the vote of confidence in Parliament. In a tweet, Mr Modi stated that he looks forward to working with him to further enhance the unique partnership in all sectors, and strengthen deep-rooted people-to-people ties between India and Nepal.

Mr Deuba thanked Prime Minister Modi for the congratulatory note. New Nepalese Prime Minister stated that, he looks forwards to working with his Indian counterpart to strengthen the relationship between the two countries and people.

Nepal is a landlocked country located in South Asia. It is mainly situated in the Himalayas, but also includes parts of the Indo-Gangetic Plain, bordering Tibet of China to the north, and India in the south, east, and west, while it is narrowly separated from Bangladesh by the Siliguri Corridor, and from Bhutan by the Indian state of Sikkim. Kathmandu is the nation's capital and the largest city.

Rangana Herath

Former Sri Lanka left-arm spinner Rangana Herath has been appointed the Bangladesh cricket team's spin-bowling consultant until the T20 World Cup, while South Africa's former left-handed middle-order batsman Ashwell Prince will be their batting consultant during the upcoming Zimbabwe tour. The Bangladesh tour will commence



with a one-off Test (July 7-11) followed by three ODIs, which are part of the World Cup Super League. The three-match T20I series will commence from July 23.

Pakistan's Saeed Ajmal and India's Sairaj Bahutule were also reportedly in the running for the spin bowling coach's job. The two coaches will fly straight to Zimbabwe to join the Bangladesh side. The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) cricket operations chairman, Akram Khan, said that both Herath and Prince could be considered for longer stints based on their performance during the Zimbabwe series.

"We discussed Ashwell Prince's appointment with coach Russell Domingo who rates him highly. He will be with us during the Zimbabwe tour, after which we will decide. Herath will be with us till the World Cup T20. If things go well, we will think about them as long-term options," Khan was quoted as saying by ESPNcricinfo. Both Herath and Prince are on their maiden international assignments. Herath, who retired from international cricket in 2018, will replace former New Zealand spinner Daniel Vettori, whose contract expired in April this year.

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) cricket operations chairman, Akram Khan, said that both Herath and Prince could be considered for longer stints based on their performance during the Zimbabwe series.

Ravi Malimath

President of India, in exercise of the powers conferred by Article 223 of the Constitution of India, appointed Shri Justice Ravi Vijaykumar Malimath, senior-most Judge of Himachal Pradesh High Court, to perform the duties of the office of the Chief Justice of that High Court with effect from 1st July, 2021 consequent upon the retirement of Shri Justice Lingappa Narayana Swamy, Chief Justice, Himachal Pradesh High Court. A notification in this regard has been issued by the Department of Justice, Ministry of Law & Justice.



Shri Justice Ravi Vijaykumar Malimath, B.Com., LL.B., was enrolled as an Advocate on 28th January, 1987. He practised for 20 years before the High Court of Karnataka, High Court of Madras and the Supreme Court of India in Civil, Criminal, Constitutional, Labour, Company, Service cases etc. He specializes in Constitutional Law. He worked in Bangalore University, Bangalore and Kuvempu University, Shimoga. He was appointed as an Additional Judge of the Karnataka High Court on February 18, 2008 and Permanent Judge on February 17, 2010. He

The United Arab Emirates' (UAE) Hope Mars Mission has snapped the most detailed pictures yet of the 'discrete nightside auroras' of the Red Planet, which scientists have struggled to study for decades.

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was transferred to Himachal Pradesh High Court on 07.01.2019.

Ravi Vijaykumar Malimath (born on 25 May 1962) is an Indian Judge. Presently, he is serving as the Acting Chief Justice of Himachal Pradesh High Court. He is Former Acting Chief Justice and Judge of Uttarakhand High Court. He has also served as Judge of Karnataka High Court.

Atul Keshap

The US has appointed career diplomat Atul Keshap as the country's Charge'd Affairs in Delhi. As per the statement, Keshap will be departing for New Delhi to serve as Charge d'Affaires, ad interim, following the retirement of Ambassador Daniel Smith. The 50-year-old has served as an American diplomat for nearly three decades at postings in India, Morocco, Guinea, and as United States Ambassador to Sri Lanka and Maldives.



Keshap, an Indian-American, is an old India hand at the state department. He previously served at the US Embassy New Delhi and as Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for South Asia. He most recently served as the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for the Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs.

He has served as Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for South Asia, a US Senior Official for Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation, and as an Office Director in the Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs and in the Bureau of International Organization Affairs.

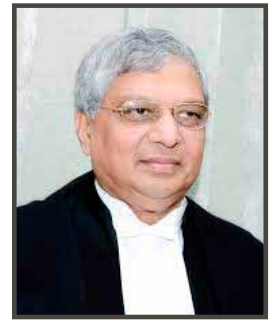
As per his state department profile, Keshap as ambassador has negotiated or advanced bilateral and multilateral initiatives at senior levels with counterparts from the European Union, United Nations, ASEAN, APEC, and governments across the Indo-Pacific, West Asia, Africa, and North and South America.

In 2019, he received a Presidential Meritorious Rank Award. In 2018 Keshap received the Distinguished Honor Award (one of the state department's highest honours) in recognition of his leadership in advancing US interests in the Indian Ocean region. He has also been awarded numerous individual state department Superior and Meritorious Honor Awards, and six senior executive performance pay awards.

Shabihul Hasnain

Chief minister Arvind Kejriwal announced retired Allahabad High Court judge Justice Shabihul Hasnain

as the next chairperson of the Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission (DERC). Hasnain will fill the vacancy created after the retirement of Justice (retired) Satyendra Singh Chauhan, who too was a judge at the Allahabad HC. Singh retired on July 4 upon turning 65.



Hasnain's appointment comes at a crucial time when the commission is gearing up to announce the annual tariff order, which determines the electricity charges of domestic and industrial consumers.

"Delhi govt approves the appointment of Justice Shahibul Hasnain (Retd) as the new Chairman of Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission (DERC) Providing cheap and uninterrupted power supply is one of the key priority areas for Delhi Govt My best wishes to him for a successful stint," Kejriwal tweeted.

A law graduate from Lucknow University, Hasnain was enrolled as an advocate in 1984. He was elevated as an additional judge in the Allahabad HC in 2008 and took oath as permanent judge in April 2010 and served in that capacity till retiring in January, 2020.

Apart from a chairperson, the DERC can have two members. Currently, former officer of the Indian Forest Service Dr A K Ambasht is the lone member of the commission. Days before his retirement, Chauhan had written to Lieutenant Governor (L-G) Anil Baijal, seeking an extension.

New governors

The President named four new governors, including one of the National Democratic Alliance's (NDA) senior-most ministers, Thawarchand Gehlot, and shifted four others, amid speculation of an imminent cabinet reshuffle, setting in motion the Union government's first major overhaul since it returned to power two years ago.

The appointments came as senior leaders of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and its allies flew into the capital ahead of a possible cabinet reshuffle, the first since Prime Minister Narendra Modi swept back to power with an increased majority in 2019.

President Ram Nath Kovind appointed Union social justice minister Gehlot as the governor of Karnataka, former Gujarat minister Mangubhai Chhaganbhai Patel as the governor of Madhya Pradesh, BJP MP Hari Babu Kambhampati as the governor of Mizoram, and former Goa minister Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar as the governor of Himachal Pradesh.

KKR, a global investment firm, announced the signing of definitive agreements under which KKR will acquire Global Infrastructure Partners' (GIP) entire interest in Highway Concessions One (HC1) and seven highway assets with a total length of 487 kilometres.

A communiqué from the Rashtrapati Bhavan also said that Mizoram governor P.S. Sreedharan Pillai has been transferred to Goa, Haryana governor Satyadev Narayan Arya to Tripura, Tripura governor Ramesh Bais to Jharkhand, and Himachal Pradesh governor Bandaru Dattatraya to Haryana.

Karnataka governor Vajubhai Vala, and Jharkhand governor Draupadi Murmu were not given new roles.

The changes indicated that the NDA government was set to enter a new phase in its second stint, said people aware of developments, hinting that more restructuring may be seen in the party organization and parliamentary board ahead of high-stakes Assembly elections in five states next year.

The much-anticipated reshuffle is also expected to see more allies being accommodated in the NDA government; currently, only the Republican Party of India is, and the BJP is keen to shrug off the image of not being able to work with allies. The parliamentary board has five vacancies with the exit of Gehlot.

Ismail Sabri Yaakob

Malaysian Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin named defence minister Ismail Sabri Yaakob as his deputy, in a move that could ease tensions with a key ally in the ruling coalition. Muhyiddin's tenure since he came to power in March last year has been plagued by tensions with the United Malays National Organisation (UMNO) party - the largest bloc in the ruling alliance and Malaysia's biggest party. Some UMNO lawmakers have repeatedly threatened to withdraw support for Muhyiddin and have been unhappy playing second fiddle to the premier's own party.



Ismail Sabri, a senior UMNO leader, will continue to hold the defence portfolio, Muhyiddin said in a statement. Foreign Minister Hishammuddin Hussein, also UMNO party, was appointed as senior foreign minister, the premier said. Hishammuddin will take on additional responsibilities and help the premier implement a recovery plan for the economy, which has taken a hit from the COVID-19 pandemic. Muhyiddin has a slim majority in parliament and has so far avoided a confidence vote that opposition lawmakers have called for.

Parliament was suspended in January after Malaysia's king declared a national emergency on Muhyiddin's advice, a move that the premier's critics have described as an attempt to cling to power.

Malaysia is a Southeast Asian country occupying parts of the Malay Peninsula and the island of Borneo. It's known for its beaches, rainforests and mix of Malay, Chinese, Indian and European cultural influences. The capital, Kuala Lumpur, is home to colonial buildings, busy shopping districts such as Bukit Bintang and skyscrapers such as the iconic, 451m-tall Petronas Twin Towers.

Prime minister: Muhyiddin Yassin

Capital: Kuala Lumpur

Currency: Malaysian ringgit

Suman Mishra

Mahindra Electric Mobility Ltd (MEML), a part of the Mahindra Group, said it has appointed Suman Mishra as its Chief Executive with immediate effect. Mishra, who will also be the Chief Executive designate for the Last Mile Mobility business (LMM), takes over from Mahesh Babu who has decided to pursue opportunities outside of Mahindra Group.



Mishra is part of the Mahindra group and was working as Senior Vice President - Business Transformation, Insights and Analytics (BIA) for the Automotive Sector. She will report to Rajesh Jejurikar, Executive Director, Auto and Farm Sectors, Mahindra and Mahindra.

"Mishra is an accomplished business leader with global experience of leading transformation projects across multiple sectors. Electric mobility is a key focus area for us, and we have put in place a robust strategy to capitalise on opportunities in last mile mobility and launch our Born EV platform. I am confident that she will help us achieve our growth targets," Jejurikar noted.

He added that Babu has been an integral part of the company's growth journey over the years.

"He joined us in 1998 and over the last 22 years, he has significantly contributed to the organisation in his various stints in auto product development and then leading Mahindra Electric as CEO. I thank and wish him all the best for his future endeavors," Jejurikar, who is also the Chairperson of Mahindra Electric Mobility, stated. Founded in 1945, the Mahindra Group is one of the largest multinational companies with around 260,000 employees in over 100 countries.

Ricky Kapur

Video conferencing app Zoom announced that it has appointed Ricky Kapur as the Head of APAC, effective

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from June 21. Reporting directly to Zoom's Head of International Abe Smith, Kapur will define and lead the company's go-to-market strategy for key APAC markets -- Australia and New Zealand, India, ASEAN, China, Hong Kong, South Korea and Taiwan exclusive of Japan.

Ricky will manage Zoom's APAC business with supervision and alignment across all cross-functional roles. Kapur comes to Zoom after five and a half years at Microsoft, where he was most recently Vice President of Sales and Marketing Operations for APAC.

At Microsoft, he managed all segments, from SMB, Majors through Enterprise, and led a cross-functional team of sales, marketing, partner, and customer success professionals. Zoom is positioned for continued growth in APAC, and to capitalise on these new opportunities, it has expanded its leadership to lead the company through its next phase of expansion in the region.

"Zoom has scaled its operations and business impressively across APAC markets, announcing a Technology Center in India and a Research and Development Center in Singapore within the past year," said Ricky Kapur, Head of APAC at Zoom.

Zoom Cloud Meetings is a proprietary video teleconferencing software program developed by Zoom Video Communications. The free plan allows up to 100 concurrent participants, with a 40-minute time restriction. Users have the option to upgrade by subscribing to a paid plan.

Ashwell Prince

The BCB wants to extend former South Africa batter Ashwell Prince's contract as batting consultant up to this year's T20 World Cup. ESPNcricinfo understands, however, that Prince is yet to agree to the BCB's new offer.

Prince was initially roped in only for Bangladesh's tour of Zimbabwe, which concluded, with the understanding that he would return to coaching



the South African domestic side Cape Cobras. According to Akram Khan, the BCB's cricket operations chairman, the BCB remains satisfied with Prince's work in Zimbabwe after having received positive feedback from some of the players during the tour.

After the first day's play during Bangladesh's one-off Test in Zimbabwe, at the end of which wicketkeeper-batter Liton Das had scored 95, Prince hailed Das for breaking through the concentration barrier, following which Das too acknowledged Prince's contribution just before play began the next day. Shortly after taking the role, Prince had said that since his job was only restricted to one tour, he would look to stay out of the way of the batters and instead only look to help out Russell Domingo, the head coach.

Prince had joined the Bangladesh coaching staff alongside former Sri Lanka spinner Rangana Herath, who was appointed spin-bowling coach until the T20 World Cup. Prince's potential extension gives Bangladesh's coaches some stability going into a busy season, which includes T20Is against Australia, England and New Zealand, and culminates with the T20 World Cup that begins in mid-October.

Vinay Prakash

Social media giant Twitter, which is currently involved in a standoff with the Centre over the latter's new Information Technology (I-T) rules, has appointed Vinay Prakash as the resident grievance officer for India. As per the information on Twitter's website, users can contact Prakash at 'grievance-officer-in @ twitter.com'.

Prakash's appointment comes just three days after the Delhi high court on July 8 had hit out at Twitter for a delay in appointing the resident grievance officer. The US-based technological company sought a time of eight weeks to appoint permanent grievance officers and to also set up a liaison office in India, a request which was denied by the court, Hindustan Times reported.

Twitter had earlier appointed Dharmendra Chatur as its interim resident grievance officer for India. However, Chatur resigned from the post in June.

The new IT rules, which came into effect on May 26, among other important requirements, mandate the appointment of three key personnel - chief compliance officer, nodal officer and grievance officer by social media platforms with more than five million users. All these three officers have to be residents in India.



AWARDS

Alexander Dalrymple Award

Chief Hydrographer of India Vice Admiral Vinay Badhwar on July 23, 2021 was conferred with the prestigious Alexander Dalrymple award by the British Government. The award recognizes Badhwar's work in the areas of hydrography and nautical cartography. Vice Admiral Vinay Badhwar received the award from British High Commissioner Alex Ellis at a brief ceremony. Badhwar was conferred with the award in 2019, however, the award ceremony was delayed because of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.



The Indian Navy while commenting on Admiral's achievement said that he has been honoured with the award in recognition of his 'unparalleled dedication, leadership, and professionalism in the disciplines of hydrography and nautical cartography.

Vinay Badhwar had joined the National Defence Academy in 1978 and was commissioned in the Indian Navy in July 1982. Vinay Bhadwar has in-depth knowledge of hydrography and digital cartography, including various aspects of international charting.

According to Vice Admiral Bhadwar, PM Modi's vision of SAGA- Security and Growth for All in the Region- along with the push from the United Nations for the sustainability of the oceans has been the driving force for the Hydrographic Department in extending all the possible assistance to the littoral states in the Indian Ocean region. He added that he has been fortunate to lead his department towards these goals. Bhadwar also thanked the UKHO executive committee for recognizing his efforts.

Hydrography is the science that describes as well as measures the physical features of the navigable portions of the Earth's surface and the adjoining coastal areas.

The prestigious Alexander Dalrymple Award has been named after the first hydrographer of the Admiralty. The award was instituted in 2006.

SKOCH Award

The Cachar district of Barak Valley in South Assam has got the prestigious National Silver SKOCH award under health category on the project called "Pushti Nirbhor". It can be mentioned here that "Pushti Nirbhor" is a convergence project with transformation and Development

along with Panchayat and Rural Development Department in one of the "Axom Adarxo Gram yojana" village's name Dinnathpur Bagicha near Indo-Bangladesh Border under Katigora, Cachar District of Assam. The prime objectives were to train the villagers towards becoming self-reliant especially during pandemic situation, to explore the household Nutri gardens and earn the marketing value and to meet up nutritional need of the families.



Instituted in 2003, SKOCH Award salutes people, projects and institutions that go the extra mile to make India a better nation. SKOCH Award winners include the mighty and the ordinary alike. They receive this Award for their extraordinary achievements in contributing to the society. The Roll of Honour of the SKOCH Award over the years is a testimony to this. Our awardees value SKOCH Award as the highest civilian honour in the country conferred by an independent organisation.

The most useful outcome of the SKOCH Award process is that it gives a benchmark that compares performance across sectors. The flagship benchmark for governance is the annual SKOCH State of Governance Report that is considered the gold standard in outcome measurement.

Oeil d'or (Golden Eye) Award

Director Payal Kapadia's A Night of Knowing Nothing won the Oeil d'or (Golden Eye) award for best documentary at the 74th Cannes Film Festival. The Mumbai-based filmmaker's first feature



bagged the prestigious prize in a formidable field made up of 28 documentaries presented across various sections of the festival. A Night of Knowing Nothing screened as part of the Directors' Fortnight, a section that runs parallel to the festival.

The Oeil d'or jury was headed by American documentary producer Ezra Edelman. It had four other members: French filmmaker Julie Bertuccelli, French actor Deborah Francois, Franco-American film critic Iris Brey and Orwa Nyrabia, artistic director of the International Documentary

Health Ministry has launched COVID GuruKool, an informational video series on its social media platforms. It is aimed at disseminating authentic information on COVID 19 pandemic and its vaccination program.

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Film Festival (IDFA) Amsterdam. The award was instituted in 2015 by LaScam (the French-Speaking Writers' Society) and Bertuccelli in collaboration with the Cannes Film Festival and its general delegate Thierry Fremaux.

Kapadia's film was competing for the award against Todd Haynes' *The Velvet Underground*, Andrea Arnold's *Cow*, Oliver Stone's *JFK Revisited: Through the Looking Glass*, Marco Bellocchio's *Marx Can Wait*, Sergei Loznitsa's *Babi Yar. Context*, Mark Cousins's *The Story of Film: A New Generation* and Rahul Jain's *Invisible Demons*, among others.

UNDP Equator Prize 2021

The UNDP gives a biennial award to recognize community efforts to reduce poverty through the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. Aadhimalai Pazhangudiyinar Producer Company Limited is a 1,700-member cooperative, managed and run entirely by indigenous people from the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve in Tamil Nadu and its work in the past eight years has improved livelihood across 147 villages by processing and marketing a diverse range of forest produce and crops.



Through local value addition, members earn premium prices on a wide range of products including those collected sustainably from the reserve such as honey, soap nuts and berries and phoenix leaves, and as well as those cultivated organically such as coffee, pepper, silk cotton, cereals, spices and fruits. Shareholders regularly monitor harvesting and agricultural practices to ensure product quality and prevent overuse of resources, said the UNDP statement.

Snehakunja Trust has protected sensitive wetland and coastal ecosystems in the Western Ghats and the Karnataka coast for 45 years with a focus on community-based restoration and conservation, the UNDP statement read.

It added that this organization has supported hundreds of self-help groups and village forest committees to sustainably manage resources based on traditional knowledge, implement natural farming techniques, use clean energy, promote entrepreneurship, and provide community health services, said the UNDP statement. The trust is currently piloting the country's first blue carbon project.

The winners received a prize of US\$10,000 and the opportunity to join a series of special virtual events associated with the UN General Assembly, the Nature for Life Hub, and the UN Food Systems Summit later this year.

The virtual award ceremony is scheduled for 4 October 2021.

Olympic Laurel

Social entrepreneur, Economist, civil society leader and Nobel Peace Prize awardee Muhammad Yunus of Bangladesh will become the second recipient of the Olympic Laurel. He will officially receive the trophy during the Opening Ceremony of the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020 on 23 July 2021. The distinction was created by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) to honour outstanding individuals for their achievements in education, culture, development and peace through sport.



Professor Muhammad Yunus, who is often referred to as the "world's banker to the poor", receives the Olympic Laurel award for his extensive work in sport for development, including founding the Yunus Sports Hub, a global social business network that creates solutions through sport. He has collaborated with the IOC on several projects, including educational elements of the IOC Young Leaders Programme, the "Imagine" Peace Youth Camp and the Athlete365 Business Accelerator – the first comprehensive entrepreneurship programme to help Olympians with career transition.

Born in 1940 in the seaport city of Chittagong, Professor Yunus studied at Dhaka University in Bangladesh, then received a Fulbright scholarship to study economics at Vanderbilt University. He received his PhD in economics in 1969 and joined Middle Tennessee State University, where he taught until he returned to Bangladesh in 1972.

Initiated for Rio 2016, the Olympic Laurel is to be awarded at the opening ceremony of each summer edition of the Olympic Games. Symbolising the connection with the ancient Olympic Games, the base of the trophy is a replica of a stone from the site of Olympia, Greece.

Humboldt Research Award

Indian economist Kaushik Basu has been awarded the Humboldt Research Award for Economics. The award was conferred on him by Professor Dr Hans-Bernd Schäfer of Bucerius Law School in Hamburg.



Germany. A former chief economist of the World Bank, Basu is currently a professor of Economics at Cornell University. He also served as the Government of India's chief economic advisor from 2009 to 2012. Basu is also a recipient of the Padma Bhushan, the third-highest civilian award in India.

The prestigious award is sponsored by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation and awarded to as many as 100 recipients each year. The Humboldt Research Award honours scientists and economists from across the world for their work. The award entails prize money of 60,000 euros and an offer to carry out research projects at a scientific institution in Germany for up to 12 months.

Kaushik Basu is an Indian economist who was Chief Economist of the World Bank from 2012 to 2016. He is the C. Marks Professor of International Studies and Professor of Economics at Cornell University, and academic advisory board member of upcoming Plaksha University.

2021 Scripps National Spelling Bee

Zaila Avant-garde, a 14-year-old from the New Orleans area, won the 2021 Scripps National Spelling Bee, becoming the bee's first African American champion in its 96-year history.



Avant-garde spelled "murraya" correctly to win the competition, after conquering words such as "retene," "ancistrod" and "depreter" over multiple rounds. Upon her win, Avant-garde, who is also a talented basketball player with three Guinness World Records in dribbling, jumped up and down and let out an excited shout as confetti rained down on the stage.

Chaitra Thummala, a 12-year-old from San Francisco, and Bhavana Madini, a 13-year-old from New York City, came in second and third place, respectively. Jody-Anne Maxwell of Jamaica, who won the bee in 1998, was the competition's first Black champion.

The competition marked the bee's return after the coronavirus pandemic forced its cancellation last year for the first time since World War II. The pandemic's influence was still apparent at the event, which was considerably smaller compared with past years: Only 11 finalists travelled to Lake Buena Vista, Fla., where the final rounds were held at the ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex. Preliminary rounds, typically held in the days leading up to the spelling bee finals, had instead been held virtually over the past several weeks.

Investment Promotion Agency 2021 Award

The Invest India, has been awarded with the world's most innovative 'Investment Promotion Agency (IPA)' 2021 award by OCO Global. The newly launched OCO Innovation Index



examines how effectively IPAs are adapting to the challenges of Pandemic recovery, sustainability and digitisation. As per the survey, Invest India have innovated intensely to improve connectivity to their States Industrial landbanks.

They offer Investors access to a one stop shop and understand connectivity with R&D and centres of excellence. They have also built an Investment Clearance Cell to help foreign investors navigate state level bureaucracy.

FDI Project development Cells have been embedded in 29 Ministries to reduce bottlenecks and improve the investor journey. A new \$29 billion incentives pool for manufacturing has been launched.

OCO is an international leading economic development advisory firm that works with leading organisations to help them build and execute successful strategies to attract international investment. They also work with private companies to further their export and international market entry plans, helping them to identify the most attractive markets and customers to accelerate their growth.

Airline of the Year

South Korean flag carrier Korean Air Lines Co. has changed misfortune into a blessing, earning fame and profit through nimble move of transporting cargoes in lieu of passengers during



pandemic times. It was named the best airline of this year at the 47th annual ATW Airline Industry Achievement Awards for its model agility during Covid-19 which had been hardest on the air transport industry. The ATW Airline of the Year is the top honor from the U.S. aviation magazine Air Transport World, awarded on October 5 this year in Boston, according to the carrier. Korean Air received its first-ever top prize for sustaining a profit, committing

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to health safety, environment and community support endeavors, and keeping up excellent customer service and relationship with employees.

ATW Editor-in-Chief Karen Walker also celebrated the achievement, saying “Korean Air and its team of dedicated employees have truly demonstrated excellence across the board. We are delighted for them and offer sincere congratulations.” The feat largely owes to its agile response to unprecedented pandemic crisis.

Korean Air Lines is estimated to have earned 80 billion won in operating profit in the April-June period, according to Seoul-based financial data provider FnGuide, but some analysts expect the number could double to 190 billion won. Shares of Korean Air Lines closed unchanged at 31,500 won in Seoul trading, and its holding entity Hanjin KAL 0.3 percent down at 66,000 won.

Kuvempu Rashtriya Puraskar

Renowned Odia poet Dr Rajendra Kishore Panda has been awarded the Kuvempu Rashtriya Puraskar, the national award instituted in memory of the late poet laureate Kuvempu, for 2020. The award includes a cash award of Rs 5 lakh, a silver medal, and a citation. Under the chairmanship of Prof. Hampa Nagarajaiah, a three-member committee comprising Kannada poet Dr. H.S. Shivaprakash,

Bengali author Shyamal Bhattacharya and Agrahara Krishnamurthy, former secretary of Central Sahitya Academy had finalized the name of Dr Panda.

Dr Rajendra Kishore Panda was born on June 24, 1944. He writes in Odia language and has 16 poetry collections and a novel published. He received the Sahitya Akademi Award in 1985, a D. Litt degree by Sambalpur University in 2004, and the Gangadhar National Award in 2010.

The Kuvempu Rashtriya Puraskar was instituted by the Rashtrakavi Kuvempu Trust in 2013 in memory of the late poet laureate Kuvempu to honor literateurs for their contribution in Indian languages recognized by the Constitution of India. The Award has been conferred to writers from Hindi, Malayalam, Urdu, Marathi, Punjabi, and Kannada at programs organized in Kuppali, Shivamogga district, the birthplace of Kuvempu on December 29 to commemorate his birth anniversary. The award for 2020 was delayed because of the COVID-19 pandemic.



OBITUARY

Virbhadra Singh

Former Himachal Pradesh CM Virbhadra Singh passes away; President, PM express grief.

Former Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister and senior Congress leader Virbhadra Singh passed away after prolonged illness. Virbhadra Singh died at the Indira Gandhi medical college Shimla in wee hours due to multi-organ failure. 87 year old Veerbhdra Singh is the longest-serving chief minister of Himachal Pradesh.

The 87 year-old veteran Congress leader was currently the MLA from Arki in Solan district. Nine-time MLA and five-time MP, Singh was Himachal Pradesh's chief minister for six terms.

It may be recalled that earlier Virbhadra had been admitted to Max Hospital at Mohali after he tested positive for Covid on April 12. After recovering and being discharged from the hospital, his health again deteriorated and he was being treated at IGMSC Shimla, where he breathed his last.



President Ram Nath Kovind and Prime Minister Narendra Modi have expressed grief on the demise of former Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister and Former Union Minister Virbhadra Singh.

In a tweet, President Ram Nath Kovind stated that, his political career spanning six decades in his roles as Chief Minister and Parliamentarian was marked by his commitment to serve people of Himachal Pradesh. He expressed condolences to family and followers of Virbhadra Singh. In a tweet, Prime Minister Narendra Modi stated that, Virbhadra Singh Ji had a long political career, with rich administrative and legislative experience. Mr Modi stated that, he played a pivotal role in Himachal Pradesh and served the people of the state. The Prime Minister expressed condolences to his family and supporters.

Home Minister Amit Shah has expressed grief over the demise of former Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister and former Union Minister Virbhadra Singh. In a tweet, Mr. Shah stated that, he received the sad news of the demise of former Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh Virbhadra Singh Ji. He paid condolences to Virbhadra Singh's family and supporters.

In Himachal Pradesh, the State Government has declared mourning for three days with effect from as a mark of

respect to former Chief Minister Virbhadr Singh, who passed away in the early hours of this morning. There will be no official entertainment during this period. All State Government offices including Boards, Corporations and Autonomous institutions except the offices dealing with the essential services shall remain closed.

Bhageerathi Amma

Kerala's oldest learner Bhageerathi Amma, who passed the literacy examination at the age of 105 two years ago and won the praise of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, died.

She was 107 years old and breathed her last late at her house due to age-related ailments, they said. Hailing from Prakkulam in Kollam district, the centenarian was a recipient of the prestigious Nari Shakti Puraskar by the Central government for her exceptional contribution towards women's empowerment.

She had scripted history by becoming the oldest student by clearing the fourth standard equivalency examination conducted by the state-run Kerala State Literacy Mission (KSLM) in 2019. The woman had appeared for the examination, conducted by the state literacy mission, at Kollam and came out with flying colours with 205 out of a total of 275 marks and full marks in maths.

Due to her advanced age, Bhageerathi Amma had difficulty in writing the exams and took three days to complete the three question papers on environment, mathematics and Malayalam. The woman, who had always yearned to study and gain knowledge, had to give up her dream of educating herself after her mother died as she had to take care of her younger siblings.

Bhageerathi Amma had quit formal education in class three at the age of 9. Her passion for studies had won accolades from none other than Prime Minister Narendra Modi. While narrating the story of Bhageerathi Amma, Modi had said in his radio address last year that, "If we wish to progress in life, we should develop ourselves, if we wish to achieve something in life, the first precondition for that is the student within us must never die."

She left without fulfilling the dream of passing the 10th standard equivalency exam, family sources said. Bhageerathi Amma has 12 grand and great-grandchildren. One of her six children and three of her 15 grandchildren are no more, they added.



Sikkil Shri R Bhaskaran

In Tamil Nadu, noted Carnatic Classical Violinist 'Kalaimamani' Sikkil Shri R Bhaskaran passed away at Chennai. He was 85. Bhaskaran was introduced to Music by his maternal grandfather Sikkil Shri Ramaswami Pillai. He started learning the Violin at the age of 11 from Thiruvavur Shri Subba Iyer and later trained under Mayuram Shri Govindarajan Pillai. He gave his First public performance at 15 years of age and since then has regularly appeared in Music Concerts accompanying many leading artists. He was an 'A' Grade Artist of AIR and has served for nearly 2 decades in Chennai radio Station from 1976 to 1994. He has served as an Executive Committee member of the Thiruvavur Thyaga Brahma Festival for more than 2 decades. During his close to 5 decades of Musical Career, Bhaskaran has been bestowed with many laurels, Awards & Honours.

Bhaskaran was born to R. Rajagopalan and R. Vedavalli Ammal, a family that has traditionally had involvement in music. As a child, he was trained in music and Baratham under his maternal grandfather Sikkil Ramaswami Pillai, who was awarded with Kalaimamani title and Sangeetha Nataka Academy award by Tamil Nadu and Central Government, respectively. At the age of 11, Bhaskaran learnt violin from Thiruvavur Subba Iyer for two years, before he was trained in music for three years by music professor, Mayuram Govindaraja Pillai. Later, he studied violin in a regular Gurukula system for two years with music professor, Kumbakonam Rajamanickam Pillai.



Surekha Sikri

Veteran actor Surekha Sikri has died at the age of 75 after suffering a cardiac arrest, her manager has said. She had been unwell for several months, and had suffered a brain stroke in 2020. Her manager told indianexpress.com, "Three-time national award winning actress, Surekha Sikri has passed away following a cardiac arrest earlier this morning at the age of 75. She had been suffering from complications arising from a second brain stroke. She was surrounded by family and her caregivers. The family asks for privacy at this time. Om Sai Ram."



In Ladakh, Lieutenant Governor Radha Krishna Mathur virtually rolled out the Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine (PCV) in the Universal Immunization Programme for eligible children in Union Territory at Tourist Facilitation Center, Kargil.

THE PEOPLE | OBITUARY

Surekha Sikri made her debut in 1978, with the film *Kissa Kursi Ka*. She won the National Film Award for Best Supporting Actress thrice, for her roles in *Tamas* (1988), *Mammo* (1995) and *Badhaai Ho* (2018). She gained prominence for her performance in the primetime soap opera *Balika Vadhu*. Her performance in the Ayushmann Khurrana-starrer *Badhaai Ho* drew immense acclaim and was seen as somewhat of a career comeback.

Surekha Sikri was an Indian theatre, film and television actress. A veteran of Hindi theatre, she made her debut in the 1977 political drama film *Kissa Kursi Ka* and went on to play supporting roles in numerous Hindi and Malayalam films, as well as in Indian soap operas.

Danish Siddiqui

Noted Indian photojournalist Danish Siddiqui died in a clash between the Afghan special forces and Taliban attackers. Tolo News, a leading news channel of Kabul has reported that Mr Siddiqui, working for Reuters news agency, was covering the clashes between the two sides in Kandahar over the last few days and he died in Spin Boldak district, which has a contentious international border crossing between Pakistan and Afghanistan. Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla has taken up the killing at the UN Security Council. Afghan President Ashraf Ghani in his message of condolence, expressed solidarity with the media and said his government is committed to upholding freedom of expression.

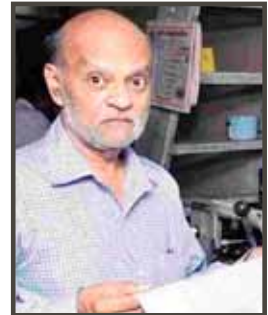
The news agency has reported that Mr Siddiqui was injured by shrapnel earlier and was recovering from the injury. In a statement, the Ambassador of Afghanistan to India Farid Mamundzay conveyed his condolences to the Siddiqui family and Reuters. Mr. Siddiqui was travelling in an armoured Humvee with Afghan soldiers and he had shared videos over the past few days that showed the vehicle came under attack on several occasions. In his last report filed on July 13 from Kandahar under highly difficult circumstances, Mr Siddiqui had recorded the experience of Afghan commandos who conducted a raid to save a kidnapped policeman. The border crossing in Spin Boldak had hit the headlines after the Taliban reportedly occupied it temporarily. In response, Afghan forces launched attacks which soon escalated into a war of words between Afghanistan and Pakistan. Reporters of news channel France24 said that the injured Taliban fighters were being treated in Pakistani hospitals.



Mr. Siddiqui was known for his compassionate photographic coverage of current developments in South Asia. In recent years his photographs of the Rohingya refugees who were displaced by the Myanmar military from the Rakhine province, drew global attention to the plight of the displaced community that is currently living in camps in Bangladesh. The photographs of the Rohingya refugees was recognised with a Pulitzer Prize.

K V Sampath Kumar

K V Sampath Kumar, editor of the only Sanskrit daily in the world *Sudharma*, passed away (30 June). Kumar and his wife Jayalakshmi ran *Sudharma* for more than 31 years. Kumar took over the mantle from his father, K N Varadaraja Iyengar, who launched the daily in 1970. The daily celebrated its golden jubilee last September. In keeping with the times, they launched an e-paper in 2009 but still ran the print edition, with Sanskrit institutions from across the country being their key subscribers. Its digital footprint was around 150,000 and had readers from across the globe.



Kumar, supported by his wife, functioned as reporter, writer, editor, proofreader and publisher of the daily. *Sudharma* was an initiative to bring the language relegated to the pages of religion and spirituality to everyday life. It covered a variety of sections from politics to crime to culture. The language was simple and ensured that anyone who could follow the Nagari script and had a basic understanding of Sanskrit, could read its content.

But the struggle was real as it had very little support from the government as Kumar had lamented last year on the occasion of the golden jubilee of the publication. But that didn't stop the couple from taking their printed daily to around 4,000 subscribers by post.

Although the paper is said to have seen better days, the numbers are low, and the Covid-19 pandemic had only made things worse. But they kept at it as the newspaper was an off-shoot of his father's passion for keeping Sanskrit alive. His father had also been instrumental in starting Sanskrit news on All India Radio. The couple had brought out a souvenir edition last year and had plans to conduct programmes that would enable conversations between scholars and the general public.

M Prasannan

Former international footballer M Prasannan passed away in Mumbai. He was 73. A gifted midfielder

of the 1970s, he shared the dressing room with stalwarts of Indian football like Inder Singh and Doraiswamy Natraj. He played for Kerala, Maharashtra and Goa in Santosh Trophy National Football Championship. Prasannan was part of the Indian team coached by PK Banerjee and captained by Inder Singh in the Merdeka Cup in 1973.



He scored a goal in the fifth-place playoff which India eventually lost to South Vietnam. Like the Brazilian legend Socrates of a later vintage, the bearded Prasannan sported a characteristic headband whenever he stepped onto the field.

Born in Kozhikode in Kerala, Prasannan started his footballing journey at St. Joseph's School. He got into the Kerala state junior team in 1965 and the senior team three years later. Excellent SC, Young Gems, Young Challengers clubs are some of the clubs he played for in Kerala.

Dempo Goa brought Prasannan into their mix in 1970. He made a name for himself as a creative midfielder at the Goan club. The player profile section of Dempo's website is effusive in its praise for Prasannan. "Arriving in Goa from Kerala, the central midfielder was a highly influential player with tremendous ball skills and an overflowing bag of tricks. He could control the tempo of the game and also flummox the best of defences with his immaculate distribution and passing," it reads.

In the early 1970s, Prasannan left Dempo for Central Bank of India, Mumbai, and remained with them till the end of his career despite offers from big Calcutta clubs like Mohun Bagan and East Bengal. With CBI, he won the Harwood League title many times and played in the Rovers Cup. After his playing days were over, Prasannan completed a coaching course at the National Institute of Sports (NIS), Bangalore. He later coached Maharashtra and made them runners-up in a Santosh Trophy tournament.

Donald Rumsfeld

Donald Rumsfeld, a forceful US defence secretary who was the main architect of the Iraq war until President George W Bush replaced him as the United States found itself bogged down after 3-1/2 years of fighting, has died at age 88, his family said in a statement. With Rumsfeld in charge, US forces swiftly toppled Iraqi President Saddam Hussein



but failed to maintain law and order in the aftermath, and Iraq descended into chaos with a bloody insurgency and violence between Sunni and Shi'ite Muslims. US troops remained in Iraq until 2011, long after he left his post. Rumsfeld played a leading role ahead of the war in making the case to the world for the March 2003 invasion. He warned of the dangers of Iraqi weapons of mass destruction but no such weapons were ever discovered. Only McNamara served as defence secretary for longer than Rumsfeld, who had two stints – from 1975 to 1977 under President Gerald Ford, for whom he also served as White House chief of staff, and from 2001 to 2006 under Bush.

Rumsfeld also oversaw the US invasion of Afghanistan in 2001 to oust the Taliban leaders who had harbored the al Qaeda leaders responsible for the September 11 attacks on the United States.

During his time away from public service, Rumsfeld became wealthy as a successful businessman, serving as chief executive of two Fortune 500 companies. In 1988, he briefly ran for the Republican US presidential nomination.

Dilip Kumar

Bollywood actor Dilip Kumar passed away at a Mumbai hospital at the age of 98. The actor had been facing age-related complications for some time and was hospitalised in Mumbai following episodes of breathlessness. Kumar, known to generations of film-goers as 'tragedy king', had been admitted to the intensive care unit (ICU) of the Hinduja Hospital, a non-COVID-19 facility.



The news comes after Kumar underwent a successful pleural aspiration procedure last month. At the time, he had reportedly been diagnosed with bilateral pleural effusion-- a build-up of excess fluid between the layers of the pleura outside the lungs for which he had been undergoing treatment in the Khar-based Hinduja Hospital. Kumar, who was married to actor Saira Banu, was a Hindi cinema veteran and the last of the golden troika with Raj Kapoor and Dev Anand.

Born Yousuf Khan and often known as the Nehruvian hero, Kumar did his first film "Jwar Bhata" in 1944 and his last "Qila" in 1998, 54 years later. The five-decade career included "Mughal-e-Azam", "Devdas", "Naya Daur", and "Ram Aur Shyam", and later, as he graduated to character roles, "Shakti" and "Karma". Tributes have started pouring in on Twitter with people from across the spectrum including politicians and actors taking to the microblogging site to mourn the loss of the actor.

THE PEOPLE | OBITUARY

Prime Minister Narendra Modi took to Twitter to pay his tributes to the "cinematic legend". Dilip Kumar Ji will be remembered as a cinematic legend. He was blessed with unparalleled brilliance, due to which audiences across generations were enthralled. His passing away is a loss to our cultural world. Condolences to his family, friends and innumerable admirers.

Keshav Datt

Two-time Olympic gold medallist in hockey, Keshav Datt, died due to age-related ailments. Datt was 95. The former centre halfback died around 12.30 am at his residence in Santoshpur, Kolkata. Datt was part of India's golden era in hockey. A formidable halfback, he was part India's historic feat at the 1948 Olympics where they beat home team Britain 4-0 at the Wembley Stadium in London to win the first gold post-Independence. Before the 1948 Olympics, Datt had toured East Africa under the leadership of hockey wizard Major Dhyan Chand in 1947. Born on December 29, 1925 in Lahore, Datt was also part of the Indian team at 1952 Helsinki Games, where they beat Netherlands 6-1 in the summit clash to become the Olympic champions for the fifth consecutive time. An integral part of the Indian team, Datt also captained the Mohun Bagan hockey squad from 1951-1953 and again in 1957-1958. As a Mohun Bagan player he won the hockey league six times and Beighton Cup three times in a span of 10 years. He was conferred with the Mohun Bagan Ratna award in 2019, becoming the first non-footballer recipient of the honour.

"We are all very sadden to hear about the legendary halfback Keshav Datt's demise early this morning. He was the lone surviving member of the 1948 and 1952 Olympic Games and truly feels like the end of an era," said Hockey India President Gyanendro Ningombam in a statement.

Yashpal Sharma

Former Indian cricketer Yashpal Sharma, a member of the Kapil Dev-led World Cup-winning team in 1983, has passed away after suffering a cardiac arrest. He was 66 years old. Sharma suffered a heart attack after returning from morning walk and collapsed at around 7.30 am. He donned the India



cap in 37 ODIs and 42 Tests and was a crucial part of the middle-order from 1979-83.

He also served as a national selector for a couple of years and was reappointed to the panel in 2008. While he was part of the World Cup winning team in 1983, he was also a selector when India won the 2011 World Cup on home soil. The former Punjab cricketer made his Test debut in 1979 against England. Yashpal scored 1606 runs with two centuries and nine fifties to his name at an average of over 33.

He made his ODI debut in 1978 against Pakistan and went on to play a number of valuable knocks for India in the middle order. He was also instrumental in helping India reach the final of the 1983 World Cup after top scoring in the semi-final against England. He is best remembered internationally for his performances in India's first World Cup win, in 1983. He aggregated 240 runs at an average of 34.28 to return as the second-highest scorer for India behind skipper Kapil Dev in the tournament.

Sharma had top-scored with 89 (off 120 balls) to help India make 262/8 in their 34-run victory over West Indies in their first match of the 1983 World Cup. That win in Manchester gave India the self-belief to go on and win the tournament.

Dr. P.K. Warriar

Doyen of Ayurveda and managing trustee of Kottakkal Arya Vaidya Sala (KAS) Dr P K Warriar passed away, family sources said. He was 100. In his lifetime spanning a century, he treated tens of thousands of patients from across the globe and his patients included former presidents and former prime ministers of India and abroad. Kerala Governor Arif Mohammed Khan, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and Speaker of the Legislative Assembly M B Rajesh condoled the death of the "patriarch" of Ayurvedic medicine. The country had honoured him with Padmasree in 1999 and Padma Bhushan in 2010.

A prominent physician and a visionary who popularised the classical and authentic Ayurveda treatment across the world, Dr Warriar's birth centenary celebrations were held on June 8. The renowned Arya Vaidya Sala in Kottakkal near here and the Ayurveda Medical College flourished and became synonymous with Ayurveda after Dr Warriar took the reins of the institution decades ago. Born to Sreedharan Namboodiri and Panniyampilly Kunhi Warrisyar on June 5, 1921, Panniyampilly Krishnankutty Warriar (PK Warriar) did his schooling in Kottakkal and joined KAS at the age



of 20. However, he was attracted to the freedom struggle during the Quit India movement and abandoned Ayurveda studies under the tutelage of his uncle and founder of KAS Vaidyaratnam P S Warrier. Soon after completion of his studies, he joined the KAS as a trustee at the age of 24. Warrier had steered the 119-year old charitable trust managing the KAS for over six decades and made it an internationally-reputed and all-under-one-umbrella ayurvedic institution.

Richard Donner

Ace filmmaker Richard Donner, best known for helming the original 'Superman' film, 'Lethal Weapon' film series and 'The Goonies', has passed away at the age of 91. Donner's production company confirmed the news to Variety that the director breathed his last. Details on when exactly he passed away and under what circumstances have not yet been disclosed. The beloved Hollywood director has played a pivotal role in delivering the most iconic movies to grace the big screens over the years, especially an incredible run of pictures from the late 70s throughout the 80s.



The legend got his first big directing break with the 1976 cult classic horror film 'The Omen', which solidified his foothold in the industry and led to his next major studio film, 'Superman' (also the original) that paved the path for countless other flicks, including 'Goonies,' and all of the 'Lethal Weapon' movie series, starring Mel Gibson and Danny Glover.

His other notable film director credits include iconic movies such as 'Scrooged', 'The Toy', 'Maverick', 'Ladyhawke', 'Assassins', '16 Blocks', 'Timeline' and more. Just last year,

he also announced a desire to direct the 5th instalment of 'Lethal Weapon', and reportedly it was in the works too.

Donner is survived by his wife, Lauren Shuler Donner.

Nandu Natekar

Legendary badminton player Nandkumar Mahadev Natekar popularly known as Nandu Natekar passed away in Pune. In a career spanning 15 years, Natekar won over 100 national and international titles including six times national singles title. Natekar was the first Indian badminton to win an international title in 1956. He was



also the first Indian sportsman to receive the Arjuna Award. President Ram Nath Kovind has expressed grief on the demise of legendary badminton player Nandu Natekar. In a tweet, he said, in the passing of Nandu Natekar, India has lost one of its sporting pioneers. Mr Kovind said, a great player, he brought international recognition to Indian badminton. He said, honoured with the Arjuna Award, Nandu Natekar mentored and inspired generations of sportspersons. He expressed condolences to his family and admirers. Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu has condoled the demise of iconic badminton player Nandu Natekar. In a tweet, he said, Natekar made an invaluable contribution to Indian Badminton and won over 100 national and international titles. Mr Naidu expressed heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family members.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has paid condolences on the demise of Nandu Natekar. He said that Nandu Natekar has a special place in India's sporting history. Mr. Modi said that he was an outstanding badminton player and a great mentor. Mr. Modi added that his success continues to motivate budding athletes.

Burning Topics of the Month

Government formalises registration process of vintage motor vehicles.

Indian Navy receives first two MH-60R Multi Role Helicopters from US Navy.

Government launches digital platform 'Kisan Sarathi'.

& Many More...

Union Cabinet approves stimulus package of Rs 6 lakh 28 thousand crore 01 July' 21

The Union Cabinet gave approval to the stimulus package of 6 lakh 28 thousand crore rupees announced by the Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman as part of the Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Package. Information and Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javadekar informed about the decision in a media briefing.



Mr Javadekar stated that, the government has also given approval to the announcement made regarding extension of Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana from May to November this year. The financial implication this year over the scheme will be over 93 thousand crore rupees.

Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana is a food security welfare scheme announced by the Government of India in March 2020, during the COVID-19 pandemic in India. The program is operated by the Department of Food and Public Distribution under the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.

The scheme aims to feed the poorest citizens of India by providing grain through the Public Distribution System, to all the priority households (ration card holders and those identified by the Antyodaya Anna Yojana scheme). PMGKAY provides 5 kg of rice or wheat (according to regional dietary preferences) per person and 1 kg of dal to each family holding a ration card. The scale of this welfare scheme makes it the largest food security program in the world.

The scheme has been affected by widespread corruption and failure to distribute grain to the intended recipients. Two states failed to distribute any grain, and 11 distributed less than 1%.

Revised implementation strategy of BharatNet through PPP model in 16 States approved 02 July' 21

The Cabinet has accorded approval for revised implementation strategy of BharatNet through Public-Private Partnership model in 16 States of the country with optical fibre connectivity to all inhabited villages. Union Minister for Communications Ravi Shankar Prasad gave details about the decision during the media briefing.

Cabinet, has given its approval for availing the benefit under Aatmanirbhar Bharat Rojgar Yojana for another nine months from 30th June this year to 31st March, 2022.

The setting up of an optical fibre network across the country under the BharatNet initiative through the public-private partnership (PPP) model offers a unique growth opportunity to the private infrastructure sector, and it will encourage the adoption of such model in more sectors.

However, the firm pointed out that risk allocation in concession agreements would be critical for the success of the PPP model and the availing of debt capital.

It is the world's largest rural broadband connectivity programme using Optical fibre. And also a flagship mission implemented by Bharat Broadband Network Ltd. (BBNL). BBNL is a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) set up by the Government of India under the Companies Act, 1956 with an authorized capital of Rs 1000 crore.

It is a highly scalable network infrastructure accessible on a non-discriminatory basis, to provide on demand, affordable broadband connectivity of 2 Mbps to 20 Mbps for all

households and on demand capacity to all institutions, to realise the vision of Digital India, in partnership with States and the private sector. It is being implemented by the Department of Telecommunication under the Ministry of Communications. National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN) which was launched in October 2011 was renamed as Bharat Net Project in 2015.

Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank launches NIPUN Bharat 05 July' 21

Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank virtually launched the National Initiative for Proficiency in Reading with



Understanding and Numeracy - NIPUN Bharat. This initiative is aimed to develop learning competencies in reading, writing and numeracy in the children.

While launching the NIPUN Bharat, Mr. Pokhriyal stated that, this initiative will prove to be a strong pillar of the New Education Policy. He stated that, this initiative will help the children in developing learning and numerical skills during the primary schooling. He stated that, this will also enable the students to solve the basic problems with the better understanding of numeracy skills.

Terming NIPUN Bharat a unique initiative, Minister of State for Education, Sanjay Dhotre stated that, this initiative will change the future of school education in the next five years. He stated that, this will lay a strong foundation in children and help them in achieving higher education in the future.

The launch of NIPUN Bharat marks an important step undertaken by the Department of School Education and Literacy, among a series of measures taken for implementation of the National Education Policy 2020.

A short video, anthem and Implementation Guidelines on NIPUN Bharat has also been launched during this programme. Senior officers from the School Education Department from all States and Union Territories, Senior Officials of the Department and Heads of Institutions also attended the event.

NIPUN Bharat will be implemented by the Department of School Education and Literacy. A five-tier implementation mechanism will be set up at the National- State- District-Block- School level in all States and UTs, under the aegis of the centrally sponsored scheme of Samagra Shiksha.

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari inaugurates 4 NH Projects worth over Rs 4,000 crore in Manipur 12 July' 21

Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari inaugurated four National Highway Projects and also laid



foundation stone for 12 National Highway Projects in Imphal. The projects which were inaugurated consist of a new two-lane and strengthening of existing two lanes of National Highway 39 having total length of 121 Kilometres within the budget of Rs 1,244 crore. The Superstructure Bridge constructed over river Makru on NH-37 at the cost of Rs 62 crore was also inaugurated by the Union Minister. The 12 projects of road up-gradation including four-laning on National Highway-39 for which foundation stones were laid have a total budget of Rs 2,842 crore.

While addressing the ceremony, Mr Gadkari stated that the Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government has been giving special emphasis on the development of North-eastern States of India. The Union Government has been trying best to improve infrastructures of transport and communication as these two are of the key importance for the growth of the nation which intimately reduces poverty and creates more employment.

While lashing out at the State Government for delays in the completion of National Highways in Manipur due to various reasons, the Union Minister stated that the problems will always be there. He appealed to the State Government and concerned officials to take the decisions promptly and complete the projects on time with no compromise in quality.

The function was attended by the Minister of State for DoNER and the Ministry of Cooperation B. L. Verma, Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh.

Later, the Union Minister visited the site of Superstructure Bridge over river Makru in Tamenglong district and addressed a public gathering. The 122-metre long and 15.7-metre wide RCC Steel Superstructure Arch Bridge has a 3.35-metre wide footpath on both sides. The construction works of the bridge was started in the month of April 2017 and was supposed to complete in April last year. However, due to COVID-19 pandemic and lockdown the project was delayed.

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced that the UK's Queen Elizabeth II has accepted his recommendation of indigenous leader Mary Simon as the country's 30th Governor General.

CCEA approves implementation of special livestock sector package

13 July' 21

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved implementation of special livestock sector package consisting of several activities by revising and realigning various components of Government of India's schemes for next five years starting from 2021-22.



The step will further boost growth in livestock sector and thereby making animal husbandry more remunerative to 10 crore farmers engaged in Animal Husbandry Sector.

Addressing media in New Delhi, Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Singh Thakur stated that this package envisages Central Government's support amounting to nine thousand 800 crore rupees over duration of five years for leveraging total investment of 54 thousand 618 crore rupees for five years.

Mr Thakur stated that, as per this all the schemes of the Department, Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying will be merged into three broad categories as Development Programmes.

It includes Rashtriya Gokul Mission, National Programme for Dairy Development (NPDD), National Livestock Mission (NLM) and Livestock Census and Integrated Sample Survey as sub-schemes and Livestock Health and Disease Control.

Livestock plays an important role in Indian economy. About 20.5 million people depend upon livestock for their livelihood. Livestock contributed 16% to the income of small farm households as against an average of 14% for all rural households. Livestock provides livelihood to two-third of rural community. It also provides employment to about 8.8 % of the population in India. India has vast livestock resources. Livestock sector contributes 4.11% GDP and 25.6% of total Agriculture GDP.

Union Cabinet hikes DA for Central government employees to 28 percent

14 July' 21

The Union Cabinet took several decisions to boost exports in garment sector, promoting investment in the Animal Husbandry and Shipping sector.

The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi gave its approval to hike the Dearness Allowance to Central Government employees and Dearness Relief to pensioners from existing 17 per cent of the Basic Pay and Pension to 28 per cent. It will be effective from 1st of this month.

While briefing the media in New Delhi, Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur stated that in view of the unprecedented situation which arose due to the COVID-19 pandemic, three additional installments of Dearness Allowance and Dearness Relief which were due from 1st January 2020, 1st July, 2020 and 1st January 2021 had been frozen. Mr Thakur stated that, now the decision was taken to increase the DA and DR from 17 per cent to 28 per cent.

The Union Cabinet also approved continuation of Rebate of State and Central taxes and Levies (RoSCTL) on exports of Apparel, Garments and Made-ups. Mr Anurag Thakur stated that the scheme will continue till the 31st of March 2024 and the step will boost export in global markets.

The Cabinet also approved scheme for promotion of flagging of merchant ships in India by providing subsidy support to Indian shipping companies in global tenders floated by Ministries and Central Public Sector Enterprises.

Civil Aviation Ministry releases d-Drone Rules, 2021 for public consultation

15 July' 21

Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) has released reorganized - The Drone Rules, 2021 for public consultation. Built on a premise of trust, self-certification and non-intrusive monitoring, The Drone Rules, 2021 will replace the UAS Rules 2021 (released on 12th March 2021). The last date for receipt of public comments is 5th August 2021.

Key takeaways from the Draft Drone Rules, 2021 include that there will be minimal human interface on the digital sky platform and most permissions will be self-generated. Safety features like 'No Permission - No Take-off' (NPNT), real-time tracking beacon, geo-fencing etc. to be notified in future.

Import of drones and drone components will be regulated by Directorate General of Foreign Trade. All drone training and testing to be carried out by an authorised drone school. Directorate General of Civil Aviation will prescribe training requirements, oversee drone schools and provide pilot licences online. Standard operating procedures (SOP) and training procedure manuals (TPM) will be prescribed by DGCA on the digital sky platform for self-monitoring by users.

The Ministry of Civil Aviation of Government of India is the nodal Ministry responsible for the formulation of national policies and programmes for development and regulation of Civil Aviation and for devising and implementing schemes for the orderly growth and expansion of civil air transport. Its functions also extend to overseeing airport facilities, air traffic services and carriage of passengers and goods by air. The Ministry also administers implementation of the Aircraft Act, 1934, Aircraft Rules, 1937 and is administratively responsible for the Commission of Railways Safety.

Office holder: Jyotiraditya Scindia

Rajnath Singh launches AI- powered grievance management application

16 July' 21

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh launched an Artificial Intelligence (AI)- powered grievance management application in New Delhi on July 15, 2021, developed by Ministry of Defence with the help of IIT-Kanpur. Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions Dr Jitendra Singh graced the occasion.



This is the first AI based system developed to improve grievance redressal in the Government. The AI tool developed as part of the initiative has capability to understand the content of the complaint based on the contents therein. As a result, it can identify repeat complaints or spam automatically. Based on the meaning of the complaint, it can categorise complaints of different categories even when key words normally used for such search are not present in the complaint. It enables geographical analysis of complaints in a category including analysis of whether the complaint was adequately addressed or not by the concerned office. Easy user-friendly search enables user to formulate his own queries/categories depending on management requirements and seek performance results based on the query. Given that lakhs of complaints are received on CPGRAMS portal of DARPG, this application will have great use in understanding the nature of complaints, geographies from where they emanate and policy changes which can be introduced to create systemic improvements to address these grievances. A tripartite MoU for the project was signed among Department of Defence, MoD, DARPG and IIT, Kanpur on August 04, 2020.

The web-based application has been jointly developed by Department of Defence, MoD; DARPG and a team of IIT Kanpur comprising of Professors Shalabh, Nisheeth Srivastava and Piyush Rai.

MeitY enables map services in UMANG App through MoU with MapmyIndia

17 July' 21

Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has taken various initiatives in the recent past to ease the lives of citizens by facilitating online delivery of Government services.

To further enhance the initiatives of Digital India Programme, the Ministry has enabled map services in UMANG App 'through Memorandum of Understanding with MapmyIndia.

As a result of integration of UMANG with MapmyIndia, citizens will be able to find government facilities nearest to their location, such as mandis, blood banks and much more, at the click of a button.

They will also be able to see these on the most detailed and interactive street and village level maps of India, built by MapmyIndia. Besides, they will also be able to view the driving distance, get directions and turn by turn voice and visual guidance to locations, including traffic and road safety alerts during navigation.

The UMANG mobile app launched in 2017, is a Government of India single, unified, secure, multi-channel, multi-service mobile app, providing access to high impact services of various organizations. UMANG brings major government services on a single mobile app on mobile phones of citizens.

Unified Mobile Application for New-age Governance, is a mobile app, a Digital India initiative of Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, by the Government of India for access to central and state government services. The app supports 13 Indian languages and is available for Android, iOS and Windows.

NCW signs MoU with Bureau of Police Research & Development

18 July' 21

National Commission for Women has signed a MoU with Bureau of Police Research and Development for gender sensitization of police personnel across the country. The objective of the programme is to ensure gender sensitization of police personnel with respect to legislation and policies concerning women.

The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) introduced India's first FASTag or Unified Payments Interface (UPI) based parking facility to reduce the time for entry and payment.

NEWS BITES | NATIONAL

Bringing attitudinal and behavioural changes in police officers while dealing with crimes against women is also among the objectives.

The Commission has been regularly organising gender sensitization programs for police officers to achieve the objective of building trust of women complainants in police. In her address on the occasion, NCW Chairperson Rekha Sharma stated that, women victims are differently placed than their male counterparts due to several socio-economic factors. She stated that, there is a need for police to act in a gender sensitive manner in all cases relating to violence against women.

The National Commission for Women is the statutory body of the Government of India, generally concerned with advising the government on all policy matters affecting women. It was established on 31 January 1992 under the provisions of the Indian Constitution, as defined in the 1990 National Commission for Women Act. The first head of the commission was Jayanti Patnaik. As of 30 November 2018, Rekha Sharma is the chairperson.

The objective of the NCW is to represent the rights of women in India and to provide a voice for their issues and concerns. The subjects of their campaigns have included dowry, politics, religion, equal representation for women in jobs, and the exploitation of women for labour. They have also discussed police abuses against women. The commission regularly publishes a monthly newsletter, Rashtra Mahila, in both Hindi and English.



Government launches digital platform Kisan Sarathi 19 July '21

Government launched digital platform Kisan Sarathi to facilitate farmers to get right information at right time in their desired language.

The platform Kisan Sarathi was jointly launched by Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar and Electronics and Information Technology Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw through video conference on the occasion of 93rd ICAR Foundation Day.



Speaking on the occasion, Ashwini Vaishnaw stated that, farmers can avail personalised advisories on agriculture and allied areas directly from scientists of Krishi Vigyan Kendra through the digital platform.

He stated that, this initiative of Kisan Sarathi will empower farmers with the technological interventions and reach farmers in remote areas.

The Minister asked the ICAR Scientists to take-up research on new technological interventions in the area of transportation of farmer's crop from their farm gate to warehouses, markets and the places where they want to sell with minimum damage.

Indian Council of Agriculture Research

It is an autonomous organisation under the Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE), Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare. It was established in July 1929 and was formerly known as the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research. It is headquartered at New Delhi.

It is the apex body for coordinating, guiding and managing research and education in agriculture including horticulture, fisheries and animal sciences in the entire country.

Krishi Vigyan Kendra is an agricultural extension center in India. Usually associated with a local agricultural university, these centers serve as the ultimate link between the ICAR and farmers, and aim to apply agricultural research in a practical, localized setting. It is an integral part of the National Agricultural Research System. The first KVK was established in 1974 at Puducherry.

Indian Navy receives first two of its MH-60R Multi Role Helicopters from US Navy 20 July '21

Indian Navy accepted the first two of its MH-60R Multi Role Helicopters (MRH) from US Navy in a ceremony held at Naval Air Station North Island, San



Diego. The ceremony marked the formal transfer of these helicopters from US Navy to Indian Navy, which were accepted by Taranjit Singh Sandhu, Indian Ambassador to USA. The ceremony also witnessed exchange of helicopter documents between Vice Adm Kenneth Whitesell, Commander Naval Air Forces, US Navy and Vice Adm Ravneet Singh, Deputy Chief of Naval Staff (DCNS), Indian Navy.

MH-60R helicopters manufactured by Lockheed Martin Corporation, USA is an all-weather helicopter designed to support multiple missions with state of the art avionics/sensors. *24 of these helicopters are being procured under Foreign Military Sales from the US Government*. The helicopters would also be modified with several India Unique Equipment and weapons.

The induction of these MRH would further enhance Indian Navy's three dimensional capabilities. In order to exploit these potent helicopters, the first batch of Indian crew is presently undergoing training in USA.

India and the US are also working together on co-production and co-development of defense platforms. Reform measures that have been undertaken by India in the defense sector in recent times that have opened up new opportunities for foreign investors. MH-60R is the most advanced maritime multi-mission helicopter in operation - deployed globally, and its mission performance is, by far, second to none. The induction of these all-weather MRH would enhance Indian Navy's three-dimensional capabilities. The helicopters would also be modified with several unique equipment and weapons.

Ordnance Factory hands over M2 NATO Stabilized Remote Control Gun to Indian Navy 21 July' 21

Ordnance Factory of Tiruchirappalli handed over the locally assembled 12.7mm stabilised remote control gun system to the Indian Navy and Indian Coast Guard



for enhanced surveillance and warfare. The first batch of 25 weapons provided was assembled in Trichy factory through the transfer of technology initiative with the support of an Israel-based defence company. 15 SRCGs were handed over to the Indian Navy while 10 were handed over to the Indian Coast Guard.

The SRCG system is fitted with a 12.7mm M2 NATO standard heavy machine gun, designed to suit marine warfare. The weapon-mounted on-board ships and small surveillance crafts can remotely engage small boats, skiffs and other small crafts with high accuracy during day and night operations. The SRCG has inbuilt day CCD Camera, thermal imager and laser range finder systems for observation and tracking the target even during the night. The system is manufactured and supplied to the Indian

Navy and Indian Coast Guard through the transfer of technology from Elbit Systems, Israel in various phases.

The factory acceptance test (FAT) Team nominated by the ministry of defence had conducted the acceptance trials of the first batch of SRCG successfully recently. The weapon evaluated in the marine environment had also displayed desirable feedback. C S Vishwakarma, chairman of Ordnance Factory Board handed over the weapons to K S C Iyer, director-general of naval armaments (DGONA). The factory will assemble and supply 123 more weapons to the armed forces. OFT officials stated that the factory situated in Gundoor on Pudukkottai NH is already into the indigenous production of Trichy Assault Rifle (TAR), grenade launchers and other weapons for the Indian armed forces and paramilitary units.

Government formalises registration process of vintage motor vehicles 22 July' 21

Minister of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari stated that the registration process of Vintage Motor Vehicles has been formalized with an aim to preserve and promote the heritage of vintage vehicles.



Mr Gadkari stated that with no existing rules for regulating the process of registration across different states, the new rules shall provide a hassle-free process. He stated that the salient features are such as retention of old number for already registered vehicles and a VA series -Unique Registration Mark, for fresh registrations.

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has amended Central Motor Vehicle Rules 1989, formalising the registration process of vintage motor vehicles. This is aimed at preserving and promoting the heritage of old vehicles in India.

All two and four wheelers over 50 years old, maintained in their original form and have not undergone any substantial overhaul, shall be defined as Vintage Motor Vehicles.

The State Registering Authority shall issue a certificate of registration within 60 days. Vehicles already registered can retain their original Registration Mark. Vintage motor vehicles shall not be driven on roads for regular and commercial purposes.

Chief of Army Staff Gen M M Naravane met his Italian counterpart Lt Gen Pietro Serino and Defence Minister Lorenzo Guerini in Rome and held extensive talks focusing on strengthening bilateral defence cooperation, including military to military engagement.

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CMVR stands for Central Motor Vehicles Rules.

The draft rules define vintage motor vehicles as all those vehicles that are two-wheelers and four-wheelers (non-commercial and personal use) and are more than 50 years old from the date of their first registration (including imported vehicle).

There is a restriction in the definition — no substantial overhaul of the vehicles that includes modification in chassis or body shell, and/or engine.

A vintage motor vehicle is allowed to run on Indian roads only for display, technical research or taking part in a vintage car rally, refuelling and maintenance, exhibitions, vintage rallies, and to and fro to such exhibition or car rally.

15th Finance Commission recommends grant of Rs 6,143 crore for online learning & development

23 July' 21

The 15th Finance Commission has recommended a grant of 6,143 crore rupees for online learning and development of professional courses in regional languages for higher education in India. Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan has mentioned this in Lok Sabha in a written reply. In reply to a question of the member, Mr. Pradhan stated that out of the total amount, 250 crore rupees have been allocated for Andhra Pradesh.

The Minister stated that the promotion of online education has been provided through the development of Massive Open Online Courses, MOOCs, direct to home-DTH content development, digital classrooms and provision of devices for 25 lakh students belonging to socially and economically weaker sections of the society.

The Fifteenth Finance Commission is an Indian Finance Commission constituted in November 2017 and is to give recommendations for devolution of taxes and other fiscal matters for five fiscal years, commencing 2020-04-01. The commission's chairman is Nand Kishore Singh, with its full-time members being Ajay Narayan Jha, Ashok Lahiri and Anoop Singh. In addition, the commission also has a part-time member in Ramesh Chand. Shaktikanta Das served as a member of the commission from November 2017 to December 2018.



The commission was set up to give recommendations for devolution of taxes and other fiscal matters for five fiscal years, commencing 1 April 2020. The main tasks of the commission were to "strengthen cooperative federalism, improve the quality of public spending and help protect fiscal stability".

Govt announces launch of National Logistics Excellence Awards 24 July' 21

Government announced the launch of National Logistics Excellence Awards to turn the spotlight on the logistics sector. The Awards will give due recognition to various players involved in the logistics supply chain. The awards are in two categories, the first group includes logistics infrastructure and service providers and second one is for various user industries.



There was wide scale appreciation from user industries for giving the due recognition to various players involved in the logistics supply chain. The awards will highlight best practices including consolidation, process standardisation, technological upgrade, digital transformations, and sustainable practices.

The awards are divided in two categories. The first category includes service providers and logistics infrastructure and second category will be awarded for the various user industries.

The launch of the National Logistics Excellence Awards will highlight best practices which include process standardisation, consolidation, digital transformations, technological upgrade and sustainable practices in the logistics sector.

Through these awards, the government aims to turn the spotlight on logistics service providers who have attained adopted digitisation and technology, operational excellence, pursued sustainable practices and improved customer service among the many other achievements.

For the user industries, these awards will showcase efforts towards supplier ecosystem development, supply chain transformation, automation, skill development and other similar endeavours.

The government has stated that the winners of these awards will be announced on 31st.

6th Meeting of the BRICS Counter Terrorism Working Group 30 July '21

The 6th meeting of the BRICS Counter Terrorism Working Group (CTWG) was held virtually on 28-29 July 2021 under the Chairship of India. Mr. Mahaveer



Singhvi, Joint Secretary for Counter Terrorism, Ministry of External Affairs chaired the meeting. Senior counter terrorism officials from all BRICS countries participated in the meeting.

The main outcome of the Working Group meeting was the finalisation of the BRICS Counter Terrorism Action Plan containing specific measures to implement the BRICS Counter Terrorism Strategy adopted by BRICS Leaders in 2020. The Action Plan is aimed at further strengthening result oriented cooperation between BRICS countries in areas such as preventing and combating terrorism, radicalisation, financing of terrorism, misuse of internet by terrorists, curbing travel of terrorists, border control, protection of soft targets, information sharing, capacity building, international and regional cooperation etc.

The BRICS Counter Terrorism Action Plan is one of the key deliverables during India's Chairship of BRICS and will be adopted at the meeting of BRICS National Security Advisors scheduled next month.

During the Working Group meeting, while condemning terrorism in all its forms and manifestations whenever, wherever and by whomsoever committed, the BRICS countries also exchanged views on terrorism threat assessment at national, regional and global level and resolved to further enhance counter terrorism cooperation in line with the Action Plan.

The BRICS Counter Terrorism Working Group meeting was preceded by virtual meetings of the five thematic sub-working groups on Misuse of Internet for Terrorist Purpose, Deradicalization, Countering Terrorist Financing, Capacity Building and Countering Foreign Terrorist Fighters on 26-27 July 2021.

Rajya Sabha passes Coconut Development Board (Amendment) Bill, 2021 31 July '21

The Rajya Sabha passed the Coconut Development Board (Amendment) Bill, 2021 without the discussion. The bill seeks to make the post of Chairman, Coconut Development Board as Non-Executive one.

The number of members of the board has been raised from four to six as after the amendment, Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat will be able to nominate their representatives in the Board. The bill will pave the way to appoint a professional persons as a non – Executive Chairman instead of a government official. The step will be beneficial to the Coconut Growers at large. In his very brief reply, Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar said that the objective behind the amendment to the Coconut Development Board Act, 1979, is to bring more and more areas under coconut cultivation and to provide marketing facilities so that farmers are benefitted. Earlier, Mujibulla Khan of BJD demanded inclusion of one member from the State of Odisha in the Board.

After that, the deputy chairman said that as no member has given their names, he was calling the minister for his reply on the Bill. While replying to the debate, Tomar said the aim of the amendment is to develop the coconut area, extend facilities and increase the income of the farmers. Some protesting members objected, but the deputy chairman said they have not submitted their names for debate. The Bill was passed by a voice vote amid the protest and sloganeering by the Opposition after Tomar's short reply.

Burning Topics of the Month

Assam Govt to provide jobs to National Games medallists.

Karnataka CM launches Electric Bike Taxi scheme in Bengaluru.

NTPC to set up India's single largest solar park at Rann of Kutch in Gujarat.

& Many More...

JAKEDA plans to install 5,000 Solar Power Pumps under PM-KUSUM scheme in J&K 03 July' 21

In the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, Jammu and Kashmir Energy Development Agency (JAKEDA), is planning to install 5,000 Solar Power Pumps under Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha Evam Uthan Mahabhiyaan (PM-KUSUM) scheme in J&K in the first phase out of which 2,500 pumps will be installed in the current fiscal.



CEO, JAKEDA, Babila Rakwal disclosed this during the launch of a publicity cum awareness programme for PRIs and farmers of Ramban district in the presence of Deputy Commissioner, Mussarat Islam.

Worth to mention, the PM-KUSUM scheme has been launched by Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) for the upliftment of farmers in the country.

Keeping in view the topography and irrigation challenges in Ramban district, the UT level campaign was started from Ramban to provide maximum benefit to farmers of the district from this beneficiary oriented schemes.

Pertinently, under the scheme, Subsidized Solar Powered Agriculture Pumps in the capacity range of 2 HP to 10 HP shall be installed throughout the country.

The scheme provides 50 per cent subsidy from Central Government, 30 per cent from J&K Govt. and only 20 per cent as farmer's share.

The scheme shall be implemented in J&K by JAKEDA, Department of Science & Technology.

This step will provide an additional source of income to farmers who will be in a position to use this energy for other purposes.

J&K LG launches Golf Training Academy in Srinagar 05 July' 21

In the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha launched Golf Training Academy at the Kashmir Golf Club, in Srinagar. The



initiative is aimed to continue the endeavours of promoting and strengthening the sports ecosystem in Jammu and Kashmir.

Speaking on this occasion, the Lieutenant Governor stated that the restoration work of the historic Golf Course after the 2014 floods has been done in the best way while maintaining its originality. Mr Sinha further stated that it is a matter of great pride that Kashmir Golf Club, one of the oldest golf clubs with rich history, is the second only in the country after the Royal Golf Club, Kolkata. He maintained that with best-in-class Golf course, J&K aspires to be the Golfing capital of the country and a similar Golf Academy with national-level training facilities will be launched in Jammu soon.

Addressing the young sportspersons of the first batch of Golf Academy, the Lieutenant Governor stated that countless inspiring stories have originated from the Kashmir Golf Club and they will definitely experience them along with the nuances of the discipline during the coming 15 days of training. He informed that eminent coaches of the country will come to impart training and the first batch itself is starting with the world renowned player and Coach of the Indian team Amandeep Johl.

NTCA approves conversion of Ramgarh Vishdhari Sanctuary into fourth tiger reserve in Rajasthan

06 July' 21

National Tiger Conservation Authority, NTCA, has approved the conversion of the Ramgarh Vishdhari Sanctuary in Rajasthan's Bundi district into the fourth tiger reserve in the state. According to the 2018 tiger census, there are 102 tigers in three reserves - Ranthambore Tiger Reserve in Sawai Madhopur, Sariska Tiger Reserve in Alwar and Mukundra Hills Tiger Reserve in Kota - in the state.

The proposal for converting the Ramgarh Vishdhari Sanctuary, which is spread across 1,071 square kilometres, into a tiger reserve was recently approved by the National Tiger Conservation Authority's technical committee.

The National Tiger Conservation Authority was established in December 2005 following a recommendation of the Tiger Task Force,[1] constituted by the Prime Minister of India for reorganised management of Project Tiger and the many Tiger Reserves in India. A programme for protection called, 'Tiger Protection Program' (popularly known as Project Tiger) was started in 1973, by the Government of India in co-operation with WWF.

Ramgarh Vishdhari Wildlife Sanctuary acts like a buffer for Ranthambore National Park, one of the most famous wildlife sanctuaries in India. It is located almost 45 kilometres on Bundi-Nainwa Road and covers an area of 252 square kilometres approx. It is rich in biodiversity & is home to various kinds of wild animals.

During safari tour at the Ramgarh Wildlife Sanctuary, one can spot a variety of wild animals like Indian Wolf, Leopard, Striped Hyena, Sloth Bear, Golden Jackal, Chinkara, Nilgai & Fox. It is also home to various species of birds, which makes bird watching quite fun.

Ladakh and HFRI sign MoU for forest cover development in region

08 July' 21

Union Territory of Ladakh and Himalayan Forest Research Institute (HFRI) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for forest cover development in the region. UT Principal Secretary Dr. Pawan Kotwal and HFRI Director Dr. SS Samant signed the MoU in Leh.

On the occasion, Dr Pawan Kotwal stated that, MoU is an advisory arrangement without any financial and legal implications. HFRI is an expertise research institute to help

Ladakh towards Carbon neutrality. He stated that, Increase in forest cover temperatures and melting of glaciers.

HFRI would study and identify the suitable plant varieties to increase the forest cover in Ladakh and also help in capacity building with training programmes at grass root level. Depending on the requirement a regional HFRI centre in Ladakh is also in plan.

Ladakh has a target of 20 thousand hectares forest cover, initially in the urban areas to utilize technology and manpower. Depending on the success the forestation programme will be implemented in remote areas.

Leh Chief Conservator of Forests PP Singh stated that, considering the atmospheric factors increasing the forest cover are a necessity. He stated that, MoU with HFRI would take steps forward to increase the forest cover in Ladakh.

Ladakh is a region administered by India as a union territory, and constitutes a part of the larger Kashmir region, which has been the subject of dispute between India, Pakistan, and China since 1947. It was established on 31 October 2019, following the passage of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act.

Centre has allocated over Rs 5,000 crore grant to Karnataka under Jal Jeevan Mission in year 2021-22

10 July' 21

The Centre has allocated over Rs 5,000 crore grant to the State of Karnataka under Jal Jeevan Mission in the year 2021-22. Union Minister of Jal Shakti, Gajendra



Singh Shekhawat while approving this four-fold increase in allocation than last year, has assured full assistance to the State for making provision of tap water supply in every rural home in Karnataka by 2023.

The Ministry of Jal Shakti in a statement stated that at the start of the Mission in 2019, out of a total of 19.20 crore rural households in the country, only 3.23 crore had tap water supply. During the last 22 months, despite COVID-19 pandemic 4.42 crore households have been provided with piped connections. It stated that, presently 7.66 Crore or 40.5 per cent rural households across the country have tap water supply. Goa, Telangana, Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Puducherry have achieved 100 per cent household connection in rural areas and have become 'Har Ghar Jal'.

Just over a week after his resignation as Sweden's Prime Minister following a vote of no confidence in Parliament (Riksdagen) in June, Stefan Lofven was reinstated.

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Following the principle of the Prime Minister's vision of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas', the motto of the Mission is that 'no one is left out' and every household in a village should be provided with tap water connection. At present, in 69 districts and more than 98,000 villages, every household has tap water supply.

UP Govt announces new Population Policy 2021-2030 to incentivise people in population control

11 July '21

Uttar Pradesh, the government has announced new Population Policy 2021-2030' on the occasion of World Population Day.



Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath in a program at Lucknow released a booklet on this occasion. He stated that, all groups society have to be included with population control programme. He stated that this policy will bring wellness and happiness in people's life.

The draft law list that have been put on public domain and the government has sought suggestions from people in policy draft. The recommendations of policy will be effective after one year of gazette notification. The government is to give incentives and disincentives for the promotion of the two-child norm in the state.

Meanwhile, with announcement of population policy the activities on Population Stabilization Fortnight started from to encourage family planning in the state.

On this occasion Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath stated that increasing population is the root of major problems including inequality prevailing in the society. He stated that over population is hindrance in development. Population control is the primary condition for the establishment of an advanced society. He asked to take a pledge to make ourselves and the society aware of the problems arising from the increasing population.

According to the policy draft people having more than two children will not be able to fight local body election. Those who having up to two offspring's will be provided more government facilities and incentives. The draft also says that government employees not following two children norm will be forbidden several benefits. People breaching policy will not able to take benefit of subsidy

and government schemes. Chief Minister on this occasion also started distribution of 'Shagun kits' to encourage the means of family planning among the newly wedded.

Superstar Rajinikanth dissolves his outfit Rajini Makkal Andram

12 July '21

After briefly foraying into the realm of politics, actor Rajinikanth dissolved his fledgling political party Rajini Makkal Mandram (RMM), saying the party will continue as a fans' welfare association.



"I had thought of starting a political party and getting involved in politics. But the timing was such that it was not possible. I have no intention of getting involved in politics in the future, so I kindly inform you that the Rajini Makkal Mandram will function as a fan charity forum for the benefit of the people," superstar Rajinikanth stated in the statement.

Earlier, the actor stated he will be holding a meeting with members of the RMM and will announce whether he will be entering politics or not after that. He had also stated that will be meeting members of the RMM in Chennai to decide on the group's future as well.

Rajinikanth's political plunge has been fraught with uncertainties. The Tamil superstar raised expectations of entering politics after he announced on New Year's Eve in 2017 that he will be joining politics. The announcement received tremendous reception, with his fans and admirers waiting with bated breath for his entry into politics. Since then, Rajini's party has been in the making and soon, his fan clubs were reorganised as the Rajini Makkal Mandram, considered the precursor to the party. Earlier in December 2020, the superstar had announced that he will finally be joining the political fray, ahead of the assembly elections scheduled to take place in Tamil Nadu in 2021. However, weeks later, Rajinikanth made a dramatic about-face, saying that he would not be launching a political party due to health concerns.

NTPC to set up India's single largest solar park at Rann of Kutch in Gujarat

13 July '21

NTPC Renewable Energy Ltd, a 100% subsidiary of NTPC, has received the go-ahead from Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) to set

Anurag Thakur, has assumed his charge as Minister of Information and Broadcasting.

up 4750 MW renewable energy park at Rann of Kutch in Khavada, Gujarat. This will be India's largest solar park to be built by the largest power producer of the country.

NTPC Renewable Energy Ltd (NTPC REL), has been given the go-ahead by MNRE on 12th July 2021 under Mode 8 (Ultra Mega Renewable Energy Power Park) of Solar Park Scheme. NTPC REL has plans to generate green hydrogen on a commercial scale from this park.

As a part of its green energy portfolio augmentation, NTPC Ltd, India's largest energy integrated company aims to build 60 GW Renewable Energy Capacity by 2032. Currently, the state owned power major has an installed capacity of 66 GW across 70 power projects with an additional 18 GW under construction.

Recently, NTPC has also commissioned India's largest Floating Solar of 10 MW (ac) on the reservoir of Simhadri Thermal Power Plant, Andhra Pradesh. An additional 15 MW (ac) would be commissioned by August 2021. Further, a 100 MW Floating Solar Project on the reservoir of Ramagundam Thermal Power Plant, Telangana is in the advanced stage of implementation.

Additionally, NTPC RE Ltd. has recently signed a MoU with UT, Ladakh and Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC) for the generation of green hydrogen and deployment on FCEV buses. The signing of the MoU was also marked with the inauguration of NTPC's first solar installations in Leh in form of solar trees and a solar car port.

NTPC REL, the subsidiary was incorporated on 07.10.2020 to accelerate the RE business of NTPC.

Maharashtra Govt announces Maharashtra Electric Vehicle (EV) Policy-2021 15 July' 21

The Maharashtra Electric Vehicle (EV) Policy-2021 was announced by the State Environment Minister Aaditya Thackeray. The objective of the policy is to accelerate the adoption of BEVS such that they contribute 10 per cent of new vehicle registration by 2025.

Under the policy, incentives will be given to buyers of electric vehicles. Likewise, those purchasing two-wheelers will be given an incentive of Rs 10,000, for three-wheeler the incentive will be Rs 30,000, for four-wheeler Rs 1, 50,000 and for e-buses it will be Rs 20 lakh.

The Policy also states that at least 25 per cent of urban fleet aggregators/operators in Maharashtra to be electric by 2025. Further, starting April 2022, all new government vehicles (owned/ leased) operating in the major cities to be electric. The policy specifically mentions that all-electric vehicles

sold in the state shall be exempted from road tax. In addition to this, all electric vehicles eligible under the policy shall be exempted from registration charges.

One of the key provisions of the policy is that it aims to create a 'State EV Fund' which will be used to promote EV adoption including providing incentives for EVs and EV infrastructure. Besides, urban local bodies will be encouraged to provide property tax rebates to residential owners for installing private charging infrastructure within their premises. The government stated that, maximum budgetary provision for 'Demand side' and 'Charging infra' incentives is Rs 930 crore for four yrs. The policy implementation can be funded through a green tax levied on re-registration of old vehicles, fuel cess etc.



Ladakh signs MoU with Sikkim to turn the UT into organic entity 16 July' 21

Ladakh administration has signed a MoU with Sikkim State Organic Certification Agency (SOCCA) to turn the Union Territory into an organic entity. A tripartite MoU has been signed between Ladakh and SSOCA regarding the implementation of Prampragat Krishi Vikas Yojana and Mission Organic Development Initiative (MODI) in the Ladakh region with the aim to convert Ladakh into organic entity by 2025. The main objective of this MoU is to get the organic certification after a tie-up with the Centre.



Ladakh Agriculture Secretary Ravinder Kumar stated that the aim is to make Ladakh a certified organic UT by 2025 which will be completed in three phases. He stated that for organic certification the department has divided Ladakh into 3-phases. In the first phase, 85 villages have been identified with an aim to convert 5000 hectares of land into organic and in the 2nd phase, 82 villages will be covered with an area of 10,000 hectares and under the 3rd phase, the department has selected 79 villages which will cover the remaining areas. Sikkim is the first state that is 100 per cent

Actor Richa Chadha and filmmaker Onir have been announced as the jury members for short film competition at the 2021 Indian Film Festival of Melbourne (IFFM).

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organic with all of its farmland certified organic. The use and sale of chemical fertilizers and pesticides are banned in Sikkim.

Karnataka CM launches Electric Bike Taxi scheme in Bengaluru 17 July' 21

Karnataka Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa unveiled the state electric bike taxi scheme in this tech city for last-mile connectivity to commuters using public transport. "The novel scheme is aimed at reducing travel time and inconvenience faced by the commuters while travelling from home to bus stand, railway and Metro stations in the city," Yediyurappa stated on the occasion.



Noting that the scheme would create self-employment, the Chief Minister stated that electric bikes are eco-friendly, conserve fuel and encourage commuters to use public transport. "The state government has taken measures to encourage alternate source of energy like electric battery for vehicles and keep the environment clean across the city," he said.

The scheme will enable increasing the use of battery-operated vehicles by citizens to travel shorter distances and help the partnership firms bridge the gap in the public transport system. "The Central and state governments have given tax and permit exemptions and financial incentives to electric vehicle manufacturers," stated Yediyurappa.

The Chief Minister also called upon electric vehicle makers and entrepreneurs to invest in the scheme for creating jobs and protecting the environment. Deputy Chief Minister Laxman Savadi, who also holds the transport portfolio, highlighted the key features of the scheme.

Assam Govt to provide jobs to National Games medallists 19 July' 21

The Assam State Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma has assured jobs for all National Games medallists of Assam from now on. Replying to a question in the Legislative Assembly, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma stated that along with Olympics, Asian, and Commonwealth games medallists the medal winners in National Games would also get a government job.

The Chief Minister mentioned that all those who won medals in National Games so far for Assam would be given Sports Pension by the State Government.



Mr. Sarma hoped that this decision would help the sportspersons of the state. The Chief Minister also announced that the house would send a goodwill message to boxer Lovlina Borgohain who will be vying for a medal in Tokyo Olympics. The Chief Minister stated about the increase of sports pension on the sixth day of the Assam Assembly cabinet meeting. Further, the minister also stated that the government is planning to increase the pension of sportsperson from Rs. 8000 to Rs. 10,000.

Earlier, the state government offered the job of a deputy superintendent of police to sprint queen Hima Das for her Jakarta Asian Games gold medal-winning feat.

Sportspersons who win medals in Olympics, Asian Games, and Commonwealth Games will be designated as Grade-I officers. Hima Das will be the first recipient to be offered the post of deputy superintendent of police, Sarma said. Any Olympic or Asian Games medallists will be entitled to direct appointment as Assam Civil Service or Assam Police Service official. They will not have to sit for civil service examinations, stated Himanta Biswa Sarma.

Maharashtra to be first state in country to issue educational documents using blockchain technology 22 July' 21

Maharashtra will be the first state in the country to issue educational documents using blockchain technology. Maharashtra's Skill Development Minister Nawab Malik stated that, one million diploma certificates will be issued using this technology.

A report

Forgery of documents is a serious concern for various educational and other institutions. Many steps are being taken to avoid forgery along with verification of documents. Maharashtra State Board of Skill Development has decided to issue block chain based certificates to students.

Around 10 lakh digital certificates will be issued to diploma holders of eight educational years. Mr. Malik stated that Singapore, Malta and Bahrain are the only countries using this technology. Maharashtra will be the 1st Indian state and world's largest user of Blockchain for educational certificates.

Technology provider Legit Doc's CEO Neil stated that, each student will receive a "certificate_LegitDoc.zip" digital file containing the original PDF diploma certificate and its corresponding blockchain proof file. It can be verified within 10 seconds from anywhere around the world and does not require human intervention.

Blockchain is a system of recording information in a way that makes it difficult or impossible to change, hack, or cheat the system. A blockchain is essentially a digital ledger of transactions that is duplicated and distributed across the entire network of computer systems on the blockchain.

Meghalaya Cabinet approves proposed Meghalaya Youth Policy 2021 24 July' 21

Meghalaya Cabinet has approved the proposed Meghalaya Youth Policy 2021 to channelize 31 percent of the entire population of the State who falls under the youth category.



Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma stated after the Cabinet Meeting that a detailed policy considering only the youths have been prepared by the Government looking into different aspects. The policy contains exciting programmes and plans which will cater to all the youths. He further stated that the policy outlines a comprehensive development framework for youth to enable them to achieve their fullest potential and become engaged, skilled, creative, responsible and empowered members of the community.

Meghalaya Youth Policy 2021: Key Highlights

The new policy will be very much action-oriented. It has planned the implementation of 45 programmes that will be measured by 54 performance monitoring indicators.

These performance indicators have further been mapped to 10 departments and have been planned to be measured quarterly, bi-annually, and annually.

The success of the policy will be based on various performance indicators under each thrust area which will include human resource development, infrastructure creation and up-gradation, awareness campaigns, and other parameters.

The policy will include planned interventions covering the lifecycle of youth in its entirety. It will include early childhood interventions implemented through various policies and programmes such as early childhood education mission, sports infrastructure up-gradation, setting up academies of excellence in the areas of arts and culture, among others.

Odisha government implements One Nation One Ration card scheme across State 30 July' 21

The Odisha govt. has implemented the one nation one ration card scheme. Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik launched the scheme across the state. The



scheme allows the beneficiaries to lift his or her quota of foodgrains from any of the fair price shops of his or her choice, both within and outside the state. Inside the state alone, the beneficiaries will have more than 10000 fair price shops for their ration, to choose from.

The state government also launched a vitamin-added rice distribution scheme under the public distribution system in the tribal dominated and remote district of Malkangiri as a pilot project. The scheme is supposed to address the nutritional needs, particularly of the women and children. The one nation one ration scheme by ensuring local accessibility of food grains across the nation, also ensures ease of living for millions of the poor and the needy.

The ONORC scheme is aimed at enabling migrant workers and their family members to buy subsidised ration from any fair price shop anywhere in the country under the National Food Security Act, 2013.

To promote this reform in the archaic Public Distribution System (PDS), the government has provided incentives to states. The Centre had even set the implementation of ONORC as a precondition for additional borrowing by states during the Covid-19 pandemic last year. At least 17 states, which implemented the ONORC reform, were allowed to borrow an additional Rs 37,600 crores in 2020-21.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be inaugurating nine medical colleges in Uttar Pradesh. The PM will be inaugurating nine medical colleges in Deoria, Etah, Fatehpur, Ghazipur, Hardoi, Jaunpur, Mirzapur, Pratapgarh, and Sidharth Nagar.

Burning Topics of the Month

Two dams collapse in China's Inner Mongolia region after torrential rain.

US Senate passes legislation to ban import of products from China's Xinjiang region.

US military leaves Afghanistan's Bagram air base after nearly 20 years.

& Many More...

US military leaves Afghanistan's Bagram air base after nearly 20 years 02 July '21

The U.S. left Afghanistan's Bagram Airfield after nearly 20 years by shutting off the electricity and slipping away in the night without notifying the base's



new Afghan commander, who discovered the Americans' departure more than two hours after they left. Afghanistan's army showed off the sprawling air base, providing a rare first glimpse of what had been the epicenter of America's war to unseat the Taliban and hunt down the al-Qaida perpetrators of the 9/11 attacks on America. The U.S. announced it had completely vacated its biggest airfield in the country in advance of a final withdrawal the Pentagon says will be completed by the end of August. U.S. military spokesman Col. Sonny Leggett did not address the specific complaints of many Afghan soldiers who inherited the abandoned airfield, instead referring to a statement last week.

The statement said the handover of the many bases had been in the process soon after President Joe Biden's mid-April announcement that America was withdrawing the last of its forces. Leggett said in the statement that they had coordinated their departures with Afghanistan's leaders. Before the Afghan army could take control of the airfield about an hour's drive from the Afghan capital Kabul, it was invaded by a small army of looters, who ransacked barrack after barrack and rummaged through giant storage tents before being evicted. As of last week, most NATO soldiers had already quietly left. The last U.S. soldiers are likely to remain until an agreement to protect the Kabul

Hamid Karzai International Airport, which is expected to be done by Turkey, is completed. The U.S. left behind 3.5 million items, all itemized by the departing U.S. military. They include tens of thousands of bottles of water, energy drinks and military ready-made meals, known as MRE's.

India joins OECD, G20 Inclusive Framework tax deal of global corporate tax 03 July '21

India has joined the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and G20 Inclusive Framework tax deal of global corporate tax. According to a Finance Ministry press release, the members OECD and G20 countries adopted a high-level statement containing an outline of a consensus solution to address the tax challenges arising from the digitalisation of the economy.

The proposed solution consists of two components- reallocation of additional share of profit to the market jurisdictions and minimum tax subject to tax rules. However, the technical details of the proposal will be worked out in the coming months and a consensus agreement is expected by October.

The Finance Ministry statement, released, stated that the principles underlying the solution vindicates India's stand for a greater share of profits for the markets. It stated that, India is in favour of a consensus solution which is simple to implement and simple to comply with. At the same time, the solution should result in allocation of meaningful and sustainable revenue to market jurisdictions, particularly for developing and emerging economies.

Initially, the global corporate tax was proposed by the United States as Global Minimum Tax (GMT). The tax deal was adopted in the OECD and G20 Inclusive Framework on Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS). BEPS refers to tax-avoiding strategies used by big multinational companies that exploit the gaps and mismatches in tax rules across the globe.

To enable meritorious students from weaker economic backgrounds to pursue world class education, the O.P. Jindal Global University (JGU) announced a scholarship in memory of late veteran journalist H. Venkatasubbiah.

Around 130 countries, representing more than 90 percent of global GDP, adopted the global corporate tax rate of at least 15 percent. The countries also agreed on a fairer distribution of 'profits and taxing rights' with respect to multinationals including digital giants such as Amazon and Google. However, Hungary and Ireland were part of a small group of countries that did not agree on the tax rate on multinationals.

USA celebrates 245th Independence Day 04 July '21

The United States of America is celebrating its 245th Independence Day. The celebration of Fourth of July honours the signing of the American



Declaration of Independence by the founding fathers of the US on 4 July, 1776. It declared that the 13 American colonies were no longer part of the British Empire.

Among the many names Thomas Jefferson, who was a renowned statesman and diplomat along with political philosopher Benjamin Franklin, renounced the British Empire and pronounced the North American colonies as Free states. Fireworks are considered to be very important part of the Independence Day celebration in US history and tradition. It was in Philadelphia city that the tradition to set off fireworks started on 4 July, 1777. It was during the first organised celebration of Independence Day, when a salute of 13 gunshots was conducted in the morning and evening. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has extended his greetings to US President Joe Biden and the people of US on their 245th Independence Day. In his message, Mr Modi stated that as vibrant democracies, India and the US share values of freedom and liberty. He stated that India-US strategic partnership has a truly global significance. External Affairs Minister, Dr S Jaishankar has conveyed his warm wishes to the government and people of the USA on their Independence Day. In a tweet, he expressed confidence that the strong partnership of India and US which is based on shared values and interests will continue to grow further.

India receives 2600 kilos of delicious mangoes from Bangladesh as memento of friendship 05 July '21

India received 2600 kilos of delicious mangoes from Bangladesh as a memento of friendship between the two neighbouring countries. It was sent through the

Petrapole border of Bangaon in West Bengal. Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has gifted 2,600 kg of the Haribhanga variety of mangoes to her Indian counterpart Narendra Modi as a "memento of friendship".

A truck carrying 260 cartons of mangoes crossed the Bangladesh-India border through the Benapole port in Jessore, the Daily Star newspaper reported. The mangoes are a "memento of friendship" between the two countries, Deputy Commissioner of Benapole Customs House Anupam Chakma was quoted as saying in the report.

Assistant Commissioner Customs Petrapole Anit Jain stated that, they are hopeful that the sweetness of the mangoes will take away the bitterness of Covid-19. The mangoes are of the Haribhanga variety grown in Rangpur region, the Dhaka Tribune newspaper reported. Haribhanga mangoes are round in shape, highly fleshy, fibreless and typically weigh 200 to 400 grams.

First secretary (political) of the Deputy High Commission of Bangladesh in Kolkata, Md Samiul Quader, received the mangoes, which are also for President Ram Nath Kovind and other political leaders, including West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, according to the United News of Bangladesh (UNB) news agency.

Mango diplomacy has been a tradition in Indian subcontinental politics. Former Pakistani presidents Zia-ul-Haq and Pervez Musharraf were among the dignitaries who presented the Indian government with mangoes.

First unit of Rampal Maitree Power project to be commissioned in Dec 2021 06 July '21

In Bangladesh, the first unit of the Maitree Power Project at Rampal will be commissioned in December this year, coinciding with the country's Golden Jubilee Celebration



of the Liberation. The second unit is expected to be commissioned matching with the implementation of the associated transmission system. An official press release issued in Delhi stated that this after the virtual meeting between the Power Secretaries of India and Bangladesh.

The meeting was held to discuss issues related to the environment- friendly supercritical technology-based 1,320 MW thermal power plant at Rampal. It was attended by senior officials including the officials from Ministry of Power (MoP), Ministry of External Affairs (MEA),

DIZO, a TechLife brand from smartphone brand realme, announced the appointment of former Flipkart executive Abhilash Panda as CEO and official spokesperson for DIZO India.

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High Commissioner of India in Bangladesh, Department of Heavy Industries (DHI), Central Electricity Authority (CEA), NTPC Ltd. BHEL and BIFPCL.

India assured Bangladesh that BHEL and BIFPCL are confident to meet the timeline for the completion of the project with the support of the Government of Bangladesh in the matter of entry permission and visa approvals for the highly skilled manpower from India, customs related issues and vaccination of the workforce.

Despite the COVID situation since last year, posing challenges to the people of both the countries and affecting the implementation of the Maitree Project, both sides are putting the best effort to complete the project in time.

The Bangladesh Government's Secretary of Power assured of the necessary support for completion of the project in time and appreciated the progress made by the project so far, despite the COVID constraints since last year.

This meeting was convened after the 8th High-Level Monitoring Committee meeting held last year during which certain critical issues were identified that required to be addressed for timely commissioning of the first unit in December this year.

China bans skyscrapers exceeding 500 metres, citing safety concerns

07 July' 21

China has issued a circular banning the new construction of skyscrapers above 500 meters amid fears that the race to push skyward over the past three decades may have compromised building safety and led to a glut of office space.

As reported by the state news agency, a circular issued by the National Development and Reform Commission stated that, buildings above 250 meters are strictly restricted, and if they do need to be built, the construction plans should be reviewed over a slew of aspects including fire safety and filed with the Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development.

For buildings above 100 meters, the construction plans will face strict scrutiny over their seismic performance. The high-rises should match with the city's size and firefighting capacity, the circular by the country's top planning agency stated that.



The order, two months after the unexplained wobbling of the 72-storey SEG Plaza in Shenzhen, would halt, at least for the time being, the construction boom that has led to mainland China being home to five of the world's 10 tallest 500-metre structures, all completed in the past six years. Local governments have been improving the management of construction projects in terms of safety and quality, however, there are still loopholes that may lead to safety risks, and the circular stated that. The circular stressed strengthening the management of construction projects, adhering to the principle of quality first, and ensuring the safety of people's lives and property.

India and Gambia sign MoU on Refurbishing Personnel Administration and Governance Reforms

08 July' 21

The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Modi gave its approval to the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances, Government of India and the Public Service Commission, the Republic of The Gambia on Refurbishing the Personnel Administration and Governance Reforms.

The signed MoU will provide a legal framework to the cooperation between two countries in refurbishing personnel administration and governance reforms in order to improve the existing system of governance by sharing, learning, and exchanging the administrative experiences in the area of Personnel Administration and Governance Reforms. It will also instill a greater sense of accountability, responsiveness, and transparency. The Indian Government has taken up a goal of a quantum shift in the delivery of Government Services across the country. It also aims to further its efforts at the revamping of the personnel administration and governance reforms which is also relevant in the context of goals of 'Minimum Government with Maximum Governance'.

The agreement will help in understanding the personnel administration of both the countries and enable in improving the governance system through adapting, replicating, and innovating some of the best practices and processes. Each country will also be responsible for its expenditure in connection with the implementation of this MoU. The actual amount of the expenditure will also depend on the activities that may be undertaken under the MoU.

All BRICS countries agree to Plan proposed by India

09 July' 21

All BRICS countries have agreed to the STI-led BRICS Innovation Cooperation Action Plan (2021-24) proposed by India during the 12th meeting

Alex Roetter, former head of engineering of Twitter, has joined as an advisor to Games24x7, one of India's largest online gaming companies.

of the BRICS S&T Steering Committee, the Department of Science and Technology said. India had proposed the plan to facilitate sharing of experiences of each other's innovation ecosystem and networking of innovators and entrepreneurs.

The details of the action plan will be worked out by the BRICS Science, Technology Innovation Entrepreneurship Partnership working group, it said.

The DST hosted the 12th meeting of the BRICS S&T Steering Committee on July 8. Scientific ministries and agencies of all BRICS countries participated in it.

BRICS officials discussed in detail about the thematic areas for this year's call for proposals at the meeting and unanimously agreed for collaboration in 10 thematic areas.

These are Transient Astronomical Events and Deep Survey Science, Antimicrobial Resistance Technologies for Diagnosis and Treatment, Simulation and Big Data Analytics for Advanced Precision Medicine and Public Healthcare, HPC and Big Data for Sustainable Development: Solving Large Scale Ecological, Climate and Pollution Problems, Innovation and Entrepreneurship on Photonic, Nanophotonics, and Metamaterials for Addressing Bio-medicine, Agriculture, Food Industry and Energy Harvesting Issues, Materials Science and Nanotechnology for Addressing Environmental, Climate Change, Agricultural, Food, and Energy Issues, Renewable Energy including Smart Grid Integration, Ocean and Polar Science and Technology Water Treatment Technology Research in Aeronautics and Aerospace.

These areas have been recommended by different thematic working groups.

All countries also agreed to thematic areas proposed by India for the sixth edition of the BRICS Young Scientist Conclave which will be held in Bengaluru during September 13-16. The three themes to be discussed at the conclave include healthcare, energy solutions and cyber-physical system and their applications.

India's new proposal regarding inviting BRICS partnership in India's Technology Summit, which got positive support from all countries, was suggested to be sent through the BRICS Sherpa office for suggestions from all stakeholders, it added.

India and Nepal sign MoU for execution of Hydro Electric Project in Nepal 12 July' 21

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed for execution of 679 Mega Watt Lower Arun Hydro Electric Project in Nepal between

Sutlej Jal Vidyut Nigam (SJVN) under Ministry of Power and Investment Board of Nepal (IBN) in Kathmandu Nepal. With the active support of the Ministry of Power, SJVN won the project through International Competitive Bidding, defeating other companies of the neighbouring countries.



Minister of Power R. K. Singh called this a welcome achievement saying that Nepal chose this Central Public Sector Unit based on its performance in Arun-3 HEP. During the visit of Mr Singh to Nepal in September 2019, he convinced the Prime Minister of Nepal to allot SJVN this project based on the capabilities and proven track record.

The Ministry of Power in a statement stated that the Lower Arun Hydro Electric Project is located in Sankhuwasabha and Bhojpur Districts of Nepal. The project will not have any reservoir or dam and will be a tail race development of 900 MW Arun-3 HEP. The project will have four Francis type turbines. On completion, the Project will generate 2,970 million units of electricity per annum. It is scheduled to be completed in four years after commencement of construction activities and has been allocated to SJVN for 25 years on Build Own-Operate-Transfer basis. This is the second project awarded to SJVN in Nepal, the first one being the 900 MW Arun-3 Hydro Electric Project in Sankhuwasabha District.

The Foundation Stone of the Arun-3 project was jointly laid by Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi and Prime Minister of Nepal K. P. Sharma Oli at Kathmandu on 11th of May 2018. Arun-3 HEP is the largest project in Nepal and also the largest investment of around Rs 7000 crore by India in Nepal. The commissioning of this project will go a long way in fostering friendship between the two neighbours and also lead to accelerated development and economic revival of Nepal.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and Bhutanese counterpart Lyonpo Namgay Tshering jointly launch BHIM-UPI in Bhutan 15 July' 21

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and Finance Minister of Bhutan Lyonpo Namgay Tshering jointly launched BHIM-UPI in Bhutan. While speaking on the occasion, Ms Sitharaman stated that the services have started in Bhutan under India's neighbourhood first policy

Zimbabwe has become the first country to exempt all member states of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) from visa requirements.

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and India is proud of this achievement. The Finance Minister stated that BHIM-UPI is one of the brightest spot and an achievement for digital transactions in India during the



time of COVID-19 pandemic. More than 100 million UPI QRs have been created in last five years and BHIM-UPI in 2020-21 has processed 22 billion transactions worth 41 lakh crore rupees.

Finance Minister of Bhutan Lyonpo Namgay Tshering thanked and appreciated the Government of India for the launch of BHIM-UPI services in Bhutan. He added that the bond between the two countries has become stronger each passing day. This launch fulfils the commitment made by the two countries during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's state visit to Bhutan in 2019. Following that visit, India and Bhutan have already enabled inter-operability in acceptance of Rupay cards in each other's countries.

With launch of BHIM-UPI in Bhutan, the payment infrastructures of the two countries are seamlessly connected. It will benefit a large number of tourists and businessmen from India who travel to Bhutan each year. This will enhance the ease of living and ease of travelling through cashless transactions at the touch of a button.

US Senate passes legislation to ban import of products from China's Xinjiang region 18 July '21

The US Senate passed a legislation to ban the import of products from China's Xinjiang region. Passed by unanimous consent, the Uyghur Forced Labour Prevention Act would shift the burden of proof to importers. The bill must also be passed by the House of Representatives before it can be sent to the White House for President Joe Biden to sign into law.

Republican Senator Marco Rubio, who introduced the legislation with Democrat Jeff Merkley, called on the House to act quickly. He stated that US will not turn a blind eye to the Chinese Communist Party's ongoing crimes against humanity and will not allow corporations a free pass to profit from those horrific abuses. He added that no American corporation should profit from these abuses and no American consumers should be inadvertently purchasing products from slave labour.

Democratic and Republican aides stated that, they expected the measure would get strong support in the house, noting

the house approved a similar measure nearly unanimously last year.

The bill would go beyond steps already taken to secure U.S. supply chains in the face of allegations of rights abuses in China, including existing bans on Xinjiang tomatoes, cotton and some solar products. The Biden administration has increased sanctions, and issued an advisory warning businesses they could be in violation of U.S. law if operations are linked even indirectly to surveillance networks in Xinjiang. Rights groups, researchers, former residents and some Western lawmakers and officials say Xinjiang authorities have facilitated forced labor by detaining around a million Uyghurs and other primarily Muslim minorities since 2016.

Ethiopia hits second-year target for filling Nile mega-dam 20 July '21

The Ethiopian government says it has met its second-year target for filling a dam on the River Nile and says it plans to start electricity production within months. The controversial multi-billion dollar dam has stoked tension with both Egypt and Sudan.

The authorities in Cairo are extremely concerned that the country's water supply will be affected by the project. Ethiopia's minister of water stated that there was now enough water in the dam reservoir to operate two turbines. The three countries have held numerous rounds of negotiations but have failed to resolve the dispute. Ethiopia has attained its second-year target for filling a mega-dam on the Blue Nile River that has stoked tensions with downstream countries Egypt and Sudan. The first filling already was done last year. The second one is already done now said an official, adding there is now enough water stored to begin producing energy.

The Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam -- GERD -- has been a source of dispute ever since Ethiopia broke ground on the project in 2011. Egypt and Sudan view the dam as a threat because of their dependence on Nile waters, while Ethiopia deems it essential for its electrification and development. Talks held under the auspices of the African Union have failed to yield a three-way agreement on the dam's filling and operations, and Cairo and Khartoum have demanded Addis Ababa cease filling the massive reservoir until such a deal is reached.

But Ethiopian officials have argued that filling is a natural part of the dam's construction process and cannot be stopped. The UN Security Council met earlier this month to discuss the project, although Ethiopia later slammed the session as an "unhelpful" distraction from the AU-led process.

Reservoir-filling began last year, with Ethiopia announcing in July 2020 it had hit its target of 4.9 billion cubic metres.

Two dams collapse in China's Inner Mongolia region after torrential rain

22 July' 21

In China, two dams have collapsed in Hulun Buir, in north western region of Inner Mongolia after heavy rainfall. The dams, collapsed the water ministry stated that, highlighting the safety risks posed by ageing infrastructure during the summer flood season. They had formed reservoirs with a combined water storage capacity of 46 million cubic metres, the Ministry of Water Resources stated that. People living downstream were evacuated, with no casualties reported, it stated that. According to Hulunbuir's city government, 16,660 people were affected, 21,708 hectares of farmlands flooded, and 22 bridges destroyed. Other transport infrastructure had also been destroyed.

Footage posted on Chinese social media showed one of the dams being completely swept away by the water, inundating nearby fields. China has more than 98,000 reservoirs used to regulate floods, generate power and facilitate shipping. More than 80% of them are four decades old or older, and some pose a safety risk, the government has acknowledged. As per media reports, Wei Shanzhong, deputy water resources minister, told a briefing this year that due to lack of financial resources, nearly a third of the total number have not had mandatory safety appraisals completed. Extreme weather has hit several parts of the world in recent weeks with flooding in Europe and heat waves in North America, adding to worries about climate change.

Russia to conduct military drills near Afghan border

23 July' 21

Russia has stated that it will conduct military drills next month with Tajikistan and Uzbekistan near the border with Afghanistan where the Taliban have launched offensive against Afghan government troops. Russian Defence Ministry stated that the joint drills will take place August 5-10 at the Kharbmaidon training ground in Tajikistan near the Afghan border.



Alexander Lapin, commander of the Central Military District, stated that the troops will run drills to defeat illegal armed units that invaded the territory of an allied country. Defence Ministry stated that, troops from a Russian military base in Tajikistan and the Central Military District will take part in the games.

Russian tanks deployed near the Afghan-Tajik border ahead of military exercises next month and Moscow announced more drills in neighbouring Uzbekistan as regional tensions over the Taliban's territorial gains in Afghanistan remained high. Taliban fighters have made major advances as US forces pull out after 20 years of war, a security headache for Moscow which fears refugees may be pushed into its Central Asian backyard and its southern defensive flank destabilised.

Tank crews from Russia's military base in Tajikistan, its largest on foreign soil, completed a 200 km (124-mile) journey to a military range near the Afghan border, Russia's Central Military District statement. During the deployment, the T-72 tank crews practised protecting convoys and repelling enemy fire.

Oregon Bootleg Fire

24 July' 21

In the US state of Oregon, the nation's largest active wildfire has burned through more than 3 lakh acres, prompting thousands of evacuations. Over 2,000 firefighters are tackling the so-called Bootleg Fire - one of the largest blazes in Oregon's history. Since starting on 6 July, it has already scorched an area larger than the city of Los Angeles. It is one of more than 80 major fires raging across 13 US states, spurred by heat waves and high winds. The Bootleg Fire, named after the nearby Bootleg Spring, has forced at least 2,000 residents from mostly rural areas to abandon their homes. At least 160 homes and buildings have been destroyed so far. Authorities stated that a quarter of the fire's perimeter had been contained.

Wildfires have already torn through more than 1.2m acres of the country this year, mainly in western states, according to the National Interagency Fire Center. More than 4,000 blazes have been recorded by the organisation so far in 2021, which is almost double last year's total.

The Bootleg Fire is now the third-largest fire in Oregon state history as firefighters try to limit its spread amid extremely dry conditions. The blaze had grown to nearly 400,000 acres in southern Oregon and remained just 38% contained. While the wildfire is affecting mostly rural areas, it has climbed to the top three fires to engulf the state, according to records dating back to 1900. The Long Draw Fire in 2012 scorched 557,028 acres, while the Biscuit Fire in 2002 burned 500,000 acres.

An extremely bright, hydrogen deficient, fast evolving supernova that shines with the energy borrowed from an exotic type of neutron star with an ultra-powerful magnetic field has been spotted by Indian researchers.

Burning Topics of the Month

Google hit with EUR 500 million fine by France's Competition Authority.

Reserve Bank introduces RBI Retail Direct facility.

KVIC secures trademark registrations in Bhutan, UAE, and Mexico.

& Many More...

Tourism Ministry signs MoU with Yatra.Com to strengthen Hospitality, Tourism Industry 05 July '21

The Ministry of Tourism has signed a Memorandum of Understanding, MoU with Yatra.Com to strengthen the Hospitality and Tourism Industry. The primary objective of this MoU is to provide extensive visibility to accommodation units, which have self-certified themselves on System for Assessment, Awareness and Training for the Hospitality Industry- SAATHI on the OTA platform.

The MoU also outlines both parties to encourage Units to register on NIDHI and thereby on SAATHI and encourage local tourism Industry with appropriate safeguards for curbing spread of COVID-19. The Tourism Ministry in a statement stated that the idea is also to gather more information on accommodation units in order to gain actionable insights and design evidence based and targeted policy measures and to promote safe, honourable and sustainable tourism.

The Ministry of Tourism and Yatra will endeavour to take necessary steps to encourage and promote strategic and technical co-operation in the Indian hospitality and tourism sector for overall benefit in the identified areas through the MoU. It is expected that in the future more OTAs will come forward for signing such MOUs in order to strengthen the Hospitality and Tourism Industry of India.

Yatra.com is an Indian online travel agency and travel search engine. It is based in Gurugram, Haryana. It was founded by Dhruv Shringi, Manish Amin and Sabina Chopra in August 2006. In April 2012 it became the second-largest online travel service in India, with a 30 percent share of the ₹370 billion market for online travel-related transactions. In January 2016, Yatra.com appointed Vikrant Mudaliar as a chief marketing officer. He previously served as chief sales and marketing officer at Lenskart.com. Yatra.com

publicly listed on the NASDAQ under the ticker symbol YTRA in December 2016.

Founded: 1 August 2006

CEO: Dhruv Shringi

Headquarters: Gurugram

1st commercial shipment of Kashmir valley's Mishri variety of cherries exported to Dubai 06 July '21

In a step towards boosting horticultural crops exports, a first commercial shipment of Mishri variety of luscious cherries from Kashmir valley has been exported



to Dubai from Srinagar. APEDA assisted the shipment of cherries to Dubai by MS Desai Agri-Food Private Limited, a venture company of MS Innothera, Dubai. Prior to this shipment, a sample consignment was sent in the middle of June 2021 from Srinagar to Dubai through air which were transhipped from Mumbai. Following an encouraging response from the consumers in Dubai, the first commercial shipment of Mishri variety of cherries were exported to Dubai. Mishri variety of Cherries are not only taste delicious but also contain vitamins, minerals and plant compound with health benefits.

The union territory of Jammu and Kashmir produces more than 95% of the total country's production of commercial varieties of cherries in the country. It produces four varieties of cherry — Double, Makhmali, Mishri and Italy. Prior to the shipment, the cherries were harvested, cleaned and packed by APEDA registered exporter while the technical inputs were provided by the Sher-e-Kashmir

University of Agricultural Science and Technology of Kashmir.

APEDA-National Referral Laboratory at National Research Centre for Grapes, Pune provided support for ensuring food safety and quality in the shipment, which would help create brand for cherries especially in the Middle East countries. The commencement of commercial shipment of cherries would provide huge opportunities for exports of several temperate fruits like plums, pears, apricot and apples from Kashmir to especially to middle east countries in the forthcoming seasons.

APEDA has been conducting interactions with farmers, Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), government officials and other stakeholders for boosting exports potential of agricultural produce from Kashmir such as apples, almonds, walnuts, saffron, rice, fresh fruits and vegetables and certified organic products. Several rounds of virtual awareness creation programme involving the local producers, suppliers, FPOs and exporters from Kashmir are being conducted for ensuring export of temperate fruits from the region.

For ensuring exports of quality agricultural produce which adhere to global standards, APEDA has also initiated awareness programme on National Programme on Organic Production and ISO-17065 requirements for the officials of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. The purpose of such programme was to acquaint officials of the UTs with the third-party certification system for organic products as well as international trade of organic products.

KVIC secures trademark registrations in Bhutan, UAE, and Mexico 10 July '21

Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has recently secured trademark registrations in three countries namely Bhutan, UAE and Mexico which is a big stride towards protecting the identity of brand Khadi globally. Apart from these countries, KVIC's trademark applications are pending in 40 countries across the world that include the USA, Qatar, Sri Lanka, Japan, Italy, Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, Brazil and others. So far KVIC was having Trademark registrations for the word mark KHADI in 6 countries namely Germany, UK, Australia, Russia, China and EU where trademark registrations were granted in certain classes.

However, with recent trademark registrations in Bhutan, UAE and Mexico, the number of such countries has gone up to nine. In these countries, KVIC has got registrations in various classes that pertains to Khadi fabric, Khadi readymade garments and village industry products like

Khadi soaps, Khadi cosmetics, and Khadi incense sticks among others.

KVIC Chairman Vinai Kumar Saxena stated that these trademark registrations will prevent any misuse of the brand name Khadi globally. He stated that in recent years, Khadi's popularity has seen a massive growth in India and abroad due to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's appeal to adopt Khadi. It has, therefore, become very important for KVIC to protect the identity of Khadi and safeguard the interest of consumers and lakhs of Khadi artisans who are manufacturing genuine Khadi products.

The Khadi and Village Industries Commission is a statutory body formed in April 1957 by the Government of India, under the Act of Parliament, 'Khadi and Village Industries Commission Act of 1956'.

Founded: 1956

APEDA inks MoU with NAFED for strengthening export linkage of Farmer Cooperatives and Farmer Producer Organizations 12 July '21

Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority, APEDA signed an MoU with National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd, NAFED for strengthening export linkage of farmer cooperatives and Farmer Producer Organisation, FPOs.

The key areas of cooperation include facilitating APEDA registered exporters getting assistance under all the government schemes implemented through NAFED. The MoU also envisages ensuring sustainability and growth of exports by Cooperatives by addressing issues such as technology, skill, quality products and market access.

APEDA would facilitate exports by the Cooperatives, FPOs, partners and associates identified and promoted by NAFED. APEDA and NAFED will also facilitate participation of Farmers' Cooperatives in global trade including B2B and B2C fairs to be organized in India and abroad.

Agriculture and processed food production export Development Authority is an apex body that promotes export trade of agricultural products in India. Set-up by the ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India, APEDA was formed under the act passed by parliament in December 1985.

Founded: 13 February 1986

Headquarters: New Delhi

Chairman: Dr. M. Angamuthu

In heeding to a long standing request of Georgia, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar handed over to the country the holy relics of 17th century Georgian Queen St. Ketevan nearly 16 years after they were found in Goa.

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National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India. National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. was established on the auspicious day of Gandhi Jayanti on 2nd October 1958.

Founded: 2 October 1958

Headquarters location: New Delhi

Chairman: Dr. Bijender Singh

Reserve Bank introduces RBI Retail Direct facility 13 July' 21

Reserve Bank of India introduced the RBI Retail Direct facility. The facility is a one-stop solution to facilitate investment in Government Securities, G-Sec by individual investors. The RBI stated that, under this facility, retail investors will have the facility to open and maintain the Retail Direct Gilt, RDG Account with RBI.

The apex bank stated that, as part of continuing efforts to increase retail participation in government securities, the RBI Retail Direct facility was announced earlier this year for improving ease of access by retail investors through online access to the government securities market along with the facility to open their gilt securities account 'Retail Direct' with the RBI. The RDG account can be opened through an online portal provided for the purpose of the scheme.

Saving Account holders in India with PAN, Valid KYC documents, email ID and Registered Mobile number are eligible to open this account. Non-Resident retail investors eligible to invest in Government Securities under Foreign Exchange Management Act are eligible under the scheme. The RDG account can be opened singly or jointly with another retail investor who meets the eligibility criteria. The RBI has stated that, date of commencement of the scheme will be announced later.

In pursuance of this announcement, the 'RBI Retail Direct' scheme, which is a one-stop solution to facilitate investment in Government Securities by individual investors is being issued. The highlights of the 'RBI Retail Direct' scheme are:

- i. Retail investors (individuals) will have the facility to open and maintain the 'Retail Direct Gilt Account' (RDG Account) with RBI.
- ii. RDG Account can be opened through an 'Online portal' provided for the purpose of the scheme.
- iii. The 'Online portal' will also give the registered users the following facilities:

Access to primary issuance of Government securities
Access to NDS-OM.

RBI imposes restrictions on Mastercard from adding new customers from July 22 14 July' 21

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposed restrictions on MasterCard Asia Pacific Pte Ltd from on boarding new domestic customers (debit, credit or prepaid) onto its card network from July 22, citing non-compliance of storage of data in India.

The RBI order will not impact existing customers of MasterCard, it said. The central bank stated MasterCard should advise all card issuing banks and non-banks to conform to these directions. "The supervisory action has been taken in exercise of powers vested in RBI under Section 17 of the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007 (PSS Act)," the RBI said.

As per the RBI circular on Storage of Payment System Data dated April 6, 2018, all system providers were directed to ensure that within a period of six months the entire data relating to payment systems operated by them is stored in a system only in India. However, foreign card networks were reluctant to store data in India citing various issues.

In April this year, the RBI had imposed restrictions on American Express Banking Corp and Diners Club International Ltd from on-boarding domestic customers from May 1, 2021, citing non-compliance. Earlier, the RBI had put curbs on HDFC Bank on boarding new card customers in the wake of tech glitches.

As per Kazim Rizvi, founding director, The Dialogue, the RBI's decision to restrict entities from on boarding customers is a crucial development to ensure that all payment system operators store or localise their end-to-end transaction data only in India.

Google hit with EUR 500 million fine by France's Competition Authority 15 July' 21

Google has been hit with a 500 million euros fine by France's Competition Authority for failing to negotiate in good faith with news organisations over the use of their content. The authority accused Google of not taking an order to do so seriously. The fine is the latest skirmish in a global copyright battle between tech firms and news organisations.

Last year, the French Competition Authority ordered that Google must negotiate deals with news organisations to

All BRICS countries have agreed to the STI led BRICS Innovation Cooperation Action Plan (2021-24) proposed by India during the 12th Meeting of BRICS Science and Technology Steering Committee.

show extracts of articles in search results, news and other services.

Google was fined because, in the authority's view, it failed to do this.

In 2019, France became the first EU country to transpose a new Digital Copyright Directive into law. The law governed so-called neighbouring rights which are designed to compensate publishers and news agencies for the use of their material.

As a result, Google decided it would not show content from EU publishers in France, on services like search and news, unless publishers agreed to let them do so free of charge.

News organisations felt this was an abuse of Google's market power and two organisations representing press publishers and Agence France-Presse (AFP) complained to the competition authority.

The new ruling means that within the next two months Google must come up with proposals explaining how it will recompense companies for the use of their news.

Should this fail to happen the company could face additional fines of EUR 900,000 per day.

Sales of listed private manufacturing companies surge 31% in Q4 FY 2020-21: RBI 19 July' 21

Sales of listed private manufacturing companies' surged 31 per cent year-on-year in the fourth quarter of the last fiscal on favourable base as well price effect, according to RBI data released. Sales growth of information technology (IT) sector companies accelerated to 6.4 per cent while non-IT services companies recorded a marginal growth after declining in the previous three quarters.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) released data on the performance of the private corporate sector during the fourth quarter of 2020-21 drawn from abridged quarterly financial results of 2,608 listed non-government non-financial companies. Due to the coronavirus pandemic, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) had extended the deadline for submission of financial results for the fourth quarter (January-March period) of 2020-21 by listed companies to June 30.

"Sales of 1,633 manufacturing companies surged by 31.0 per cent (Y-o-Y) in Q4:2020-21 as compared with 7.4 per cent growth in the previous quarter. The rise in sales was broad based and was supported by favourable base effect as well as price effect," RBI said.

Further, it stated that manufacturing companies increased their expenditure on raw materials in tandem with the rise

in sales during the quarter under review.

Also, staff cost growth (Y-o-Y) increased for manufacturing companies. On the other hand, staff cost growth was steady for IT companies, whereas it remained in contraction zone for non-IT services.

"Operating profits of manufacturing companies accelerated (Y-o-Y) in Q4:2020-21 on the back of higher rise in sales compared to that in expenditure; operating profits of services sector companies (both IT and non-IT) also expanded," RBI said.

With rise in profits and persistent reduction in interest outgo, Interest Coverage Ratio (ICR) of manufacturing companies improved to 7.3 in the fourth quarter of 2020-21 from 6.6 in the previous quarter. ICR is a measure of debt servicing capacity of a company. The minimum value for a viable ICR is 1. The operating profit margin remained stable across sectors during the fourth quarter of the last financial year.

India emerges as 5th largest foreign exchange reserves holder in World 22 July' 21

With India's forex reserves at \$608.99 billion as on June 25, 2021 stood, India has emerged as the fifth largest foreign exchange reserves holder in the world after China, Japan, Switzerland and Russia. This was stated by Minister of State for Finance Shri Pankaj Chaudhary in a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha.

The Minister stated that India's foreign exchange reserves position is comfortable in terms of import cover of more than 18 months and provides cushion against unforeseen external shocks. Government and RBI are closely monitoring the emerging external position calibrating policies or regulations to support robust macroeconomic growth.

Giving more details, the Minister stated that RBI takes regular steps for diversification of forex reserves by scaling up operations in forex swap and repo markets, acquisition of gold and exploring new markets/products, while adhering to safety and liquidity standards. Variation in India's forex reserves is primarily the outcome of RBI's intervention in the foreign exchange market to smoothen exchange rate volatility, valuation changes due to movement of US dollar against other international currencies in the reserve basket, movement in gold prices, interest earnings from deployment of foreign currency assets and inflow of aid receipts.

The Minister further stated that a current account deficit, accompanied by increasing foreign exchange

The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) in association with Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), NewSpace India Limited (NSIL) and Antrix Corporation Ltd will be organising an International Space Conference and exhibition from September 13 to October 4, 2021.

NEWS BITES | ECONOMY

reserves, reflects a surplus on the balance of payments i.e., the magnitude of the net capital inflows exceeds the volume of the current account deficit. In 2020-21, India's balance of payments recorded surplus in both current account and capital account which contributed to the increase in foreign exchange reserves during the year.

Besides exports and imports of goods and services, the overall stability of the external sector depends on other components of balance of payments including remittances (transfers), income in the current account, the size of net capital flows and external debt. India is comfortable in most of these external sector vulnerability indicators, the Minister said.

RBI planning to launch Central Bank Digital Currency in near future

24 July '21

India's central bank is considering launching a digital currency, according to a top executive, giving a clear indication of its intentions for the first time after previously stating that it was studying the idea. T Rabi Sankar, the deputy governor of Reserve Bank of India, stated at a conference that the central bank is considering introducing the nation's digital currency in a "phased" manner while legal changes are made to the South Asian nation's foreign-exchange rules and IT laws. The digital currency, which will be backed by sovereign, will lower the economy's reliance on cash, enable cheaper and smoother international settlements, and protect people from the volatility of privacy cryptocurrency, he said.

In 2018, an Indian government panel recommended banning all private cryptocurrency and proposed up to 10 years of jail time for offenders. The panel also suggested the government to explore a digital version of the fiat currency and ways to implement it. At the time, RBI stated the move was necessary to curb "ring-fencing" of the country's financial system. It had also argued that bitcoin and other cryptocurrency cannot be treated as currencies as they are not made of metal or exist in physical form, nor were they stamped by the government.

The 2018 notice from the central bank sent a panic to several local startups and companies offering services to trade in cryptocurrency. Nearly all of them have either

since closed shop, or pivoted to serve other markets. This proposal was challenged by several exchanges and traders, who filed a lawsuit in the Supreme Court. The nation's apex court ruled in their favour last year. This ruling was seen as "historic" but it has yet to impact the earlier circular on the policy level. In the meantime, the country has hinted that it plans to introduce a law to ban private cryptocurrency.

In the agenda published on the lower house website earlier this year, a legislation sought to "prohibit all private cryptocurrency in India," but allow "for certain exceptions to promote the underlying technology [blockchain] of cryptocurrency and its uses."

CII enters into agreement with SII to speed up vaccination program

30 July '21

Confederation of Indian Industry, CII, has entered into an agreement with Serum Institute of India (SII) to speed up the vaccination program in partnership with industry including health care providers. The vaccination drive will target communities in country's small towns and rural areas to increase the coverage. CII and SII partnership will ensure to connect hospitals and corporates to fast track vaccination which is necessary for post pandemic growth of the country. According to SII CEO Adar Poonawalla, partnering with industry will help in reaching out to the communities in the hinterlands within a short period of time.

The Confederation of Indian Industry is a non-governmental trade association and advocacy group based in New Delhi, India founded in 1895. CII engages business, political, academic, and other leaders of society to shape global, regional, and industry agendas. It is a membership-based organisation. CII has direct membership of over 9000 organisations and an indirect membership of over 3,00,000, from around 265 national and regional sectoral associations.

President: T. V. Narendran

Founded: 1895

Serum Institute of India is an Indian biotechnology and biopharmaceuticals company. It is the world's largest manufacturer of vaccines located in the city of Pune, India and was founded by Cyrus Poonawalla in 1966. The company is a subsidiary of the holding company Poonawalla Investment and Industries.

CEO: Adar Poonawalla

Founder: Cyrus S. Poonawalla

Founded: 1966

Federal Bank shareholders have approved the resolution to re appoint Shyam Srinivasan as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer for a period of three years.

Burning Topics of the Month

Indian golfers Anirban Lahiri, Udayan Mane to represent country at Tokyo Olympics.

Indian Grandmasters register wins in FIDE chess World Cup matches.

ICC bans former performance analyst with Sri Lanka Cricket Sanath Jayasundara for 7 years.

& Many More...

Abhimanyu Mishra becomes youngest Grandmaster in Chess

01 July' 21

Indian-American prodigy Abhimanyu Mishra became the youngest ever chess Grandmaster after he scored his third GM norm in Budapest, Hungary, according to a report. The 12-year-old from New Jersey in United States became a GM from International Master, having crossed the required 2500 Elo rating barrier, chess.com website said.



Mishra broke GM Sergey Karjakin's record that has stood for 19 years. On August 12, 2002, Karjakin, a world championship challenger in 2016, secured the Grandmaster title at the age of 12 years and seven months.

Mishra, born on February 5, 2009, took 12 years, four months, and 25 days to obtain the highest title in chess, the website said. Mishra spent several months in Budapest, playing back-to-back tournaments, chasing the title and the record.

Abhimanyu was just two-and-a-half-years old when his father Hemant, who works in data management, introduced him to chess. By five, he was beating his father and competing in local tournaments, where he started defeating players as old as his father. Another coach Arun Prasad remembers another incident. "He was just nine when he was pitted against a veteran 70-year-old opponent. He beat him in no time. I thought I was watching history in the making. I soon realised he's not normal – in a great way. He remembers everything he sees. He remembers moves from games in 2014 and 2015. His mind absorbs everything."

Abhimanyu's fame began to spread and he started travelling when he was barely seven, the age at which he became the youngest national champion before becoming the youngest National Master in the US at the age of nine.

ICC bans former performance analyst with Sri Lanka Cricket Sanath Jayasundara for 7 years

06 July' 21

Former Sri Lanka performance analyst Sanath Jayasundara was handed a seven-year ban for breaching the ICC Anti-Corruption Code.



Sanath Jayasundara, a former performance analyst at Sri Lanka Cricket, has been banned from all cricket for seven years after the ICC Anti-Corruption Tribunal found him guilty of breaching the ICC Anti-Corruption Code. The ban is backdated to 11 May 2019, when he was provisionally suspended, stated the International Cricket Council (ICC) in a statement.

The Tribunal found Jayasundara guilty on two counts.

Article 2.1.3 – offering a bribe or other Reward to the Sri Lankan Sports Minister to contrive in any way or otherwise influence improperly the result, progress, conduct or any other aspect of an International Match.

Article 2.4.7 – obstructing or delaying an ACU investigation into possible corrupt conduct under the ICC Anti-Corruption Code," the statement added.

Alex Marshall, ICC General Manager – Integrity Unit, stated Jayasundara's actions were disappointing.

Jayasundara's attempt to bribe a Minister is a grave transgression while the efforts to cover up his tracks and the lack of remorse are hugely disappointing.

NEWS BITES | SPORTS

"We won't tolerate corrupt conduct in our sport and my team will be relentless in preventing such behaviour. This ban should serve as a deterrent for anyone who may be tempted along the wrong path," he said. Jayasundara was charged by the ICC in May 2019 when he was provisionally suspended.

Novak Djokovic wins his sixth Wimbledon Tennis title 12 July '21

World Number One

Novak Djokovic has clinched his sixth Wimbledon Tennis title to equal record of 20th Grand Slam trophy after beating seventh-seed Matteo Berrettini of Italy.



The 34-year-old Serbian won the Men's single final by 6-7, 6-4, 6-4, 6-3 in three hours and 24 minutes last night. Djokovic is now level with Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal in the list of most singles Grand Slam titles in men's history. Having already won the Australian Open and French Open this year, top seed Djokovic needs the Olympic gold medal and US Open title to become the first man to ever win a Golden Slam. Mixed Doubles title has been lifted by Neal Skupski of Britain and Desirae Krawczyk of the US.

The British-American pair defeated British duo of Joe Salisbury and Harriet Dart in the summit clash 6-2, 7-6.

Australian top seed Ashleigh Barty won the Women's singles title after defeating eighth seed Karolina Pliskova of Czech Republic. Elise Mertens of Belgium and Hsieh Su-wei of Taiwan have clinched Women's Doubles title. Croatian pair and first-seed Nikola Mektić and Mate Pavić have won the Men's Doubles final. The Championships, Wimbledon, commonly known simply as Wimbledon or The Championships, is the oldest tennis tournament in the world and is widely regarded as the most prestigious. Wikipedia

Founded: 1877

Prize money: £35,000,000 (2021)

Location: London; England, United Kingdom

Italy crowned Euro Cup 2020 champions after shootout win over England 15 July '21

Italy won the European Championship for the first time since 1968 as Gianluigi Donnarumma saved two England penalties en route to a 3-2 shootout win after

the teams had fought out a 1-1 extra-time draw at a raucous Wembley. The giant keeper saved from Jadon Sancho and Bukayo Saka after Marcus Rashford hit a post, as Federico Bernardeschi, Leonardo Bonucci and Domenico Berardi all scored for the Italians.



Luke Shaw had given England a dream start with a superb goal after two minutes but Italy, who offered almost nothing in response in the first half, gradually took command as the hosts sat back and levelled through Bonucci after 67 minutes. It was the first final to be decided on penalties since Czechoslovakia beat West Germany in 1976 and will be wildly celebrated in Italy after they lost in the final in 2000 and 2012.

They made most of the running after halftime and in extra time and England can have few complaints after their early promise faded away. It was nevertheless heart-breaking for most of the 67,000 Wembley crowd as England came up short in their first major final since they won the World Cup 55 years ago.

It had all started so well when Harry Kane spread the ball wide to Kieran Trippier and he instantly repaid coach Gareth Southgate's faith in recalling him by sending over a curling deep cross that the fast-arriving Shaw met on the half volley to hammer inside the post for his first international goal.

England had taken an early lead in their 2018 World Cup semi-final against Croatia before eventually being outplayed and beaten in extra time, but they did not look like giving up the initiative on home soil, playing on the front foot, though failing to threaten Donnarumma.

Indian Grandmasters register wins in FIDE chess World Cup matches 18 July '21

Indian Grandmasters R Praggnanandhaa and Adhiban Baskaran registered wins in the first game of the two-game mini-match in the second round of the FIDE chess World Cup. Among other Indians, P Harikrishna,



Vidit Santosh Gujrati and Aravindh Chithambaram were held to draws in the first game of the second round.

In the women's event, Padmini Rout and Sarasadat Khadomalsharieh shared honours in the first game of the second-round match, while D Harika scored a win over Medina Warda Aulia of Indonesia in 48 moves. India's Bhakti Kulkarni and Natalija Pogonina were involved in a draw. Top-seed and world champion Magnus Carlsen got his campaign off to a smooth start with a win against Sasa Martinovic.

FIDE chess World Cup

The Chess World Cup 2021 is a 206-player single-elimination chess tournament that is taking place in Sochi, Russia, beginning 12 July and ending 6 August 2021. It is the 9th edition of the Chess World Cup.

The top two finishers in the tournament, aside from World Champion Magnus Carlsen, will qualify for the Candidates Tournament 2022. The rest of the final eight qualify for the FIDE Grand Prix 2022, unless they are World Champion or qualify for the Candidates via another path.

In parallel with this open tournament, an inaugural women-only version is being held.

Indian golfers Anirban Lahiri, Udayan Mane to represent country at Tokyo Olympics 20 July '21

The 34-year-old Anirban Lahiri is ranked 360 in the world and returns for his second straight Olympics. In 2016 Rio, he finished a forgettable 56 out of 59 finishers. Therefore, he is obviously keen to do far better this time. His overall show this season on the PGA Tour has not been outstanding because of him contracting Covid-19 that kept him out of action until the first week of May.

Before making the list of 60 qualifiers for Tokyo, Lahiri was fully focussed on retaining his PGA Tour 'card'. Though it is still on his mind, Lahiri declared that he would do everything to bring a medal from the Olympics.

Considering that Lahiri has not played on the Japanese Tour and knows very little about the course, it is not fair to expect him to pull off a surprise. Being 59th out of the 60 qualifiers, Lahiri has no burden of expectations.

The 30-year-old Udayan Mane's runner-up performance in the Bengal Open and third-place finish in the TATA Steel



PGTI Players' Championship at Panchkula helped him to garner ample Official World Golf Ranking points to gain an Olympic qualification. Udayan is placed last --- one ahead of teammate Anirban Lahiri in the list of 60 qualifiers for Tokyo.

Udayan finally clinched his Olympic place after Argentina's Emiliano Grillo withdrew from the Games on 24 June, making him the third Indian to qualify. He is currently ranked 372 in the world. Since Udayan is yet to become a regular on overseas Tours, he will be hoping to move up a few spots with a good performance at the Olympics.

Golf events will be played for the fourth time at the Tokyo Olympics. Before this, Golf has been included in the Summer Games only three times in the 1900, 1904 and 2016 Rio.

Formula One: Hamilton roars back to win British GP after Verstappen crash 21 July '21

Lewis Hamilton roared back from a first-lap incident that sent championship leader Max Verstappen to the hospital and overcame a 10-second penalty to win the British Grand Prix and reignite his title defense. The seven-time champion won at his home track to snap a run of five races without a victory. He had dropped from second to fifth after he served his penalty, picked up two spots when he returned to the track, and then Mercedes teammate Valtteri Bottas was ordered to move out of Hamilton's way.



It gave him 11 laps to chase down leader Charles Leclerc in a Ferrari and Hamilton made the pass for the win with just two laps to go — and on the same corner where he had tangled with Verstappen. The British driver was cheered on to his eighth career victory at Silverstone by the passionate home fans, who also gave him a standing ovation.

Hamilton, who then drove a victory lap brandishing the British flag, cut the gap to Verstappen in the drivers' championship from 33 points to seven.

Then he climbed the rail and ran toward the grandstands waving the flag to his adoring crowd. Verstappen crashed out of the race when a spirited first lap battle with Hamilton sent the Dutchman spinning hard into a barrier. The race was red-flagged to allow for repairs to the tire barrier.

NEWS BITES | SPORTS

Verstappen, wobbly as he climbed from his car, was initially seen in the Silverstone medical center but then transported to a local hospital for further evaluation.

ICC inducts Mongolia, Tajikistan & Switzerland as new members at 78th AGM 24 July' 21

The International Cricket Council inducted Mongolia, Tajikistan and Switzerland as the newest member countries at its 78th Annual General Meeting.



In addition, Zambia, having had their membership suspended at the ICC AGM in 2019, are no longer a member of the ICC due to continued non-compliance with ICC Membership Criteria.

Mongolia and Tajikistan are the 22nd and 23rd members of the Asia region, while Switzerland is Europe's 35th Member, with the ICC now comprising 106 Members in total, including 94 Associates.

Meanwhile, Zambia, which was suspended at the ICC AGM in 2019, is no longer a member due to continued non-compliance with ICC Membership Criteria. Russia too has been suspended and, according to a release, has until the time of the next ICC AGM to demonstrate compliance or risk having its membership terminated.

The Mongolian Cricket Association (MCA) was established in 2007. The sport was officially accepted into the National Youth Games in 2019. According to an ICC release, women account for 39% of all participants playing school cricket. In addition, Mongolia is due to host the International Youth Green Games in September 2021 where cricket has been selected as one of the participating sports.

Cricket Switzerland (CS), which was inaugurated as an association in 2014, currently comprises 33 active clubs. They organise three domestic men's competitions and

compete regularly in Central European tournaments. The Tajikistan Cricket Federation, which was officially formed in 2011 with the support of the Ministry of Sports and Olympic Committee, has led the development of infrastructure and the building of a domestic cricket structure focusing on women and junior cricket.

Saikhom Mirabai Chanu Wins Silver in Weightlifting, India's First Medal At Tokyo Olympics 2020 28 July' 21

Mirabai, 26, thus won the first medal for India in the Tokyo Olympics. Karnam Malleswari was the only Indian weightlifter to have won an Olympic medal, a bronze in the 69kg category at the 2000 Sydney Games. A confident Mirabai entered the competition with the highest entry weight of 210kg, five kilograms more than her personal best, followed by Zhihui (205kg), who had previously lifted 213kg (96g+117kg) at the Asian championship.



Mirabai, in her first attempt in snatch, lifted 84kg, then settled with 87kg in her second attempt. She failed her final attempt (89kg). China's Hou Zhihui started on 88kg, then created a new Olympics record with a lift of 94kg, which is two kgs below her own world record. Thus, the Indian lifter entered the clean & jerk with a deficit of seven kgs, to Zhihui.

United States' Elizabeth Jordan Delacruz finished third with 86 kg, ahead of Indonesia's Windy Cantika Aisah, who lifted 84 kg. In clean & jerk, Mirabai, who holds the world record, could manage only 115k kgs for a total of 202 kgs. The diminutive Manipuri thus ended India's 21-year wait for a weightlifting medal at the Olympics. Favourite Zhihui won the gold medal with an Olympic record effort of 210 kg.

Burning Topics of the Month

Russia launches lab module to International Space Station.

ISRO successfully conducts long duration hot test of Vikas Engine for Gaganyaan Program.

Billionaire Richard Branson reaches space in his own ship.

& Many More...

UN agency confirms record heat of 18.3 degrees Celsius in Antarctica

02 July '21

The United Nations' World Meteorological Organization, on July 1, recognised a new record high temperature for Antarctica. On February 6, 2020, the Esperanza station (the Argentine research station in Trinity Peninsula) experienced 18.3 degrees Celsius.



"Verification of this maximum temperature record is important because it helps us to build up a picture of the weather and climate in one of Earth's final frontiers. Even more so than the Arctic, the Antarctic is poorly covered in terms of continuous and sustained weather and climate observations and forecasts, even though both play an important role in driving climate and ocean patterns and in sea-level rise," said WMO Secretary-General Prof. Petteri Taalas in a statement.

"The Antarctic Peninsula is among the fastest-warming regions of the planet, almost 3°C over the last 50 years. This new temperature record is therefore consistent with the climate change we are observing." The previous record for high temperature was 17.5 degrees Celsius, recorded on March 24, 2015, at the same station.

A WMO committee carried out extensive studies to understand the weather situation during the time of the reported records and noted that a large high-pressure system over the area has created Föhn conditions.

"Föhn or Foehn winds are generally categorised by warm dry air motion descending in the lee or downwind side of

a mountain. When the wind hits the mountain in its way, it rises above and causes precipitation in the upwind side of the mountain, while the downwind side of the mountain becomes dry and warm. These winds can warm the surface air temperature in the downwind side by several degrees for a prolonged time," explained Sourav Chatterjee from the Atmosphere-Ocean Interaction Studies Division, National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research, Goa.

"Although the melting of ice mostly happens in summer in the presence of sunlight, these Foehn winds can cause significant melting during even dark polar winters," he said.

"Rising global air and ocean temperature are posing a threat to ice sheets and glaciers in the polar regions. The warming temperature and increasing strength of westerly winds can enhance the Antarctic ice sheet melting even in winter due to the Foehn wind effect," he added.

In Mizoram, a new snake species gets named after local warrior

Vanhnuailiana 06 July '21

It was a bright summer morning in March and researchers from Mizoram University were surveying for herpetofaunal (reptiles and amphibians) species in villages not far from the capital city Aizawl. Though night fell, they continued their survey and spotted a snake on a boulder in a dried-up area of Tuinghaleng river bed. Further detailed studies revealed that it was a new species of the *Stoliczka* genus and only the third species of *Stoliczka* from India.

The team named it *Stoliczka vanhnuailianai*, in honour of Vanhnuailiana, a famous Mizo warrior. He was one of the most powerful chiefs of the Lushai Hills (now Mizoram) during the mid-1800s and led many successful campaigns against rival chiefs in the area. The snake is about 50 cm in length, non-venomous, and has a dark brown shade above with a few dorsal scale rows bright yellow in colour.

Following a recommendation from the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), the National Forensic Sciences University here has prepared a special forensic training module for the police.

NEWS BITES | SCIENCE

Though the head scales are uniformly dark brown it has bright pinkish sutures.

The team gave a common name, 'Lushai hills dragon snake' and in the local Mizo language they suggest it be called *lulphusin*, meaning 'snake with small scales'. The team says this is one of the most important discoveries of this century because the last time its sister species *Stoliczka khasiensis* was found was more than a century ago in 1904.

The new species is known only from a single specimen at a point locality and further studies are needed to know its distributional range, ecological preferences and tolerances. "At the site where the individual was encountered, there is small-scale agricultural and pisciculture practice by the local communities. Numerous patches of forests are cleared for shifting cultivation which could be a threat if this species is a narrowly distributed habitat specialist," adds Dr Lalronunga.

Singapore unveils one of world's largest floating solar panel farms

13 July '21

Singapore unveiled one of the world's largest floating solar panel farms, which can produce enough electricity to power the island's five water treatment plants. The



project is part of efforts by the country to meet a goal of quadrupling its solar energy production by 2025 to help tackle climate change. Located on a reservoir in western Singapore, the 60 megawatt-peak solar photovoltaic farm has been built by a wholly-owned subsidiary of Sembcorp Industries.

The electricity generated from the one lakh 22 thousand solar panels on the 45-hectare site should make Singapore one of the few countries in the world to have a water treatment system fully powered by sustainable energy. The solar farm could help to reduce carbon emissions by about 32 kilo tonnes annually, comparable to taking 7,000 cars off the roads, according to a joint statement by the company and Singapore's national water agency PUB.

As opposed to conventional rooftop solar panels, floating ones perform between 5% to 15% better because of the cooling effect of the water, and are not impacted by shading from other buildings, according to a presentation on the project. The solar panels are designed to last for 25 years and drones will be used to assist with maintenance.

Currently, there are four other floating solar panel projects underway in Singapore.

Billionaire Richard Branson reaches space in his own ship

14 July '21

Swashbuckling entrepreneur Richard Branson hurtled into space aboard his own winged rocket ship Sunday in his boldest adventure yet, beating out fellow



billionaire Jeff Bezos. The nearly 71-year-old Branson and five crewmates from his Virgin Galactic space-tourism company reached an altitude of about 53 miles over the New Mexico desert enough to experience three to four minutes of weightlessness and see the curvature of the Earth and then safely glided to a runway landing.

The brief, up-and-down flight the rocket ship's portion took only about 15 minutes, or about as long as Alan Shepard's first U.S. spaceflight in 1961 was intended as a confidence-boosting plug for Virgin Galactic, which plans to start taking paying customers on joyrides next year. Branson became the first person to blast off in his own spaceship, beating Bezos by nine days. He also became only the second septuagenarian to go into space. (Astronaut John Glenn flew on the shuttle at age 77 in 1998.) Billionaire Richard Branson floats in zero gravity on board Virgin Galactic's passenger rocket plane VSS Unity after reaching the edge of space above Spaceport America near Truth or Consequences, New Mexico, U.S. July 11, 2021. With about 500 people watching, including Branson's family, a twin-fuselage aircraft with Unity attached underneath took off in the first stage of the flight.

Unity then detached from the mother ship at an altitude of about 8 1/2 miles and fired its engine, reaching more than Mach 3, or three times the speed of sound, as it pierced the edge of space. Indian-American astronaut Sirisha Bandla returned from her maiden space flight. She became the third Indian-origin woman to fly into space after Kalpana Chawla and Sunita Williams. Wing Commander Rakesh Sharma is the only Indian citizen to travel in space.

ISRO successfully conducts long duration hot test of Vikas Engine for Gaganyaan Program

15 July '21

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully conducted the third long-duration hot test of the liquid propellant Vikas engine for the

Gaganyaan programme, the country's first manned mission to space. The test was done for the core L110 liquid stage of the human-rated GSLV MkIII vehicle, as part of the engine qualification requirements for the Gaganyaan programme, the space agency said in a statement.

The engine was fired for 240 seconds at the test facility of ISRO Propulsion Complex (IPRC), Mahendragiri, Tamil Nadu, said the statement. The performance of the engine met the test objectives and the engine parameters were closely matching with the predictions during the entire duration of the test, it said.

The objective of the Gaganyaan programme is to demonstrate the capability to send humans to low earth orbit onboard an Indian launch vehicle and bring them back to earth. Union Minister of State of Space, Jitendra Singh said in February this year that the first unmanned mission is planned in December 2021 and the second unmanned one in 2022-23 followed by the human spaceflight demonstration. Four Indian astronaut candidates have already undergone generic space flight training in Russia as part of the Gaganyaan Programme. ISRO's heavy-lift launcher GSLV Mk III has been identified for the mission. A formal announcement of the Gaganyaan programme was made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his Independence Day address on 15 August 2018.

The initial target was to launch human spaceflight before the 75th anniversary of India's independence on 15 August 2022. ISRO is also taking the help of French, Russian and US space agencies in some of the crucial activities and supply of components, sources said.

After ISRO tweeted its success in testing its Vikar engines, SpaceX CEO Elon Musk responded by congratulating the Indian space agency. Musk just wrote one word — "Congratulations!" with India's flag emoticon.

Jeff Bezos carries out Blue Origin's inaugural space voyage 21 July '21

Jeff Bezos, the world's richest man, and three crewmates soared high above the Texas desert aboard his space venture Blue Origin's New Shepard launch



vehicle and returned safely to Earth, a historic suborbital flight that helps to inaugurate a new era of private commercial space tourism. The spacecraft ignited its BE-3 engines for a lift off from Blue Origin's Launch Site One

facility about 20 miles (32 km) outside the rural town of Van Horn, flying about 66.5 miles (107 km) above the planet's surface.

New Shepard was designed to hurtle at speeds upwards of 2,200 miles (3,540 km) per hour to an altitude beyond the so-called Kármán line – 62 miles (100 km) – set by an international aeronautics body as defining the boundary between Earth's atmosphere and space. After the capsule separates from the booster, the crew was due to have unbuckled for a few minutes of weightlessness.

Then the capsule returned to Earth under parachutes, using a last-minute retro-thrust system that expelled a "pillow of air" for a soft landing in the Texas desert. Bezos gave a thumbs-up sign from inside the capsule after landing on the desert floor before stepping out, wearing a cowboy hat and blue flight suit, and giving company employees high fives.

Science News

Russia launches lab module to International Space Station 22 July '21

Russia successfully launched a long-delayed lab module for the International Space Station that is intended to provide more room for scientific experiments and space for the crew.

A Proton-M booster rocket carrying the Nauka module lifted off as scheduled at 7:58 pm local time from the Russian space launch facility in Baikonur, Kazakhstan. The navigational antennas and solar arrays deployed properly after a flawless launch that set the module on an eight-day journey to the orbiting outpost. After a series of maneuvers, the 20-metric-ton module is set to dock at the International Space Station in automatic mode on July 29.

In 2013, experts found contamination in its fuel system, resulting in a long and costly replacement. Other Nauka systems also underwent modernization or repairs.

Before Nauka docks at the station, one of the older Russian modules, the Pirs spacewalking compartment, will need to be removed and scrapped to free up room for the new module. Russian space controllers plan to perform the manoeuvre after they check and confirm that Nauka's systems operate properly and the module is ready for docking.

Russian crewmembers on the station have done two spacewalks to connect cables in preparation for Nauka's arrival. Once Nauka docks at the station, it will require a long series of manoeuvres, including up to 11 spacewalks beginning in early September, to prepare it for operation.

The International Space Station is currently operated by NASA astronauts Mark Vande Hei, Shane Kimbrough and

NEWS BITES | SCIENCE

Megan McArthur; Oleg Novitsky and Pyotr Dubrov of Russia's Roscosmos space corporation; Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency astronaut Akihiko Hoshide and European Space Agency astronaut Thomas Pesquet.

In 1998, Russia launched the station's first module, Zarya, which was followed in 2000 by another big module, Zvezda, and three smaller modules in the following years. The last of them, Rassvet, arrived at the station in 2010.

SpaceX lands NASA launch contract for mission to Jupiter's moon Europa 24 July '21

Elon Musk's private rocket company SpaceX was awarded a \$178 million launch services contract for NASA's first mission focusing on Jupiter's icy moon Europa and whether it may host conditions suitable for life, the space agency said.



The Europa Clipper mission is due for blast off in October 2024 on a Falcon Heavy rocket owned by Musk's company, Space Exploration Technologies Corp, from NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida, NASA stated in a statement posted online.

The contract marked NASA's latest vote of confidence in the Hawthorne, California-based company, which has carried several cargo payloads and astronauts to the International Space Station for NASA in recent years.

In April, SpaceX was awarded a \$2.9 billion contract to build the lunar lander spacecraft for the planned Artemis program that would carry NASA astronauts back to the moon for the first time since 1972. But that contract was suspended after two rival space companies, Jeff Bezos's Blue Origin and defense contractor Dynetics Inc, protested against the SpaceX selection.

The company's partly reusable 23-story Falcon Heavy, currently the most powerful operational space launch vehicle in the world, flew its first commercial payload into orbit in 2019. NASA did not say what other companies may have bid on the Europa Clipper launch contract.

The probe is to conduct a detailed survey of the ice-covered Jovian satellite, which is a bit smaller than Earth's moon and is a leading candidate in the search for life elsewhere in the solar system. A bend in Europa's magnetic field observed by NASA's Galileo spacecraft in 1997 appeared to have

been caused by a geyser gushing through the moon's frozen crust from a vast subsurface ocean, researchers concluded in 2018. Those findings supported other evidence of Europa plumes.

Among the Clipper mission's objectives are to produce high-resolution images of Europa's surface, determine its composition, look for signs of geologic activity, measure the thickness of its icy shell and determine the depth and salinity of its ocean, NASA said.

Ayurvedic formulation AYUSH 64 developed by CCRAS is safe for human beings: Govt 30 July '21

The Govt. said, the Ayurvedic formulation AYUSH 64 developed by Central Council for Research Council for Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS) is safe for human beings.



Minister of AYUSH Sarbananda Sonowal informed the Lok Sabha that efficacy of the medicine has been proved in the treatment of Covid-19 cases. He said that in the mild, moderate and asymptomatic cases of Covid-19, people benefited with the treatment of AYUSH-64.

AYUSH-64 is an Ayurvedic formulation which was developed by the Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS), the apex body for research in Ayurveda under the Ministry of Ayush, for management of Malaria. This drug was repurposed as the ingredients showed notable antiviral, immune-modulator and antipyretic properties. The in-silico study done on AYUSH-64 showed that about 35 out of 36 of its Phyto-constituents have high binding affinity against COVID 19 virus. The formulation has also shown very promising results in Influenza like illness. With the scientific evidence generated from 06 clinical studies across India, AYUSH-64 has been identified as a potential adjunct to standard care in the management of asymptomatic, mild and moderate COVID-19 to improve the clinical recovery and quality of life.

The Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS) is an autonomous body of the Ministry of AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy), Government of India. It is an apex body in India for the formulation, coordination, development and promotion of research on scientific lines in Ayurveda and Sowa-Rigpa system of medicine.

Burning Topics of the Month

**Basavaraj Bommai is
Karnataka's new Chief
Minister.**

**International Monetary Fund
projects India's growth rate
at 9.5 per cent for current
fiscal year.**

**Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi
appointed as Deputy Leader
of House in Rajya Sabha.**

& Many More...

**CBSE decides to divide Academic
session 2021-22 into two terms**

05 July' 21

The Central Board of Secondary Education, CBSE has decided to divide Academic session 2021-22 into two terms with approximately 50 per cent syllabus in each term. The Board in a statement said that the syllabus for the Academic Session 2021-22 will be divided by following a systematic approach by looking into the interconnectivity of concepts and topics by the Subject Experts.



The CBSE said that the Board will conduct examinations at the end of each term on the basis of the bifurcated syllabus. This is done to increase the probability of having Board-conducted Standard 10th and 12th Examinations at the end of the academic session. At the end of the first term, the Board will organize Term- I Examination in a flexible schedule to be conducted between November-December 2021.

At the end of the second term, the Board would organize Term-II or Year- end Examination based on the rationalized syllabus of Term-II only which will be approximately 50 per cent of the entire syllabus. This examination would be held around March-April 2022 at the examination centres fixed by the Board. The Central Board of Secondary Education is a national level board of education in India for public and private schools, controlled and managed by Union Government of India. There are approximately 21,271 schools in India and 220 schools in 28 foreign countries affiliated to the CBSE.

Founded: 3 November 1962

Chairperson: Manoj Ahuja, IAS

**MSME Minister Nitin Gadkari
becomes Brand Ambassador of Khadi**

Prakritik Paint 06 July' 21

Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, MSME Minister Nitin Gadkari has become Brand Ambassador of Khadi Prakritik Paint. Mr Gadkari stated that, he will promote this paint across the country to encourage young entrepreneurs to take up the manufacturing of cow dung paint.



Inaugurating the new automated manufacturing unit of Khadi Prakritik Paint in Jaipur, he appreciated the technology innovation and stated that this will go a long way in empowering the rural and agro-based economy in the country.

The Minister appreciated Khadi and Village Industries Commission for the successful research. He stated that Khadi Prakritik Paint has immense potential of creating sustainable development for the benefit of the poorest of the poor and the target should be setting up a Prakritik Paint unit in each and every village.

India's own first eco-friendly, non-toxic paint with anti-fungal, anti-bacterial properties and cow dung as the main ingredient has been developed by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC). Called Khadi Prakritik Paint, it is cost-effective and odourless, and has been certified by Bureau of Indian Standards. Pointing out that the paint is priced at only Rs. 120 per litre for the distemper, and Rs. 225 per litre for the emulsion, Gadkari said that this is less than half the price charged by big paint companies.

Afghan President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani has inaugurated a new international airport in the eastern Khost province, a move in the government's latest efforts to improve people's livelihood.

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Khadi Prakritik Paint was conceptualized by KVIC Chairman Vinai Kumar Saxena in March last year and has been developed by Kumarappa National Handmade Paper Institute, Jaipur (a KVIC unit).

National Fisheries Development Board celebrated National Fish Farmers Day 10 July' 21

The National Fisheries Development Board celebrated the National Fish Farmers Day virtually. This annual event is celebrated to commemorate Professor Dr. Hiralal Chaudhary and his colleague Dr. Alikunhi for their contribution in achieving the successful induced breeding of major carps on 10th July, 1957 at Angul in Odisha for the first time in the country.

Speaking on the occasion, Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Minister Parshottam Rupala stated that India is benefitted with a vast coastline on three sides with a huge potential for fisheries sector. He stated that realizing the importance of the sector, Government has launched the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana. Under the scheme, financial assistance is provided to fishers and fish farmers for fish farming, creation of infrastructure facilities, seed and feed procurement, fishing activity along with training for its proper implementation.

L. Murugan, Minister of State for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, stated that with the growing population, there is demand for nutritional security and fish is an excellent source for meeting this requirement. He stated that the PMMSY is a dream scheme announced by the Prime Minister under Atma Nirbhar Bharat. The scheme will boost the fish production definitely and transform the life of fishers.

The National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB) was established in 2006 as an autonomous organization under the administrative control of the Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Government of India to enhance fish production and productivity in the country and to coordinate fishery development in an integrated and holistic manner.

IAHE inks Agreement with University of New South Wales, Australia 15 July' 21

The Indian Academy of Highway Engineers, IAHE under the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has inked an Agreement with University of New South Wales, Australia for setting up a Centre for Advanced

Transportation Technology and Systems in Noida, Uttar Pradesh.

The Agreement was signed in a virtual ceremony in the presence of Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari. Speaking on the occasion, Mr Gadkari stated that the project will help improve the road safety scenario in the country.

The Agreement is for a project for capacity building, technology transfer and creation of enabling environment for establishment of Centre for Advanced Transportation Technology and Systems in, IAHE. The University of New South Wales will also deliver a course on smart transport systems and modelling.

Indian Academy of Highway Engineers (formerly NITHE) The Academy is the Premium National Training Institute for sharing of knowledge and pooling of experience on the entire range of subjects dealing with the construction and maintenance of roads; bridges; tunnels and road transportation including technology, equipment, research, planning, finance, taxation, organization and all connected policy issues.

Rani, the dwarf cow, making waves in Bangladesh 16 July' 21

Thousands of people have flocked to the agro farm in an interior part of Bangladesh to see Rani, the dwarf cow, which is awaiting confirmation from the Guinness book of World Records as the smallest cow in the world.



The Shikor Agro farm at Charigram, Nabinagar in the Savar Upazila of Bangladesh has drawn TV Channels, media and curious onlookers to see this tiny yet fully grown cow of almost two years of age. So much so that the owners of the cow have decided to allow only a select few people now to see the dwarf cow fearing disease in the time of Corona pandemic for the valued cattle which is awaiting recognition from the Guinness book of World Record.

The cow is 20 inches long and 27 inches in height. It weighs just about 26 kilograms. The Manager of the Shikor Agro Farm, M. A. Hasan Howladar says that Rani was purchased in August last year. At the time of purchase it was about a year old. She is from the Buxar-Bhutia breed. Though the breed in itself is short in height, Rani became a wonder

by not growing beyond this small size. Other than its size, Rani is like any other cow with no special requirement of food or upkeep, says Hasan.

Md. Tanvir Hasan, Manager, Corporate Affairs at the Shikor Agro says that they are awaiting its recognition by the Guinness book of World records in the next three months. He says they have no intention of selling it during the upcoming Eid-ul-Azha festival or later. Several buyers from Bangladesh and other countries including some rich Sheikhs from the Arab world have expressed their desire to buy Rani offering large sums of money but there is no plan to sell it off. Rani will not grow any further as it has got two teeth which marks the end of the growing period of the cattle, says Tanvir.

Indian Panorama calls for entries for 52nd edition of IFFI 18 July' 21

The 52nd International Film Festival of India (IFFI) has announced call for entries for Indian Panorama, 2021. Indian Panorama is a flagship component of the International Film Festival of India (IFFI) under which best of contemporary Indian films are selected for the promotion of film art. The 52nd edition of IFFI will be held in Goa from 20th to 28th November, 2021.

The last date to submit applications online is 12th August, 2021, and the last date of the receipt of the hard copy of the online submitted application, along with other requisite documents is 23rd August, 2021. A set of guidelines have to be followed while submitting films for the 2021 Indian Panorama. The date of CBFC or completion of production of the submitted film should be during the last 12 months preceding the festival, i.e. 1st August, 2020 to 31st July, 2021. Films not certified by CBFC and produced within this period can also be submitted. All films must carry English subtitles.

Indian Panorama was introduced in 1978 as part of the International Film Festival of India to promote the Indian Films and its rich culture and heritage through the Indian films. The Indian Panorama has ever since been completely devoted to showcasing the best of the Indian films of the year.

The aim of the Indian Panorama, organized by the Directorate of Film Festivals, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India, is to select feature and non-feature films of cinematic, thematic and aesthetic excellence, for the promotion of film art through the non-profit screening of these films in international film festivals in India and abroad, Indian Film Weeks held under Bilateral Cultural Exchange Programmes and Specialized Indian

Film Festivals outside cultural exchange protocols, and special Indian Panorama festivals in India.

Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi appointed as Deputy Leader of House in Rajya Sabha 19 July' 21

Union minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi has been appointed as the deputy Leader of the House in Rajya Sabha. The development comes days after Piyush



Goyal vacated the spot as he was appointed as the Leader of the House in Rajya Sabha, replacing former Union minister Thaawarchand Gehlot. Union ministers Dharmendra Pradhan and Bhupender Yadav were also believed to be in the race for the post.

Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi is one of the few leaders in BJP who is believed to have a good working relationship with other political parties. Naqvi had served as the minister of state for parliamentary affairs during the first term of the Modi government. In 2017, he was handed over the charge of the Ministry of Minority Affairs.

Last week, Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi, along with Union ministers Dharmendra Pradhan, Bhupender Yadav and others, took part in a meeting with senior BJP leaders, including JP Nadda, Amit Shah and Rajnath Singh, to discuss matters related to the Monsoon session of Parliament.

The meeting lasted for more than an hour at the residence of Rajnath Singh, who also chairs the Cabinet Committee on Parliamentary Affairs and is deputy leader of BJP in Lok Sabha. For both Goyal and Naqvi, the ongoing Monsoon session could prove to be baptism by fire as the Opposition is expected to corner the government on issues like farmer protests, Pegasus spyware, high fuel prices, inflation and despair and deaths during the second wave of Covid-19 pandemic.

Navjot Singh Sidhu to officially take over post of President of Punjab Congress Committee soon 19 July' 21

Congress leader Navjot Singh Sidhu will officially take over the post of President of Punjab Congress Committee soon. Mr Sidhu continued to meet

NEWS BITES | MISCELLANEOUS

the Ministers and legislators of the party. He visited the house of recently announced the State Congress Working President Kuljit Singh Nagra at Mohali. Soon he



will reach Chandigarh and visit the residence of Cabinet Minister Tript Rajinder Singh Bajwa, from where he may go to meet Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh.

Mr Sidhu was appointed PCC Chief late in the last evening by President of All India Congress Committee Sonia Gandhi after days of tussle within the party as Captain Amarinder Singh was not in favour of appointing him as the PCC chief. The Congress high command has also appointed four Working Presidents Sukhwinder Singh Danny, Pawan Goyal, Kuljit Singh Nagra and Sangat Singh.

A day after the chief minister softened his stance towards Sidhu by deciding to attend the Punjab Pradesh Congress Committee team's installation ceremony, Capt Amarinder Singh struck a conciliatory note in his address to party workers, saying "It is your responsibility to support the party president."

After taking charge at the state Congress headquarters, Sidhu was in form and said there was no difference between an ordinary worker of the party and its state unit chief. "Every Congress worker in Punjab has become the chief of the party's state unit," the Amritsar East MLA said.

The new working presidents of the Punjab Congress, namely Sangat Singh Gilzian, Sukhwinder Singh Danny, Pawan Goel and Kuljit Singh Nagra, also assumed charge at the event at the party's state headquarters that was packed with supporters.

Ramappa Temple and Dholavira on the UNESCO World Heritage List

27 July' 21

Ramappa Temple and Dholavira on the UNESCO World Heritage List. The temple was proposed by the government as its only nomination for the UNESCO



World Heritage site tag for 2019. It has been in UNESCO's

tentative list since 2014. The Rudreswara (Ramappa) Temple is situated near Warangal. An inscription dates it to 1213 and says it was built by a Kakatiya General Recherla Rudra Reddy, during the period of the Kakatiya ruler Ganapati Deva.

Dholavira is said to be one of the five largest Harappan sites and most prominent archeological sites in India belonging to the Indus Valley Civilisation. According to UNESCO, the ancient city of Dholavira is one of the most remarkable and well-preserved urban settlements in South Asia dating from the 3rd to mid-2nd millennium BCE (Before Common Era). It is said to be one of the five largest Harappan sites and most prominent archeological sites in India belonging to the Indus Valley Civilisation. Discovered in 1968, the site is set apart by its unique characteristics, such as its water management system, multi-layered defensive mechanisms, extensive use of stone in construction and special burial structures.

During the 44th session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee in Fuzhou, China, it was decided to inscribe Kakatiya Rudreshwara (Ramappa) Temple, Telangana and Dholavira: A Harappan City, Gujarat on the UNESCO World Heritage List. With the addition of two new sites, India's number of World Heritage sites has increased to 40.

International Monetary Fund projects India's growth rate at 9.5 per cent for current fiscal year 28 July' 21

International Monetary Fund has projected India's growth rate at 9.5 per cent for the current fiscal year. For the next Financial Year 2022-23, IMF expects economic



growth of 8.5 per cent, larger than the 6.9 per cent it had projected in April.

Forecast for the current year 2021-22 is lower than the 12.5 per cent growth in GDP that IMF had projected in April before the second wave of COVID-19 took a grip. In its latest World Economic Outlook, IMF said, growth prospects in India have been downgraded following the severe second COVID wave during March-May and expected slow recovery in confidence from that setback.

India's economy is gradually recovering from a deep contraction in the fiscal year ended 31st March this year 7.3 per cent and a subsequent severe second wave of COVID-19.

However, India's growth prospects for Financial Year 2022 remains higher than all other major economies. China's GDP is projected to grow at 8.1 per cent and the US at seven per cent. Overall, the global economy is projected to grow six per cent in 2021 and 4.9 per cent in 2022. The 2021 global growth forecast is unchanged from the April update but with offsetting revisions.

IMF's Chief Economist Gita Gopinath said, our latest global growth forecast of six per cent for 2021 is unchanged from the previous outlook, but the composition has changed. The Economist said, the global economic recovery continues, but with a widening gap between advanced economies and many emerging markets and developing economies. Faster-than expected vaccination rates and return to normalcy have led to upgrades, while lack of access to vaccines and renewed waves of COVID-19 cases in some countries, notably India, have led to downgrades, she added.

Basavaraj Bommai is Karnataka's new Chief Minister 30 July '21

Basavaraj Bommai may have joined the BJP way back in 2008, but his family's political history came a full circle only after his name was announced as the next Karnataka Chief Minister. The state Home Minister will now succeed the 78-year-old BS Yediyurappa who tearfully announced his resignation after weeks of speculation.



The BJP veteran is considered the tallest leader alive today of Karnataka's Veerashaiva-Lingayat community, which constitutes 16 per cent of the state's 68 million population. His departure was risky business for the BJP since the party has had strong backing from this segment for long. An MLA from Shiggaon in central Karnataka's Haveri district, Mr Bommai, too, is a Lingayat -- although the term 'Basava' also means ox in Kannada, it resonates the name of Basaveshwara, the 12th century founder of the community.

Before joining the BJP, he was with the Janata Dal United, defecting, along with 22 others JDU functionaries. Ironic, since his staunchly socialist father, a leader of the Janata Party and later Janata Dal, is best remembered for a landmark battle in the Supreme Court -- SR Bommai versus Union of India -- that he fought after losing his government in Karnataka following such defection. The judgment in that case laid down certain guidelines against the misuse of Article 356 by the Central government to impose President's Rule on states with unfriendly governments.

Basavaraj Bommai began his political career with the Janata Dal and was a member of the Karnataka Legislative Council twice. He served as political secretary to former Chief Minister JH Patel and was also Deputy Leader of the Opposition in the Council. Since crossing over, Mr Bommai has remained a close confidant of Mr Yediyurappa and has risen in the party ranks to last helm the state's Home Ministry and, earlier, the Water Resources Ministry. A mechanical engineer by training, he worked for Tata Motors in Pune for three years before turning entrepreneur.

WHO'S WHO | DESIGNATION

WHO'S WHO		
S.No.	DESIGNATION	NAME
1.	Chairman, Rajya Sabha	Venkaiah Naidu
2.	Lok Sabha Speaker	Om Birla
3.	Chairman of NITI Ayog	Narendra D. Modi
4.	Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha	Mallikarjun Kharge
5.	Leader of House in Lok Sabha	Narendra D. Modi
6.	Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha	-
7.	Chief Election Commissioner	Sushil Chandra
8.	Election Commissioner	Rajiv Kumar, Anup Chandra Pandey
9.	Director General, ITBP	S S Deshwal
10.	Chief Vigilance Commissioner	Sanjay Kothari
11.	Foreign Secretary	Harsh Vardhan Shringla
12.	Comptroller & Auditor General of India	G. C. Murmu
13.	Director, Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre	S. Somanath
14.	Chairman, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India	Dr. P. D. Vaghela
15.	CBI Director	Subodh Kumar Jaiswal
16.	Chairman, National Commission for Scheduled Tribes	Harsh Chauhan
17.	Chairperson, National Commission for Minorities	Syed Ghayurul Hasan Rizvi
18.	Chairman, UPSC	Pradeep Kumar Joshi
19.	Director General, National Investigation Agency	Y.C. Modi
20.	Chairman, Space Commission and ISRO	K. Sivan
21.	Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission and Sec. Deptt. of Atomic Energy	K. N. Vyas
22.	Chairman, SSC	Braj Raj Sharma
23.	Chairman, National Human Rights Commission	Justice H.L. Dattu
24.	Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India	Vivek Joshi
25.	Chairman, Central Board of Direct Taxes	Pramod Chandra Mody
26.	Chairman, Insurance Regulatory Development Authority of India	Subash Chandra Khuntia
27.	Chairman, Securities & Exchange Board of India	Ajay Tyagi
28.	Chairperson, State Bank of India	Dinesh Kumar Khara
29.	India's permanent representative in UNO	T S Tirumurti
30.	Home Secretary	Ajay Kumar Bhalla
31.	Chairperson of National Commission for Women	Rekha Sharma
32.	Chairman, 15th Finance Commission	N. K. Singh
33.	Chairman, Competition Commission of India	Ashok Kumar Gupta
34.	Chairperson, Central Board of Film Certification	Prasoon Joshi
35.	President, ASSOCHAM	Vineet Agarwal
36.	Chairman, NASSCOM	UB Pravin Rao
37.	Chief of Defence Staff	General Bipin Rawat
38.	Chief of Air Staff	Air Chief Marshal R.K.S. Bhadauria
39.	Chief of Naval Staff	Admiral Karambir Singh
40.	Chief of Army Staff	General Manoj Mukund Naravane
41.	Chief, RAW	Samant Goel
42.	Director, Bhabha Atomic Research Centre	A.K. Mohanty
43.	National Commission for Scheduled Castes	Vijay Sampla
44.	President, FICCI	Uday Shankar
45.	Chairman of 21st Law Commission	Dr. Justice BS Chauhan
46.	National Security Advisor	Ajit Doval
47.	Chairperson, Prasara Bharati	Dr. A. Surya Prakash
48.	DG of National Testing Agency	Vineet Joshi
49.	Finance Secretary	Ajay Bhushan Pandey
50.	Chairman, Indian Banks Association	Rajkiran Rai G

Data as on 04th August, 2021

EDITORIAL WORD

Opprobrium

Pronunciation: \ ə- ' prō-brē-əm

Meaning:

Noun

1: something that brings disgrace

2 a: public disgrace or ill fame that follows from conduct considered grossly wrong or vicious

Example: Collaborators with the enemy did not escape the opprobrium of the townspeople.

b: CONTEMPT, REPROACH

Example: The bombing of the church was met with widespread opprobrium.

Etymology

Learned borrowing from Latin opprobrium (“reproach, disgrace”), first attested [1656], from opprobō (“reproach, taunt”), from ob (“against”) + probrum (“disgrace, dishonor”).

SIMILAR WORDS:

- vilification
- abuse
- vituperation
- condemnation
- criticism
- censure
- castigation
- denunciation
- defamation
- denigration
- disparagement

Antonyms:

- commend
- express approval of
- express admiration for
- applaud

- pay tribute to
- speak highly of
- eulogize
- compliment
- congratulate
- celebrate

EXAMPLE:

1. The bombing has attracted international opprobrium.
2. The government did not deserve the opprobrium heaped on it by the national press.
3. International opprobrium has been heaped on the country following its attack on its neighbours.
4. His political opinions have attracted the opprobrium of the Left.
5. The opprobrium and enmity he incurred were caused by his outspoken brashness.
6. That drunkard was the opprobrium of our community.
7. Public opprobrium, though, (www.Sentencedict.com) seems a small price to pay for the calamities visited on everyone else.
8. These are all terms of mild opprobrium when directed at the flatterer.
9. Consequently, more opprobrium followed after a couple of good openings went west in Israel.
10. In English, these are all terms of mild opprobrium when directed at the flatterer.
11. Any country trading in these weapons would face international opprobrium.
12. The individual whose own income is going up has no real reason to incur the opprobrium of this discussion.
13. The Third Republic's reputation, he argues, does not deserve the opprobrium heaped upon it by Gaullists and Petainists alike.
14. Yet it is not he but the virtuous Harry Percy who dies and poor old Falstaff who has to shoulder the opprobrium.
15. The Hooper who existed in Brideshead Revisited, though, bore all the weight of Waugh's opprobrium.



The President of India, as advised by the Prime Minister, has directed the allocation of portfolios among the following members of the Council of Ministers:-

Shri Narendra Modi	Prime Minister and also in-charge of:
	Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions;
	Department of Atomic Energy;
	Department of Space;
	All important policy issues; and
	All other portfolios not allocated to any Minister

CABINET MINISTERS

1	Shri Raj Nath Singh	Minister of Defence
2	Shri Amit Shah	Minister of Home Affairs; and Minister of Cooperation
3	Shri Nitin Jairam Gadkari	Minister of Road Transport and Highways
4	Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman	Minister of Finance; and Minister of Corporate Affairs
5	Shri Narendra Singh Tomar	Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
6	Dr. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar	Minister of External Affairs
7	Shri Arjun Munda	Minister of Tribal Affairs
8	Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani	Minister of Women and Child Development
9	Shri Piyush Goyal	Minister of Commerce and Industry; Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution; and Minister of Textiles
10	Shri Dharmendra Pradhan	Minister of Education; and Minister of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
11	Shri Pralhad Joshi	Minister of Parliamentary Affairs; Minister of Coal; and Minister of Mines
12	Shri Narayan Tatu Rane	Minister of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
13	Shri Sarbananda Sonowal	Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways; and Minister of AYUSH
14	Shri Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi	Minister of Minority Affairs
15	Dr. Virendra Kumar	Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment
16	Shri Giriraj Singh	Minister of Rural Development; and Minister of Panchayati Raj

17	Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia	Minister of Civil Aviation
18	Shri Ramchandra Prasad Singh	Minister of Steel
19	Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw	Minister of Railways; Minister of Communications; and Minister of Electronics and Information Technology
20	Shri Pashu Pati Kumar Paras	Minister of Food Processing Industries
21	Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat	Minister of Jal Shakti
22	Shri Kiren Rijiju	Minister of Law and Justice
23	Shri Raj Kumar Singh	Minister of Power; and Minister of New and Renewable Energy
24	Shri Hardeep Singh Puri	Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas; and Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs
25	Shri Mansukh Mandaviya	Minister of Health and Family Welfare; and Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers
26	Shri Bhupender Yadav	Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change; and Minister of Labour and Employment
27	Dr. Mahendra Nath Pandey	Minister of Heavy Industries
28	Shri Parshottam Rupala	Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying
29	Shri G. Kishan Reddy	Minister of Culture; Minister of Tourism; and Minister of Development of North Eastern Region
30	Shri Anurag Singh Thakur	Minister of Information and Broadcasting; and Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports

MINISTERS OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)

1	Rao Inderjit Singh	Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation; Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Planning; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Corporate Affairs
2	Dr. Jitendra Singh	Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Science and Technology; Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Earth Sciences; Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office; Minister of State in the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions; Minister of State in the Department of Atomic Energy; and Minister of State in the Department of Space

MINISTERS OF STATE

1	Shri Shripad Yesso Naik	Minister of State in the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Tourism
2	Shri Faggansingh Kulaste	Minister of State in the Ministry of Steel; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Rural Development

The government of Australia's New South Wales (NSW) announced an economic support package worth over \$5 billion, aiming to help businesses and people across the state amid the current Covid-19 lockdown.

3	Shri Prahalad Singh Patel	Minister of State in the Ministry of Jal Shakti; and
		Minister of State in the Ministry of Food Processing Industries
4	Shri Ashwini Kumar Choubey	Minister of State in the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution; and
		Minister of State in the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
5	Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal	Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs; and
		Minister of State in the Ministry of Culture
6	General (Retd.) V. K. Singh	Minister of State in the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways; and
		Minister of State in the Ministry of Civil Aviation
7	Shri Krishan Pal	Minister of State in the Ministry of Power; and
		Minister of State in the Ministry of Heavy Industries
8	Shri Danve Raosaheb Dadarao	Minister of State in the Ministry of Railways;
		Minister of State in the Ministry of Coal; and
		Minister of State in the Ministry of Mines
9	Shri Ramdas Athawale	Minister of State in the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
10	Sadhvi Niranjana Jyoti	Minister of State in the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution; and
		Minister of State in the Ministry of Rural Development
11	Dr. Sanjeev Kumar Balyan	Minister of State in the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying
12	Shri Nityanand Rai	Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs
13	Shri Pankaj Chaudhary	Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance
14	Smt. Anupriya Singh Patel	Minister of State in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry
15	Prof. S. P. Singh Baghel	Minister of State in the Ministry of Law and Justice
16	Shri Rajeev Chandrasekhar	Minister of State in the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship; and
		Minister of State in the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
17	Sushri Shobha Karandlaje	Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
18	Shri Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma	Minister of State in the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
19	Smt. Darshana Vikram Jardosh	Minister of State in the Ministry of Textiles; and
		Minister of State in the Ministry of Railways
20	Shri V. Muraleedharan	Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs; and
		Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs
21	Smt. Meenakshi Lekhi	Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs; and
		Minister of State in the Ministry of Culture
22	Shri Som Parkash	Minister of State in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry
23	Smt. Renuka Singh Saruta	Minister of State in the Ministry of Tribal Affairs
24	Shri Rameswar Teli	Minister of State in the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas; and
		Minister of State in the Ministry of Labour and Employment
25	Shri Kailash Choudhary	Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
26	Smt. Annpurna Devi	Minister of State in the Ministry of Education

27	Shri A. Narayanaswamy	Minister of State in the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
28	Shri Kaushal Kishore	Minister of State in the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
29	Shri Ajay Bhatt	Minister of State in the Ministry of Defence; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Tourism
30	Shri B. L. Verma	Minister of State in the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Cooperation
31	Shri Ajay Kumar	Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs
32	Shri Devusinh Chauhan	Minister of State in the Ministry of Communications
33	Shri Bhagwanth Khuba	Minister of State in the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers
34	Shri Kapil Moreswar Patil	Minister of State in the Ministry of Panchayati Raj
35	Sushri Pratima Bhoumik	Minister of State in the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
36	Dr. Subhas Sarkar	Minister of State in the Ministry of Education
37	Dr. Bhagwat Kishanrao Karad	Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance
38	Dr. Rajkumar Ranjan Singh	Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Education
39	Dr. Bharati Pravin Pawar	Minister of State in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
40	Shri Bishweswar Tudu	Minister of State in the Ministry of Tribal Affairs; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Jal Shakti
41	Shri Shantanu Thakur	Minister of State in the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways
42	Dr. Munjapara Mahendrabhai	Minister of State in the Ministry of Women and Child Development; and Minister of State in the Ministry of AYUSH
43	Shri John Barla	Minister of State in the Ministry of Minority Affairs
44	Dr. L. Murugan	Minister of State in the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
45	Shri Nisith Pramanik	Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports



Assam-Mizoram Border Dispute

Northeast India

Northeast India is the easternmost region of India representing both a geographic and political administrative division of the country. It comprises eight states – Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura and Sikkim. The states of North Eastern Region are officially recognised under the North Eastern Council, constituted in 1971 as the acting agency for the development of the north eastern states. Long after induction of NEC, Sikkim formed part of the North Eastern Region as the eighth state in 2002. India's Look-East connectivity projects connect Northeast India to East Asia and ASEAN. Guwahati city in Assam is called the Gateway to the North East and is the largest metropolis in North East India.

Formation of North Eastern states

In the early 19th century, both the Ahom and the Manipur kingdoms fell to a Burmese invasion. The ensuing First Anglo-Burmese War resulted in the entire region coming under British control. In the colonial period (1826–1947), North East India was made a part of Bengal Province from 1839 to 1873, after which Colonial Assam became its own province, but which included Sylhet.

After Indian Independence from British Rule in 1947, the Northeastern region of British India consisted of Assam and the princely states of Manipur and Tripura. Subsequently, Nagaland in 1963, Meghalaya in 1972, Arunachal Pradesh in 1975 (capital changed to Itanagar) (formed on 20 February 1987) and Mizoram in 1987 were formed out of the large territory of Assam. Manipur and Tripura remained Union Territories of India from 1956 until 1972, when they attained fully-fledged statehood. Sikkim was integrated as the eighth North Eastern Council state in 2002.

The city of Shillong served as the capital of the Assam province created during British Rule. It remained the capital of undivided Assam until the formation of the state of Meghalaya in 1972. The capital of Assam was shifted to Dispur, a part of Guwahati, and Shillong was designated as the capital of Meghalaya.

The Seven Sister States is a popular term for the contiguous states of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura prior to inclusion of the state of Sikkim into the North Eastern Region of India. The sobriquet 'Land of the Seven Sisters' was coined to coincide with the inauguration of the new states in January 1972 by Jyoti Prasad Saikia, a journalist in Tripura, in the course of a radio talk show.

Assam

Assam is a state in northeastern India, south of the eastern Himalayas along the Brahmaputra and Barak River valleys. Assam covers an area of 78,438 kmSq. The state is bordered by Bhutan and Arunachal Pradesh to the north; Nagaland and Manipur to the east; Meghalaya, Tripura, Mizoram and Bangladesh to the south; and West Bengal to the west via the Siliguri Corridor, a 22 kilometres wide strip of land that connects the state to the rest of India. Assamese is the official and most commonly spoken language of the state, followed by Bengali, which is official in the Barak Valley and Bodo which is official in Bodoland Territorial Region.

Assam is known for Assam tea and Assam silk. The state was the first site for oil drilling in Asia. Assam is home to the one-horned Indian rhinoceros, along with the wild water buffalo, pygmy hog, tiger and various species of Asiatic birds, and provides one of the last wild habitats for the Asian elephant. The Assamese economy is aided by wildlife tourism to Kaziranga National Park and Manas National Park, which are World Heritage Sites. Dibru-Saikhowa National Park is famed for its feral horses. Sal tree forests are found in the state which, as a result of abundant rainfall, look green all year round. Assam receives more rainfall than most parts of India; this rain feeds the Brahmaputra River, whose tributaries and oxbow lakes provide the region with a hydro-geomorphic environment.

Mizoram

Mizoram is a state in northeastern India, with Aizawl as its seat of government and capital city. The name of the state is derived from "Mizo", the self described name of the native inhabitants, and "Ram", which in the Mizo language

means "land." Thus "Mizo-ram" means "land of the Mizos". Within India's northeast old-Assam region, it is the southernmost landlocked state, sharing borders with three of the Seven Sister States of old Assam, namely Tripura, Assam and Manipur. The state also shares a 722-kilometre border with the neighbouring countries of Bangladesh and Myanmar.

Like several other northeastern states of India, Mizoram was previously part of Assam until 1972, when it was carved out as a Union Territory. In 1986 the Indian Parliament adopted the 53rd amendment of the Indian Constitution, which allowed for the creation of the State of Mizoram on 20 February 1987, as India's 23rd state. According to a 2011 census, in that year Mizoram's population was 1,091,014. It is the 2nd least populous state in the country. Mizoram covers an area of approximately 21,087 square kilometres. About 91% of the state is forested.

About 95% of Mizoram's population descends from a diverse tribal origin. Mizos first began to settle the area in the 16th century, coming in waves of immigration from Southeast Asia. This immigration lasted through the 18th century. Among all of the states of India, Mizoram has the highest concentration of tribal people. The Mizoram people are currently protected under the Indian constitution as a Scheduled Tribe. Mizoram is one of three states of India with a Christian majority (87%). Its people belong to various Christian denominations, being mostly Presbyterians in the north and Baptists in the south.

Mizoram is a highly literate agrarian economy. Slash-and-burn jhum, or shifting cultivation, is the most common form of farming here, though it gives poor crop yields. In recent years, the jhum farming practices are steadily being replaced with a significant horticulture and bamboo products industry. The state's gross state domestic product for 2012 was estimated at ₹69.91 billion. About 20% of Mizoram's population lives below poverty line, with 35% rural poverty as of 2014. The state has about 871 kilometres of national highways, with NH-54 and NH-150 connecting it to Assam and Manipur respectively. It is also a growing transit point for trade with Myanmar and Bangladesh.

Assam–Mizoram Border Dispute

At the heart of the dispute over the 165-km Assam-Mizoram boundary are two border demarcations that go back to the days of British colonial rule, and disagreement over which demarcation to follow.

British tea plantations surfaced in the Cachar plains – the Barak Valley that now comprises the districts of Cachar, Hailakandi and Karimganj — during the mid-19th century and their expansion led to problems with the Mizos whose home was the Lushai Hills.

In August 1875, the southern boundary of Cachar district was issued in the Assam Gazette – the Mizos say this was the fifth time the British had drawn the boundary between the Lushai Hills and the Cachar plains, and the only time when it was done in consultation with Mizo chiefs. This also became the basis for the Inner Line Reserve Forest demarcation in the Gazette two years later.

But in 1933, the boundary between Lushai Hills and the then princely state of Manipur was demarcated – it said the Manipur boundary began from the trijunction of Lushai Hills, Cachar district of Assam and Manipur state. The Mizos do not accept this demarcation, and point to the 1875 boundary which was drawn in consultation with their chiefs.

In the decades after Independence, states and UTs were carved out of Assam – Nagaland (1963), Arunachal Pradesh (UT 1972, formerly NEFA), Meghalaya (UT 1972), Mizoram (UT 1972).

Officials said according to an agreement between Mizoram and Assam, status quo was to be maintained in the no man's land in the border area. But in February 2018, there was violence when students' union MZP (Mizo Zirlai Pawl) built a wooden rest house for farmers on land that was claimed by Assam and which was demolished by Assam Police.

Again, last October, clashes erupted twice in a week over construction in Lailapur (Assam) on land claimed by Mizoram.

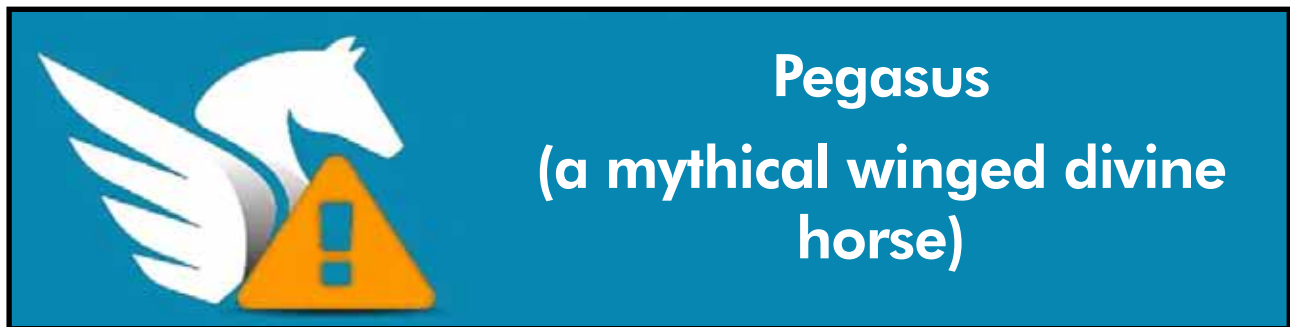
Present Situation

Central forces are deployed along the border Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) and Central Reserve police (CRPF) on Assam side and therefore the Border security force (BSF) on Mizoram side of the border to act as a buffer between the state police forces. On 9 July 2021, the Union Home Secretary convened a gathering of the chief secretaries of both the states to reach some kind of agreement, but it remained inconclusive as Mizoram sought more time to hold consultations on Assam's proposal for maintaining the status quo as in 2020.

The reason behind the clashes between the two states is a decades old land dispute between Assam and Mizoram over "improper demarcation of the state border". Both the neighbours claim land on the border between Assam's Cachar and Mizoram's Kolasib district, and accuse each other of encroachment.

The festering border dispute between the two northeastern states erupted into a bloody conflict on July 26 after an Assam Police personnel and a civilian were killed while defending the "constitutional boundary" of the state with Mizoram and more than 50 people injured.

The situation currently in and around the place of clash along the Assam-Mizoram border remain tense but calm as a large number of CRPF troops have started patrolling the National Highway-306 between the two states.



Pegasus

Pegasus is a mythical winged divine horse, and one of the most recognized creatures in Greek mythology. Usually depicted as pure white, Pegasus is the offspring of the Olympian god Poseidon. He was foaled by the Gorgon Medusa upon her death, when the hero Perseus decapitated her.

Pegasus spyware

Pegasus is a spyware developed by the Israeli cyber arms firm NSO Group that can be covertly installed on mobile phones (and other devices) running most versions of iOS and Android. The 2021 Project Pegasus revelations suggest that the current Pegasus software can exploit all recent iOS versions up to iOS 14.6. As of 2016, Pegasus was capable of reading text messages, tracking calls, collecting passwords, location tracking, accessing the target device's microphone and camera, and harvesting information from apps. The spyware is named after the mythical winged horse Pegasus—it is a Trojan horse that can be sent "flying through the air" to infect phones.

Pegasus enables clients to secretly read every message of a target, track their location, operate their microphone and even film them through their camera remotely. The malware infects both iOS and Android devices and grants access to all information stored in a smartphone.

Israeli firm NSO Group has temporarily blocked some of its government clients across the world from using its spyware technology Pegasus to prevent possible misuse, said a report.

Currently, NSO has customers in 40 countries, all of them being law enforcement bodies and intelligence agencies. NSO clients who have been suspended in the past include Saudi Arabia, Mexico and the United Arab Emirates.

Previous History

Pegasus first garnered limelight in 2016 after it was discovered on a smartphone that belonged to a human rights activist. Since then, there have been several revelations, including that it was installed on the device used by the

wife of Jamal Khashoggi, the US-based critic of the Saudi Arabia government, who was killed in the Saudi consulate in Istanbul in October 2018.

Experts believe Pegasus uses booby-trapped text messages to install itself onto the target's phones. The person is required to click on the link in the message for the spyware to download.

But this limits the chances of successful installation, with phone users growing increasingly wary of clicking on suspicious links.

Now, by simply calling a person via WhatsApp, Pegasus could secretly download itself onto their phone -- even if the call was never answered. Moreover, the spyware even deletes the call logs, leaving no trace.

Facebook has sued NSO Group in the US for allegedly targeting some 1,400 users of its encrypted messaging service WhatsApp with a zero-click exploit.

NSO Group has on multiple occasions vehemently denied any wrongdoing and claims the global investigation is "full of wrong assumptions and uncorroborated theories."

The firm also says it only sells its software to "vetted government agencies".

In another statement titled 'Enough is enough' the firm announced that it will no longer be responding to media inquiries on this matter and it will "not play along with the vicious and slanderous campaign".

NSO licenses Pegasus to governments in 45 undisclosed countries, and has maintained that they do not operate the systems once sold to their clients, nor do they have access to the data of their client's targets.

Israel's defence establishment set up a committee to review the firm's business, including the process through which export licenses are granted. Israel has also denied having access to information from Pegasus.

The Storyline

According to news media reports, on July 19 a consortium of news publications about some politicians, journalists, activists, and bureaucrats being under surveillance

using Pegasus, a spyware developed by an Israeli firm. The claims were based on a document leaked to a non-profit Paris-based media, Forbidden Stories and Amnesty International.

According to news media reports, the list contains 50,000 telephone numbers of people identified as potential targets via Pegasus between 2016 and June 2021. The names include at least 65 business executives, 85 human rights activists, 189 journalists and over 600 politicians and government officials, including heads of state, prime ministers, cabinet ministers, diplomats, military and security officers. Over 300 people in the list were Indian politicians, activists, business persons and journalists.

According to news media reports, in India, cabinet minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, opposition leader Rahul Gandhi, former election commissioner Ashok Lavasa and 40 senior journalists and activists, among others, were allegedly among the targets. According to the Pegasus Project, French President Emmanuel Macron, South African President Cyril Ramaphosa and Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan were also potentially targeted. However, it is not established that the phones were hacked.

NSO Group, which created and leases the Pegasus spyware, has denied such a list exists. It said the spyware is only meant for use in fighting crime and that it is exported only after the approval of Israel's defence ministry.

It is yet to be ascertained who put the numbers on the list or why. While the presence of a number in the list does not necessarily mean it was hacked.

There is no law that prohibits the Centre from procuring spywares like Pegasus. The government can lawfully surveil only under limited circumstances under the section 69 of the IT Act.

French Agency Confirms Pegasus Hack

France's national cyber-security agency ANSSI has confirmed the presence of Pegasus spyware on the phones of two journalists from the country's online investigative journal Media part, the publication reported on Thursday, making it the first corroboration of the global snooping scandal by a government agency in the world.

The Indian government has said there is "no substance" to the reports of Pegasus being used by it against opposition leaders, journalists and others.

Calls for independent probe

According to news media reports, a petition has been filed in the Supreme Court seeking an independent probe by its sitting or retired judge into reports of snooping. The court will hear the petition next week.

In a letter to Chief Justice of India, signed by activists, scholars and lawyers among others, request to declare a moratorium on the export, sale, transfer and use of Pegasus spyware in India. They also requested the court to direct the Centre and the Israeli firm NSO to answer questions regarding the "state-sponsored cyber-warfare" waged against Indian citizens.

According to news media reports, the Supreme Court agreed to hear a PIL filed by veteran journalists N Ram and Sashi Kumar seeking a probe by a retired or a sitting Supreme Court judge into the Pegasus snooping row. The Petitioners also seek a direction to Union of India to disclose if the Government of India or any of its agencies have obtained license(s) for Pegasus spyware and/or used/employed it, either directly or indirectly, to conduct surveillance in any manner whatsoever.

The Union Government has rejected spying claims and said that any covert surveillance is done as per strict rules and oversight. Union ministers, including Home Minister Amit Shah, have alleged that the release of the reports by the global media consortium was deliberately coordinated to coincide with the eve of the current session of the Indian parliament.

Response across the globe

Saudi Arabia and UAE have dismissed allegations that they used Pegasus malware to spy on journalists and human rights activists. Protests have erupted in Hungary, which is the only EU country listed as a potential user of the spyware.

Morocco government has denied wrongdoing saying that it "never acquired computer software to infiltrate communication devices". Morocco has even filed defamation claims against Amnesty International and Forbidden Stories. Moroccan King Mohammed VI and other royals are also on the list of numbers identified as potential Pegasus targets by Moroccan intelligence services.

Kazakhstan has also said the claims are "without evidence".

In recent times, "hackers-for-hire" industry has boomed with spyware becoming a more widely used tool of oppression. It is powerful, easy to outsource and difficult to trace. And since no target is too small, anyone with a computer or smartphone is vulnerable.

CURRENT AFFAIRS QUIZ

- Q.1.** Which of the following High Court has been refuses to reduce fine from Rs 1000 to Rs 500 for not wearing mask?
- (1) Gujarat High Court
 - (2) Jabalpur High Court
 - (3) Allahabad High Court
 - (4) High Court of Bombay
 - (5) Madras High Court
- Q.2.** Who among the following has been appointed as the new Director General of Police (DGP) of Uttar Pradesh?
- (1) Mukul Goel
 - (2) Anil Kant
 - (3) VK Johri
 - (4) Shri P Narajnayan
 - (5) SK Singhal
- Q.3.** Recently Arvind Rathod passed away, he is related to which film industry?
- (1) Hindi Film Industry
 - (2) Kannada Film Industry
 - (3) Malayalam Film Industry
 - (4) Gujarati Film Industry
 - (5) Tamil Film Industry
- Q.4.** Which of the following organisation has been conferred with the prestigious "Kerala Safety Award" for the year 2021?
- (1) The Naval Ship Repair Yard
 - (2) Goa Shipyard Limited
 - (3) Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Limited
 - (4) 1 and 2 only
 - (5) None of the above
- Q.5.** The "National Anisette Day" is celebrated which of the following day?
- (1) 28-Jun
 - (2) 29-Jun
 - (3) 30-Jun
 - (4) 01-Jul
 - (5) 02-Jul
- Q.6.** Which of the following company has been granted permission to import Moderna's COVID-19 vaccine?
- (1) Divis Laboratories Limited
 - (2) Cipla Limited
 - (3) Serum Institute of India
 - (4) Dr. Reddy's Laboratories
 - (5) Sun Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd.
- Q.7.** Who among the following has addressed 17th World Congress for Cervical Pathology and Colposcopy?
- (1) Narendra Modi
 - (2) Ramnath Kovind
 - (3) Dr Harsh Vardhan
 - (4) Dharmendra Pradhan
 - (5) Ajay Kumar
- Q.8.** Which of the following State has become the first rabies-free state in India?
- (1) Punjab
 - (2) Goa
 - (3) Odisha
 - (4) Kerala
 - (5) Karnataka
- Q.9.** Who among the following was elected as the flag bearer of the Indian contingent for the Tokyo Paralympic Games?
- (1) Mariyappan Thangavelu
 - (2) Devendra Jhajharia
 - (3) Deepa Malik
 - (4) Varun Singh Bhati.
 - (5) Farman Basha
- Q.10.** Who among the following has become the 1st Indian Swimmer to qualify for Tokyo Olympics?
- (1) Ajay Kumar
 - (2) Sajan Prakash
 - (3) Virbhawal Khade
 - (4) Shamsheer Khan
 - (5) Arati Saha
- Q.11.** Recently who among the following has met the Uttarakhand's Governor Baby Rani Maurya and submitted his resignation to him?
- (1) Tirath Singh Rawat
 - (2) Trivendra Singh Rawat
 - (3) Harish Rawat
 - (4) Vijay Bahuguna
 - (5) Nitish Kumar
- Q.12.** Who among the following has been the director of the country's oldest newspaper 'Mumbai Samachar', passed away due to old age and illness?
- (1) Shravan Rathod
 - (2) Muncheerji Cama

- (3) Ajit Singh (4) Pranab Mukherjee
(5) Sulabh Srivastava
- Q.13.** "National Fried Clam Day" is celebrated every year on which of the following day?
(1) 28-June (2) 29-June (3) 01-July
(4) 02-July (5) 03-July
- Q.14.** In which of the following city the Asia's longest High-Speed Track, NATRAX has been inaugurated?
(1) Greater Noida (2) Indore
(3) Chennai (4) Lucknow
(5) Kolkata
- Q.15.** What is the rank of India in the "Global Cybersecurity Index" 2020?
(1) 15 (2) 10 (3) 37
(4) 45 (5) 100
- Q.16.** Which of the following organisation has released the "Index of Eight Core Industries"?
(1) Ministry of Commerce & Industry
(2) Ministry of Finance
(3) NITI Aayog
(4) National Development Council
(5) Ministry of Corporate Affairs
- Q.17.** The President of India laid the foundation stone for the Ambedkar memorial in which of the following State?
(1) Delhi (2) Kerala (3) Gujarat
(4) Maharashtra (5) Uttar Pradesh
- Q.18.** Which of the following country has topped the "ITU Global Cybersecurity Index" 2020?
(1) United States of America
(2) France
(3) Spain
(4) England
(5) Japan
- Q.19.** Recently who among the following has elected as new Uttarakhand chief minister?
(1) Pushkar Singh Dhumi
(2) Tirath Singh Rawat
(3) Trivendra Singh Rawat
(4) Harish Rawat
(5) Vijay Bahuguna
- Q.20.** Which among the following Community Radio Station has bagged two awards at the 8th edition of the National Community Radio Awards?
(1) Apno Radio, 90.4 MHz, Rajasthan
(2) Radio Udaan, Punjab
(3) Vidyavani, 107.4 FM, Maharashtra
(4) Radio Vishwas, Nashik Maharashtra
(5) None of the above
- Q.21.** Recently how many MLAs have been suspended from the Assembly for one year for "misbehaving" with the presiding officer Bhaskar Jadhav in the chamber of the Maharashtra Assembly?
(1) 10 (2) 12 (3) 15
(4) 17 (5) 18
- Q.22.** How much the total amount of loans has been issued by HDFC Bank to June 2021?
(1) Rs 15.47 lakh crore (2) Rs 14.47 lakh crore
(3) Rs 11.47 lakh crore (4) Rs 9.47 lakh crore
(5) Rs 5.47 lakh crore
- Q.23.** Who among the following has been launched "NIPUN Bharat Programme"?
(1) Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'
(2) Narendra Modi
(3) Dharmendra Pradhan
(4) Rajnath Singh
(5) Amit Shah
- Q.24.** Which of the following country held the 8th "BRICS Education Ministers meet" in virtual mode?
(1) India (2) China (3) Brazil
(4) Russia (5) South Africa
- Q.25.** Who among the following has laid foundation stone of 5 Eklavya Model Residential Schools in Jharkhand?
(1) Harsh Chouhan (2) Draupadi Murmu
(3) Arjun Munda (4) Thawar Chand Gehlot
(5) Hemant Soren

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- Q.26.** Which among the following organization has approved the merger of Tech Data Corporation with Sinex Corporation?
- (1) NITI Aayog
 - (2) Competition Commission of India
 - (3) Finance commission
 - (4) Ministry of Corporate Affairs
 - (5) Education commission
- Q.27.** What is the new maximum temperature that has been recorded in Antarctica?
- (1) 20 degrees Celsius
 - (2) 14 degrees Celsius
 - (3) 16 degrees Celsius
 - (4) 18.3 degrees Celsius
 - (5) 15 degrees Celsius
- Q.28.** PM announced a credit guarantee scheme of how much value to meet the shortfall in health facilities?
- (1) 20,000 crores
 - (2) 15,000 crores
 - (3) 50,000 crores
 - (4) 40,000 crores
 - (5) 23,000 crores
- Q.29.** Who among the following entrepreneurs has decided to fly to the edge of space?
- (1) Mukesh Ambani
 - (2) Sir Richard Branson
 - (3) Elon Musk
 - (4) Bill Gates
 - (5) Jeff Bezos
- Q.30.** The "Regional Conference on Good Governance Practices" is being organized in which of the following place?
- (1) Lucknow
 - (2) Mumbai
 - (3) Indore
 - (4) Srinagar
 - (5) Hyderabad
- Q.31.** Recently who among the following has been appointed as Governor of Karnataka?
- (1) Thawarchand Gehlot
 - (2) Arif Mohammad Khan
 - (3) Vajubhai Vala
 - (4) Banwarilal Purohit
 - (5) Bhagat Singh Koshyari
- Q.32.** Recently Former DGP Mohammad Izhar Alam passes away, he was the DGP of which of the following State?
- (1) Goa
 - (2) Kerala
 - (3) Punjab
 - (4) Karnataka
 - (5) Odisha
- Q.33.** Which of the following State/UT has launched a "social security scheme" and a portal to provide financial assistance to families who have lost their loved ones to COVID-19?
- (1) Puducherry
 - (2) Delhi
 - (3) Andhra Pradesh
 - (4) Manipur
 - (5) Odisha
- Q.34.** In how much amount the Japanese "Sumitomo Mitsui Financial Group" has entered into an agreement to acquire "Fullerton India Credit Company Limited"?
- (1) USD 8.5 billion
 - (2) USD 7.5 billion
 - (3) USD 5.5 billion
 - (4) USD 2.5 billion
 - (5) USD 1.5 billion
- Q.35.** Recently which of the following country's a plane carrying 28 people went missing in region of Kamchatka?
- (1) China
 - (2) Japan
 - (3) Russia
 - (4) France
 - (5) Malaysia
- Q.36.** Who among the following has been appointed as the new CEO of IT company Google's subsidiary navigation company "Waze"?
- (1) Neha Parikh
 - (2) Sundar Pichai
 - (3) Satya Nadella
 - (4) Indra Nooy
 - (5) Shantanu Narayen
- Q.37.** Who among the following becomes "Brand Ambassador" of Khadi Prakritik Paint?
- (1) Ayushman Khurana
 - (2) Priyanka Chopada
 - (3) Nitin Gadkari
 - (4) Nitish Kumar
 - (5) Amir Khan
- Q.38.** Indian wrestler Sumit Malik has been banned for how many years for doping?
- (1) 5 Year
 - (2) 6 Year
 - (3) 4 Year
 - (4) 2 Year
 - (5) 1 Year
- Q.39.** How many years the Central Government has increased the retirement age of the Chairman of Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) from 60?
- (1) 65 years
 - (2) 62 years
 - (3) 68 years
 - (4) 64 years
 - (5) 66 years

- Q.40.** Which of the following day the "World Zoonoses Day" is celebrated?
 (1) Jul-02 (2) Jul-03 (3) Jul-04
 (4) Jul-05 (5) Jul-06
- Q.41.** Recently Keshav Dutt passed away, he was related to which of the following profession?
 (1) Hockey (2) Football (3) Economics
 (4) Politician (5) Journalist
- Q.42.** Recently who among the following has been resigned from the Union Council of Ministers?
 (1) Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank
 (2) Dr. Harsh Vardhan
 (3) Sadananda Gowda
 (4) Santosh Kumar Gangwar
 (5) All of the above
- Q.43.** Recently who among the following has been appointed as a Governor of Madhya Pradesh?
 (1) Mangubhai C. Patel
 (2) Anandiben Patel
 (3) Thawar Chand Gehlot
 (4) Sadananda Gowda
 (5) Santosh Kumar Gangwar
- Q.44.** On which of the following Bollywood actress the Delhi High Court imposed a fine of Rs 20 lakh for misusing the process of law in a case challenging 5G wireless network technology?
 (1) Juhi Chawla (2) Priyanka Chopada
 (3) Aliya Bhatt (4) Sonam Kapoor
 (5) Shilpa Shetty
- Q.45.** Who among the following has inaugurated Medical Oxygen Generator Unit with copper piping network at State Government hospital, Rambaug in Kutch?
 (1) Mangubhai C. Patel (2) Vijay Rupani
 (3) Acharya Devvrat (4) Mansukh Mandaviya
 (5) Dr. Harsh Vardhan
- Q.46.** Who among the following has been addressed the Special Plenary with the Trade Ministers in the Indo-Pacific region?
 (1) Mansukh Mandaviya
 (2) Dr. Harsh Vardhan
 (3) Narendra Modi
 (4) Piyush Goyal
 (5) Rajnath Singh
- Q.47.** Which of the following Ministry organised orientation training programme for all 225 beacon Panchayats on Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav?
 (1) Ministry of Rural Development
 (2) The Ministry of Home Affairs
 (3) Ministry of Panchayati Raj
 (4) Ministry of Jal Shakti
 (5) All of the above
- Q.48.** Recently which of the following country's President has been assassinated at his own home?
 (1) Haiti (2) Barmuda (3) Uganda
 (4) Swaziland (5) Fiji
- Q.49.** Bollywood "Tragedy King" Dilip Kumar has been passed away, he was born at which of the following place?
 (1) Peshawar (2) Jaipur (3) Lucknow
 (4) Chennai (5) Islamabad
- Q.50.** Who among the following has been inaugurated the online filing of Authorised Economic Operators (AEO) T2 and T3 applications?
 (1) M. Ajit Kumar
 (2) Arvind Kumar
 (3) Rishi Kumar Shukla
 (4) Yogesh Chander Modi
 (5) Ajay Kumar
- Q.51.** Recently the Virbhadra Singh has been passed away, he was the Chief Minister of which of the following State?
 (1) Himachal Pradesh (2) Goa
 (3) Nagaland (4) Odisha
 (5) Bihar
- Q.52.** Who among the following has took over the charge of the Food Processing Ministry?
 (1) Jyotiraditya Scindia
 (2) Ramchandra Prasad Singh

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(3) Pashupati Kumar Paras

(4) Ashwini Vaishnav

(5) Kiren Rijju

Q.53. Who among the following has took over the charge of the Governor of Jharkhand?

(1) Ramesh Bais (2) Bandaru Dattatreya

(3) Rajendra Arlekar (4) P. S. Sreedharan Pillai

(5) Kambhampati Hari Babu

Q.54. Who among the following has took over the charge of the Union Education Minister?

(1) Raj Kumar Singh

(2) Hardeep Singh Puri

(3) Mansukh Mandaviya

(4) Dharmendra Pradhan

(5) Jyotiraditya Scindia

Q.55. When the death anniversary of Swami Vivekananda is observed?

(1) 06-Jul (2) 07-Jul (3) 03-Jul

(4) 05-Jul (5) 04-Jul

Q.56. Who among the following has took charge of the Ministry of Power and New and Renewable Energy as a cabinet minister?

(1) Raj Kumar Singh

(2) Hardeep Singh Puri

(3) Mansukh Mandaviya

(4) Dharmendra Pradhan

(5) Jyotiraditya Scindia

Q.57. Who among the following become the second Indian-born woman to fly to space after Kalpana Chawla?

(1) Sirisha Bandla (2) Sunita Williams

(3) Shawna Pandya (4) All of the above

(5) None of the above

Q.58. Which of the following State's CM has launched the 'Bima' scheme with new guidelines?

(1) Odisha (2) Andhra Pradesh

(3) Bihar (4) West Bengal

(5) Himachal Pradesh

Q.59. In which of the following Indian city is the world's third-largest cricket stadium being planned to be constructed?

(1) Lucknow (2) Jaipur

(3) Ahmedabad (4) Mumbai

(5) Dharamshala

Q.60. The Southeast Asian Games 2021 to be held in which of the following country has been postponed until next year due to the cases of Kovid-19 in the region?

(1) Japan (2) Australia

(3) New Zealand (4) Vietnam

(5) France

Q.61. Who among the following took charge as the Union Minister for Civil Aviation?

(1) Anupriya Singh Patel

(2) Jyotiraditya Scindia

(3) Parshottam Rupala

(4) G Kishen Reddy

(5) Anurag Thakur

Q.62. Who among the following has been appointed as the director of the US Center for Medicare?

(1) Dr. Meena Seshamani

(2) Indira Nooyi

(3) Ajaypal Singh Banga

(4) Shantanu Narayen

(5) None of the above

Q.63. Army Chief General MM Naravane inaugurated a memorial built in which of the country, in honor of Indian soldiers who made the supreme sacrifice in World War II?

(1) England (2) France (3) Germany

(4) Italy (5) Japan

Q.64. Who among the following has been made the Vice President of "Delhi Hindi Academy"?

(1) Swanand Kirkire (2) Anupam Kher

(3) Sonu Nigam (4) Lata Mangeskar

(5) Aruna Sairam

Q.65. Who among the following has been appointed as the new Governor of Haryana?

- (1) P. S. Sreedharan Pillai
- (2) Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar
- (3) Satyadev Narayan Arya
- (4) Mangubhai Chhaganbhai Patel
- (5) Bandaru Dattatraya

Q.66. Who among the following is the author of the book titled "The Fourth Lion: Essays for Gopalkrishna Gandhi"?

- (1) Arundhati Roy (2) M. K. Gandhi
- (3) Ram Chandra Guha (4) Chetan Bhagat
- (5) Venu Madhav Govindu

Q.67. Ramgarh Vishdhari Sanctuary has been named as the fourth Tiger Reserve in which among the following states?

- (1) Jharkhand (2) Assam
- (3) Rajasthan (4) Madhya Pradesh
- (5) Odisha

Q.68. Who among the following has inaugurated and addressed the "CoWin Global Conclave" virtually?

- (1) Ajay Kumar (2) Narendra Modi
- (3) Ramnath Kovind (4) Rajnath Singh
- (5) Amit Shah

Q.69. Who among the following has claimed 1000th wickets in first-class cricket?

- (1) Adam Zampa (2) Wahab Riaz
- (3) Mark Wood (4) Ramesh Mendis
- (5) James Anderson

Q.70. The "World Chocolate Day" has celebrated on which of the following day?

- (1) 09-Jul (2) 08-Jul (3) 07-Jul
- (4) 05-Jul (5) 06-Jul

Q.71. Who among the following has appointed the new Prime Minister of Vietnam?

- (1) Pham Minh Chinh (2) Đặng Thị Ngọc Thịnh
- (3) Nguyễn Xuân Phúc (4) Nguyễn Phú Trọng
- (5) None of the above

Q.72. Which of the following Session held of India-Italy Joint Commission for Economic Cooperation?

- (1) 10th (2) 15th (3) 18th
- (4) 20th (5) 21st

Q.73. Recently PK Warriar has been passed away, he was related to which of the following profession?

- (1) Doctor (2) Journalist (3) Politician
- (4) Economist (5) Social Activist

Q.74. What is the name the mobile app launched by the government as an online learning course app for fish farmers?

- (1) Makar Setu (2) Neer Setu (3) Jal Setu
- (4) Matsya Setu (5) Meen Setu

Q.75. The first case of "Bone Death" disease has been reported in which of the following State?

- (1) Kerala (2) Punjab (3) Bihar
- (4) Maharashtra (5) Karnataka

Q.76. Who among the following is the new Health Minister of India?

- (1) R K Singh (2) Mansukh Mandaviya
- (3) Kiren Rijiju (4) Ashwini Vaishnav
- (5) G Kishan Reddy

Q.77. The payment solution of 'MandateHQ' has been launched which company in partnership with Mastercard?

- (1) PhonePe (2) GooglePay (3) Paytm
- (4) BillDesk (5) Razorpay

Q.78. Which of the following platform has launched the Postpaid Mini is a small ticket loan providing facility?

- (1) GooglePay (2) MobiKwik (3) PhonePe
- (4) Bharti Airtel (5) Paytm

Q.79. Who among the following has been appointed as the new Law Minister in India?

- (1) Anupriya Patel
- (2) Kiren Rijiju
- (3) Anurag Singh Thakur
- (4) Ashwini Vaishnav
- (5) Hardeep Singh Puri

Q.80. Which of the following company has organized a National hackathon called 'SAMVEDAN 2021 - Sensing Solutions for Bharat'?

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- (1) IIT Madras & Sony India
- (2) IIT Kanpur & Sony India
- (3) IIT Delhi & Suzuki India
- (4) IIT Kharagpur & Jio
- (5) None of the above

Q.81. Which of the following State/UT launched the "NaMo App campaign"?

- (1) Delhi (2) Goa (3) Kerala
- (4) Punjab (5) Uttar Pradesh

Q.82. Which of the following country's Supreme Court has restores dissolved House of Representatives for the second time in five months?

- (1) Bangladesh (2) Bhutan (3) Pakistan
- (4) Nepal (5) China

Q.83. Who among the following has appointed Miranda Brawn, a former banker with Goldman Sachs and JPMorgan, as independent non-executive director?

- (1) Pravir Kumar
- (2) Miranda Brawn
- (3) Natarajan Chandrasekaran
- (4) Jamie Dimon
- (5) S N Subrahmanyam

Q.84. Which of the following country has signed a \$1.3 billion agreement with India's Sutlej Jal Vidyut Nigam (SJVN) for the development of a 679 MW hydroelectric project?

- (1) France (2) Japan (3) Russia
- (4) Nepal (5) Bangladesh

Q.85. Basilius Marthoma Paulos II has been passed away, he is related to which of the following profession?

- (1) Wrestler (2) Economist
- (3) Head of Church (4) Politician
- (5) Journalist

Q.86. Which among the following bank has extended a loan of USD 352.6 million for a power transmission project being developed by Kalpataru Power in Senegal?

- (1) Exim Bank (2) Yes Bank
- (3) Axis Bank (4) ICICI Bank
- (5) Bank of Bank of Baroda

Q.87. Which among the following day the world celebrated the Malala day?

- (1) 12-Jul (2) 11-Jul (3) 10-Jul
- (4) 09-Jul (5) 08-Jul

Q.88. India's first Maritime Arbitration Centre is being set up in which of the following city of the country?

- (1) Lucknow (2) Chennai (3) Kolkata
- (4) Gandhinagar (5) Mumbai

Q.89. Which of the following country has launched the Fengyun-3E Satellite?

- (1) France (2) India (3) Australia
- (4) China (5) Japan

Q.90. Which of the following e-commerce company has abolished plastic packaging?

- (1) Myntra (2) Flipkart (3) Amazon
- (4) All of above (5) None of the above

Q.91. Who among the following the top batsman in the International Cricket Council's latest ODI rankings?

- (1) Mithali Raj (2) Stephanie Taylor
- (3) Meg Lanning (4) Rumana Ahmed
- (5) None of the above

Q.92. Recently Yashpal Sharma has been passed away, he was related to which of the following sport?

- (1) Badminton (2) Boxing (3) Cricketer
- (4) wrestling (5) Chess

Q.93. Which of the following has imposed monetary penalties on 14 banks including Bank of Baroda and State Bank of India (SBI) for non-compliance of rules?

- (1) SEBI (2) NABARD (3) RBI
- (4) NGT (5) Supreme Court

Q.94. Which of the following organization has launched its first "Digital Kendra" in Surat, Gujarat, as part of its commitment to digitise 10 million Indian micro, small and medium enterprises by 2025?

- (1) Flipkart (2) Naaptol
- (3) Myntra (4) Amazon India
- (5) PayTM

- Q.95.** Who among the following has been sworn in as Israel's new president?
 (1) Isaac Herzog (2) Abdel Fattah El-sisi
 (3) Hassan Rouhani (4) Benjamin Netanyahu
 (5) Naftali Bennett
- Q.96.** Who among the following has been took charge as the Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare?
 (1) Anurag Thakur
 (2) Mansukh Mandaviya
 (3) Hardeep Singh Puri
 (4) Pashu Pati Kumar Paras
 (5) Jyotiraditya M. Scindia
- Q.97.** Which of the following State's Chief Minister has announced ex gratia of Rs 5 lakh each to the family of those killed in lightning strikes?
 (1) Goa (2) Kerala (3) Rajasthan
 (4) Odisha (5) Telangana
- Q.98.** Which of the following team has won the 2021 Copa America title?
 (1) Japan (2) Brazil (3) Paraguay
 (4) Argentina (5) France
- Q.99.** What is the theme of the 2021 World Population Day?
 (1) The Population for development
 (2) Family Planning is a Human Right
 (3) How to safeguard the health and rights of women and girls now
 (4) The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on fertility
 (5) Empowering the population of world
- Q.100.** Which of the following State Government has announced the new Population Policy 2021-2030?
 (1) Goa (2) Kerala (3) Karnataka
 (4) Assam (5) Uttar Pradesh
- Q.101.** "Voice of America" announced termination of which of the following radio service?
 (1) Nepali radio service
 (2) Bengla radio service
 (3) Afghanistani radio service
 (4) All India radio service
 (5) Egypt radio service
- Q.102.** In which of the following city Narendra Modi has inaugurated 'Rudraksh', an international cooperation and convention center?
 (1) Prayagraj (2) Varanasi
 (3) Haridwar (4) Udagamandalam
 (5) Puri
- Q.103.** In how much amount the Indgrid acquired 100 MW of solar assets from FRV?
 (1) Rs 200 crore (2) Rs 560 crore
 (3) Rs 660 crore (4) Rs 800 crore
 (5) Rs 1060 crore
- Q.104.** Recently which the following international organisation chief resigned for family health reasons?
 (1) IMF (2) UNEP (3) UNO
 (4) UNICEF (5) UNDP
- Q.105.** Mahindra Electric Mobility Limited (MEML), a subsidiary of the Mahindra Group, which of the following has been appointed as its chief executive with immediate effect?
 (1) Soma Mondal (2) R Madhavan
 (3) Suman Mishra (4) Jamie Dimon
 (5) G Satish Reddy
- Q.106.** Recently how much amount the GST officers has unearth over fraud in 2020-21?
 (1) Rs 50,000 crore (2) Rs 45,000 crore
 (3) Rs 25,000 crore (4) Rs 35,000 crore
 (5) Rs 10,000 crore
- Q.107.** Recently which of the following places the "SCO foreign ministers" was organized?
 (1) Dushanbe (2) Moscow (3) New Delhi
 (4) Tehran (5) Beijing
- Q.108.** Who among the following is the winner of the 2021 Wimbledon women's singles title in Tennis?
 (1) Simona Halep (2) Sofia Kenin
 (3) Karolina Pliskova (4) Ashleigh Barty
 (5) None of the above

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Q.109. Who among the following has been selected as the juror for the Tokyo Olympic Games?

- (1) Dipa Karmakar (2) Pawan Singh
- (3) Nitin Menon (4) Sundaram Ravi
- (5) Ajay Kumar

Q.110. Shyam Srinivasan has been re-appointed as the CEO of which of the following bank for a period of three years?

- (1) Axis Bank (2) Indian Bank (3) Yes Bank
- (4) Federal bank (5) Canara Bank

Q.111. Who among the following has addressed "World Youth Skill Day Programme"?

- (1) Ramnath Kovind
- (2) Narendra Modi
- (3) Dharmendra Pradhan
- (4) Nitin Gadkari
- (5) Amit Shah

Q.112. Recently the RBI has cancelled the licence of which of the following bank?

- (1) Dr Shivajirao Patil Nilangekar Urban Co-operative Bank Ltd
- (2) Shamrao Vithal Cooperative Bank
- (3) Abhyudaya Cooperative Bank Ltd.
- (4) Bharat Cooperative Bank
- (5) Cosmos Cooperative Bank

Q.113. In which of the following city "the Rohan Bopanna Tennis Academy" has opened its first 'Development Center' to coach young talent?

- (1) Chennai (2) Coimbatore (3) Hyderabad
- (4) Lucknow (5) New Delhi

Q.114. Recently how much amount the Narendra Modi has inaugurated and laid foundation stones for development work projects worth at his parliamentary constituency in Varanasi?

- (1) Rs 1,200 crore (2) Rs 1,383 crore
- (3) Rs 1,483 crore (4) Rs 1,583 crore
- (5) Rs 2,683 crore

Q.115. Who among the following inaugurated the country's First Liquefied Natural Gas plant in Nagpur?

- (1) Anurag Singh Thakur

- (2) Ram Nath Kovind

- (3) Nirmala Sitharaman

- (4) Parshottam Rupala

- (5) Nitin Gadkari

Q.116. Which of the following city's mayor Eric Garcetti has been nominated by US President Joe Biden to be the ambassador to India?

- (1) Nevada (2) Indiana
- (3) Los Angeles (4) California
- (5) New York

Q.117. In which of the following State Jagannath Rath Yatra is observed?

- (1) Goa (2) Andhra Pradesh
- (3) Kerala (4) Odisha
- (5) Karnataka

Q.118. Who among the following player has clinched the 2021 Wimbledon Tennis men's single title?

- (1) Rafael Nadal (2) Novak Djokovic
- (3) Alexander Zverev (4) Matteo Berrettini
- (5) Daniil Medvedev

Q.119. Manu Sawhney has resigned as the CEO of which of the following organization?

- (1) NITI Aayog
- (2) International Cricket Council
- (3) Badminton World Federation
- (4) World Wrestling Entertainment
- (5) UNICEF

Q.120. Who among the following has hosted women members of Council of Ministers at high-tea in Delhi?

- (1) Anupriya Singh Patel
- (2) Sadhvi Niranjana Jyoti
- (3) Smriti Zubin Irani
- (4) Harsimrat Kaur Bhatnagar
- (5) Nirmala Sitharaman

Q.121. Which of the following is Britain's largest warship entered the Indian Ocean to exercise with the Indian Navy?

- (1) HMS Queen Elizabeth

- (2) HMS Victory
- (3) HMS Vigilant
- (4) HMS Vanguard
- (5) HMS Vengeance

Q.122. How much amount SIDBI has received net profit in financial year 2020-21?

- (1) Rs 6,098.28 crore (2) Rs 4,390.28 crore
- (3) Rs 5,000.28 crore (4) Rs 2,398.28 crore
- (5) Rs 1,398.28 crore

Q.123. National Award winner Surekha Sikri has passed away, she was related to which profession?

- (1) Actress (2) Politician
- (3) Social Activist (4) Economist
- (5) Doctor

Q.124. How much amount will be invested by FedEx Express in e-commerce logistics platform Delhivery?

- (1) USD 600 million (2) USD 500 million
- (3) USD 100 million (4) USD 400 million
- (5) USD 700 million

Q.125. Recently how much amount Paytm has filed draft papers with SEBI for IPO?

- (1) Rs 30,600 crore (2) Rs 26,600 crore
- (3) Rs 20,600 crore (4) Rs 18,600 crore
- (5) Rs 16,600 crore

Q.126. Who among the following has launched the Digital Platform "Kisan Sarathi" to facilitate farmers to get 'right information at right time' in their desired language?

- (1) Narendra Singh Tomar
- (2) Ashwini Vaishnaw
- (3) Narendra Modi
- (4) 1 and 2
- (5) None of the above

Q.127. Who among the following has launched the "School Innovation Ambassador Training Program"?

- (1) Arjun Munda (2) Dharmendra Pradhan
- (3) Narendra Modi (4) Ashwini Vaishnaw
- (5) 1 and 2

Q.128. Recently the Danish Siddiqui, Reuters chief photographer has been killed in which of the following country?

- (1) Saudi Arabia (2) Iran (3) Iraq
- (4) Afghanistan (5) Pakistan

Q.129. Who among the following has authored the book "The Struggle Within: A Memoir of the Emergency"?

- (1) Arundhati Roy (2) Ashok Chakravarti
- (3) Romila Thapar (4) Chetan Bhagat
- (5) J. K. Rowling

Q.130. After increased, how many oath-takers will have during the opening ceremony of the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games?

- (1) 9 (2) 7 (3) 6
- (4) 8 (5) 5

Q.131. Who among the following has been appointed as the new chairman of Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission (DERC)?

- (1) Shabihul Hasnain
- (2) M. Devaraj
- (3) R. K. Singh Rajeev Sharma
- (4) Gurdeep Singh
- (5) Shrikant M Vaidya

Q.132. Which among the following country India has signed deal to develop 679 MW Lower Arun Hydropower project?

- (1) Pakistan (2) Bhutan (3) Maldives
- (4) Nepal (5) Bangladesh

Q.133. The Google meet has put how much time limit on group video calls with 3 or more participants?

- (1) 90 minutes (2) 70 minutes (3) 60 minutes
- (4) 50 minutes (5) 80 minutes

Q.134. Recently G. Meda Gowda has been passed away, he was related to which of the profession?

- (1) Economist (2) Politician (3) Doctor
- (4) Professor (5) Engineer

Q.135. Editors Guild of India has mourned death of Indian photojournalist in Afghanistan, who among the following is Chairperson of Editors Guild of India?

QUIZ TIME | CURRENT AFFAIRS

- (1) Seema Mustafa (2) Sanjay Kapoor
(3) Anant Nath (4) Vijay Naik
(5) Dilip Mandal

Q.136. Which of the following units ranks first for electricity generation in the country?

- (1) National Hydroelectric Power Corporation
(2) National Thermal Power Corporation Korba
(3) Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd
(4) Adani Transmission Ltd
(5) Tata Power

Q.137. In which of the following State begins the 'Ramayana month' and 'Anayutu' feast for elephants?

- (1) Goa (2) Assam (3) Kerala
(4) Karnataka (5) Odisha

Q.138. Who among the following has been elected as the new president of Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP)?

- (1) Dr Ravindra Narayan Singh
(2) Yogi Aditanath
(3) Mahant Nrityagopal Das
(4) Baba Ramdev
(5) Pragya Thakur

Q.139. How much amount of the HDFC Bank has get net profit for the first quarter of June 2021-22?

- (1) Rs 10,922 crore (2) Rs 9,922 crore
(3) Rs 8,922 crore (4) Rs 7,922 crore
(5) Rs 7,000 crore

Q.140. Which among the following airport has been signed shareholder agreement with Noida International Airport Limited for development?

- (1) Singapore Changi Airport
(2) John F. Kennedy International Airport
(3) Zurich Airport International
(4) Guangzhou Baiyun International Airport
(5) Los Angeles International Airport

Q.141. What is Pegasus?

- (1) Missile (2) Submarine (3) Island
(4) Species (5) Spyware

Q.142. Which of the following State has been launched the "Mukhyamantri Kisan Mitra Urja Yojana" to provide financial support to the farmers.

- (1) West Bengal (2) Rajasthan
(3) Kerala (4) Andhra Pradesh
(5) Odisha

Q.143. According to recent survey, how much percent the frequency of cyclones in the Arabian Sea has increased between 1982 and 2019?

- (1) 53 percent (2) 50 percent (3) 60 percent
(4) 52 percent (5) 70 percent

Q.144. Recently which of the following State has announced an advanced "State Disaster Response Center" will be set up an estimated cost of Rs 1,600 crore?

- (1) Kerala (2) West Bengal (3) Odisha
(4) Maharashtra (5) Tamil Nadu

Q.145. _____ has signed an agreement with Sikkim to transform into an organic entity?

- (1) Delhi (2) Goa (3) Puducherry
(4) Kerala (5) Ladakh

Q.146. Which of the following State government launched the "Chief Minister's COVID-19 Widows Support Scheme"?

- (1) Kerala (2) Assam
(3) West Bengal (4) Odisha
(5) Manipur

Q.147. Who among the following is the writer of the book named "Palleku Pattabhishekam"?

- (1) Arundhati Roy (2) Shashi Tharur
(3) Abdul Samad (4) Chetan Bhagat
(5) Yalamanchili Sivaji

Q.148. Which High Court will become the first one in India to allow public viewing of proceedings?

- (1) Allahabad High Court
(2) Delhi High Court
(3) Guwahati High Court
(4) High Court of Madhya Pradesh
(5) Gujarat High Court

- Q.149.** In which of following city of Gujarat India's first 5-star hotel built over railway track has been built?
 (1) Ahamadabad (2) Rajkot
 (3) Gandhinagar (4) Barnagar
 (5) Vadodara
- Q.150.** Which of following State/ UT got its first real-time air-monitoring station?
 (1) Delhi (2) Puducherry
 (3) Chandigarh (4) Ladakh
 (5) Jammu & Kashmir
- Q.151.** Recently who among the following has once again topped the International Cricket Council's (ICC) latest women's ODI batting rankings?
 (1) Stephanie taylor (2) Mithali Raj
 (3) Jhulan Goswami (4) Smriti Mandhana
 (5) Ellyse Perry
- Q.152.** How much ADB slashed India's economic growth forecast for the current fiscal due to the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic?
 (1) 12 per cent (2) 11 per cent (3) 10 per cent
 (4) 9 per cent (5) 8 per cent
- Q.153.** Who among the following has been Leftist rural teacher elected President of Peru?
 (1) Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi
 (2) Pedro Castillo
 (3) Sergio Mattarella
 (4) Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa
 (5) Erna Solberg
- Q.154.** Who among the following has won the title of "Miss India USA 2021"?
 (1) Vaidehi Dongre (2) Arshi Lalani
 (3) Mira Kasari (4) Diana Hayden
 (5) Manasa Varanasi
- Q.155.** How much Asian Paints has cumulative profit during the first quarter of the current financial year ended June 30, 2021?
 (1) Rs 1074.30 crore (2) Rs 874.30 crore
 (3) Rs 770.30 crore (4) Rs 574.30 crore
 (5) Rs 374.30 crore
- Q.156.** Which of the following organisation has indigenously developed a high-potential "beta titanium" alloy for manufacturing complex components for aeronautical use?
 (1) The Defense Research and Development Organization
 (2) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited
 (3) Indian Space Research Organisation
 (4) Bharat Dynamics Limited
 (5) Bharat Earth Movers Limited
- Q.157.** Which of the following platform has been launched to facilitate farmers to get "right information at right time" in their desired language?
 (1) KisanInfo (2) KisanSarathi
 (3) KisanAwaz (4) KisanSuchana
 (5) KisanMitra
- Q.158.** Which of the following country has started the creation of its first small modular reactor?
 (1) Japan (2) USA (3) China
 (4) France (5) Israel
- Q.159.** Which of the following State Government will soon introduce the "One Block, One Product" scheme?
 (1) Goa (2) Haryana
 (3) West Bengal (4) Odisha
 (5) Manipur
- Q.160.** In which of the following city India's first touchscreen "Grain ATM" was installed?
 (1) Kolkata (2) Delhi (3) Gurugram
 (4) Chennai (5) Bengaluru
- Q.161.** Which among the following country has organised "3rd Arctic Science Ministerial" (ASM3) meeting.
 (1) Iceland
 (2) Japan
 (3) Russia
 (4) United State of America
 (5) 1 and 2 only
- Q.162.** Recently which of the following State ban on "Kanwar Yatra"?
 (1) Goa (2) Tamil Nadu (3) Kerala
 (4) Uttar Pradesh (5) Odisha

QUIZ TIME | CURRENT AFFAIRS

- Q.163.** Which of the following organisation launched in association with World Society of Victimology organised "17th Asian Post-graduate course on Victimology, Victim Assistance and Criminal Justice"?
- (1) The Jindal Institute of Behavioural Sciences
 - (2) Medical Council of India
 - (3) Indian Council of Medical Research
 - (4) All India Institute Of Medical Sciences, New Delhi
 - (5) None of the above
- Q.164.** Recently in which of the following Sea India and Russia carried out a two-day mega naval war game?
- (1) Bay of Bengal
 - (2) Arabia Sea
 - (3) Red Sea
 - (4) Mediterranean Sea
 - (5) Baltic Sea
- Q.165.** How much per cent has increased the combined Index of Eight Core Industries as compared to the Index of June 2020?
- (1) 7.5 per cent
 - (2) 10.9 per cent
 - (3) 8.9 per cent
 - (4) 5.9 per cent
 - (5) 2.0 per cent
- Q.166.** Najib Mikati has become the new Prime Minister of which of the following country?
- (1) Iraq
 - (2) Egypt
 - (3) Germany
 - (4) Lebanon
 - (5) Chile
- Q.167.** Who among the following inaugurated the National Commission for Women's 24/7 the helpline number - 7827170170?
- (1) Anupriya Patel
 - (2) Smt Smriti Zubin Irani
 - (3) Swati Malival
 - (4) Narendra Modi
 - (5) Priya Malik
- Q.168.** Momiji Nishiya, became one of the youngest individual Olympic champions, belongs to which of the following country?
- (1) France
 - (2) China
 - (3) Japan
 - (4) USA
 - (5) Russia
- Q.169.** Recently the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has sharply scaled down India's economic growth projection to what percent?
- (1) 11.50%
 - (2) 12.30%
 - (3) 7.70%
 - (4) 10%
 - (5) 9.50%
- Q.170.** Odisha's which of the following city has become the first city in the country to have a drink from the tap project?
- (1) Katak
 - (2) Puri
 - (3) Bhubaneswar
 - (4) Sambalpur
 - (5) Balasore
- Q.171.** 11-time MLA Ganpatrao Deshmukh passed away, he belong to which state?
- (1) Goa
 - (2) Madhya Pradesh
 - (3) Maharashtra
 - (4) Kerala
 - (5) Gujarat
- Q.172.** In how much amount the Omers Infrastructure has buy 19.4 percent stake of Azure Power?
- (1) Rs 5,600 crore
 - (2) Rs 4,728 crore
 - (3) Rs 3,328 crore
 - (4) Rs 1,628 crore
 - (5) Rs 2,628 crore
- Q.173.** Recently who among the following has addressed at the "G20 Culture Ministers' Meeting"?
- (1) Smt. Meenakashi Lekhi
 - (2) Smriti Zubin Irani
 - (3) G.Kishan Reddy
 - (4) Narendra Modi
 - (5) Amit Shah
- Q.174.** Who among the following has assumed charge as Vice Chief of the Naval Staff?
- (1) G Ashok Kumar
 - (2) SN Ghormade
 - (3) M M Narvane
 - (4) Karamveer Singh
 - (5) Ajay Kumar
- Q.175.** Who among the following has recipient of "Lokmanya Tilak National Award" 2021?
- (1) Adar Poonawalla
 - (2) K Sivan
 - (3) Dr Cyrus Poonawalla
 - (4) E. Sreedharan
 - (5) Udhav Thakery

Q.176. On which of the following day the India has been set to take over as President of UN Security Council?

- (1) 29-Jul-21 (2) 30-Jul-21 (3) 31-Jul-21
(4) 01-Aug-21 (5) 02-Aug-21

Q.177. Which of the following State's famous "Tarnetar fair" has been canceled for the second year in a row due to the COVID-19 pandemic?

- (1) Gujarat (2) Goa (3) Punjab
(4) Odisha (5) Rajasthan

Q.178. Which of the following state have launched the "Mission Nirvyatak Bano" campaign to promote aspiring exporters in the state?

- (1) Goa (2) Odisha (3) Rajasthan
(4) Manipur (5) Madhya Pradesh

Q.179. Who among the following has won the National Women Online Chess title?

- (1) Koneru Hampi (2) Vantika Agarwal
(3) Pentala Harikrishna (4) Sudha Rani
(5) Adhiban Baskaran

Q.180. "International Day of Friendship" is observed globally on which date?

- (1) 31-July (2) 30-July (3) 29-July
(4) 28-July (5) 27-July

ANSWER KEY

Q.1.(1)	Q.2.(1)	Q.3.(4)	Q.4.(1)	Q.5.(5)	Q.6.(2)	Q.7.(3)	Q.8.(2)	Q.9.(1)	Q.10.(2)
Q.11.(1)	Q.12.(2)	Q.13.(5)	Q.14.(2)	Q.15.(2)	Q.16.(1)	Q.17.(5)	Q.18.(1)	Q.19.(1)	Q.20.(4)
Q.21.(2)	Q.22.(3)	Q.23.(1)	Q.24.(1)	Q.25.(3)	Q.26.(2)	Q.27.(4)	Q.28.(3)	Q.29.(2)	Q.30.(4)
Q.31.(1)	Q.32.(3)	Q.33.(2)	Q.34.(4)	Q.35.(3)	Q.36.(1)	Q.37.(3)	Q.38.(4)	Q.39.(2)	Q.40.(5)
Q.41.(1)	Q.42.(5)	Q.43.(1)	Q.44.(1)	Q.45.(4)	Q.46.(4)	Q.47.(3)	Q.48.(1)	Q.49.(1)	Q.50.(1)
Q.51.(1)	Q.52.(3)	Q.53.(1)	Q.54.(4)	Q.55.(5)	Q.56.(1)	Q.57.(1)	Q.58.(2)	Q.59.(2)	Q.60.(4)
Q.61.(2)	Q.62.(1)	Q.63.(4)	Q.64.(1)	Q.65.(5)	Q.66.(5)	Q.67.(3)	Q.68.(2)	Q.69.(5)	Q.70.(3)
Q.71.(1)	Q.72.(5)	Q.73.(1)	Q.74.(4)	Q.75.(4)	Q.76.(2)	Q.77.(5)	Q.78.(5)	Q.79.(2)	Q.80.(1)
Q.81.(1)	Q.82.(4)	Q.83.(2)	Q.84.(4)	Q.85.(3)	Q.86.(1)	Q.87.(1)	Q.88.(4)	Q.89.(4)	Q.90.(2)
Q.91.(2)	Q.92.(3)	Q.93.(3)	Q.94.(4)	Q.95.(1)	Q.96.(2)	Q.97.(3)	Q.98.(4)	Q.99.(4)	Q.100.(5)
Q.101.(2)	Q.102.(2)	Q.103.(3)	Q.104.(4)	Q.105.(3)	Q.106.(4)	Q.107.(1)	Q.108.(4)	Q.109.(2)	Q.110.(4)
Q.111.(2)	Q.112.(1)	Q.113.(2)	Q.114.(4)	Q.115.(5)	Q.116.(3)	Q.117.(4)	Q.118.(2)	Q.119.(2)	Q.120.(5)
Q.121.(1)	Q.122.(4)	Q.123.(1)	Q.124.(3)	Q.125.(5)	Q.126.(4)	Q.127.(5)	Q.128.(4)	Q.129.(2)	Q.130.(3)
Q.131.(1)	Q.132.(4)	Q.133.(3)	Q.134.(2)	Q.135.(1)	Q.136.(2)	Q.137.(3)	Q.138.(1)	Q.139.(4)	Q.140.(3)
Q.141.(5)	Q.142.(2)	Q.143.(4)	Q.144.(3)	Q.145.(5)	Q.146.(2)	Q.147.(5)	Q.148.(5)	Q.149.(3)	Q.150.(5)
Q.151.(2)	Q.152.(3)	Q.153.(2)	Q.154.(1)	Q.155.(4)	Q.156.(1)	Q.157.(2)	Q.158.(3)	Q.159.(2)	Q.160.(3)
Q.161.(5)	Q.162.(4)	Q.163.(1)	Q.164.(5)	Q.165.(3)	Q.166.(4)	Q.167.(2)	Q.168.(3)	Q.169.(5)	Q.170.(2)
Q.171.(3)	Q.172.(4)	Q.173.(1)	Q.174.(2)	Q.175.(3)	Q.176.(4)	Q.177.(1)	Q.178.(3)	Q.179.(2)	Q.180.(2)

HP India introduced solutions powered by Artificial Intelligence that will help educational institutions transition to a digital learning environment and offer students 24/7 access to knowledge, courses, and collaborative resources.

Q.1. Vineet said to Suraj, Diya is your maternal aunt and my mother is also your maternal aunt and Reema is my sister then how is Suraj related to Reema?-

- (A) Brother (B) Cousin
(C) Sister (D) Wife

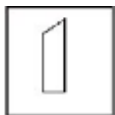
Q.2. Select the related letter/ word/number/figure from the given alternatives.

Man : Walk :: Rabbit : ?

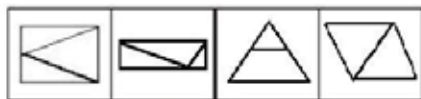
- (A) Jump (B) Run (C) Leap (D) Scamper

Q.3. From the given answer figures, select the one in which the question figure is hidden /embedded.

Question figure:



Answer figures



- (A) (B) (C) (D)

- (A) A (B) B (C) C (D) D

Q.4. Choose the correct alternatives from given ones that will complete the series.

MHZ , NIW , OKT , PNQ , ?

- (A) QSN (B) RQN (C) QRN (D) RNN

Q.5. Select the related letter/ word/number/figure from the given alternatives.

Patient : Hospital :: Medicine : ?

- (A) Medical store (B) Dispensary
(C) Pharmacy (D) Drugstore

Q.6. Select the related letter/ word/number/figure from the given alternatives.

10 : 50 :: 12 : ?

- (A) 78 (B) 96 (C) 56 (D) 26

Q.7. Find the odd word/number/letters from the given alternatives.

- (A) Iron (B) Nickel
(C) Cobalt (D) Aluminium

Q.8. Find the odd word/number/letters from the given alternatives.

- (A) November (B) April
(C) May (D) June

Q.9. Find the odd word/number/letter set from the given alternatives.

- (A) 6958 (B) 7948 (C) 6895 (D) 7983

Q.10. Find the missing number from the given response.

6	11	25
8	6	16
12	5	?

- (A) 10 (B) 12 (C) 16 (D) 18

Q.11. Find the missing letter from the given response.

C	R	D
N	B	I
H	E	?

- (A) P (B) A (C) L (D) M

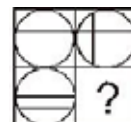
Q.12. Arrange the following word as per in the ascending order.

1. Work 2. Organization
3. Department 4. Client
5. Staff

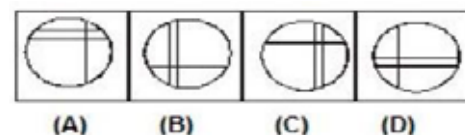
- (A) 4, 1, 5, 3, 2 (B) 4, 5, 1, 3, 2
(C) 4, 1, 5, 2, 3 (D) 4, 1, 3, 5, 2

Q.13. Which answer figure will complete the pattern in the question figure?

Question figure



Answer figures



- (A) A (B) B (C) C (D) D

Q.14. Dinesh walks 6 km. in the west then he turns to his right and moves 8 km then turns to his left and moves 9 km., then turns to the right and move 12 km. Now in which direction is he from his starting point and how far?

- (A) 15 km. North -West
(B) 35 km. North -East
(C) 25 km. North -West
(D) 45 km. South -East

- Q.15.** Three persons A, B, C are standing in a queue. There are 5 persons in between A and B. There are 8 persons in between B and C. If there are 3 persons ahead of C and 21 behind A. Then what would the maximum no. of persons in the queue?

(A) 28 (B) 29 (C) 39 (D) 40

- Q.16.** If $4 \times 6 \times 9 \times 1 = 4196$

$$2 \times 3 \times 7 \times 2 = 2273$$

$$\text{then, } 1 \times 4 \times 8 \times 9 = ?$$

(A) 4819 (B) 1984 (C) 8941 (D) 4629

- Q.17.** Two statements are given followed by two conclusions I and II. You have to consider the two statements to be true, even if they seem to be at variance from commonly known facts. You have to decide which of the given conclusion can definitely be drawn from the given statement. Indicate your answer.

Statement :

All writers are lawyers.

All readers are lawyers.

Conclusion:

I. Some lawyers are reader.

II. Some readers are writers.

- (A) Only I conclusion follows.
(B) Only II conclusion follows.
(C) Both conclusions I and II follow.
(D) Neither conclusion I nor II follows.

- Q.18.** Which one of the following diagrams best depicts the relationship among Deer, Rabbit and Tiger?

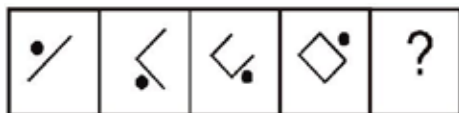


(A) (B) (C) (D)

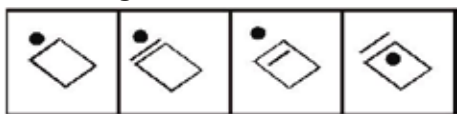
(A) A (B) B (C) C (D) D

- Q.19.** Which figure will come in the place of question mark?

Question figures



Answer figures



(A) (B) (C) (D)

(A) A (B) B (C) C (D) D

- Q.20.** Select the related letter/ word/number/figure from the given alternatives.

Spain : Euro :: Korea : ?

(A) Dollar (B) Yen
(C) Won (D) Astral

- Q.21.** Choose the correct alternatives from given ones that will complete the series.

2, 2, 5, 9, 10, ?

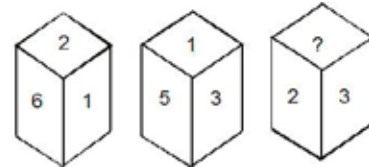
(A) 16 (B) 27 (C) 28 (D) 25

- Q.22.** Which one set of the letter when sequentially placed at the gaps in given letter series shall complete it?

a b _ a a _ c a a b _ c _ a b b _ c

(A) cbbac (B) abbca (C) cbbcc (D) bcba

- Q.23.** What will come in the place of question mark?



(A) 2 (B) 1 (C) 5 (D) 6

- Q.24.** Which one of the following responses would be a meaningful order of the given words.

1. Poverty 2. Population
3. Death 4. Unemployment
5. Disease

(A) 3, 4, 2, 5, 1 (B) 2, 4, 1, 5, 3
(C) 2, 3, 4, 5, 1 (D) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5

- Q.25.** Among P, Q, R, S and T each having the different amount of money. If R has more money than only T but Q and P do not have more money than S. Who has the highest amount of money?

(A) R (B) T
(C) S (D) None of these

- Q.26.** The ideals of liberty, equality and fraternity in the Preamble are borrowed from the Constitution of which country?

(A) French Constitution
(B) Australian Constitution
(C) British Constitution
(D) USSR Constitution

- Q.27.** The "Bill of Rights" and "Judicial Review" are features of which of the following countries constitution?

- (A) USA (B) UK
(C) Germany (D) Australia
- Q.28.** Forbidden city is located in which of the following country?
(A) Japan (B) China
(C) Pakistan (D) Italy
- Q.29.** Right to Safety, Right to information, Right to Choose, Right to be heard & Right to Seek Redressal are the essential components of which among the following?
(A) Fundamental Rights in the Constitution of India
(B) The Consumer Protection Act
(C) The Essential Commodities Act
(D) Prevention of Corruption Act
- Q.30.** Which among the following does not come under Fundamental Duties of a citizen in India?
(A) To protect and Improve Natural Environment
(B) To develop scientific temper, humanism and spirit of inquiry and reform
(C) To strive towards abolition of untouchability
(D) All are comes under fundamental duties
- Q.31.** Who among the following was not the recipients of Bharat Ratna Award?
(A) Bhupen Hazarika (B) Nana ji Deshmukh
(C) Sushma Swaraj (D) Pranab Mukherjee
- Q.32.** Mukesh Ambani got the ninth rank in The Hurun Global Rich List 2020. Who got the first rank?
(A) Bill Gates (B) Warren Buffet
(C) Jeff Bezos (D) Bernard Arnault
- Q.33.** Who has become the first girl to win the president of India prize?
(A) Divya Agarwal (B) Lipi Thukral
(C) Kavita Gopal (D) Subimal Ghos
- Q.34.** 'Mukhya mantri Ghar Ghar Ration Yojana' was launched by which state/UT Govt?
(A) Gujarat (B) Madhyapradesh
(C) Maharastra (D) Delhi
- Q.35.** Choose the incorrect sentence among the following?
(A) The objective resolution passed by Pt Nehru was what the Preamble of our constitution became
(B) Preamble is enforceable in court of law
(C) Preamble of Indian constitution has been amended only once in
(D) Preamble proves the sovereignty lies ultimately with the Indian people
- Q.36.** How many times the word "Secular" appears in us Constitution?
(A) 1 (B) 2 (C) 3 (D) 4
- Q.37.** Who has the portfolio of Ministry Of Housing & Urban Affairs?
(A) Rajnath Singh
(B) Shripad Yesso Naik
(C) Hardeep Singh Puri
(D) Narendra Singh Tomar
- Q.38.** 'Karma Sathi Prakalpa' (Employment) Scheme launched by Which State?
(A) Rajasthan (B) Chhattisgarh
(C) Uttar Pradesh (D) West Bengal
- Q.39.** Government of India has started the work on the first-of-its-kind Katra (Jammu and Kashmir) – Delhi Express Road Corridor project. What is the cost of this Project?
(A) 25000 Cr (B) 30000 Cr
(C) 40000 Cr (D) 35000 Cr
- Q.40.** Krishi Megh (National Agricultural Research & Education System -Cloud Infrastructure and Services) lauched is by_____.
(A) Rajnath Singh
(B) Shripad Yesso Naik
(C) Hardeep Singh Puri
(D) Narendra Singh Tomar
- Q.41.** 'Special Revival Campaign' launched by which 1 of Life Insurance Companies in India?
(A) Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)
(B) HDFC Life Insurance Company
(C) Aditya Birla Sun Life Insurance Company
(D) Bharti AXA Life Insurance Company
- Q.42.** 'Aaram haram hai' slogan was given by whom?
(A) Subhas Chandra Bose
(B) Jawaharlal Nehru
(C) Mahatma Gandhi
(D) Atal Bihari Vajpayee
- Q.43.** The causes of Indian revolt' book was written by whom?
(A) Sayyid Ahmad Khan
(B) Subhas Chandra Bose

Department	A	B	C	D	E
HR	1050	1015	976	888	1004
Finance	1017	960	786	1025	963
Production	1542	1545	1550	1570	1588
Account	786	745	801	800	735
Legal	48	54	36	30	53
Marketing	656	764	525	785	750

- (C) Dominique Lapierre
(D) Larry Collins
- Q.44.** In which part of the Indian constitution the Directive Principle of State Policy are mentioned?
(A) Part 2 (B) Part 3
(C) Part 4 (D) Part 5
- Q.45.** National Digital Health Mission, under which all Indians will be given health IDs, announced by PM Narendra Modi. The scheme launched under which scheme?
(A) National Ayush Mission (NAM)
(B) Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY)
(C) Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY)
(D) Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana
- Q.46.** What is the new name of Firoz Shah Kotla stadium?
(A) Birsa Munda Stadium
(B) Arun Jaitley Stadium
(C) Veer Surendra Sai Stadium
(D) Mahindra Stadium
- Q.47.** Which one of the following state recently registered under Price Monitoring & Resource Unit?
(A) Telangana (B) Karnataka
(C) Uttar Pradesh (D) Nagaland
- Q.48.** Which one of the state emerges as topmost state under the AMRUT Scheme (Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation)?
(A) Telangana (B) Odisha
(C) Kerala (D) Karnataka
- Q.49.** The successor of Sher Shah was-
(A) Shujaat Khan (B) Islam Shah
(C) Feroz Shah (D) Muhammad Shah Adil
- Q.50.** The ancestors of Shungas originated from:
(A) Magadha (B) Prayag
(C) Ujjain (D) Saurashtra
- Q.51-53.** Study the following table carefully and answer the questions give below - Number of People Working in Various Departments from Various Organizations.
- Number of People Working in Various Departments from Various Organizations.

- Q.51.** What is the difference between the average number of people working in Marketing and Production departments from all the organization together?
(A) 785 (B) 631 (C) 863 (D) 456
- Q.52.** What is the total number of employees from all the departments working in all the organizations together?
(A) 26047 (B) 28010
(C) 25047 (D) 27047
- Q.53.** The number of people working in the Finance department from organization B are approximately what per cent of the total number of employees working in organization B?
(A) 12 (B) 15 (C) 25 (D) 19
- Q.54.** The remainder when $1^3 + 2^3 + 3^3 + \dots + 1000^3$ is divided by 13 is-
(A) 7 (B) 11 (C) 12 (D) 0
- Q.55.** If x, y, z are real numbers such that $x + y + z = 1$ then the value of $\left(\frac{1}{x} - 1\right)\left(\frac{1}{y} - 1\right)\left(\frac{1}{z} - 1\right)$ is-
(A) 16 (B) 8 (C) 4 (D) 1
- Q.56.** A wheel covers 44 km in 1000 revolutions. Find the diameter of wheel?
(A) 7 cm. (B) 14 cm. (C) 21 cm. (D) 28 cm.
- Q.57.** A, B and C enter into a partnership with Rs. 24000, Rs. 33000 and 48000 respectively. A being the working partner receives of the profits as his salary, the rest being divided in the ratio of their capitals. At the end of the year out of the total profits. A's share is Rs. 3900. What is B's share?
(A) Rs. 12000 (B) Rs. 3300
(C) Rs.3400 (D) Rs. 4200
- Q.58.** PQRS is cyclic quadrilateral, PR is diameter. If PQ = 7 cm, QR = 6 cm and RS = 2 cm then find the length of PS
(A) 8 cm (B) 4 cm (C) 9 cm (D) 6 cm

- Q.59.** At a point on level ground, the angle of elevation of a vertical tower is found to be such that its tangent is $\frac{5}{12}$. On walking 192 metres towards the tower, the tangent of the angle of elevation is $\frac{3}{4}$. Find the height of the tower.
 (A) 150 m (B) 180 m
 (C) 210 m (D) 240 m
- Q.60.** On melting a large solid sphere, similar right circular cones are formed whose base radius height is equal to radius of the sphere. Now from these cones one cone is melted and recast into a small solid sphere. What will the ratio between surface area of small solid sphere and large solid sphere?
 (A) $1:3^{\frac{4}{3}}$ (B) $1:2^{\frac{2}{3}}$ (C) $1:3^{\frac{2}{3}}$ (D) $1:2^{\frac{4}{3}}$
- Q.61.** A shopkeeper buys a radio listed at Rs. 1000 and gets successive discounts of 10% and 20% he spends 10% of the cost price on transportation if he wants a profit of 15%, he should sell the radio for.
 (A) Rs. 910.80 (B) Rs. 820.60
 (C) Rs. 727.00 (D) Rs. 720
- Q.62.** The average age of the students of a class is 22 years. 12 new students with an average age of 17 years join the class, thereby decreasing the average by 2 years. The original strength of the class was -
 (A) 16 (B) 17 (C) 18 (D) 19
- Q.63.** The difference between the compound interest and the simple interest on a certain sum at $7\frac{1}{2}\%$ per annum for 3 years is Rs 110.70. Find the sum -
 (A) 3600 (B) 5600 (C) 6400 (D) 8400
- Q.64.** The dimensions of a rectangular box are in the ratio 2 : 3 : 4 and the difference between the cost of covering it with a sheet of some metal at Rs.8 and Rs.10 per square metre is Rs.234. What are the length, breadth and height (in m.) of the box respectively?
 (A) 2, 3, 4 (B) 3, 4.5, 6
 (C) 4, 6, 8 (D) 5, 7.5, 10
- Q.65.** If A is the area of a right-angled triangle and b is one of the side containing the right angle, then what is the length of the altitude on the hypotenuse?
 (A) $\frac{2Ab}{\sqrt{b^4 + 4A^2}}$ (B) $\frac{2A^2b}{\sqrt{b^4 + 4A^2}}$
 (C) $\frac{2Ab^2}{\sqrt{b^4 + 4A^2}}$ (D) $\frac{2A^2b^2}{\sqrt{b^4 + A^2}}$
- Q.66.** Triangle ABC is right angled at A. AB = 3 units, AC = 4 units and AD is perpendicular to BC. What is the area of the triangle ADB?
 (A) $\frac{5\sqrt{11}}{8}$ (B) $\frac{54}{25}$ (C) $\frac{72}{25}$ (D) $\frac{96}{25}$
- Q.67.** A passenger train goes from Mumbai to Pune, a distance of 192 km. at an average speed of 32 kmph. Another express train starts from Mumbai $1\frac{1}{2}$ hours after the first and reaches Pune half an hour earlier. What is the ratio of the speed of the passenger train and express train?
 (A) 1 : 2 (B) 1 : 3 (C) 3 : 1 (D) 2 : 1
- Q.68.** Every day a fruit seller sells half his stock, 10% of the stock overnight gets spoiled. If 4627 mangoes rotted over 3 nights then how many did he start with on the first day?
 (A) 620000 (B) 60000
 (C) 56000 (D) 64000
- Q.69.** A fraction is reduced such that when it is squared and then its numerator is increased by 25% and the denominator is reduced to 80% it results in $\frac{5}{8}$ of the original fraction. The product of the numerator and the denominator is :
 (A) 6 (B) 7 (C) 10 (D) 12
- Q.70.** To pass an examination, 40% marks are essential. K obtains 10% marks less than the pass marks and L obtains 11.11% marks less than K. What percent less than the sum of K's and L's marks should M obtain to pass the exam?
 (A) $40(2/11)\%$ (B) $41(3/17)\%$
 (C) $28(3/19)\%$ (D) $30(1/3)\%$
- Q.71.** Divide Rs. 7062 between 7 men, 11 women and 5 boys so that each woman may have amount 3 times as much as a boy, and a man may have amount as much as a woman and a boy together. Find the amount of money each woman get.
 (A) Rs. 428 (B) Rs. 107
 (C) Rs. 328 (D) Rs. 321
- Q.72.** In an election between two candidates 10% of the voters did not cast their votes while 10% of the vote polled were declared invalid. If the winning candidate got 54% of the valid votes and won by 2916 votes then find the total number of voters in the voter list.
 (A) 25000 (B) 35000
 (C) 45000 (D) 50000

Q.73. The costs of two articles were in the ratio 16 : 23. The cost of first article increases by 10% and that of second by Rs. 477. Now the costs of two articles are in the ratio of 11 : 20. The price of the second article in the beginning was.

- (A) 1200 (B) 1119 (C) 1089 (D) 1219

Q.74. The ratio of two amounts is 4 : 5. If they are lent out at compound interest for 2 years and 1 year respectively, then the equal amount is received. Find the rate of interest per annum.

- (A) 20% (B) 30% (C) 25% (D) 21%

Q.75. A alone would take 8 hours more to complete the job than when A and B would together. If B worked alone, he would take $4\frac{1}{2}$ hours more to complete the job than when A and B worked together. What time would they take if both A and B worked together?

- (A) 3 days (B) 4 days
(C) 5 days (D) 6 days

Q.76. Select the most appropriate synonym of the given word.

SORDID

- (A) pure (B) dirty (C) clean (D) solid

Q.77. Select the correctly spelt word.

- (A) gaity (B) gaiety (C) gayty (D) gaeity

Q.78. Identify the segment which contains the grammatical error.

Each of the pictures have been signed by the football star.

- (A) signed by (B) Each of
(C) have been (D) the pictures

Q.79. Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom.

Have one's hands full

- (A) to be very generous
(B) to be very rich
(C) to be very clumsy
(D) to be very busy

Q.80. Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom.

Face the music

- (A) get appreciation (B) face the criticism
(C) enjoy the harmony (D) face the enemy

Q.81. Fill in the blank with the most appropriate word.

The soldiers planned to attack at a precise hour so they _____ their watches.

- (A) synchronized (B) assessed
(C) restored (D) exchanged

Q.82. Select the most appropriate antonym of the given word.

FEROCIOUS

- (A) fierce (B) prudent
(C) cunning (D) gentle

Q.83. Given below are four jumbled sentences. Out of the given options pick the one that gives their correct order.

A. Her father had been stuck in an elevator for six hours.

B. Esha had heard from her parents about a blackout caused by a sudden storm.

C. She had to grope in the dark and cook by the candlelight.

D. Her mother's story had been quite different from his.

- (A) ADCB (B) BADC
(C) CADB (D) BDCA

Q.84. Identify the most appropriate option to substitute the underlined segment. If no substitution is required, select No substitution.

I have a terrible cold during several days now.

- (A) No substitution
(B) had a terrible cold since
(C) have had a terrible cold for
(D) am having a terrible cold during

Q.85. Select the most appropriate word for the group of words.

One who is indifferent to pleasure or pain

- (A) wise (B) temperate
(C) stoic (D) brave

Q.86. Identify the segment which contains the grammatical error.

It was a windy autumn day and leaves were fallen rapidly from the trees.

- (A) windy autumn day (B) leaves were fallen
(C) rapidly from trees (D) It was a

Q.87. Identify the most appropriate option to substitute the underlined segment. If no substitution is required, select No substitution.

The shoebill stork can be recognise from its long legs and broad wings.

- (A) No substitution (B) recognising from it's
(C) recognised by its (D) recognise through it's

Q.88. Select the most appropriate passive form of the given sentence.

The store manager caught the teenager shoplifting.

(A) The teenager was caught shoplifting by the store manager.

(B) The teenager has been caught shoplifting by the store manager.

(C) The teenager is caught shoplifting by the store manager.

(D) The store manager is caught shoplifting by the teenager.

Q.89. Select the most appropriate synonym of the given word.

REPRIMAND

(A) reproach (B) applaud

(C) reward (D) eradicate

Q.90. Select the most appropriate indirect form of the given sentence.

My grandmother said, "I bore six children."

(A) My grandmother said that she had borne six children

(B) My grandmother told that she had bore six children.

(C) My grandmother said she bore six children.

(D) My grandmother said that she has born six children.

Q.91. Select the wrongly spelt word.

(A) accomplice (B) accommodate

(C) accumulate (D) accelerate

Q.92. Given below are four jumbled sentences. Out of the given options pick the one that gives their correct order.

A. They used thin twigs called chew sticks as tooth cleaners.

B. The fuzzy end was rubbed against the teeth to keep them clean.

C. These sticks were fuzzy at one end.

D. How did people clean their teeth before the toothbrush was invented?

(A) DBCA (B) ACBD

(C) BCAD (D) DACB

Q.93. Select the most appropriate antonym of the given word.

MISERY

(A) bliss (B) censure

(C) poverty (D) dearth

Q.94. Select the most appropriate word for the group of words.

A previous case that might serve as an example or guide in subsequent situations.

(A) precursor (B) predecessor

(C) precedent (D) president

Q.95. Fill in the blank with the most appropriate word.

The entrepreneur is looking for an _____ to fund his project.

(A) aviator (B) invigilator

(C) inspector (D) investor

Q.96-100. In the following passage some words have been deleted. Fill in the blanks with the help of the alternatives given. Select the most appropriate option for each blank.

My grandmother is the genealogist of the family. She (A) _____ records of births, deaths, marriages and divorces. She takes the job (B) _____ seriously. She sends (C) _____ to the family whenever something noteworthy (D) _____. We recently had a bulletin about the (E) _____ of a relative who bequeathed his antique furniture to his descendants.

Q.96. Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank A

(A) promotes (B) produces

(C) spreads (D) maintains

Q.97. Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank B

(A) quick (B) quite (C) quiet (D) quit

Q.98. Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank C

(A) advertisements (B) notices

(C) brochures (D) messages

Q.99. Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank D

(A) occurs (B) obtains

(C) exists (D) passes

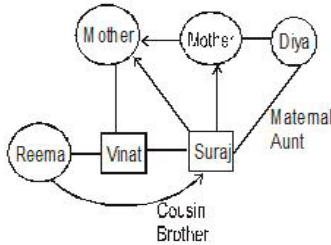
Q.100. Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank E

(A) damage (B) demise

(C) demolition (D) destruction

EXPLANATION/SSC CGL PRE

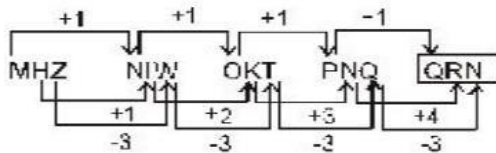
Q.1.(B)



Q.2.(C) Movement of rabbit is known as the leap.

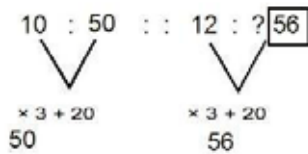
Q.3.(B)

Q.4.(C)



Q.5.(B) The place where medicines are kept is known as dispensary

Q.6.(C)



Q.7.(D) Aluminium is a 'p' block elements but others are 'd' block elements

Q.8.(C) No. of day in may month is 31 but in others are 30 days.

Q.9.(D) $6 + 9 + 5 + 8 = 28$

$$7 + 9 + 4 + 8 = 2$$

$$6 + 8 + 9 + 5 = 28$$

$$7 + 9 + 8 + 3 = 27$$

Q.10.(C) In rows,

$$6/2 + 11 \times 2 = 25$$

$$8/2 + 6 \times 2 = 16$$

$$12/2 + 5 \times 2 = 16$$

Q.11.(C) In rows,

$$C + R + D$$

$$3 + 18 + 4 = 25$$

$$N + B + I$$

$$14 + 2 + 9 = 25$$

$$8 + 5 + 12 = 25$$

$$H + E + L$$

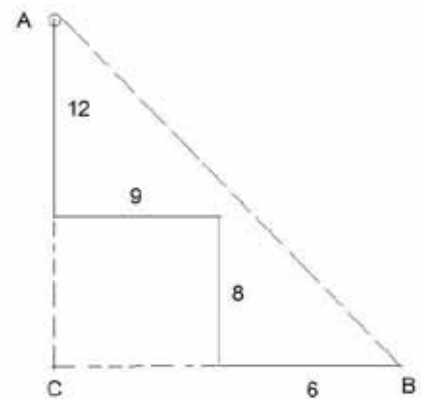
Q.12.(A)

Client → Work → Staff

↓
Organization ← Department

Q.13.(D)

Q.14.(C)



According to Pithagoras theorem

$$AB^2 = (AC)^2 + (BC)^2$$

$$= (15)^2 + (20)^2$$

$$= 225 + 400$$

$$AB^2 = 625$$

$$AB = \sqrt{625}$$

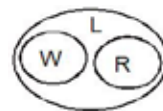
$$AB = 25 \text{ km}$$

direction North west

Q.15.(D) $21 A 5 B 8 C 3 = 37 + 3 = 40$

Q.16.(B) Is based on the arrangement of numbers.

Q.17.(A)



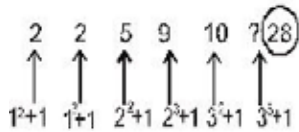
Lawyers = L, Writers = W, Readers = R

Q.18.(A)

Q.19.(B) The number of lines in the pictures is increasing according to the order.

Q.20.(C) The currency of Korea is won.

Q.21.(C)



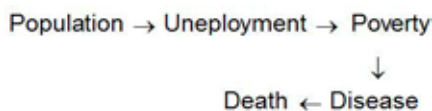
Q.22.(A) a b c / a a b c / a a b b c / a a b b c c

Q.23.(B)

By the rule of direction of watch.

1 6 2 } So '1' is placed on
1 3 5 } the place of ?

Q.24.(B)



Q.25.(C) S > Q/P > R > T

Q.26.(A) These words are taken from French revolution.

Q.27.(A) The "Bill of rights" and "Judicial Review" are features of constitution of United States.

Q.28.(B) The Forbidden City is a palace complex in central Beijing, China.

Q.29.(A) Articles 12-35 of Indian Constitution deal with Fundamental Rights. These human rights are conferred on the citizens of India for Constitution tells that these rights are inviolable. Right to Life, Right to Dignity, Right to Education etc. all come under one of the six main fundamental rights.

Q.30.(D) All the above discussed come in fundamental duties (Part 4-A). Fundamental duties were added in the constitution in 1976 under the 42nd amendment act, on the recommendations of Sardar Swarna Singh committee. The concept of fundamental duties is borrowed from the constitution of Russia. There are eleven fundamental duties described in the constitution. 11th fundamental duty was added in 86th amendment act in 2002.

Q.31.(C) Sushma Swaraj was awarded the Padma Vibhushan, India's second highest civilian award.

Q.32.(C) Amazon founder and CEO Jeff Bezos, 56, has retained the top spot in the Hurun Global Rich List, 2020.

Q.33.(C) Kavitha Gopal has become the first girl student of IIT Madras to be honoured with the President

of India Prize.

Q.34.(D) Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal launched "Mukhya Mantri Ghar Ghar Ration Yojana".

Q.35.(B) Preamble is not enforceable by court.

Q.36.(B) In the constitution, secular comes two times one in the preamble.

Q.37.(C) Shri Hardeep Singh Puri Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs; Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Minister of State in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

Q.38.(D) West Bengal government has launched a new scheme known as 'Karma Sathi Prakalpa' under which one lakh unemployed youth of the state would be provided soft loans and subsidies to make them self-reliant.

- A budget of Rs 500 crore has been earmarked for the successful implementation of this scheme.

- The state government would provide loans to 1 lakh youth every year to help them start their own business.

Q.39.(D) Government of India has started the work on the first-of-its-kind Katra (Jammu and Kashmir) – Delhi Express Road Corridor project.

- The project is estimated to be completed in three years and become functional by 2023.

- It will connect Delhi with Amritsar in Punjab and Katra in Jammu and Kashmir.

- Katra- Delhi Express Road Corridor project is estimated to cost over Rs. 35,000 crores.

Q.40.(D) Union Minister of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare Narendra Singh Tomar virtually launched the Krishi Megh (National Agricultural Research & Education System -Cloud Infrastructure and Services).

- Krishi Megh is in line with the digital agriculture of New India. Also, he launched KVC ALUNET (Krishi Vishwavidyalaya Chhatr Alumni Network) and Online Accreditation System for Higher Agricultural Educational Institutions (HEI).

Q.41.(A) Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has announced a special scheme to revive lapsed policies named 'Special Revival Campaign'. This campaign is open from 10 August to 9

October during which customers can revive their individual lapsed policies.

Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)

- Chairperson: M R Kumar
- Headquarters: Mumbai
- Founder: Government of India
- Founded: 1 September 1956

Q.42.(B) This slogan 'Aaram Haram Hai' was said by Jawahar Lal Nehru.

Q.43.(A) The Causes of the Indian Revolt, Written by Syed Ahmed Khan Bahadur, in Urdu.

Q.44.(C) Directive principles of state policy are described in part 4 of the constitution in this part state is directed to work for public welfare.

Q.45.(C) Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the launch of a new campaign called National Digital Health Mission, under which all Indians will be given health IDs. This Health ID will work as each Indian's health account. The National Digital Health Mission (NDHM), has been launched under the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY).

Q.46.(B) Feroz Shah Kotla stadium in Delhi renamed as Arun Jaitley stadium.

Q.47.(B) National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has set up a Price Monitoring and Resource Unit (PMRU) in the state of Karnataka.

- With this, Karnataka has become the 13th state to have a PMRU unit. It is registered as 'Karnataka State Price Monitoring Resources Unit Society'.

- The primary function of PMRUs is to ensure availability, accessibility as well as affordability of medicines in the State.

- The NPPA has already set up PMRUs in 12 States/UTs, namely Kerala, Odisha, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Haryana, Nagaland, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Andhra Pradesh, Mizoram and Jammu & Kashmir.

Q.48.(B) Odisha has emerged as the topmost state in the country for the consecutive second year in effective implementation of Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT).

- Odisha has secured 85.67 percent of marks in the ranking of the states for 2020 released by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.

- Chandigarh and Telangana have been placed at second and third positions with 75.08 and 74.04 percent respectively

Q.49.(B) When Sher Shah died, his eldest son, Adil Khan was at Ranthambhor and the younger one, Jalal Khan was at Rewa. Sher Shah had nominated Adil Khan as his successor but the nobles preferred Jalal Khan who was regarded more capable and industrious by them. Jalal Khan was called by them to come to Kalinjar and, on his arrival, was declared Sultan on 27 May 1545 A.D. He assumed the title of Islam Shah.

Q.50.(C) As per various archaeological finds and evidences from numismatics it could be concluded that they were originated in Ujjain (Avanti).

Q.51.(C) Required difference = (1559 - 696) = 863

Q.52.(C) 5099 + 5083 + 4674 + 5098 + 5093 = 25047

Q.53.(D) Required Percent = $\frac{960}{5083} \times 100 = 18.8883 \approx 19\%$

Q.54.(D)

$$\left[\frac{1000(1000+1)}{2} \right]^2$$

$$= 2500 \times 1001 \times 1001$$

Remainder

$$= \frac{2550 \times 1001 \times 1001}{13} = 0$$

Q.55.(B)

$$x+y+z = 1 \left(\frac{1}{x} - 1 \right) \left(\frac{1}{y} - 1 \right) \left(\frac{1}{z} - 1 \right)$$

$$\left(\frac{1-x}{x} \right) \left(\frac{1-y}{y} \right) \left(\frac{1-z}{z} \right)$$

$$\left(\frac{y+z}{x} \right) \left(\frac{x+z}{y} \right) \left(\frac{x+y}{z} \right) \dots \dots \dots 0$$

$$\frac{y+z}{2} \geq \sqrt{yz}$$

$$y+z \geq 2\sqrt{yz}$$

$$x+z \geq 2\sqrt{xz} \quad x+y \geq 2\sqrt{xy}$$

$$\frac{8xyz}{xyz} = 8$$

Q.56.(B) 1000 revolution = 44 km = 44000

1 revolution = Its circumference

$$2 \times \frac{22}{7} \times r = 44$$

$$r = 7$$

$$d = 14 \text{ m.}$$

Q.57.(B) Let total profit be Rs. x

$$\text{A's salary} = \text{Rs. } \frac{x}{8}$$

$$\text{Remaining profit} = \text{Rs. } \frac{7x}{8}$$

Ratio between equivalent capitals

$$= 24000 : 33000 : 48000$$

$$= 24 : 33 : 48 = 8 : 11 : 16$$

According to question,

$$\frac{8}{35} \times \frac{7x}{8} + \frac{x}{8} = 3900$$

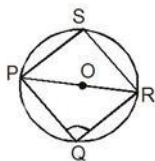
$$13x = 3900 \times 40$$

$$x = 12000$$

B's share

$$= \frac{11}{35} \times 12000 \times \frac{7}{8} = 3300$$

Q.58.(C)



PR is diameter

$$\angle PQR = 90^\circ$$

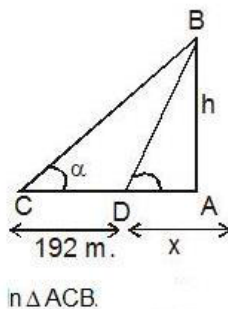
$$PQ^2 + QR^2 = PR^2$$

$$7^2 + 6^2 = 2^2 + PS^2$$

$$PS^2 = 81$$

$$PS = 9 \text{ cm}$$

Q.59.(B)



$$\tan \beta = \frac{h}{x}$$

$$\frac{3}{4} = \frac{h}{x} \Rightarrow x = \frac{4h}{3} \dots (2)$$

From (1) & (2)

$$\frac{5}{12} = \frac{h}{\frac{4h}{3} + 192}$$

$$5 \left(\frac{4h}{3} + 192 \right) = 12h$$

$$5(4h + 576) = 36h$$

$$2880 + 20h = 36h$$

$$h = \frac{2880}{16} = 180$$

$$= 180 \text{ m}$$

Q.60.(D) Let radius of large solid sphere = R

Volume of a cone

$$= \frac{1}{3} \pi R^2 \cdot R = \frac{1}{3} \pi R^3$$

$$= \frac{4}{3} \pi x^3 = \frac{1}{3} \pi R^3$$

$$x = \frac{R}{\sqrt[3]{4}}$$

(Where x is radius of small solid sphere)

Required ratio

$$= \frac{4\pi x^2}{4\pi R^2}$$

$$= \frac{R^2}{\left(\frac{\sqrt[3]{4}}{1}\right)^2} \times \frac{1}{R^2} = 1 : 2^{\frac{4}{3}}$$

Q.61.(A) Discount = $10 + 20 - \frac{200}{100} = 28\%$

$$\text{C.P.} = 1000 \times \frac{72}{100} = 720$$

$$\text{Transportation Cost} = 10\% \text{ of } 720 = 72$$

Required selling price

$$= (720 + 72) \times \frac{115}{100}$$

$$= \text{Rs. } 910.80$$

Q.62.(C) Let the original strength of the class be x

$$x \times 22 + 12 \times 17 = (x + 12) \times 20$$

$$22x + 204 = 20x + 240$$

$$2x = 36$$

$$x = 18$$

Q.63.(C)

$$D = P \left(\frac{R}{100} \right)^2 \left(\frac{R}{100} + 3 \right)$$

$$\Rightarrow 110.70 = P \left(\frac{15}{100} \right)^2 \left(\frac{15}{100} + 3 \right)$$

$$\Rightarrow P = \frac{110.70 \times 200 \times 200 \times 200}{15 \times 15 \times 615}$$

$$\Rightarrow P = 6400$$

Q.64.(D) Let the dimension of a rectangular box be $2x, 3x, 4x$

Total surface area of box

$$= 2(2x \times 3x + 3x \times 4x + 4x \times 2x)$$

$$= 2(6x^2 + 12x^2 + 8x^2) = 52x^2$$

$$52x^2 \times 8 \sim 52x^2 \times 10 = 234$$

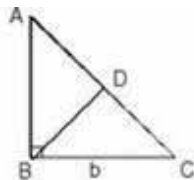
$$\Rightarrow x^2 = \frac{234}{104}$$

$$\Rightarrow x = 1.5$$

$$\text{dimensions} = 2 \times 1.5, 3 \times 1.5, 4 \times 1.5$$

$$= 3, 4.5, 6$$

Q.65.(A)



$$\text{Area of } \triangle ABC = \frac{1}{2} \times AB \times b$$

$$\therefore AB = \frac{2 \times A}{b}$$

$$AC^2 = \left(\frac{2A}{b} \right)^2 + b^2 = \frac{4A^2}{b^2} + b^2$$

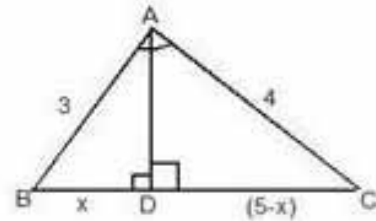
$$AC^2 = \frac{4A^2 + b^4}{b^2}$$

$$AC = \sqrt{\frac{4A^2 + b^4}{b^2}} \cdot \frac{1}{2} \times BD \times AC = A$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{1}{2} \times BD \times \frac{\sqrt{4A^2 + b^4}}{b} = A$$

$$\Rightarrow BD = \frac{2Ab}{\sqrt{4A^2 + b^4}}$$

Q.66.(B)



$$\therefore (3)^2 - (x^2) = 4^2 - (5-x)^2$$

$$\Rightarrow 9 - x^2 = 16 - 25 - x^2 + 10x$$

$$\Rightarrow x = 1.8$$

$$\therefore AD = \sqrt{(3)^2 - (1.8)^2} = \sqrt{9 - 3.24}$$

$$AD = \sqrt{5.76} = 2.4$$

$$\therefore \text{Area } \triangle ADB = \frac{1}{2} \times 2.4 \times 1.8 = \frac{54}{25} \text{ sq. unit}$$

Q.67.(A)

$$\frac{192}{32} - 3 = \frac{192}{S}$$

$$6 - 3 = \frac{192}{S}$$

$$S = 64$$

$$\text{Required ratio} = 1 : 2$$

Q.68.(C)

$$\text{Let total number of mangoes} = 8000$$

$$\text{First day sold mangoes} = 4000$$

$$\text{Remaining mangoes} = 8000 - 4000 = 4000$$

$$\text{Rotten mangoes} = 10\% \text{ of } 4000 = 400$$

$$\text{Remaining mangoes} = 4000 - 400 = 3600$$

$$\text{Second day sold mangoes} = 1800$$

$$\text{Remaining mangoes} = 3600 - 1800 = 1800$$

$$\text{Rotten mangoes} = 10\% \text{ of } 1800 = 180$$

$$\text{Remaining mangoes} = 1800 - 180 = 1620$$

$$\text{Third day sold mangoes} = 810$$

$$\text{Remaining mangoes} = 1620 - 810 = 810$$

$$\text{Rotten mangoes} = 10\% \text{ of } 810 = 81$$

$$\text{Total rotten mangoes} = 400 + 180 + 81 = 661$$

$$661 = 4627$$

$$1 = 7$$

$$\text{Hence the total number of mangoes} = 7 \times 8000$$

$$= 56000$$

Q.69.(C)

$$\text{Let the original fraction be } X/Y.$$

According to the question,

$$\frac{x^2 \times \frac{5}{4}}{y^2 \times \frac{5}{5}} = \frac{5}{8} \times \frac{x}{y}$$

$$\left(\frac{x}{y}\right)^2 \times \frac{25}{16} = \frac{5}{8} \times \frac{x}{y}$$

$$\frac{x}{y} = \frac{2}{5}$$

$$x \times y = 2 \times 5 = 10$$

Q.70.(B) Let total marks in the examination be 100.

$$\text{Pass marks} = \frac{100 \times 40}{100} = 40$$

$$\text{Marks obtained by K} = \frac{40 \times 90}{100} = 36$$

$$\text{Marks obtained by L} = \frac{36 \times 8}{9} = 32$$

$$\text{Combined marks obtained by K and L} = 32 + 36 = 68$$

$$\text{Required marks for M to pass the exam} = 68 - 40 = 28$$

$$\% \text{ marks for M} = \frac{28}{68} \times 100 = 41\frac{3}{17} \%$$

Q.71.(D)

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} 1M = 1W + 1B \\ 1W = 3B \end{array} \right\} \therefore 1M = 4B$$

$$\begin{aligned} 7 \text{ men} : 11 \text{ women} : 5 \text{ boys} \\ = 28 \text{ boys} : 33 \text{ boys} : 5 \text{ boys} \\ = 28 : 33 : 5 \end{aligned}$$

1 woman's share

$$= \frac{33}{66} \times \frac{1}{11} \times 7062 = \text{Rs. } 321$$

Q.72.(C) Let total valid votes = 100%

$$8\% = 2916$$

$$100\% = \frac{2916 \times 100}{8} = 36450$$

According to question,

Total no of voters

$$= \frac{10}{9} \times \frac{10}{9} \times 36450$$

$$= 45000$$

Q.73.(D)

I	II
C.P. Ist 16	23
↓ +10%	↓
C.P. IInd 17.6	23
176	230
But ratio is 16x	
[11	20]
	477 = diff.
176	320
90 = 477	
$230 = \frac{477 \times 230}{90} = \text{Rs. } 1219$	

Q.74.(C)

$$4 \times \left(1 + \frac{r}{100}\right)^2 = 5 \times \left(1 + \frac{r}{100}\right)$$

$$1 + \frac{r}{100} = \frac{5}{4}$$

$$\frac{r}{100} = \frac{1}{4}, r = 25\%$$

Q.75.(D) working together, let A and B take x days to complete the work.

According to question,

$$\frac{1}{x+8x} + \frac{1}{x+\frac{9}{2}} = \frac{1}{x}$$

$$\frac{1}{x+8} + \frac{2}{2x+9} = \frac{1}{x}$$

$$x(2x+9+2x+16) = (x+8)(2x+9)$$

$$2x^2+9x+2x^2+16x = 2x^2+9x+16x+72$$

$$2x^2 = 72$$

$$x^2 = 36$$

$$x = 6$$

Q.76.(B) Sordid (adj.): dirty.

Q.77.(B) The correct word is gaiety which means the state or quality of being light-hearted or cheerful.

Q.78.(C) 'Each' represents singularity, therefore 'has' a singular helping verb is needed.

Q.79.(D) Have one's hands full (idiom): to have as much work as one can do.

Q.80.(B) **Face the music** (idiom): be confronted with the unpleasant consequences of one's actions.

Q.81.(A) Synchronize (v): adjust (a clock or watch) to show the same time as another.

For other options:

Assess (v): evaluate or estimate the nature, ability, or quality of.

Restore (v): bring back or re-establish.

Q.82.(D) Ferocious (adj.): cruel, violent.

Gentle (adj.): soft, pleasant

For other options:

Prudent (adj.): acting with or showing care and thought for the future.

Cunning (adj.): artful, clever.

Q.83.(B) The correct sequence is BADC.

Q.84.(C) 'For' is used with the expression of duration, and the sentence should be in 'perfect' or 'perfect continuous' tense.

Q.85.(C) For other options:

Temperate (adj.): mild, pleasant

Q.86.(B) 'leaves were falling' will be the correct one.

Q.87.(C) 'be' is followed by 'V3' and for expressing the agent 'by' is used.

Q.88.(A) The teenager was caught shoplifting by the store manager.

Kindly refer to the rules of Voice.

Q.89.(A) Reprimand/reproach (n): a formal expression of disapproval.

For other options:

Applaud (v): show approval or praise by clapping.

Eradicate (v): destroy completely

Q.90.(A) My grandmother said that she had borne six children.

Kindly refer to the rules of Narration.

Q.91.(D) The correct word is 'accelerate' means 'increase in rate, amount, or extent'.

Q.92.(D) The correct sequence is DACB.

Q.93.(A) Misery (n): a state or feeling of great physical or

mental distress or discomfort.

Bliss (n): joy, happiness.

For other options:

Censure (v): express severe disapproval of, criticize.

Q.94.(C) For other options:

Precursor (n): a person or thing that comes before another of the same kind.

Predecessor (n): a person who held a job or office before the current holder.

Q.95.(D) Investor (n): a person or organization that puts money into financial schemes, property, etc. with the expectation of achieving a profit.

For other options:

Aviator (n): a pilot.

Invigilator (n): one who supervises candidates during an examination.

Q.96.(D) Maintain (v): make / keep something in a systematic way.

Q.97.(B) Quite (adv.): completely, fully.

For other options:

Quick (adj.): fast

Quiet (adj.): silent

Quit (v): leave

Q.98.(D) 'Messages' are sent to someone to wish.

For other options:

Brochure (n): a small book or magazine containing pictures and information about a product or service.

Q.99.(A) Occur (v): happen.

Q.100.(B) Demise (n): death

For other options:

Demolition (n): destruction

Q.1-2. Which of the following (1), (2), (3), (4) given below each sentence should replace the phrase printed in bold. If the highlighted part is grammatically correct, choose option 5 i.e. No correction required.

Q.1. The MSDE is responsible for facilitation of all skill development programs across the country, removal of disconnect between demand and supply of skilled manpower and skill up-gradation, **for mobilized the youth and generating employment.**

- (1) for mobilizing the youth and generating employment
- (2) for having mobilized the youth and generating employment
- (3) for the mobilizing the youth and generated employment
- (4) for mobilized the youth and generated employment
- (5) No correction required.

Q.2. The turf wars coupled with conflict, disagreements and differences of opinion **escalate into interpersonal conflict; enough to disintegrated an organization.**

- (1) escalated into interpersonal conflict; enough to disintegrated an organization.
- (2) escalates into interpersonal conflict; enough to disintegrated an organization.
- (3) escalate into interpersonal conflict; enough to disintegrate an organization.
- (4) escalate into interpersonal conflict; enough to have disintegrated an organization.
- (5) No correction required.

Q.3-5. Choose the most suitable pair of words to be filled in the blanks given in the sentence to make it meaningfully complete.

Q.3. The _____ is on the chemist to make sure the medications are properly _____.

- (1) impunity, include (2) exoneration, withhold
- (3) onus, dispensed (4) benefit, hold
- (5) aid, hold

Q.4. _____ tracking the domestic online retail business expect new user growth to remain healthy

for the next few quarters, primarily driven by faster internet connections, which in turn has led to more familiarity with online shopping among _____.

- (1) Investors, users
- (2) Suppliers, customers
- (3) Connectors, members
- (4) Experts, consumers
- (5) None of these

Q.5. The _____ of Flipkart and Amazon is an indicator that the pace of growth has accelerated in India's e-commerce market after a _____.

- (1) users, leap (2) performance, rebound
- (3) jump, growth (4) initiatives, access
- (5) commands, surge

Q.6-8. In the question, three words are given and below them three phrases are mentioned which may or may not define the words. You have to choose the options accordingly.

Q.6. A. Bling

B. Crunk

C. Droolworthy

I. jewelry, decoration, or clothing that attracts attention because it looks expensive

II. very excited or full of energy

III. fund a project from lots of people who usually donate a small amount.

- (1) Only A & C are defined.
- (2) Only A & B are defined.
- (3) Only B and C are defined.
- (4) All are defined.
- (5) None is defined.

Q.7. A. Freegan

B. Hangry

C. Infomania

I. a person who rejects consumerism and seeks to help the environment by reducing waste

II. bad-tempered or irritable as a result of hunger

III. the compulsive desire to check or accumulate news and information

(1) Only A & B are defined.

(2) Only B & C are defined.

(3) Only A & C are defined.

(4) All are defined.

(5) None is defined.

Q.8. A. Meh

B. Somber

C. Adumbrate

I. uninspiring; unexceptional, impressed about something

II. having or conveying a feeling of deep seriousness and sadness.

III. give hint or indication of something

(1) Only A & B are defined.

(2) Only B & C are defined.

(3) Only A & C are defined

(4) All are defined.

(5) None is defined.

Q.9-13. Read each part of the sentence to find out if there is any error in it. The error, if any, will be in one part of the sentence. The number of that part is the answer. If there is no error, mark your answer as (5).

Q.9. Researchers identified cells that contained (1)/ only maternal or paternal genes in six (2)/ different parts of the mouse brains which controlled (3)/ different cognitive functions, from eating habits to memory. (4)/ No Error (5)

(1) (1) (2) (2) (3) (3)

(4) (4) (5) (5)

Q.10. Wounds are likely to heal (1)/ much more slowly and considering (2)/ the survival risks and the cost of space missions, (3)/ healing wounds as faster as possible is crucial. (4)/ No Error (5)

(1) (1) (2) (2) (3) (3)

(4) (4) (5) (5)

Q.11. A top American lawmaker has (1)/ said the economic reforms unleashed (2)/ by India not only would boost its growth (3)/ but also accelerate the Indo-US relationship. (4)/ No Error (5)

(1) (1) (2) (2) (3) (3)

(4) (4) (5) (5)

Q.12. Seeking to give a greater momentum to their strategic relationship, (1)/ India and France discussed about a wide spectrum of issues, including defence (2)/ and terrorism, with the French side saying the bilateral ties should (3)/ move forward with the speed of a Rafale fighter jet. (4)/ No Error (5)

(1) (1) (2) (2) (3) (3)

(4) (4) (5) (5)

Q.13. A category of genes known as "conditioned genes" (1)/ are thought to work only if (2)/ they came from the mother (3)/ in some cases and the father in other cases. (4)/ No Error (5)

(1) (1) (2) (2) (3) (3)

(4) (4) (5) (5)

Q.14-18. Rearrange the following sentences (A),(B),(C), (D), (E) and (F) in the proper sequence to form a meaningful paragraph, then answer the questions given below them.

(A) Which may reveal more about the Big Bang theory.

(B) The telescope, located 5,250 meters above sea level, will detect and gather precise data on primordial gravitational waves in the Northern Hemisphere.

(C) China is setting up the world's highest altitude gravitational wave telescopes in a Tibet prefecture close to the.

(D) Parts of Nagri is last Tibetan prefecture at China's border with India.

(E) Line of Actual Control (LAC) with India, with a budget of \$18.8 million to detect the faintest of echoes resonating from the universe.

(F) Construction has started for the first telescope, code-named Nagri No. 1, 30 km south of Shiquanhe Town in Nagri Prefecture, said chief researcher with the National Astronomical Observatories of the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

Q.14. Which of the following should be the LAST sentence after rearrangement?

(1) E (2) F (3) C

(4) A (5) B

Q.15. Which of the following should be the FIFTH sentence after rearrangement?

(1) E (2) D (3) A

(4) F (5) B

Q.16. Which of the following should be the **SECOND** sentence after rearrangement?

- (1) E (2) A (3) C
(4) D (5) B

Q.17. Which of the following should be the **THIRD** sentence after rearrangement?

- (1) E (2) C (3) A
(4) B (5) F

Q.18. Which of the following should be the **FIRST** sentence after rearrangement?

- (1) E (2) D (3) C
(4) F (5) B

Q.19-25. Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions given below it. Certain words are given in bold to help you locate them while answering some of the questions.

The threat by petroleum retailers to stop accepting credit and debit card payments led to a late-night intervention by the Centre, with the Minister for Petroleum, declaring that the protest action had been put off till January 13. Fuel dealers raised a red flag on the decision by certain banks to levy the merchant discount rate (MDR) of up to one per cent on card payments. After the demonetisation exercise began, the government had waived the service tax on the MDR surcharge from December 8 for card-based payments up to Rs. 2,000 and got banks to **waive** the MDR charges on debit cards till December 31. By The Petroleum Minister said that neither the consumer nor the dealers, operating on thin margins, would bear the MDR for fuel refills even after January 13. Stakeholders, he said, will **absorb** the cost, but it is still not clear who will bear the cost of going cashless — banks are not out of line in expecting some revenue in return for facilitating transactions through point of sale (PoS) devices. Since 8th November, public sector banks have been advised by the Centre to charge a maximum of Rs. 100 a month as PoS device rentals from small merchants, and the move has benefited 6.5 lakh of the 15 lakh PoS devices. Public sector oil marketers were asked to offer a 0.75 per cent discount to customers using non-cash means to tank up. The Railways, public sector insurers and others have been asked to offer discounts or charge lower rates for cashless transactions; so more such spats could occur, although the Centre has promised to foot the bill for some of these subventions.

Petroleum outlets are particularly important for a cash-lite economy push as they handle nearly Rs. 2 lakh crore of cash a year. Queues at banks have eased, but the weekly withdrawal limits haven't been lifted. In a situation where people are cash-strapped and the government is nudging them towards alternatives, the uncertainty of the sort created at fuel pumps should be avoided as it could lead to a crisis of confidence. Last February the Cabinet had given the nod for rationalising MDR charges. An expert panel to recommend legislative and other changes was constituted in August and it mooted greater transparency in fees for digital payments, protection for private data of consumers, a mechanism to ensure they will not be liable to pay for unauthorised transactions or system errors, and the creation of a new payments regulator. To build confidence in a less-cash economy, people nudged into a new way of life need clarity and consistency in policy along with a visible road map to secure their confidence. Lucky draws alone won't **suffice**.

Q.19. Which sectors have been asked to offer discounts or charge lower rates for cashless transactions?

- A. The Railways
B. The Airlines
C. The Small Scale Industries
D. The Public Sector Insurers and others

- (1) Only (C) (2) Both (B) and (C)
(3) Only (D) (4) Both (A) and (D)
(5) Both (C) and (A)

Q.20. Which of the following statement/s is/are **NOT TRUE** in the context of the passage?

- A. Public sector oil marketers were asked to offer a 0.65 per cent discount to customers using cash means to tank up.
B. Petroleum outlets are particularly important for a cash-lite economy push as they handle nearly Rs. 2 lakh crore of cash a year.
C. In a situation where people are cash-strapped and the government is nudging them towards alternatives, the uncertainty of the sort created at fuel pumps should be avoided as it could lead to a crisis of confidence.

- (1) Only (C) (2) Only (A) and (C)
(3) Both (B) and (C) (4) Only (A)
(5) Both (A) and (B)

Q.21. Which of the following statement/s is/are **TRUE** in the context of the passage?

A. Queues at banks have eased, but the weekly withdrawal limits haven't been lifted.

B. The Railways, public sector insurers and others have been asked to offer discounts or charge lower rates for cashless transactions

C. Since 8th November, public sector banks have been advised by the Centre to charge a maximum of Rs. 100 a month as PoS device rentals from small merchants

(1) Only (A) (2) Only (A) and (C)

(3) Only (B) and (C) (4) Only (C)

(5) All (A), (B) and (C)

Q.22. Which of the following is possibly the most appropriate **TITLE** for the passage?

(1) Public sector banks

(2) Oiling cashless wheels

(3) Merchant discount rate (MDR)

(4) Digital payments

(5) Consumer and the dealers

Q.23. Choose the word which is most **SIMILAR** in meaning to the word printed in bold as used in the passage.

WAIVED

(1) approved (2) expedited

(3) acknowledged (4) removed

(5) refused

Q.24. Choose the word which is most **SIMILAR** in meaning to the word printed in bold as used in the passage.

SUFFICE

(1) displease (2) enough (3) dissatisfy

(4) mistake (5) stupendous

Q.25. Choose the word which is most **OPPOSITE** in meaning to the word printed in bold as used in the passage.

ABSORB

(1) build (2) mislead (3) finish

(4) anguish (5) emit

Q.26-30. In the passage given below few words are missing, each followed by a number in the bracket. Every option has two words which will

provide correct meaning to the sentence in the passage. Find the pair of words which best suits the blank.

Following a _____ (1) seeking a _____ (2) on antimony-coated solar panels, the National Green Tribunal (NGT), while _____ (3) concern over lack of policies _____ (4) to the same, has directed the Centre to take necessary steps. A Bench headed by NGT judicial member said, "It is a/an _____ (5) fact that neither any policy nor rules are in existence with regard to _____ (6) of antimony-coated solar panels."

The directions have been given to the respective counsels to seek instructions on the issue and in case the exercise is now to be done, the minimum time schedule which will be required. The directions came while the NGT was hearing a plea moved by an advocate _____ (7) a ban on the manufacture, use and import of solar panels _____ (8) antimony. While seeking directions to the Central Pollution Control Board to permit import of solar panels that do not contain antimony, the plea _____ (9) that currently the antimony was being dumped in landfill sites which is _____ (10).

Q.26. Choose the correct answer for (1) and (2).

(1) Plea, ban (2) Petition, impose

(3) Suit, disapproval (4) Both (1) and (2)

(5) Supplication, embargoed

Q.27. Choose the correct answer for (3) and (4).

(1) convey, valid

(2) showing, continue

(3) expressing, pertaining

(4) manifest, visualising

(5) none of the above

Q.28. Choose the correct answer for (5) and (6).

(1) reigning, removed (2) undisputed, disposal

(3) dubitable, ejected (4) irrefutable, chuckled

(5) doubtful, disposed

Q.29. Choose the correct answer for (7) and (8).

(1) criticizing, curbing (2) looking, sustaining

(3) pursuing, declining (4) seeking, containing

(5) all of the above

Q.30. Choose the correct answer for (9) and (10).

India's biggest man made forest will come up on 885 acres of land in a mined out area over the next three years at an estimated cost of Rs 3 crore in Chhattisgarh's Durg district.

IBPS CLERK PRE

- (1) accused, dodgy (2) putative, peril
(3) alleged, hazardous (4) both (2) and (3)
(5) claimed, tricky

Q.31-35. What will come in place of the question mark (?) in the following number series?

Q.31. 17, 98, 26, 89, 35, ?

- (1) 80 (2) 75 (3) 60
(4) 70 (5) 90

Q.32. 2, 17, 89, 359, 1079, ?

- (1) 2269 (2) 2159 (3) 2834
(4) 2765 (5) 3439

Q.33. 3, 5, 15, 45, 113, ?

- (1) 222 (2) 233 (3) 243
(4) 281 (5) 276

Q.34. 7, 4.5, 5.5, 12, 49, ?

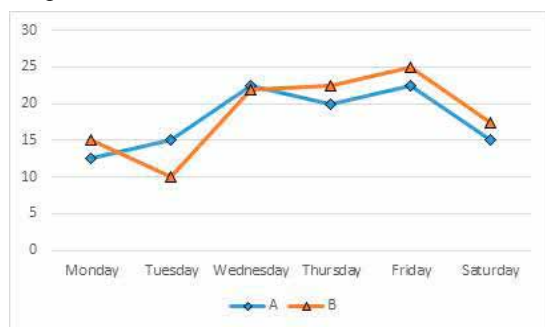
- (1) 303 (2) 363 (3) 383
(4) 393 (5) 432

Q.35. 3240, 540, 108, 27, ?, 4.5

- (1) 6 (2) 7 (3) 8
(4) 10 (5) 9

Q.36-40. Study the following graph carefully to answer the question: (The data below is given in hundreds)

The graph shows the number of bike sold from two shops.



Q.36. What is the approximate average number of bikes sold by Shop B during all the days together?

- (1) 1867 (2) 1826 (3) 1838
(4) 1857 (5) 1860

Q.37. The number of bikes sold by Shop B on Friday is what percent of the total number of bikes sold by both Shop A and B on all the days together? (Rounded off to the nearest integer)

- (1) 15% (2) 11% (3) 18%
(4) 9% (5) 20%

Q.38. What is the respective ratio of the number of bikes sold by Shop A on Thursday to the number of bikes sold by Shop B on Monday?

- (1) 2:3 (2) 3:4 (3) 4:3
(4) 5:4 (5) 7:2

Q.39. What is the respective ratio of the total number of bikes sold on Friday to the total number of bikes sold on Thursday?

- (1) 13:15 (2) 16:19 (3) 19:15
(4) 19:17 (5) 17:21

Q.40. The total bikes sold by Shop B on all days excluding Wednesday is what percent of the total number of bikes sold on Thursday, Friday and Saturday together?

- (1) 125.34% (2) 132.67% (3) 143.89%
(4) 140% (5) 138.5%

Q.41-45. Find the values of variables and state the correct relationship-

Q.41. $x^2 - 3x + 2 = 0$
 $2y^2 + 3y - 2 = 0$

- (1) $x < y$
(2) $x > y$
(3) $x \leq y$
(4) $x \geq y$
(5) $x = y$ or Relation cannot be established

Q.42. $2x^2 - 5x - 3 = 0$
 $y^2 - 10y + 21 = 0$

- (1) $x < y$
(2) $x > y$
(3) $x \leq y$
(4) $x \geq y$
(5) $x = y$ or Relation cannot be established

Q.43. $x^2 + 9x + 14 = 0$
 $2y^2 - 10y + 12 = 0$

- (1) $x < y$
(2) $x > y$
(3) $x \leq y$
(4) $x \geq y$
(5) $x = y$ or Relation cannot be established

Q.44. $x^2 - 2x - 35 = 0$

$y^2 - 12y + 32 = 0$

(1) $x < y$

(2) $x > y$

(3) $x \leq y$

(4) $x \geq y$

(5) $x = y$ or Relation cannot be established

Q.45. $x^2 + 10x + 21 = 0$

$y^2 - 2y - 8 = 0$

(1) $x < y$

(2) $x > y$

(3) $x \leq y$

(4) $x \geq y$

(5) $x = y$ or Relation cannot be established

Q.46-50. Following table shows the percentage literate population and ratio of male and female literate and illiterate population of six cities.

City	% literate population	Proportion of Male/Female	
		Literate	Illiterate
		Male: Female	Male: Female
A	70	4:3	2:1
B	64	5:3	1:1
C	60	8:7	7:5
D	65	7:6	4:3
E	80	3:1	3:5
F	50	3:2	3:7

Q.46. If the population of City D is 60 lakhs then what is the number of females who are illiterate?

(1) 6 (2) 8 (3) 9

(4) 10 (5) None of these

Q.47. If the literate male population of City C is 6.4 lakhs then what is its total illiterate population?

(1) 6 (2) 8 (3) 10

(4) 12 (5) None of these

Q.48. If the sum of illiterate female of City A and City B is 18 lakhs then what is the sum of total population of City A and City B?

(1) 36 (2) 30 (3) 24

(4) 20 (5) None of these

Q.49. If the population of City F is 60 lakhs then what is the number of males who are literate in the city?

(1) 16 (2) 18 (3) 14

(4) 12 (5) None of these

Q.50. If population of City D and City E are 10 lakh each, then the number of illiterate population of City D is how much percentage more than the illiterate population of City E?

(1) 50% (2) 60% (3) 75%

(4) 80% (5) None of these

Q.51-55. What should come at place of question mark (?) in the following questions?

Q.51. $45^2 - 21^2 = ?\%$ of 800

(1) 192 (2) 188 (3) 198

(4) 195 (5) None of these

Q.52. 172% of $650 - 28^2 = ?$

(1) 312 (2) 322 (3) 352

(4) 364 (5) None of these

Q.53.

$\frac{1}{12} + \frac{1}{6} + \frac{1}{3} - \frac{1}{2} = 12.5\%$ of ?

(1) $\frac{1}{4}$ (2) $\frac{1}{8}$ (3) $\frac{1}{2}$

(4) $\frac{1}{16}$ (5) None of these

Q.54. $17 \times 38 - 15 \times 11 + 752 = ?\%$ of 1250

(1) 422.24 (2) 488.48 (3) 456.67

(4) 412.25 (5) None of these

Q.55. $14^3 - 46 \times 33 = 8 \times ?$

(1) 151.75 (2) 153.25 (3) 164.50

(4) 174.25 (5) None of these

Q.56. Two barrels contain a mixture of milk and water. The content of the milk is 60% in the first barrel and 30% in the second barrel. In what ratio must the mixtures from the first and second barrels be taken to form a mixture containing 50% milk?

(1) 2:1 (2) 2:5 (3) 1:3

(4) 3:2 (5) 4:5

Q.57. The ratio of the speed of two trains is 5:8. Sum of their length is 660. The ratio of time taken to cross an Electric Pole by train A and B is 4:3. What is the difference between the lengths of two trains?

(1) 58 (2) 60 (3) 62

(4) 68 (5) 72

Q.58. At present, the sum of ages of 4 people is 76. After 7 years, the ratio will be 7:6:5:8. Find out the present age of C?

(1) 11 (2) 12 (3) 13

(4) 18 (5) 9

Q.59. There are four consecutive even integers. Sum of the reciprocals of the first two number is $\frac{11}{60}$. Find the reciprocal of third largest number of the series.

(1) $\frac{1}{11}$ (2) $\frac{1}{12}$ (3) $\frac{1}{13}$ (4) $\frac{1}{14}$ (5) None of these

Q.60. There is a three digit number. The digit at the tenth place is 3. If the place of all the digits are replaced with each other symmetrically about the tens position, then the new number obtained is 396 more than the original three digit number. The sum of the digits at unit & hundredth place is 14. Find out the original number?

(1) 359 (2) 935 (3) 935

(4) 593 (5) None of these

Q.61. Marked price of an article is 1600 Rs. More than the cost price. When the same article is sold at a discount of Rs. 500 then the percent profit earned is 25%. For earning a profit of 30%, the article should be sold at what price?

(1) 5720 (2) 5520 (3) 5862

(4) 6234 (5) None of these

Q.62. A takes 24 day in completing a work alone. Time taken by A in completing $\frac{1}{3}$ rd of the work is equal to the time taken by B in completing half of the work. How many days will be taken in completing the work if both A & B start working together?

(1) $\frac{48}{4}$ (2) $\frac{48}{5}$ (3) $\frac{48}{7}$ (4) $\frac{48}{11}$ (5) None of these

Q.63. A train left from station A for station B at 4pm at an average speed of 80 kmph. At 8 pm, another train also had left from station A for station B on a parallel track at an average speed of 120 kmph. How far from A is another train expected to overtake the first train?

(1) 750 (2) 840 (3) 960

(4) 920 (5) None of these

Q.64. In a business, A invested 1200 Rs more than B. B invested his amount for 15 months while A invested for 4 months more than that of B. If total profit was 1240 Rs in which the profit of B is 280 Rs. less than that if A. then what was the invested amount of A?

(1) 5000 (2) 5800 (3) 4800

(4) 6000 (5) None of these

Q.65. A bucket contains a mixture of two liquids A and B in the proportion 7: 5. If 9 litres of the mixture is replaced by 9 litres of liquid B, then the ratio of the two liquid becomes 7: 9. How much of the liquid A was there in the bucket?

(1) 28 (2) 35 (3) 42

(4) 14 (5) 21

Q.66-69. In each question below are given some statements followed by three conclusions numbered I, II and III. You have to take the given statements to be true even if they seem to be at variance from commonly known facts. Read the conclusions and then decide which of the given conclusions logically follows from the given statements, disregarding commonly known facts.

Q.66. Statements:

Only a few red is yellow.

No yellow is blue.

Only a few blue is green.

Some green are pink.

Conclusions:

I. All red being blue is a possibility.

II. Some pink being blue is a possibility.

III. Some yellow are pink.

(1) Only conclusion II follows.

(2) Both conclusions I and II follow.

(3) Only conclusion III follows.

(4) Both conclusions II and III follow.

(5) None of the above

Q.67. Statements:

Only room is floor.

No balcony is room.

All window are balcony.

Some door are window.

Conclusions:

I. No balcony is door.

II. No floor is balcony.

III. Some window being room is a possibility.

(1) Only conclusion II follows.

(2) Both conclusions I and II follow.

- (3) Only conclusion III follows.
 (4) Both conclusions II and III follow.
 (5) None of the above

Q.68. Statements:

Some planet are star.
 All star are sun.
 Only a few sun is moon.
 No moon is earth.

Conclusions:

- I. Some earth being planet is a possibility.
 II. All sun being moon is a possibility.
 III. All planet are sun.

- (1) Both conclusions II and III follow.
 (2) Only conclusion I follows.
 (3) Only conclusion II follows.
 (4) Both conclusions I and II follow.
 (5) None of the above

Q.69. Statement:

Only Mouse is Desktop.
 Only a few Mouse is CPU.
 No CPU is Camera.

Conclusions:

- I. No Desktop is Camera.
 II. Some Desktop are not CPU.
 III. All Mouse can be Camera.

- (1) Either I or III follows
 (2) Only II follows
 (3) Both I and II follow
 (4) Both II and III follow
 (5) All I, II and III follow

Q.70-74. Study the following information carefully and answer the question given below.

There are a certain number of floors in a building. No floor is vacant. Only one person stays on each floor. Either person's age or person's name is given but not both among those who are living on the floors (Example: If P lives on the 1st floor, his/her age is not given, similarly, the one whose age is 10 lives on the 2nd floor, his/her name is not given). The lowermost floor is numbered as one and above is two and so on.

There are three floors between V's floor and the

floor of the one whose age is 12, lives. The one, whose age is 30, lives immediately below V's floor. There are two floors between the one whose age is 12, lives and the one whose age 17, lives. The one, whose age is 8, lives just above U's floor. The one, whose age is 17, lives just above the Z's floor. The age of the person, who lives on the lowermost floor is not given. X lives on the floor which is three floors above the floor of the one, whose age is 8, lives. The one, whose age is 27, lives immediately below the X's floor.

Q.70. Four of the following five are alike in a certain way and hence form a group. Which of the following does not belong to the group?

- (1) The one whose age is 30
 (2) The one whose age is 27
 (3) The one whose age is 8
 (4) The one whose age is 12
 (5) The one whose age is 17

Q.71. Whose age is 17?

- (1) The one who lives on the 7th floor
 (2) The one who lives on the 5th floor
 (3) The one who lives on the 2nd floor
 (4) The one who lives on the 8th floor
 (5) Can't be determined

Q.72. Who among the following lives on the floor that is second to the below of V's floor?

- (1) X
 (2) The one whose age is 8
 (3) U
 (4) The one whose age is 27
 (5) None of the above

Q.73. How many floors are there between U and V?

- (1) One (2) Two (3) Three
 (4) Four (5) Five

Q.74. What is the sum of the age of the persons living on the odd-numbered floors?

- (1) 25 (2) 20 (3) 39
 (4) 29 (5) None of the above

Q.75-79. Study the following information carefully and answer the question given below.

A certain number of persons sit in a straight linear row facing towards north but information about a few of them is given.

G sits second from an extreme end. Only three persons sit between G and E. B is fifth to the left of R. 6 persons sit between R and E. A, who is third to the left of E, is adjacent to G. 2 persons sit between F and R, who is not at an extreme end. The number of persons to the right of F is the same as a number of persons between G and A.

- Q.75.** How many persons sit to the left of B?
 (1) 9 (2) 6 (3) 7
 (4) 5 (5) None of these
- Q.76.** How many persons sit between A and B?
 (1) 2 (2) 5 (3) 4
 (4) 3 (5) Can't be determined
- Q.77.** Information about how many persons are not given?
 (1) 8 (2) 12 (3) 9
 (4) 10 (5) Can't be determined
- Q.78.** Find the odd one out.
 (1) R (2) E (3) A
 (4) G (5) F
- Q.79.** What is the position of E with respect to B?
 (1) Second to the right (2) Second to the left
 (3) Third to the right (4) Third to the left
 (5) None of these
- Q.80-84.** Study the following information carefully and answer the question given below.
 In a certain code language,
 "Try hard to beat the world" is coded as 'fop rnu kir nhy dlo qsp'
 "Hard to find world under one roof" is coded as 'tib fet nhy yug kir rnu zde'
 "Find ball under the tree" is coded as 'ble fop bhu yug tib'
 "Under one ball try to score" is coded as 'nhy zde rub dlo ble tib'
- Q.80.** Find the code for "beat the ball score".
 (1) kir fop ble bhu (2) rnu fop ble rub
 (3) qsp fop ble rub (4) qsp tib bhu rub
 (5) None of these
- Q.81.** Find the code for "World hard to find".
 (1) tib rnu nhy yug (2) rnu fet nhy yug
 (3) rnu kir zde yug (4) rnu kir nhy yug
 (5) Can't be determined

- Q.82.** Find the code for "The tree".
 (1) fop bhu (2) yug bhu (3) fop yug
 (4) zde fop (5) Can't be determined
- Q.83.** Code "tib zde fet" stands for which of the following?
 (1) Hard under roof (2) World under tree
 (3) under one roof (4) Can't be determined
 (5) None of these
- Q.84.** Find the code for "score".
 (1) fet (2) rub (3) dlo
 (4) tib (5) None of these
- Q.85-89.** In these questions, the relationship between different elements is shown in the statement. The statements are followed by two conclusions. You have to find out which of the following conclusions is/are definitely true. Choose the correct answer from the options given below-
- Q.85.** Statements: $P \leq Q \leq R = S$, $U \geq V \geq S$
 Conclusions : I. $P < U$ II. $P = U$
 (1) Only conclusion II is true.
 (2) Only conclusion I is true.
 (3) Both conclusions I and II are true.
 (4) Neither conclusion I nor conclusion II is true.
 (5) Either conclusion I or conclusion II is true.
- Q.86.** Statement : $P = R$, $R < F$, $F < T$
 Conclusions : I. $T < R$ II. $F < P$
 (1) Only conclusion II is true.
 (2) Only conclusion I is true.
 (3) Both conclusions I and II are true.
 (4) Neither conclusion I nor conclusion II is true.
 (5) Either conclusion I or conclusion II is true.
- Q.87.** Statements : $L > R$, $R \geq T$, $T \geq M$
 Conclusions : I. $M \geq R$ II. $T < L$
 (1) Only conclusion II is true.
 (2) Only conclusion I is true.
 (3) Both conclusions I and II are true.
 (4) Neither conclusion I nor conclusion II is true.
 (5) Either conclusion I or conclusion II is true.
- Q.88.** Statement : $C < F$, $F \leq G$, $G < M$
 Conclusions : I. $M > F$ II. $C < G$
 (1) Only conclusion II is true.
 (2) Only conclusion I is true.

- (3) Both conclusions I and II are true.
 (4) Neither conclusion I nor conclusion II is true.
 (5) Either conclusion I or conclusion II is true.

Q.89. Statements : $G = T$, $T \leq W$, $W \geq K$

Conclusions : I. $W > G$ II. $W = G$

- (1) Only conclusion II is true.
 (2) Only conclusion I is true.
 (3) Both conclusions I and II are true.
 (4) Neither conclusion I nor conclusion II is true.
 (5) Either conclusion I or conclusion II is true.

Q.90-94. Study the following arrangement of numbers/ letters/symbols carefully and answer the questions given below.

D M % 5 R * K \$ Q 9 1 P 2 G 6 A 4 H W 3 # N B I
 E J 8 F @ T U 7

Q.90. If all the symbols are dropped from the above arrangement, which of the following will be the fourth to the right of the eleventh from the right end?

- (1) P (2) 4 (3) E
 (4) T (5) U

Q.91. Which of the following is exactly in the middle of the sixth from the left end and the seventeenth from the right end?

- (1) W (2) H (3) 3
 (4) # (5) 1

Q.92. How many such symbols are there in the above arrangement, each of which is immediately preceded by a letter but not immediately followed by a number?

- (1) None (2) One (3) Two
 (4) Three (5) More than three

Q.93. Four of the following five are alike in a certain way with reference to their positions in the above arrangement and so form a group. Which is the one that does not belong to that group?

- (1) 6HG (2) D5B (3) @7F
 (4) #I3 (5) 2AP

Q.94. What should come in place of the question mark (?) in the following series based on the above arrangement?
 1@P, 6EA, W#3, (?)

- (1) B%B (2) B4I (3) B\$B
 (4) BMB (5) BMD

Q.95-96. Study the following information carefully and

answer the question given below.

It has been given that-

A + B states B is to the NORTH of A.

A = B states B is to the SOUTH of A.

A || B states A is to the East of B.

A * B states A is to the WEST of B.

Now, S is =20 m from point P. Point Q is = 15 m from point R. Point U is +15 m from Point V. Point T is || 20 m from point V. Point U is || 16 m from point Q. Point R is || 30 m from point P.

Q.95. What is the shortest distance between point S and Q?

- (1) $5\sqrt{37}$ (2) $7\sqrt{37}$ (3) $4\sqrt{65}$
 (4) $2\sqrt{37}$ (5) None of these

Q.96. What is the shortest distance between the point T and the point which is to the East of Q?

- (1) 25 m (2) 26 m (3) 30 m
 (4) 24 m (5) 22 m

Q.97. What will be the difference between the third last digit and fourth digit from the left end of the number '947823165' after arranging all its digits in ascending order?

- (1) 4 (2) 5 (3) 3
 (4) 7 (5) None of these

Q.98. Sanju remembers that his father's birthday was certainly after 10th but before 15th of December. His sister Nomiya remembers that their father's birthday was definitely after 12th but before 17th of December. On which date of December was their father's birthday?

- (1) 13th (2) 14th (3) 16th
 (4) 11th (5) Data inadequate

Q.99. How many such pairs of letters are there in the word 'OSCAR' each of which has as many letters between them in the word as they have in the English alphabet?

- (1) None (2) One (3) Two
 (4) Three (5) More than three

Q.100. How many pairs of the letter are there in the word 'DEADLOCK' (both backward and forward), each of which has as many letters between them as in the word as there are in the English alphabet?

- (1) One (2) Three (3) Four
 (4) Five (5) None of these

EXPLANATION

- Q.1.(1)** 'For' takes verb(ing) form.
- Q.2.(3)** after 'to' first form of verb is generally used.
- Q.3.(3)** Explanation-: onus (n) - something that is one's responsibility
Dispensed (v) –provide
Impunity (n) - freedom from punishment or from the unpleasant results of something that has been done
Exoneration (n) - the release of someone from a duty or obligation.
- Q.4.(4)**
- Q.5.(2)** Rebound (v) – recover in value
- Q.6.(2)** **Droolworthy (adj.)** means extremely attractive or desirable.
- Q.7.(4)**
- Q.8.(4)**
- Q.9.(5)** No error
- Q.10.(4)** use 'fast' instead of 'faster'
- Q.11.(3)** use 'India would not only boost'
- Q.12.(2)** remove 'about'
- Q.13.(3)** use 'come' instead of 'came'
- Q.14.(5)** The correct sequence of the rearrangement is 'CEAFDB', and the passage is based on 'The world's highest altitude gravitational wave telescopes are being built by China'.
- Q.15.(2)** The correct sequence of the rearrangement is 'CEAFDB', and the passage is based on 'The world's highest altitude gravitational wave telescopes are being built by China'.
- Q.16.(1)** The correct sequence of the rearrangement is 'CEAFDB', and the passage is based on 'The world's highest altitude gravitational wave telescopes are being built by China'.
- Q.17.(3)** The correct sequence of the rearrangement is 'CEAFDB', and the passage is based on 'The world's highest altitude gravitational wave telescopes are being built by China'.
- Q.18.(3)** The correct sequence of the rearrangement is 'CEAFDB', and the passage is based on 'The world's highest altitude gravitational wave telescopes are being built by China'.
- Q.19.(4)** Answer lies on the last of the first paragraph.
- Q.20.(4)** Public sector oil marketers were asked to offer a 0.75 per cent discount to customers using non-cash means to tank up.
- Q.21.(5)** All (A), (B) and (C)
- Q.22.(2)**
- Q.23.(4)** removed
For other options:
expedite (v)- accelerate, assist
- Q.24.(2)** For other options:
Stupendous (Adj.)- amazing
- Q.25.(5)** For other options:
Anguish(n)- agony, pain
- Q.26.(1)** Plea (n) – an urgent request
For other options:
Petition (n) – a formal written request; Impose (v) - apply
Supplication (n) – appeal; Embargo (v) – impose a ban
- Q.27.(3)** Pertaining (v) – related to
For other options:
Manifest (adj) – clear to the mind
- Q.28.(2)** For other options:
Dubitable (adj) – open to doubt; ejected (v) – thrown out
Irrefutable (adj) – impossible to deny; Chuckled (v) – laughed quietly
- Q.29.(4)** For other options:
Sustaining (v) – strengthen
Curbing (v) – checking
- Q.30.(3)** Alleged (v) – said without proof; Hazardous (adj) – very risky
For other options:
Putative (v) – generally considered; Peril (n) – immediate danger
Dodgy (adj) – dishonest
- Q.31.(1)**
- $$98 = 17 + 81$$
- $$26 = 98 - 72$$
- $$89 = 26 + 63$$
- $$35 = 89 - 54$$
- $$? = 35 + 45 = 80$$

Q.32.(2)

$$\begin{aligned} 17 &= 2 \times 6 + 5 \\ 89 &= 17 \times 5 + 4 \\ 359 &= 89 \times 4 + 3 \\ 1079 &= 359 \times 3 + 2 \\ ? &= 1079 \times 2 + 1, \text{ i.e. } ? = 2159 \end{aligned}$$

Q.33.(3)

$$\begin{aligned} 5 &= 3 + (1^3 + 1) \\ 15 &= 5 + (2^3 + 2) \\ 45 &= 15 + (3^3 + 3) \\ 113 &= 45 + (4^3 + 4) \\ ? &= 113 + (5^3 + 5) \\ \text{i.e. } ? &= 243 \end{aligned}$$

Q.34.(4)

$$\begin{aligned} 4.5 &= 7 \times 0.5 + 1 \\ 5.5 &= 4.5 \times 1 + 1 \\ 12 &= 5.5 \times 2 + 1 \\ 49 &= 12 \times 4 + 1 \\ ? &= 49 \times 8 + 1, \\ \text{i.e. } ? &= 393 \end{aligned}$$

Q.35.(5)

$$\begin{aligned} 540 &= \frac{3240}{6} \\ 108 &= \frac{540}{5} \\ 27 &= \frac{108}{4} \\ ? &= \frac{27}{3} \\ \text{i.e. } ? &= 9 \\ 4.5 &= \frac{9}{2} \end{aligned}$$

Q.36.(1) Approximate average number of bikes sold by Shop B during all the days together

$$\begin{aligned} &= (15+10+22+22.5+25+17.5) \times \frac{100}{6} = \frac{11200}{6} \\ &= 1866.66, \text{ approximately } 1867 \end{aligned}$$

Q.37.(2) Bikes sold by Shop A on all days

$$= (12.5+15+22.5+20+22.5+15) \times 100 = 10750$$

Bikes sold by Shop B on all days =

$$(15+10+22+22.5+25+17.5) \times 100 = 11200$$

Total number of bikes sold by both Shop A and B on all the days together = $11200 + 10750 = 21950$

Number of bikes sold by Shop B on Friday = $25 \times 100 = 2500$

Required percentage = $(2500/21950) \times 100 = 11\%$ (Approx.)

Q.38.(3) Number of bikes sold by Shop A on Thursday = $20 \times 100 = 2000$

number of bikes sold by Shop B on Monday = $15 \times 100 = 1500$

Required ratio = $2000 : 1500 = 4 : 3$

Q.39.(4) Total number of bikes sold on Friday = $(22.5 + 25) \times 100 = 4750$

Total number of bikes sold on Thursday = $(20 + 22.5) \times 100 = 4250$

Required ratio = $4750 : 4250$

= $19 : 17$

Q.40.(5) The total bikes sold by Shop B on all days excluding Wednesday = $(15 + 10 + 22.5 + 25 + 17.5) = 90$

Total number of bikes sold on Thursday, Friday and Saturday together = 65

Required % = $\frac{90}{65} \times 100 = 138.5\%$ approximately

Q.41.(2) $x = 2, 1$

$y = -2, 1/2$

$x > y$

Q.42.(3) $x = 3, -1/2$

$y = 3, 7$

$X \leq Y$

Q.43.(5) $x = -7, -2$

$y = 3, 2$

$x < y$

Q.44.(5) $x = 7, -5$

$y = 4, 8$

CND

Q.45.(5) $x = -3, -7$

$y = 4, -2$

$x < y$

Q.46.(5)

The Internet speeds in India continue to witness an upward trend, taking the country to 70th (+3) and 122nd (+6) position in the global internet speed ranking, respectively, said US based broadband speed tester Ookla.

$$60 \times \frac{65}{100} = 39$$

$$39 \times \frac{6}{13} = 18$$

Q.47.(2)

$$8 \rightarrow 6.4$$

$$1 \rightarrow 0.8$$

$$15 \rightarrow 12.0$$

$$60\% = 12.0$$

$$40\% = 8.0$$

Q.48.(5) Can't be determined

Q.49.(2)

$$60 \times \frac{50}{100} = 30$$

$$30 \times \frac{3}{5} = 18$$

Q.50.(3)

$$10 \times \frac{35}{100} = 3.5$$

$$10 \times \frac{20}{100} = 2$$

$$\frac{3.5 - 2}{2} \times 100 = 75\%$$

Q.51.(3) $?(2025-441)/8$

$$?=198$$

Q.52.(5) $1118-784=?$

$$?=334$$

Q.53.(5)

$$\frac{1}{12} + \frac{1}{6} + \frac{1}{3} - \frac{1}{2} = 12.5\% \text{ of } ?$$

$$\frac{?}{8} = \frac{1+2+4-6}{12}$$

$$\frac{?}{8} = \frac{1}{8}$$

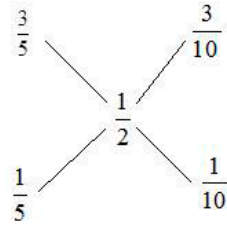
$$?=1$$

Q.54.(2) $646-165+5625=? \times 12.5$

$$?=488.48$$

Q.55.(2) $?(2744-1518)/8=153.25$

Q.56.(1)



$$2 : 1$$

Q.57.(2) Given that length of first train + length of second train = 660

Speed of first train: Speed of second train = 5:8
= 5x: 8x

Time taken to cross the poll by two trains = 4:3
= 4y:3y

Now,

$$(5x \times 4y) + (8x \times 3y) = 660$$

$$44xy = 660$$

$$xy = 15$$

$$L_1 - L_2 = 24xy - 20xy = 4xy = 60 \text{ m}$$

Q.58.(3) $A+B+C+D = 76$

According to ques, after 7 years

$$A+B+C+D = 7x+6x+5x+8x = 76+7 \times 4$$

$$26x = 76 + 28$$

$$X = 104/26$$

$$x = 4$$

C's present age

$$= 5x - 7 =$$

$$20 - 7$$

$$= 13$$

Q.59.(4) Let 4 consecutive even numbers are

$$x, x+2, x+4, x+6$$

$$\frac{1}{x} + \frac{1}{x+2} = \frac{11}{60}$$

$$11x^2 - 98x - 120 = 0$$

So,

$$x = \frac{-12}{11}, 10$$

So, the numbers will be 10,12,14,16.

Hence,

Third largest number = 14

Solution of mixture A initially = 21 litre

Reciprocal of third number = $\frac{1}{14}$

Q.60.(5) Let digit = xyz

Given y = 3

According to the question =

$$(100z+10y+x) - (100x+10y+z) = 396x$$

$$99z-99x = 396$$

$$Z-x = 4$$

$$\text{Also, } Z+x = 14$$

Solving (i) & (ii)

$$Z = 9, x = 5$$

Q.61.(1) Marked Price = 1600 + Cost price

$$MP - 500 = \times \frac{125}{100} CP$$

$$MP = \frac{5}{4} CP + 500$$

$$4MP = 5CP + 2000$$

Solving (i) and (ii)

$$\text{Cost Price} = 4400$$

Now, the selling price

$$= \frac{130}{100} \times 4400$$

$$= 5720$$

Q.62.(2) A----- 24

B----- 16

$$A+B \text{ ----- } \frac{48}{5}$$

Q.63.(3) Distance covered by 1st train in 4 hours = 80×4
= 320 km

$$\text{Relative speed of 2nd train} = 120-80 = 40 \text{ km}$$

It will overtake another train in $320/40 = 8$ hours

Distance between overtake point and station A

$$= 8 \times 120 = 960 \text{ km}$$

Q.64.(4) $(x+1200) \times 19 : 15x = 19:12$

$$x = 4800$$

$$x+1200 = 6000$$

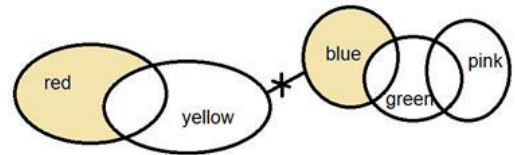
Q.65.(5) 7 : 5

7 : 9

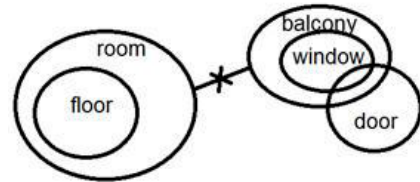
$$4 = 9$$

$$16 = 36$$

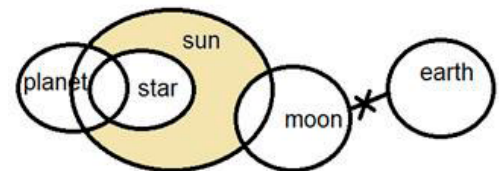
Q.66.(1)



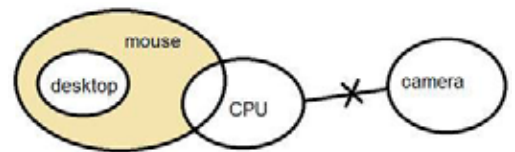
Q.67.(1)



Q.68.(2)



Q.69.(3)



Q.70-74.

Floors	Person	Age
9	V	-
8	-	30
7	X	-
6	-	27
5	-	12
4	-	8
3	U	-
2	-	17
1	Z	-

Q.70.(4)

Q.71.(3)

Q.72.(1)

Q.73.(5)

Q.74.(5)

Q.75-79.

GA	E	B			R	F
----	---	---	--	--	---	---

Q.75.(3)

Q.76.(3)

Q.77.(4)

Q.78.(5)

Q.79.(2)

Q.80-84.



Q.80.(3) Q.81.(4) Q.82.(1)

Q.83.(3) Q.84.(2)

Q.85.(5) $P \leq Q \leq R = S \leq V \leq U$

Here, the common sign between P and U is ' \leq ' and the given conclusions are $P < U$ and $P = U$. Hence, either $P < U$ or $P = U$ is true.

Q.86.(4) $P = R < F < T$

I. $T < R$ False

II. $F < P$ False

Q.87.(1) $L > R \geq T \geq M$

I. $M \geq R$ False

II. $T < L$ True

Q.88.(3) $C < F \leq G < M$

I. $M > F$ True

II. $C < G$ True

Q.89.(5) $G = T \leq W \geq K$

I. $W > G$

II. $W = G$

Here, the common sign between G and W is ' \leq ' and the given conclusions $W > G$ and $W = G$. Hence, either conclusion I or conclusion II is true.

Q.90.(3) DM5RKQ91P2G6A4HW3NBIEJ8FTU7

Q.91.(5) DM%5R*K\$Q91P2G6A4HW3#NBIEJ8F@TU7

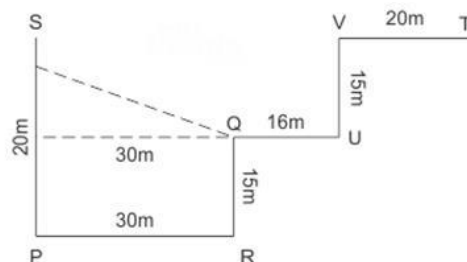
Q.92.(4) DM%5R*K\$Q91P2G6A4HW3#NBIEJ8F@TU7

R*K,K\$Q,F@T

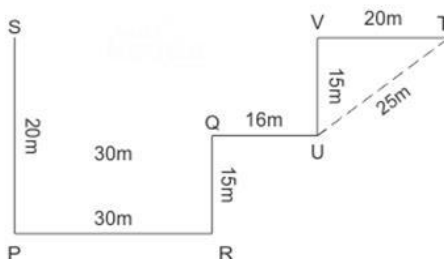
Q.93.(2) DM%5R*K\$Q91P2G6A4HW3#NBIEJ8F@TU7

Q.94.(2) DM%5R*K\$Q91P2G6A4HW3#NBIEJ8F@TU7

Q.95.(1)



Q.96.(1)



Q.97.(3) 947823165

123456789

The third last digit = 7

The fourth digit from the left end = 4

The difference between the third last digit and fourth digit from the left end = $7 - 4 = 3$

Q.98.(5) Their father's birthday is Either 13 or 14 of December.

Q.99.(1) There is no pairs of such letters in the word 'OSCAR'.

Q.100.(2) DEADLOCK = DE, DK, EK

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