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Most Probable Current Affairs
Question-Answer Pointers for Mains

RRB Office Assistant | IBPS Clerk

01 Sep 2020 - 10 Feb 2021

NOTE: This file contains most important 'Question-Answer' points pertaining to the current affairs news from 1st September 2020 to 10th February 2021. Some major news from the month of July-Aug 2020 has also been covered at the end.

1. Union Environment Minister, **Prakash Javadekar** along with his French counterpart, Barbara Pompili has launched _____ in New Delhi.

Answer: Indo-French Year of the Environment

*Indo-French Year of the Environment is the **Indo-French partnership on Environment, Biodiversity, Climate Change** and other allied areas to be undertaken throughout 2021.*

2. The Central government has recently announced that, it will soon set up a new **Centre for Wetland Conservation and Management** (CWCM) in _____.

Answer: Chennai.

3. The NITI Aayog has recently released its plan for Little Andaman. The plan is named as _____.

Answer: "Sustainable Development of Little Andaman Island: Vision Document".

It has been planned for the sustainable and holistic development of the island in Andaman and Nicobar. The Little Andaman is a 680 sq km fragile Island in the Andaman&Nicobar.

4. **Microsoft** has launched new **India Development Center (IDC)** facility of Microsoft in _____.

Answer: Noida

This centre in NCR is the third development center of Microsoft in India after Bengaluru and Hyderabad. It will serve as a leading hub for driving advanced engineering and innovation.

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5. Centre for Wetland Conservation and Management (CWCM) has been established at National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management (NCSCM), in _____.

Answer: Chennai

6. **Union Budget 2021-22** has proposed setting up of how many **new Sainik Schools in India**, in partnership with NGOs, private schools and State-owned schools?

Answer: 100

7. Premier medical institution in Chandigarh, **Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER)** has launched first ' _____ ' in India.

Answer: Amputee Clinic

'PGI Amputee Clinic' has been set up with the aim of improving amputation patient care by providing a collection of services under one roof with significant coordination.

8. Recently, a maiden **contingent of 34 CRPF women personnel** were inducted into the specialized jungle warfare commando force. The commando force is called _____.

Answer: CoBRA.

*The contingent would now be deployed in the anti-naxal operations grid of India. Commando Battalion for Resolute Action (CoBRA) **COBRA is a special operation unit of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) of India.***

9. The National Horticulture Fair was held and organised by the **Indian Institute of Horticultural Research (IIHR)**. IIHR is located at _____.

Answer: Bangalore.

10. Which state government has launched the **'Har Ghar Pani, Har Ghar Safai'** mission virtually.

Answer: Punjab,

*This mission is the part of the government's campaign to complete the goal of **100 per cent potable piped water supply** in all rural households by March 2022.*

11. Recently, which state government has launched a scheme to **boost the start-up ecosystem**?

Answer: Maharashtra

12. Which state has set up first of its kind botanical garden named as **'Shivalik Arboretum'** for conserving over 210 species of trees found in Shivalik range of Himalayas?

Answer: Uttarakhand (in Nainital)

13. Which Union Territory has become first Union territory/region to become **Covid-19 free in India** with active cases falling to zero?

Answer: Andaman and Nicobar Islands

14. Which state government has launched the **Social Awareness and Action to Neutralise Pneumonia Successfully (SAANS)** campaign with the aim of reducing infant mortality due to pneumonia?

Answer: The health department of Madhya Pradesh

*The state government has also developed training modules in partnership with PGIMER, Chandigarh, and **UNICEF.***

15. Which state will open its **first Human Milk Bank (HMB)**?

Answer: Kerala

A milk bank was established with the support of the **Rotary Club of Cochin Global**.

16. The third phase of **Chah Bagicha Dhan Puraskar** mela was held in _____ on February 6, 2021.

Answer: Guwahati

The event was attended by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. The **Assam** government will be distributing the financial assistance of 3 thousand rupees to each of 7.5 lakh people who belongs to tea sector.

17. India's first **thunderstorm research testbed** will be established in _____. The Thunderstorm Research Testbed is being established with the objective to minimize the human fatalities and loss of property because of the lightning strikes.

Answer: Balasore, Odisha

18. Recently, the **Villupuram** district administration of which state has issued the first declaration under the **Wildlife Protection Act, 1972**.

Answer: Tamil Nadu

The declaration was issued in a bid to declare **Kaliveli wetlands as a bird sanctuary**.

19. Recently, in which state Lithium deposits have been found?

Answer: Karnataka

The Central Government has confirmed in a written reply to Lok Sabha about the presence of **1600 tonnes of lithium deposits in Mandya** district of **Karnataka**. However, the significance and the quantity of the lithium in the region can only be confirmed after exploring the entire area.

20. Who has been appointed as **Acting Chief of Staff of US space agency National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)**?

Answer: Indian-American Bhavya Lal

She will also serve as the senior advisor for budget and finance at NASA.

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21. Amazon Inc founder and CEO, **Jeff Bezos** has announced that he will step down as CEO of the company and become Executive Chairman with effect from July 01, 2021. He will be succeeded by _____.

Answer: Andy Jassy

22. The 16th edition of **Indo-US joint** military exercise named _____ began in **Rajasthan**, near the India-Pakistan border from February 8 and it will be concluded in February 21, 2021.

Answer: 'Yudh Abhyas'

23. Recently, which 'launch vehicle' become 1st commercial space launch vehicle that is **powered by biofuel**?

Answer: **Stardust 1.0**, USA

24. Which country has approved a project to build the **world's first energy island**, in the North Sea?

Answer: **Denmark**

25. According to The **Economist Intelligence Unit(EIU)**, **India** slipped two places to _____ in the 2020 **Democracy Index's** global ranking.

Answer: **53rd position**

India has been classified as a 'flawed democracy'.

*The EIU report uses **five criteria** - electoral process and pluralism; civil liberties; the functioning of government; political participation; and political culture. A total of 167 countries are ranked.*

- **Norway** - 1st
- **Iceland**-2nd
- **Sweden**-3rd
- **New Zealand** - 4th
- **Canada** - 5th

26. Which scheme was announced by the Finance Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman, during the Union Budget 2021 presentation to make enable the textile industry to become globally competitive?

Answer: "**Mega Investment Textiles Parks (MITRA) scheme**".

27. The Ministry of Women and Child Development has recently informed to the parliament that the **Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana** has crossed _____ **eligible women** till the financial year 2020.

Answer: **1.75 crore**

28. Recently, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (**MOHUA**) with which company has signed a MoU under the Prime Minister Street Vendor's AtmaNibhar Nidhi (**PM SVANidhi**) Scheme?

Answer: **Zomato**

Under the MoU, it was decided to onboard the street food vendors on the food-tech platform of Zomato.

29. The Finance Minister of India, Nirmala Sitharaman, have recently announced which new cess on some goods while presenting Union Budget 2021 to provide support to those sector that has been one bright spot amid the COVID-19 pandemic?

Answer: Agricultural Infrastructure And Development Cess (AIDC)

30. As per Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman union budget for 2021-2022 speech, what will be the **fiscal deficit** for the financial year 2021-22?

Answer: 6.8 percent of the gross domestic product (GDP).

*The finance minister highlighted that the fiscal deficit is estimated to increase up to **9.5% in the Financial Year 2020-21.***

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31. Which ministry is organising the **Udyog Manthan**- a series of webinars focusing on about **45 sectors** including the pharma sector and electronics sector?

Answer: Ministry of Commerce

32. The ministry of corporate affairs (MCA) has amended definition of the small companies by amending the Companies Rules. The new amendment allows _____ to incorporate one person companies (OPCs) in India.

Answer: Non-Resident Indians (NRIs)

33. In the last bi-monthly monetary policy meet for the FY 2020-21, the **Reserve Bank of India** projected India's GDP growth rate at _____ for the fiscal year **2021-22.**

Answer: 10.5 per cent

34. Recently, which global digital payment platform has announced that it has decided to **wind down** its domestic payment services in India with effect from **April 01, 2021?**

Answer: PayPal

35. The Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) will launch the data analytics-driven MCA21 Version 3.0 by _____.

Answer: October 2021

The **MCA21 Version 3.0** system is the Mission Mode e-Governance project of India. The Ministry of Corporate Affairs highlights that the project will comprise of the additional modules for **e-Adjudication, e-Consultation, and Compliance Management**.

36. The Rating agency **Moody's** have recently forecasted that the **nominal** Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of India will rise closer to _____ in the **Financial Year 2021**.

Answer: **17%**

37. Which entity has launched '**Krishi Sakha**' app to help farmers in adopting best farming practices, enhancing productivity by catering to specific needs of farmers?

Answer: **Bharti AXA General Insurance**

38. Central Government has recently increased FDI limit from **49% to** _____ in Insurance Companies and allowed foreign ownership and control with safeguards.

Answer: **74%**

Under this, majority of Directors on Board and key management persons would be resident Indians, with at least 50% of Directors being Independent Directors, and specified percentage of profits.

39. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has introduced a **Risk-Based Internal Audit (RBIA)** system. It has made it mandatory for select non-banking financial companies and _____.

Answer: **Urban Co-Operative Banks (UCBs)**.

As per the norms, all the deposit-taking non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) with the **asset size of Rs 5,000 crore** will have to implement this system. Also, the **UCBs** having asset size of **Rs 500 crore** will have to implement the system. The system is required to be implemented **by March 31, 2022**. The performance of the RBIA system will be looked by the board of the entity or its audit committee. The board of the entity is already responsible to look after the internal audit function of the organisation.

40. Union Finance Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman while presenting Union Budget FY 2021-22 has approved policy of strategic disinvestment of _____.

Answer: **Public Sector Enterprises**

It consists of 2-fold sectors:

Strategic Sector: to be privatised or merged or subsidiarized with other CPSEs or closed. Ex: Atomic energy, Space and Defence, Transport, Banking, Insurance and financial services

Non- Strategic Sector: In this sector, CPSEs will be privatised, otherwise shall be closed

41. RBI has announced to set up of **24*7 helpline** for _____, integrated ombudsman scheme, CTS across all bank branches and allowing **retail investors** to open Gilt accounts with RBI.

Answer: **Digital Payment Services**

The **major payment system operators** will give information on available grievance redress mechanisms by September 2021. RBI will provide retail investors online access to the government securities market along with the facility to open their gilt securities account with the RBI.

42. **Federal Bank** has announced the launch of which special savings account scheme for children below 18 years of age?

Answer: "**FedFirst**",

43. World's leading dictionary publisher, **Oxford** has named **which word** as the **Hindi word of the year 2020**?

Answer: **Aatmanirbharta**

44. Who has been appointed as the Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of SBI Cards and Payment Services Ltd (SBI Card)?

Answer: **Rama Mohan Rao Amara**

45. Tibetan spiritual leader **Dalai Lama** has penned down his new book titled as '_____'.

Answer: **The Little Book of Encouragement**

*This Little Book of Encouragement has quotes and words of wisdom to promote human happiness. It has been edited by **Renuka Singh** and published by **Penguin Random House**.*

46. Who has become the youngest female pilot in the country? She became the youngest student pilot to get a license at the **age of 15** in 2011.

Answer: A 25-year-old Kashmiri woman, **Ayesha Aziz**,

47. What was the theme of **World Wetlands Day (WWD) 2021** which is observed every year on **February 2** across the globe?

Answer: Theme 2021: **'Wetlands and Water'**

48. **World Cancer Day** is observed on _____ every year by the **Union for International Cancer Control (UICC)**.

Answer: **4 February**

*World Cancer Day theme 2021: **'I Am And I Will'***

49. Khelo India Zaskar winter sports and youth festival has been concluded at Zaskar Valley of_____.

Answer: **Ladakh**

It is a **13 day long** and is a first of its kind was organized by Department of Sports & Youth Services under **Khelo India** banner in collaboration with **Ladakh Tourism Department**.

50. Which Large-scale tri-service joint amphibious exercise was held in Andaman & Nicobar group of islands from 21 to 25 Jan 2021?

Answer: '**AMPHEX 21**'

It involved participation of troops of **Army, Navy and Indian Air Force**. Joint force executed multi-domain, high intensity offensive and defensive manoeuvres in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal. **Ex KAVACH** for defence of Andaman & Nicobar Islands was also a part of AMPHEX 21.

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51. **South-East Central Railways (SECR)** zone in **Chhattisgarh** breaks record by successfully operating the longest ever freight train named as _____ by amalgamating five rakes of goods trains as one unit of around 3.5 km.

Answer: '**Vasuki**'

The train covered a distance of **224 km** between **Bhilai and Korba railway stations** and took about 7 hours.

52. **Uttar Pradesh** CM Yogi Adityanath has launched **which app** on the occasion of 71st Foundation Day of UP, on 24 Jan 2021?

Answer: **Udyam Sarathi App**

Udyam Sarathi App aims to enable the youths to get every information related to self-employment and job industry. It has been launched under **One District One Product (ODOP) scheme**.

53. Which state has become **1st state** in the country with **two airstrips on expressways** to facilitate emergency landing and take-off of fighter planes?

Answer: **Uttar Pradesh**

54. Which state has launched '**PANKH Abhiyan**' scheme on the occasion of National Girl Child Day?

Answer: **Madhya Pradesh**

It is launched under '**Beti Bachao Beti Padhao**' scheme for empowerment and growth of the girl child. PANKH scheme stands for:

P: protection

A: awareness of their rights

N: nutrition

K: knowledge

H: health.

55. Which state government has launched a new **School of Public Health**?

Answer: Rajasthan

The school was launched in order to make the policy intervention to build the public health capacity and skills. It will also help in bridging the gaps between education and practices in Rajasthan.

56. **SpaceX** has successfully launched rideshare mission named as _____ carrying **143 small satellites** by **Falcon 9 rocket** from Cape Canaveral Space Station in Florida?

Answer: Transporter-1

*It created record of launching the **largest number of satellites** from single rocket.*

57. Which country was the largest recipient of **Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)** in 2020, as per **Investment Global Investment Trend Monitor, No. 38** released by United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (**UNCTAD**)?

Answer: China

*China overtook United States to gain the top position in 2020. **China attracted \$163 billion FDI inflows in 2020**, compared to \$134 billion attracted by United States. In 2019, United States received \$251 billion in inflows and China received \$140 billion. Overall, global FDI had fell by 42% in 2020.*

58. Which Indian IT Firm has been ranked **3rd most-valued IT services brand globally**, according to a report released by Brand Finance?

Answer: Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)

***Accenture** and **IBM** have been ranked as the most-valued IT services brand. TCS has a brand value of USD 15 billion.*

59. **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** has forecasted Indian economy to contract by what percent in 2020-21?

Answer: 8%

*IMF estimated GDP of India to rise to **11.5%** in the next financial year **i.e. 2021-22** and will have slow down GDP of 6.8% in 2022-23. Apart from this, IMF projected the **global growth to contract at 3.5% in 2020.***

60. **India** has been ranked _____ among 98 countries in **Coronavirus Performance Index**?

Answer: 86th

*The index has been released by **Australia-based Lowy Institute**. **New Zealand** topped the index, followed by **Vietnam** and **Taiwan**. **Brazil** was ranked at the bottom of the list for worst handling of COVID pandemic than any other country. **China** was excluded from the list due to lack of publicly available data.*

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61. Which state ranked first in the second edition of the **India Justice Report (IJR) 2020**, that judges states on delivery of justice to people?

Answer: Maharashtra

***Tamil Nadu** is in second place which improved its ranking from its previous third position in 2019 and **Telangana** ranked third. The report was released by **Tata Trusts** with the support of the Center for Social Justice and others.*

62. As per the data released by the **Department of Science and Technology (DST)**, India ranked _____ in scientific publications.

Answer: 3rd (after **China** and the **US**)

*Out of 15,550 patents filed by Indians at Indian Patent Office during the period, 65 per cent were filed from **Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu** and **Delhi**.*

63. The Government of India has approved the **which scheme** to provide financial assistance to startups for proof of concept, prototype development, product trials, market entry and commercialization?

Answer: Startup India Seed Fund Scheme' (SISFS)

***SISFS** shall provide financial assistance to startups via a corpus of Rs. **945 crores** that will be disbursed through selected incubators across India in 2021-25. A startup, recognized by DPIIT, incorporated not more than **2 years** ago at the time of application is eligible for SFS.*

64. **FICCI** has forecasted India's gross domestic product (GDP) to contract by ____ in 2020-21, according to its Economic Outlook Survey?

Answer: 8%

FICCI expect the economy to perform better with GDP growth rate of 9.6% in FY22.

65. Which company has bagged a contract worth Rs 1390 crore for the Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train project?

Answer: Larsen & Toubro (L&T)

This project is India's first such project. L&T has bagged the contract for the project from the National High-Speed Rail Corporation Limited (NHSRCL).

66. RBI has suggested tougher regulatory framework for non-banking finance companies (NBFCs) to prevent recurrence of any systemic risk. It will be based on _____.

Answer: 4-layer structure

Base layer (NBFC-BL)

Middle layer (NBFC-ML)

Upper layer (NBFC-UL)

Top layer

67. The Ministry of road transport has decided to impose the additional taxes on old vehicles that are no more fit on road. This additional tax is being called as the _____.

Answer: "Green Tax"

68. Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** has inaugurated virtually new Bench of National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) at _____.

Answer: Chennai.

Chennai Bench of the NCLAT is first bench to be launched outside Delhi. Chennai benches of NCLT will have jurisdiction over NCLT of Karnataka, TN, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Lakshwadeep, Puducherry.

69. **HDFC Bank** has joined hands with _____ to provide EMI Collection Services for **CSC-HDFC Bank's Business Correspondents** across the country.

Answer: CSC e-Governance Services India Ltd

70. **President of India** distributes **Padma Awards** on every Republic Day to the civilians of India. This year, President has approved conferment of **119 Padma awards**, that comprises of _____,

Answer: 7 Padma Vibhushan, 10 Padma Bhushan and 102 Padma Shri.

- **Padma Vibhushan:** Shinzo Abe and late singer SP Balasubramaniam and some other
- **Padma Bhushan:** Tarun Gogoi and Keshubhai Patel, Ram Vilas Paswan, Sumitra Mahajan

71. **51st edition of International Film Festival of India (IFFI)** was held from **16 to 24 January 2021** in Goa. Which country was in focus in the festival?

Answer: Bangladesh

Winners of IFFI awards:

Golden Peacock Award for Best Film: Into the Darkness

Silver Peacock Award for Best Male Actor: Tzu-Chuan Liu, The Silent Forest

Silver Peacock Award for Best Female Actor: Zofia Stafiej, I Never Cry.

72. Which entity was conferred with **Election Commission of India (ECI)** Special Award for Information Technology (IT) applications in **National Best Electoral Practices Awards 2020**?

Answer: Office of Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Meghalaya

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73. Who has been elected as the new **Prime Minister of Estonia**?

Answer: Leader of the Reform Party, **Kaja Kallas**

She is **first female Prime Minister of Baltic country, Estonia**.

74. Who has been appointed as the **new Vice-chief of Army staff**?

Answer: Lieutenant General **Chandi Prasad Mohanty**

75. Who has been appointed as the new Chief Executive Officer of the Ayushman Bharat scheme or the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana which is an insurance scheme by the National Health Authority's (NHA)?

Answer: **R. S. Sharma**

76. Who has won **10th National Ice Hockey Championship trophy**, after defeating team Ladakh with the score line goals of 5-1?

Answer: **Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)**

National Ice Hockey Championship was organized by **Ice Hockey Association of India (IHAI)** at Gulmarg Ice Rink

77. **India** plans to achieve **20% ethanol-blending (E20)** with gasoline by _____.

Answer: **2025** (five years ahead of its previous target)

78. Who has inaugurated two-day '**Prarambh**', Startup India International Summit in New Delhi, which has been organized by **Dept for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)**, under M/o Commerce & Industry?

Answer: **Piyush Goyal**

Inaugural event of summit was attended by **BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation)** nations.

79. The Defence Research Development Organisation (DRDO) and the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) recently developed a bike ambulance called _____.

Answer: "**Rakshita**".

The bike ambulance will attend the evacuation needs of the CRPF personnel during emergency or battle injury. The ambulance was developed by INMAS (Institute of Nuclear and Allied Science) operating under DRDO.

80. Union Minister for Communications, Electronics & IT and Law & Justice, **Ravi Shankar Prasad** has inaugurated **15th edition of India Digital Summit 2021** virtually. Theme of 2021 Summit: _____.

Answer: '**Aatmanirbhar Bharat – Start of New Decade**'.

India Digital Summit is the flagship event of the **Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI)**.

81. **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)** along with _____ will establish '**Quantum Computing Applications Lab**' to accelerate quantum computing-led research and development.

Answer: **Amazon Web Services (AWS)**

82. Union Minister Harsh Vardhan has inaugurated **7th Edition of MASCRAD (Movement against Smuggled & Counterfeit Trade) 2021**. It is being organized by _____.

Answer: **FICCI Cascade**.

83. _____ has successfully conducted captive and release trial of indigenously developed **Smart Anti-Airfield Weapon (SAAW)** from **Hawk- Mk132** of **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)** off the Odisha coast.

Answer: **DRDO**

84. The Indian Army has conducted a large scale joint military exercise _____ in the **Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal**.

Answer: **Kavach**

The Joint Military Exercise Kavach involved Indian Navy, Indian Army, Indian Air Force and Indian Coast.

85. Which state government has rolled out '**One School One IAS**' scheme to provide free coaching for civil services and other competitive examinations to 10,000 meritorious but financially weak students?

Answer: **Kerala**

86. The **Karnataka** Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa recently launched which software to enable the state government to access data on expenditures and sanctions incurred on 1,800 programmes?

Answer: **Avalokana software..**

87. Meghalaya CM _____ has formally inaugurated **India's longest road arch bridge** named as '**Wahrew Bridge**' at Sohbar in East Khasi Hills district of Meghalaya.

Answer: Conrad K. Sangma

88. The government of **Maharashtra** has decided to start a 'jail tourism' from the **Yerawada** prison of _____.

Answer: Pune.

89. Which state government has recently announced the "Horticulture Development Mission"?

Answer: Gujarat

It is also called "**Bagayat Vikas Mission**". The main objective of the mission is to double the income of the farmers involved in horticulture and medicinal farming.

90. Recently, India has signed MoU with _____ to enhance cooperation in the field of **Information and Communications Technologies (ICT)**.

Answer: Japan

Under the MoU, both nations will enhance cooperation in ICT including 5G technologies, telecom security, submarine optical fiber cable system etc.

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91. **India** and **France** carried out a five-day **Mega Air Ex- Desert Knight 21** near _____.

Answer: Jodhpur.

92. **India** and which other country have signed a Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) on a basic partnership framework for the operation of the 'specified skilled worker' (SSW) system.

Answer: Japan

SSW is a new status of residence created in **Japan** in **April 2019**, to accept foreign nationals who have a certain level of expertise and skill.

93. **NITI Aayog** along **Institute for Competitiveness** has released **2nd edition of India Innovation Index 2020** examining innovation capabilities and performance of states and UT. Which state occupied top position in the Index among major states?

Answer: **Karnataka** (followed by **Maharashtra** and **Tamil Nadu** across the major categories).

In UT, **Delhi** topped followed by **Chandigarh**. **Himachal Pradesh** occupied top state in hill category.

94. _____ - in partnership with **Marsh McLennan**, **SK Group** and **Zurich Insurance Group** has released **16th edition of Global Risk Report**.

Answer: World Economic Forum (WEF)

Report presents the results of latest **Global Risks Perception Survey (GRPS)**. It had two categories:

Risk by Livelihood: *Extreme weather, followed by climate action failure, Human environment damage.*

Risk by Impact: *Infectious disease top this factor followed by Climate action failure, weapons of mass destruction.*

95. The **Global Firepower Index** ranks the countries based on their potential military strength. What was **India's** rank in the index?

Answer: 4th

*The Global Firepower Index ranked 138 countries. The countries were evaluated based on prolonged offensive and defensive military campaigns. The **United States topped** the index.*

96. **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** has approved acquisition of **Aditya Birla Fashion and Retail Ltd (ABFRL)** by _____.

Answer: Flipkart Investments Pvt Ltd (FIPL).

97. The Union Cabinet recently approved the **Ratle Hydropower Project of 850 MW**. The cabinet has nodded to an investment of Rs 5,281.94 crores in the project. The project is located in _____.

Answer: River Chenab in Jammu and Kashmir.

98. **State Bank of India (SBI)** has launched loan settlement schemes 'Rin Samadhan Yojna' in _____.

Answer: Maharashtra.

Under the **Rin Samadhan Yojna**, if the farmer who has borrowed loan, pays **20 per cent** of the principal amount of the total dues, pending since two years, then the entire loan will be waived.

99. **India Post Payments Bank (IPPB)** has collaborated with _____ to promote financial inclusion among underserved and unbanked segments.

Answer: Financial Software and Systems (FSS)

Under this collaboration, IPPB will use **FSS' Aadhaar Enabled Payment System (AePS)** to provide interoperable and affordable doorstep banking services to customers across India.

100. Which Bank has launched mobile app named as '**InstaFX**' for authorized money changers, helping customers of any bank get its '**Forex Prepaid Card**' swiftly?

Answer: ICICI Bank

101. **Airtel Payments Bank** has launched secure mode of payment gateway titled as _____ to protect Airtel customers from incidents of online payment frauds.

Answer: 'Airtel Safe Pay'

102. Which bank has rolled out '**AURA**' credit card exclusively loaded with several health and wellness benefits for its users at an affordable price?

Answer: **Axis Bank**

103. Who has been elected as the **President of UN Human Rights Council for 2021**?

Answer: **Nazhat Shameem Khan**

Nazhat Shameem Khan is the **Permanent Representative of Fiji to the United Nations**.
Human Rights Council HQs: **Geneva, Switzerland**.

104. Goa CM Pramod Sawant released a book _____ at a function organized at Institute Menezes Braganza hall in the city.

Answer: '**Manohar Parrikar- Off the Record**'

The book has been written by senior journalist Waman **Subha Prabhu**.

105. Who has become the **1st woman fighter pilot** to take part in the Republic Day parade on 26 January 2021?

Answer: Flight lieutenant **Bhawana Kanth**

106. Veteran Malayalam actor _____ passed away due to COVID-19.

Answer: **Unnikrishnan Namboothiri**

107. The Indian Space Research Organization will adopt how many ATLs across the country to facilitate mentoring and coaching of students in cutting edge technologies related to space?

Answer: **100 Atal Tinkering Labs**

108. The University Grants Commission (UGC) has recently asked the Higher Education Institutes across the country to establish an office for _____.

Answer: **International Affairs**

The Office of International Affairs will be an integral part of internationalisation of higher education in India.

109. PM Narendra Modi has recently flagged off the world's first 'double-stack long-haul' container train from _____ in Haryana to New Kishanganj, Rajasthan.

Answer: **New Ateli**

*He also dedicated 306 km long New **Rewari-Madar** Section of Western Dedicated Freight Corridor (WDFC) to nation connecting Haryana to Rajasthan.*

110. Name the recently launched innovative paint developed by Khadi and Village Industries Commission.

Answer: Khadi Prakritik Paint

It is an eco-friendly, non-toxic paint, and is a first-of-its-kind product, with anti-fungal, anti-bacterial properties with main Ingredient as cow dung.

111. Which country has been chosen as 'Country in Focus' for 51st International Film Festival of India (IFFI)?

Answer: Bangladesh

112. National Informatics Centre (NIC) and Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) have jointly launched a software for students across the country to create and modify 3D digital designs with free flow of creativity and imagination. Name the software.

Answer: CollabCAD Software

113. Which state will become India's prime producer of Vanadium—a high-value metal used in strengthening steel?

Answer: Arunachal Pradesh

114. Which Indian state has become the first state to establish 'Fire Park' to educate and bring awareness on basic fire safety measures among the people, particularly the students?

Answer: Odisha

115. The Union Cabinet has recently approved India-UAE Memorandum of Understanding for _____.

Answer: Scientific and Technical Cooperation.

The MoU provides sharing of knowledge between the countries It will also allow to share information of data from satellites, radar, tide gauges, meteorological stations.

116. NASA has launched the most powerful rocket in the world on January 17, 2021, which was named as:

Answer: Space Launch System

The Space Launch System is to carry the first woman and the next man to the moon.

117. India and Japan have recently signed Memorandum of Understanding to enhance cooperation in the field of _____.

Answer: Information and Communications Technology.

India and Japan will enhance cooperation in the field of telecom security, 5G technologies, submarine optical fibre cable system to islands of India.

118. Which country has organized 4th 'One Planet Summit' through videoconferencing to protect world's biodiversity?

Answer: France

Theme: Let's act together for nature! The Summit was organized in cooperation with UN and World Bank.

119. The United Nations recently released the report "International Migration 2020 Highlights". According to the report, the Indian diaspora is the largest in the world with more than _____ people from India were living outside India as of 2020.

Answer: 18 million

The other countries with large diaspora are Mexico, China, Russia and Syria. India's diaspora is distributed across a number of major countries such as UAE (3.5 million), Saudi Arabia (2.5 million) and US (2.7 million). The United States was the largest country of destination of international migrants. The US was followed by Germany, Saudi Arabia, Russia and the UK.

120. The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas recently launched a campaign to spread awareness about clean energy. Name the campaign.

Answer: SAKSHAM (Sanrakshan Kshamta Mahotsav 2021)

It is a one-month long people centric fuel conservation campaign. The campaign is to be launched by the Petroleum Conservation Research Association (PCRA).

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between PCRA and EESL for promotion of Energy Efficient PNG Stove on the occasion.

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121. On January 15, 2021, the Government of India has launched the third phase of Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana. Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana 3.0 is to train how many candidates for a period of 1 year with an investment of Rs. 950 crores?

Answer: More than 1 lakh candidates

The third Phase is to be implemented by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship. Under the third phase of Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana, 729 Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendra are to be established and more than 200 ITIs are to be rolled out under Skill India mission.

122. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by Prime Minister has recently approved an ambitious scheme to boost the industrial development of _____.

Answer: Jammu and Kashmir

The Government of India has allocated Rs. 28,400 crores for the industrial development of Jammu and Kashmir scheme. The funds are to be used to develop industrial sector of the territory till 2037.

123. The Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched and addressed Start-up India International Summit. What is the name of summit?

Answer: Prarambh.

The Startup India International Summit is organised by Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal trade (DPIIT) and the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

124. The Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry recently announced that the new Foreign Trade Policy: 2021-26 which is to come into effect from _____.

Answer: April 1, 2021

*The goal of New Foreign Trade Policy is to make India a 5 trillion USD economy. The **District Export hubs** are to play a major role in the new Foreign Trade Policy. The policy will aim to boost exports. It will enhance ease of doing business.*

125. First advanced estimates of National Income have been released by National Statistical Office (NSO). As per the estimate, India's GDP is expected to contract by what percent in the current fiscal year 2020-21?

Answer: 7.7%

126. Elon Musk-owned electric vehicle company Tesla has registered its fully owned subsidiary in which Indian city with a name of 'Tesla India Motors and Energy Private Limited'?

Answer: Bengaluru

127. NITI Aayog has collaborated with which ecommerce company to launch a revamped Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP)?

Answer: Flipkart

128. The Reserve Bank of India recently released 22nd issue of the financial stability report for December 2020. As per the report, the Gross Non-Performing Assets Ratio of the scheduled commercial banks is to increase to _____ by September 2021.

Answer: 13.5%

The GNPA ratio stood at 7.5% in September 2020.

NNPA the ratio stood at 2.1 % in September 2020 and at 3% in March 2020.

According to the financial stability report, the GNPA might increase to 13.5% by September 2021 under baseline scenario. Under severe stress scenario, the GNPA ratio might increase to 14.8% by September 2021.

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129. The Reserve Bank of India recently constituted a working group to study all aspects of digital lending activities in the regulated and regulated financial sector. The working group is led by _____.

Answer: Jayant Kumar Dash

The working group consists of both internal and external members. The internal members include Jayant Kumar Dash as Chairman.

130. Which Bank has tied-up with IIT Kanpur and Foundation for Innovation & Research in Science & Technology (FIRST) to set up 'Fintech Innovation Centre (FIC)' at the institute's campus?

Answer: Punjab National Bank

131. RBI has set up an academic advisory council named as 'College of Supervisors (CoS)' to strengthen its supervision over regulated entities. CoS will have five members and it will be headed by former deputy governor _____.

Answer: N S Viswanathan

132. Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) has taken a new initiative to introduce its flagship Liberalised MSME AEO Package. What is the full form of AEO?

Answer: Authorised Economic Operators

*In order to attract MSMEs to become Authorised Economic Operators (AEOs) and avail the various benefits, the CBIC has relaxed the compliance criteria provided the MSMEs have a valid certificate from their line-Ministry. The relaxed requirements allow MSMEs who have **filed minimum 10 Customs clearance documents** in one year and who have a clean compliance record over 2 years to apply for the scheme.*

133. RBI issued 'Risk Based Internal Audit (RBIA) Framework' for strengthening governance arrangements of banks as part of 'Internal Control Framework'. RBIA will be applicable to _____.

Answer: All Scheduled Commercial Banks (Excluding RRBs), Local Area Banks, Small Finance Banks and Payments Banks

Under RBIA, Head of Internal Audit (HIA) will be formed as a senior executive of the bank with independent judgement, with a tenure of 3 years. HIA will directly report to Audit Committee of the Board or MD- CEO.

134. RBI has cancelled the license of Vasantdada Nagari Sahakari Bank, with immediate effect from January 11, 2021. The Bank is located in which state ?

Answer: Maharashtra

The move is taken as the bank failed to comply with Section 11(1) and Section 56 of Banking regulation Act.

135. IRDAI has constituted 'Health Insurance Advisory Committee' to examine availability of health insurance products. Committee will be headed by IRDAI Chairperson, _____.

Answer: Subhash Chandra Khuntia

136. An Indian high school student Aryan Jain has won the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA) Artemis Next-Gen STEM - Moon to Mars App Development Challenge this year. Aryan, a student of Suncity School, _____.

Answer: Gurugram

137. Veteran Congress leader Madhavsinh Solanki passed away at his residence in Gandhinagar. How many times he has served as the Chief Minister of Gujarat?

Answer: Thrice

138. World Hindi Day or World Hindi Diwas is observed annually on _____ to promote Hindi language across the globe.

Answer: January 10

139. Every year the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas is celebrated on January 9. What was the theme for this day for the Year 2021?

Answer: Contributing to Atma Nirbhar Bharat.

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140. Every year National Youth Day is celebrated on January 12. It is also known as the _____.

Answer: Yuva Diwas

Theme of National Youth Day, 2021: **YUVAAH-Utsah Naye Bharat Ka.**

The National Youth Day is celebrated to commemorate the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda. 2021 is the 158th birth anniversary of Swami Vivekanand.

141. Indian Army Day is observed every year on _____ to honor our valiant soldiers who sacrificed their lives to protect the country and its citizens?

Answer: **15 January**

142. ISRO will launch a satellite completely developed in Brazil from Satish Dhawan Space Centre. Name the satellite.

Answer: **Amazonia-1**

143. Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' has laid foundation stone of 'TiHAN- Technology Innovation Hub on Autonomous Navigation Systems' through virtual mode at which Institute?

Answer: **IIT Hyderabad**

TiHAN is India's first Testbed for Autonomous Navigation Systems (Terrestrial and Aerial).

144. Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has capped Trans Fatty Acids (TFA) amount in food to 3% for 2021 and _____ by 2022 from the current permissible limit of 5%.

Answer: **2%**

145. PM Narendra Modi has dedicated 450 km long 'Kochi-Mangaluru Natural Gas Pipeline' to nation in line with One Nation One Gas Grid. It is built by which company?

Answer: **GAIL (India) Limited**

146. The Indian Space Research Organization recently released the plan for the decade which included reusable satellite launch vehicle, heavy lift rocket and semi-cryogenic engine. ISRO is to complete its moon mission Chandrayaan-3, first Indian Data Relay Satellite System (IDRSS) and the solar mission named _____.

Answer: **Aditya-L1**

147. Which entity has recently announced that it has authorized two COVID-19 vaccines- COVAXIN and COVISHIELD- for restricted Emergency Use in India?

Answer: **Drug Controller General of India**

The COVAXIN is the COVID-19 vaccine developed by Bharat Biotech and ICMR (Indian council of Medical Research). It was the first indigenous COVID-19 vaccine to be developed in the country. The COVISHIELD vaccine

was developed by Oxford University and Astra Zeneca, the pharmaceutical company, and it is being manufactured by Serum Institute of India (Pune).

148. India's first pollinator park was recently inaugurated at _____.

Answer: **Haldwani, Uttarakhand**

149. Who has been appointed as the new Chief Justice of the common high court for Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir and Union Territory of Ladakh?

Answer: **Pankaj Mithal**

150. Which state government has launched a 'Launch Pad Scheme' for the boys and girls coming out of child-care institutions and having completed 18 years of age?

Answer: **Madhya Pradesh**

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151. India and which other country has successfully tested 'Medium-Range Surface-to-Air Missile (MRSAM)' defense system?

Answer: **Israel**

MRSAM missile defense system has been developed jointly by DRDO and Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) to deal with airstrikes by enemy countries.

152. Which country recently became the largest Latin American country to legalize abortion?

Answer: **Argentina**

153. Which country aims to launch world's first wood-based space satellite to combat the growing problem of space debris or junk?

Answer: **Japan**

154. The World Bank recently released the Global Economic Prospects report. According to the report the Indian economy is to contract by _____ in 2020-21.

Answer: **9.6%**

The Indian economy is to recover 5.4 percent in 2021-22. The contraction in Indian economy will be mainly due to sharp decline in household spending and private investment.

155. Which entity has recently released the Food Price Index?

Answer: Food and Agriculture Organization

The Food Price for the month of December was 100 7.5 points. Food and Agriculture Organization calculates the food price index measuring the monthly changes of a basket of oilseeds, cereals, meat, dairy products, and sugar.

156. The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) recently released its Statement on Climate of India during 2020. According to IMD, 2020 was the _____ warmest year on record since 1901.

Answer: 8th

157. The union government has recently decided to extend the benefit of Remission of 'Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP)' scheme to _____ in order to boost export.

Answer: All Export Goods

RoDTEP scheme will refund embedded Central, State, and local taxes to exporters that were so far not being given rebate or refunded.

158. The UJALA (Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LEDs for All) and SLNP (Street Lighting National Programme) completed six years of successful implementation. Under UJALA, how many LED bulbs were distributed by Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL)?

Answer: 6.69 crores

159. Which automobile company has become world's most valuable two-wheeler company, after crossing a market capitalization of more than Rs 1 lakh crore?

Answer: Bajaj Auto

160. Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, under Ministry of Commerce & Industry has recently organized which marathon program by conducting sector-specific webinars for promoting Quality and Productivity in Indian Industry?

Answer: Udyog Manthan

It has been launched in association with Quality Council of India, National Productivity Council, and Industry bodies.

161. Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' and Textile Minister Smriti Zubin Irani jointly launched _____, with an aim to conceptualize innovative toys based on the Indian value system.

Answer: Toycathon 2021

162. The Government of India has decided to construct the largest floating solar energy project in the world. The project will be constructed at Omkareshwar Dam which is located on the river _____.

Answer: Narmada

163. The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) recently imposed Rs 25 crores fine on the Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) and its Managing Director Mukesh Ambani. The fine was imposed for carrying out manipulative trade practices in relation to a subsidiary company of RIL. Name the subsidiary company.

Answer: Reliance Petroleum Limited

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164. GST Revenue collection for the month of November 2020 has been recorded to be an all-time high since the implementation of the Goods and Services Tax in the country. What is the amount of revenue collected?

Answer: 1.15 Lakh Crore Rupees

165. International Financial Services Centers Authority (IFSCA) has recently become an Associate Member of which global body?

Answer: International Organization of Securities Commissions (IOSCO)

IOSCO is an International organization covering 95% of world's securities markets. HQs: Madrid, Spain.

IFSCA is a Unified authority to regulate all financial services in IFSCs. HQs: Gandhinagar, Gujarat.

166. Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation has signed an MoU with UNDP India to co-create India's first _____.

Answer: Social Impact Bond (SIB)

SIB is also called pay-for-success bond or pay-for-success financing. It is basically a contract with public sector authority for better social outcomes.

167. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has launched Digital Payments Index (DPI) to capture the extent of digitization of digital/electronic payments. How many broad parameters DPI contains for measurement of deepening and penetration of digital payments?

Answer: 5 Broad Parameters

- *Payment Enablers*
- *Payment Infrastructure*
- *Payment Infrastructure*
- *Payment Performance*
- *Consumer Centricity*

168. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has introduced Legal Entity Identifier (LEI) system for all the payment transactions of value _____ using Centralized Payment Systems like Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS) and National Electronic Funds Transfer (NEFT).

Answer: Rs 50 Crore and Above

LEI is a 20-digit alphanumeric code used to uniquely identify parties for financial transactions worldwide.

169. Which cooperative bank has become the first Urban Co-Operative Bank (UCB) in India to receive license from RBI to operate as a Small Finance Bank (SFB)?

Answer: Shivalik Mercantile Co-operative Bank (SMCB)

*SMCB bank received commercial banking license from banking regulator RBI to transition to an SFB, under the **voluntary transition scheme**. The bank will start its banking operations from April 2021. SMCB is headquartered at Saharanpur, Uttar Pradesh.*

170. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced operational guidelines for Payments Infrastructure Development Fund (PIDF) scheme. The main aim of the funds is to deploy more digital payment infrastructure across _____.

Answer: Tier-3 To Tier-6 Centres and North Eastern States

171. New Development Bank (NDB) has signed USD 646 million loan agreements with Govt of India for two road projects in _____.

Answer: Andhra Pradesh

172. The Reserve Bank of India recently formed an advisory council under chairmanship of former deputy governor _____ to advise the director of the central bank on supervisory colleges to identify areas where upskilling and building are required in supervisory colleges.

Answer: N S Vishwanathan

173. Who has taken over as the Chairman of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) with effect from January 1, 2021?

Answer: Soma Mondal

174. Who has been appointed as the deputy election commissioner in the Election Commission of India?

Answer: **Umesh Sinha**

175. Former Union Minister and senior Rajasthan Congress leader _____ passed away, recently. He served as the Home Minister of India during Rajiv Gandhi govt from 1986 to 1989.

Answer: **Buta Singh**

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176. World Braille Day is observed every year on _____ to celebrate the birth anniversary of Louis Braille, the inventor of Braille?

Answer: **4th January**

177. The 7th WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) Conclave was organized in virtual mode from 2 to 4 December 2020. It is being organized by UNICEF and _____.

Answer: **National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR)**

178. The cyclone Burevi hit the Karaikal coast of Tamil Nadu 7 days after the cyclone _____ hit the state's coastal area.

Answer: **Nivar**

179. Ninth edition of International Sand Art Festival (ISAF) and 31st edition of Konark Festival has been conducted from 1 to 5 Dec 2020 in _____.

Answer: **Odisha**

180. Ministry of Home Affairs releases list of best performing Police Stations across India every year to incentivize more effective functioning of police stations. Which Police Station was ranked first in the list of best performing police station for the year 2020?

Answer: **Nongpok Sekmai, Manipur**

181. India Mobile Congress (IMC) 2020 was recently organized by Department of Telecommunications and Cellular Operators Association of India. What was the theme for IMC 2020?

Answer: **Inclusive Innovation - Smart, Secure, Sustainable**

182. Which two historical fort cities of Madhya Pradesh have been included in the list of World Heritage Cities by UNESCO?

Answer: Gwalior and Orchha

183. The Union Government has introduced which digital platform as well as mobile app for COVID-19 vaccine delivery?

Answer: CO-WIN

It will allow people to register for the vaccine, and recording vaccine data and database of healthcare workers, along with COVID-19 related data.

184. BSNL has partnered with which tech company to launch world's first satellite-based NB-IoT (Narrow Band-Internet of Things), whose coverage and speed will not leave any place uncovered within India?

Answer: Skylotech

185. The 5th India Water Impact Summit (IWIS) has been inaugurated virtually by Ratan Lal Kataria, Minister of State for Jal Shakti. It was organized by _____.

Answer: National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG)

*Theme for 2020: **Arth Ganga**: River Conservation Synchronized Development.*

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186. The 9th edition of Sustainable Mountain Development Summit (SMDS) was held in which Indian city?

Answer: Dehradun. It was organized by Indian Mountain Initiative (IMI).

187. Which government body has released white paper, 'Vision 2035 - Public Health Surveillance in India' which lays out India's vision for public health surveillance through the integration of 3-tiered public health system into Ayushman Bharat, along with the need for expanded referral networks and capacity?

Answer: NITI Aayog

188. Which tech company has signed Rs 2,400 crore investment deal with Tamil Nadu government to set up its first electric scooter factory in the state?

Answer: Ola

Ola factory in Tamil Nadu will be the largest scooter manufacturing facility in the world.

189. At which place, PM Narendra Modi has laid the foundation stone of 30,000-megawatt capacity hybrid renewable energy park which will be the largest renewable energy park of its kind in the world?

Answer: Kutch, Gujarat

190. Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) has set up dedicated Space Situational Awareness (SSA) Control Centre titled as 'NETRA' at Bangalore to monitor, track and protect India's space assets. What does 'T' stand for in NETRA?

Answer: NETRA (NEtwork for space object **TR**acking and Analysis)

191. Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) has successfully launched India's new communication satellite CMS-01 into geo-synchronous transfer orbit. CMS-01 was launched from Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota using _____ launcher rocket.

Answer: PSLV-C50

192. The Union Government has proposed to set up a museum dedicated to Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose, in which city on his 125th birth anniversary celebrations (23rd January)?

Answer: Kolkata

193. Union defense minister Rajnath Singh has recently inaugurated advanced Hypersonic Wind Tunnel test facility in which city?

Answer: Hyderabad

194. The 6th edition of India International Science Festival (IISF) has been inaugurated on the virtual platform marking the birth anniversary of which famous Indian scientist?

Answer: Srinivasa Ramanujan

IISF is jointly organized by CSIR-National Institute of Science Communication and Information Resources, Ministry of Earth Sciences and Vijnana Bharati (VIBHA).

Theme for year 2020: Science for Self-Reliant India and Global Welfare.

Union Minister Harsh Vardhan has inaugurated Global Indian Scientists & Technocrats (GIST) meet as a part of the Indian International Science Festival (IISF) 2020.

195. The Union Cabinet has approved the merger of 4 film media units namely: Films Division, Directorate of Film-Festivals, National Film Archives of India, and Children's Film Society with _____.

Answer: National Film Development Corporation (NFDC).

196. Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment Thaawar Chand Gehlot has rolled out which mobile app to identify and geotag insanitary latrines and manual scavengers.

Answer: Swachhata Abhiyan

197. India's first hot air balloon wildlife safari was launched in the world-famous _____, Madhya Pradesh.

Answer: Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve

198. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has flagged off India's first fully automated driverless train service on the Magenta Line of Delhi Metro. Which other payment service/tool was also introduced during the event?

Answer: National Common Mobility Card (NCMC)

199. Health Minister Harsh Vardhan has recently inaugurated India's first pneumococcal conjugate vaccine named as _____.

Answer: Pneumosil'

It has been developed by Serum Institute of India Private Limited (SIPL) in collaboration with PATH and Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

200. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has recently flagged off 100th run of Kisan Rail. The train will run from Sangola in Maharashtra to _____.

Answer: Shalimar in West Bengal

First 'Kisan Rail' train was inaugurated from Deolali in Nashik to Danapur in Bihar in August 2020.

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201. Every year the Hornbill festival, also known as the 'Festivals of Festivals', is celebrated between December 1 and December 10 in the northeast region and in the state of _____.

Answer: Nagaland. The festival is named after the Indian Hornbill Bird.

202. The Union Government has launched AI & Robotics Technologies Park (ARTPARK) in Bengaluru to promote technology innovations in AI (Artificial Intelligence) & Robotics leading to societal impact. It is a unique not-for-profit foundation established by _____ with support from 'AI Foundry' in a public-private model.

Answer: Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru

203. Which state government has launched special program titled as 'Kisan Kalyan Mission' to double the income of farmers across the state?

Answer: Uttar Pradesh

204. Which zoological park in India has become the 1st zoo in the country to receive ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management Standards Certificate from Accreditation Service for Certifying Bodies (ASCB), UK?

Answer: Nehru Zoological Park, Hyderabad

205. Which state CM has launched the 'PARESHRAM' web portal along with 22 other online services of Labour and Employees' State Insurance (ESI) department which will help in 'ease of doing business' in the state by contributing significantly to industrial development of the State?

Answer: Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik

206. Which state government has launched special campaign 'Varasat' (meaning natural succession) to curb property and land-related disputes in rural areas?

Answer: Uttar Pradesh

207. Union Petroleum & Natural Gas Minister, Dharmendra Pradhan has dedicated West Bengal's first oil and gas reserve, titled as 'Bengal Basin' to the nation. Bengal Basin will be explored and owned by _____.

Answer: Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC)

208. Asian Development Bank (ADB) has signed _____ loan agreement with Indian Authority to upgrade rural power distribution networks in Uttar Pradesh, providing reliable electricity supply to consumers.

Answer: USD 300 million

209. Which state government has decided to frame an integrated Drug Prevention Policy that comprises of Drug Prevention, Treatment, Management and Rehabilitation Programme?

Answer: Himachal Pradesh

210. Punjab CM Captain Amarinder Singh has launched which Mobile application and web portal to improve the delivery of citizen-centric services, based upon the feedback of its citizens on government policies.

Answer: PR Insight

211. India's first Lithium refinery to process Lithium ore to produce battery-grade material will be set up in which state?

Answer: **Gujarat**

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212. Which state government has unveiled an e-governance portal named 'Farmer Registration and Unified beneficiary Information System (FRUITS)', for the benefit of the farmers of the state?

Answer: **Karnataka**

213. Union Minister Harsh Vardhan has inaugurated first dedicated meteorological center in which Union Territories?

Answer: **Ladakh**

Ladakh's Meteorological Centre. Indian Meteorological Department will have four Automatic Weather Stations (AWS) operating in Leh, Kargil, Drass and Stakna.

214. Which state assembly has passed a bill to abolish all state-run Madrasas by converting them to general schools?

Answer: **Assam**

215. Bihar CM Secretariat, Disaster Management Dept, and Bihar National Informatics Centre (NIC) have jointly conferred as winners under which category of Digital India Awards 2020?

Answer: **Pandemic Category**

Bihar has bagged the award for its departments initiative to transfer financial assistance directly to the accounts of beneficiaries during the COVID-19 pandemic.

216. Which country has imposed 'millionaire tax' on about 12,000 of the country's richest people to fund its coronavirus countermeasures?

Answer: **Argentina**

217. Which country has become the first nation to approve 'Pfizer-BioNTech Covid-19 vaccine' for vaccination use?

Answer: **Britain**

American pharmaceutical giant Pfizer and its German partner BioNTech concluded phase 3 of Covid-19 vaccine meeting all primary efficacy endpoints.

218. Facebook-backed cryptocurrency Libra has been rebranded and renamed as “_____” to gain regulatory approval by emphasising that the project has “organisational independence”.

Answer: Diem. Diem is a Latin term meaning “day”.

219. Which country has recently announced to establish Friendship association with India? This will be the first of such initiative in West Asia.

Answer: Oman

220. India and the United States recently signed the Memorandum of Understanding on _____.

Answer: Intellectual Property Cooperation

The agreement was signed between the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) and United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO).

221. The National Academy of Sciences has recently found that the microwave radiation is the major cause of the mysterious neurological illness called _____ which started to infect the American diplomats and intelligence officials located in China, Cuba and other countries for more than four years now.

Answer: Havana Syndrome

222. Which country has become 2nd nation in the world to unfurl its national flag on moon's surface, prior to which only US has unfurled its flag on the Moon during Apollo mission in 1969?

Answer: China

223. World's highest mountain peak 'Mount Everest' has become taller by _____, as per a survey conducted jointly by Nepal and China.

Answer: 86 cm

224. World Economic Forum (WEF) has decided to host its 2021 annual meeting in _____ due to COVID-19 from 13-16 May 2021, which was earlier scheduled to take place in Lucerne-Burgenstock, Switzerland.

Answer: Singapore

225. Who have been jointly named as Time Magazine's 2020 Person of the Year?

Answer: US President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris

Korean pop group BTS has been named as Entertainer of the Year and basketball star LeBron James as Athlete of the Year.

226. Asian Development Bank (ADB) has launched Asia Pacific Vaccine Access Facility (APVAX) for its developing member countries to offer rapid and equitable financial support for vaccines procurement. What is the total cost allocated for APVAX?

Answer: \$ 9 Billion

227. Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) has signed an MoU with Federal Ministry of Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology of Austria on _____.

Answer: Technology Cooperation in Road Infrastructure Sector

MoU will create bilateral cooperation in the field of Road Transportation, Road/Highways infrastructure development, management and administration, Road safety and Intelligent Transport Systems.

228. Indian PM Narendra Modi and Uzbekistan President Shavkat Mirziyoyev have jointly co-chaired India-Uzbekistan virtual Summit to strengthen strategic partnership. India approved US \$448 million Line of Credit. How many MoUs India has signed with Uzbekistan during the summit?

Answer: 9 MoU

MoUs were signed in the field of Solar Energy, Digital Technologies, Trade, Economic and Investment Cooperation, etc.

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229. How many MoUs India and Bangladesh have signed during bilateral summit held recently..

Answer: 7 MoUs

MoUs were signed on Hydrocarbon Sector, Agriculture, and some other sector.

230. Which country's tradition of communal dining at hawker centers has been recognized by UNESCO for its cultural significance?

Answer: Singapore

The UNESCO added the city-state's "hawker culture" to its Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

231. Which country has virtually hosted 20th Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) Council of Ministers (COM) Meeting with the theme of 'Promoting a Shared Destiny and Path to Prosperity in the Indian Ocean'?

Answer: United Arab Emirates (UAE)

232. Which global agency has signed an MoU with Kerala state government to establish India's first 'Gender Data Hub' at the Gender Park at Kozhikode campus, where International Institute for Gender and Development is also located?

Answer: **UN Women**

233. Indian Navy and Vietnamese Navy has recently undertaken naval passage exercise 'PASSEX 2020' in _____.

Answer: **South China Sea**

234. Which Indian personality has been recently nominated as the board member of Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI)?

Answer: **Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Harsh Vardhan**

235. IIT-Bombay researchers have rolled out urban quality of life index to show the reality of life in Indian cities. Mumbai has bagged the 1st place in index. Which city stood last?

Answer: **Patna**

236. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has inaugurated the 63rd Founding Day Celebrations of the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI). On this occasion, which report was released by her that analyses organized smuggling trends on Gold and Foreign Currency, Narcotic Drugs, Security, Environment and Commercial Frauds?

Answer: **Smuggling in India Report 2019-20**

237. World Health Organization (WHO) has released World Malaria Report (WMR) 2020 giving estimated cases for malaria across the world. As per the report, India is the only high endemic nation which has reported decline of malaria cases by _____ in 2019 as compared to 2018.

Answer: **17.6%**

South-East Asia made strong progress with case and death reductions of 73% and 74%, respectively. India showed largest drop in cases from 20 to 6 million. Globally, cases declined in 238 million (2000) to 229 million in 2019.

238. What was India's rank in global Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI), 2020?

Answer: **10th**

No top 3 positions were filled due to non-fulfillment of criteria.

Sweden bagged 4th place, followed by UK(5th), Denmark (6th), Morocco (7th). China bagged 33rd rank and USA, appears at the bottom.

CCPI is developed by Germanwatch and NewClimate Institute (Germany) together with the Climate Action Network (CAN International).

239. Health minister Harsh Vardhan has released 5th National Family Health Survey (NFHS) comprising of detailed information on population, health, and nutrition for India. Phase 1 results show the status of _____.

Answer: 17 States and 5 UTs

Phase II will cover the remaining 12 States and 2 UTs and is expected to come by May 2021.

240. India has been ranked 131 among 189 countries on the Human Development Index (HDI) in Human Development Report 2020, released by United Nations Development Program (UNDP). Which country ranked first?

Answer: Norway topped HDI, followed by Ireland, Switzerland, Hong Kong, and Iceland.

HDI measures average achievement on 3 basic aspects: life expectancy, education, and per capita income.

241. India was ranked at _____ place in the 'Human Freedom Index 2020: A Global Measurement of Personal, Civil, and Economic Freedom'.

Answer: 111th

It is the sixth Annual Report released by Cato Institute of United States & Fraser Institute in Canada. New Zealand topped the index followed by Switzerland.

242. The World Bank has come out with a corrected Doing Business ranking following a review on data irregularities. As per the 'Doing Business' 2020 report, India had jumped 14 places to the _____ position.

Answer: 63rd

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243. The Union Government has rolled out 'Quarterly Return filing & Monthly Payment of Taxes (QRMP)' scheme for _____ under GST system.

Answer: Small Taxpayers

Taxpayers with Rs 5 crore annual turnover in the preceding financial year are eligible.

244. The Union Cabinet has given its approval for the proposal of Department of Telecom for setting up of Public Wi-Fi Networks by Public Data Office Aggregators (PDOAs) to accelerate proliferation of

Broadband Internet services through Public Wi-Fi network. This scheme will be known as _____.

Answer: PM-WANI (Wifi Access Network Interface)

245. The Union Cabinet has approved Rs. 6,700 crore Revised Cost Estimate (RCE) of North Eastern Region Power System Improvement Project (NERPSIP). NERPSIP is being implemented through _____ in association with 6 beneficiary North Eastern States of Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, and Tripura.

Answer: POWERGRID

246. PM Narendra Modi has launched Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) SEHAT scheme for the residents of _____.

Answer: Jammu and Kashmir

247. PwC India has partnered with _____ and YuWaah (Generation Unlimited in India) to upskill 300 million young Indians over the next 10 years.

Answer: UNICEF

The collaboration is part of PwC's global multi-sector partnership with UNICEF and YuWaah that will provide 1.8 billion youngsters with socio-economic opportunities from school to work by 2030.

248. Asian Development Bank (ADB) in its latest 'Asian Development Outlook' report has estimated India's economy to contract by 8% in 2020. South Asian region's GDP is expected to contract by _____ in 2020, with growth recovery of 7.2% in 2021.

Answer: 6.1% (contraction)

249. Minister of State for Skill Development, Raj Kumar Singh has inaugurated 1st Centre of Excellence (CoE) for 'skill development in the power sector' in National Institute of Solar Energy, at _____.

Answer: Gurugram

*CoE has been set up by Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, in collaboration with Ministry of National Education and Youth, France and **Schneider Electric**.*

250. Directorate General of Training (DGT) under Skill Development Ministry has partnered with Microsoft and _____ to provide a digital content for ITI students.

Answer: NASSCOM Foundation

*This will benefit 1,20,000 students in around 3000 ITIs across India via **Bharatskills** portal.*

251. According to Centre for Economics and Business Research (UK based think-tank), Indian economy will overtake UK becoming the 5th largest economy in 2025 and will reach 3rd spot by _____.

Answer: 2030

252. Union Minister for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Mahendra Nath Pandey has inaugurated 1st batch of Indian Institute of Skills in Mumbai. It is a joint initiative of Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship and _____.

Answer: Tata Indian Institute of Skills

253. Minister of Earth Sciences Harsh Vardhan has inaugurated web-based application 'Digital Ocean do.incois.gov.in. It has been developed by _____ under Ministry of Earth sciences. *It is a first of its kind digital platform for Ocean Data Management that will expand our 'Blue Economy' initiatives.*

Answer: INCOIS (Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services)

254. The Ethereum, a crypto currency Recently was launched in a faster, cheaper, and more environmentally friendly platform, as the upgraded version called _____.

Answer: Ethereum 2.0

255. The RBI recently, in December, held its Monetary Policy Committee meet. During the meet, the Reserve Bank of India has kept the repo rate unchanged at _____.

Answer: 4%

The Reverse Repo Rate is to continue at 3.35%.

The meeting concluded that the "Accommodative Stance" of monetary policy is to continue.

256. Recently, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to extend Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF) to _____ in order to make liquidity management more efficient.

Answer: Regional Rural Banks (RRB)

Along with LAF, Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) has also been extended to RRBs.

257. RBI has increased the limit for contactless card transactions from Rs 2,000 to _____ to boost digital payment which becomes effective from January 1, 2021.

Answer: Rs 5,000

This limit is also applicable for e-mandates for recurring transactions through cards.

258. ICICI Bank has launched new version of its mobile payment app to offer payment and banking services to customers of any bank. What is the name of new application?

Answer: iMobile Pay

259. Which banking company has rolled out India's first diversified REIT (Real Estate Investment Trust) Mutual Fund?

Answer: Kotak Mahindra Asset Management Company (Kotak Mutual Fund)

260. Punjab National Bank (PNB) has rolled out loan management tech-solution titled _____ to speed up online loan processing and sanctioning of credit proposals with accuracy.

Answer: **LenS-The Lending Solution**

261. Which stock exchange has rolled out electronic spot platform, BEAM, for agricultural commodities?

Answer: **Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE)**: BSE E-Agricultural Markets Ltd (BEAM)

262. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will set up an Automated Banknote Processing Centre (ABPC) in _____ for receipt, storage, and dispatch of currency notes.

Answer: **Jaipur**

263. Department of Posts and India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) has unveiled a new digital payment app "_____" for promoting digital payment and financial inclusion.

Answer: **DakPay**

264. The FM Nirmala Sitharaman has chaired the _____ meeting of the Financial Stability and Development Council.

Answer: **23rd**

The FCDC took stock of macroeconomic developments and financial stability issues, both global and domestic.

265. Government of India and which global agency has signed \$400 million loan agreement to support India's social assistance effort directed towards the poor and vulnerable households severely impacted by COVID-19?

Answer: **World Bank**

This is the 2nd operation in a programmatic series of two, where first operation of \$750 million was approved in May 2020. This credit is from International Development Association of World Bank.

266. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved re-appointment of _____ as Managing Director of Kotak Mahindra Bank for a further tenure of 3 years, with effect from January 1, 2021.

Answer: **Uday Kotak**

267. Govrnment of India has signed a _____ loan agreement with New Development Bank to support Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan through MGNREGA Scheme.

Answer: **\$1 billion**

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268. Which Bank in collaboration with National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has launched contactless debit card titled 'RuPay Select'?

Answer: Central Bank of India

269. NITI Aayog's CEO Amitabh Kant has virtually launched India's first digital asset management platform titled as _____.

Answer: DigiBoxx

270. Which Bank has rolled out an online platform titled as 'Infinite India' supporting foreign companies to establish or expand business in India?

Answer: ICICI Bank

271. Central Government and which global agency has signed a USD 500 million loan agreement to build safe and green national highway corridors in Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, UP and Andhra Pradesh?

Answer: World Bank

Green National Highways Corridors Project will support Road Transport and Highways Ministry to construct 783 km of highways.

272. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has cancelled the banking license of which Local Area bank with effect from December 24, 2020 as the bank had breached the minimum net worth requirement for 2 quarters in 2019-20?

Answer: Subhadra Local Area Bank, Kolhapur, Maharashtra

273. Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) has introduced new rule that mandates businesses with monthly turnover of over _____ to pay at least 1% of their GST liability in cash instead of using input tax credits.

Answer: ₹50 lakh

CBIC introduced Rule 86B in GST rules that restricts use of input tax credit (ITC) for discharging GST liability to 99%.

274. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) has recently declared "_____" as the winner of the United Nations Investment Promotion Award, 2020.

Answer: Invest India

The award recognizes outstanding achievements of Investment Promotion Agencies spread all over the world. Around 180 such agencies were shortlisted for the award in 2020.

275. Who has become the first Indian to win the 2020 Global Teacher Prize, carries prize money of \$1 million?

Answer: Ranjitsinh Disale

Mr Disale is a government teacher from Zilla Parishad Primary School, in Paritewadi village, Solapur district of Maharashtra.

276. Who has topped the list of wealthiest women in India, released by the 2nd edition of 'Kotak Wealth Hurun-Leading Wealthy Women' report?

Answer: Chairperson of HCL Technologies, Roshni Nadar Malhotra

277. Which entity has won prestigious International 'King Bhumibol World Soil Day Award' for 2020 on World Soil Day?

Answer: Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)

ICAR has been conferred for its commitment to raise awareness about healthy soil addressing soil erosion under motto 'Stop soil erosion, save our future', taken in 2019. Award is presented by Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

278. Writer, chief editor of 'The Indian Express', Raj Kamal Jha has won Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize 2020 for his book, _____.

Answer: The City and the Sea

279. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has been ranked _____ in the Forbes 2020 list of 'The World's 100 Most Powerful Women'.

Answer: 41st

German Chancellor Angela Merkel has been topped for the 10th year in a row, followed by European Central Bank head Christine Lagarde and US Vice President Kamala Harris.

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280. Brazilian mathematician, _____ has been conferred with '2020 Ramanujan Prize for Young Mathematicians' for her significant work in algebraic geometry.

Answer: Carolina Araujo

281. Who has been declared as the winner of the 'Social Entrepreneur of the Year (SEOY) Award – India 2020', which was presented by the Union Minister of Women & Child Development & Textiles, Smriti Zubin Irani?

Answer: Ashraf Patel

282. Which global agency has decided to roll out 'International Prize In Creative Economy' after the name of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman?

Answer: UNESCO

This award will start from Nov 2021. It will be given away once in 2 years for global economic initiatives of the youth capturing, celebrating, and communicating best practice in creative entrepreneurship.

283. Which Indian personality was honored with 'Global Visionary of Sustainable Business and Peace'?

Answer: Ratan Tata

He was honored by the Indo-Israel Chambers of Commerce for promoting innovation that supports sustainability and peace in the region, including with the Palestinians.

284. Vidyut Mohan has been recognized as one of the 7 winners of 'Young Champions of the Earth' 2020 award. The award was conferred by which global agency?

Answer: UN Environment Programme (UNEP)

285. Formula 1 world champion _____ has been conferred with BBC Sports Personality of the Year 2020.

Answer: Lewis Hamilton

286. _____ has been awarded with 'UN Population Award for 2020' (institutional category). It is the first institution to be awarded with UN Population Award.

Answer: HelpAge India

287. Which college has been named as one of the seven conservation projects to be recognized with the '2020 UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation'?

Answer: Amar Singh College, Srinagar

288. Who has been appointed as 'Fit India' Ambassador?

Answer: Kuldeep Handoo (2020 Dronacharya Awardee)

289. Indian origin young scientist from Colorado, _____ has been named as 'Kid of the Year' by TIME magazine. TIME Magazine has rolled out 'Kid of The Year' award for the first time.

Answer: Gitanjali Rao (15 years)

290. Indian-origin global health expert _____ has been appointed as Chief Executive Officer for the WHO Foundation- a newly formed body under WHO.

Answer: Anil Soni

291. Prasar Bharati's CEO, _____ has been elected as the Vice President of Asia Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU) for 3 years with immediate effect.

Answer: Shashi Shekhar Vempati

292. _____ tenure as the Chairman of National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has been extended for a period of six months by Appointments Committee of the Cabinet.

Answer: Sukhbir Singh Sandhu

293. Vineet Agarwal has taken over as the new President of which entity?

Answer: Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM)

294. Who has penned the book titled 'Covid-19: Sabhyata ka Sankat aur Samadhan'. It is written in Hindi and is published by Prabhat Prakashan.

Answer: Nobel laureate Kailash Satyarthi

295. Which person has recently become the youngest-ever elected Mayor, in India?

Answer: Arya Rajendran (21-years) She became the Mayor of Thiruvananthapuram. Arya is a second-year student of Bachelor of Science (B.Sc) in Mathematics at the All-Saints College.

296. Name the founder and CEO of MDH (Mahashian Di Hatti Private Limited), an Indian spice company, who recently passed away in Delhi.

Answer: Mahashay' Dharampal Gulati

297. Eminent Malayalam poet, conservationist, and women's activist, _____ passed away.

Answer: Sugathakumari

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298. Every year the World AIDS Day is celebrated on December 1 to create awareness against the spread of HIV infection. This year the World AIDS Day is celebrated under the theme of _____

Answer: Global Solidarity and Shared Responsibility

299. Human Rights Day is being observed every year on _____ to reaffirm the importance of human rights in re-building the world.

Answer: 10 December

Theme for 2020: 'Recover Better – Stand Up For Human Rights'

300. International Universal Health Coverage Day is observed every year on December 12 to provide access to quality and affordable health care to every person across the globe. What was the theme for the year 2020?

Answer: Health for All: PROTECT EVERYONE

301. First ever International Day of Epidemic Preparedness was observed on _____.

Answer: 27 December

302. Who has created history by becoming the 1st Indian to win Formula-2 race at 2020 Sakhir Grand Prix?

Answer: Jehan Daruvala (22 year)

He is currently member of Red Bull Junior Team and competes for Carlin Motorsport. Michael Schumacher's son Mick Schumacher was crowned as the overall F2 champion of the season.

303. Swedish pole vaulter, _____ and Venezuelan triple jumper Yulimar Rojas (25 years) have won 2020 Male and Female World Athletes of the Year respectively.

Answer: Mondo Duplantis (20 year)

304. International Olympic Committee (IOC) has announced 'Breakdancing' as the newest entry into Olympics Game. Breakdancing will be referred as ' _____ ' in Olympics event.

Answer: Breaking

It will make its Olympic Games debut at 2024 Paris Games (2024 Summer Olympics).

Skateboarding, sport climbing, and surfing are making their Olympic debuts at Tokyo Games 2021.

305. Federation of Indian Commerce and Industry (FICCI) has virtually presented India Sports Awards 2020. 2020 Male Sportsperson of the Year award was given to Wrestler Bajrang Punia, while 2020 Female Sportsperson award went to _____.

Answer: Shooter Elavenil Valarivan

306. International Hockey Federation (FIH) had announced that _____ will host the 2023 FIH Men's Hockey World Cup for a second consecutive time.

Answer: Odisha

The 2023 tournament will be held at Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar and Biju Patnaik Hockey Stadium in Rourkela.

307. The Sports Ministry formally recognized _____ as a competitive sport, which will enable the ancient practice to avail government funding.

Answer: Yogasana

308. Bayern Munich striker and Polish Robert Lewandowski was named FIFA men's player of the year 2020. While England defender _____ named as FIFA Women's player of the year 2020.

Answer: Lucy Bronze

309. Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has announced the establishment of India's largest hockey stadium in which city of the state?

Answer: Rourkela, Odisha

It will be constructed in Biju Patnaik University of Technology campus, Rourkela.

310. Former Indian skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni has been named as the Captain of _____ by International Cricket Council (ICC).

Answer: ICC Men's ODI Team of the Decade

- Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma have also been featured on 'ICC Men's ODI Team of the Decade'.
- ICC Men's ODI Team of the Decade (India): Rohit Sharma, , Virat Kohli, MS Dhoni (Capt & Wk).
- ICC's Test Team of the Decade (India): Virat Kohli (c), Ravi Ashwin.

311. Who has won the 'Player of the Century' award at the Globe Soccer Awards?

Answer: Cristiano Ronaldo

Bayern Munich's Robert Lewandowski won the Player of the Year award. Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola won the Coach of the Century award. Spanish giants Real Madrid won the Club of the Century award during the event.

312. Which National Park from India has been recently included under the World Network of Biosphere Reserves?

Answer: Panna National Park

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313. Which campaign was launched by Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) in coordination with the Andhra Pradesh State Energy Conservation Mission?

Answer: Go Electric

The Andhra Pradesh State Government is to set up 400 Electric Vehicle charging vehicles all over the state to promote the usage of electric vehicles.

314. The IISc and the _____ has signed a Memorandum of Understanding to develop biomass gasification-based Hydrogen Generation Technology to produce Fuel Cell Grade Hydrogen at an affordable price.

Answer: Indian Oil Corporation Research and Development Centre

315. The Union Cabinet has recently renamed the Ministry of Shipping to _____.

Answer: Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways

316. World Health Organization announced that it will set up a traditional medicine centre in India. The announcement of establishing the centre was made during the inaugural ceremony of two future ready Ayurveda institutions. These institutions were inaugurated in _____.

Answer: Jamnagar and Jaipur

317. India's first Sandalwood Museum is being established in which city?

Answer: Mysuru, Karnataka

318. Union Minister of Jal Shakti, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat has launched the country's first solar-based Integrated Multi-Village Water Supply Project (IMVWSP) in _____.

Answer: Arunachal Pradesh.

319. Which Indian city has become the First City in the Country and 2nd in the world to get ISO (International Organization for Standardization) 9001:2015 Certification for Faecal Sludge and Septage Management (FSSM) services?

Answer: Bhubaneswar, Capital of Odisha

Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) was the first civic body to implement FSSM regulations in Odisha.

320. Which Indian city has become the first city in the country with a gender-specific city's urban plan with provisions for designated spaces catering the needs of women?

Answer: Mumbai

321. Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY), and National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM) unveiled the _____, a digital learning platform to enhance India's digital talents to benefit the aspirants from Tier II and Tier III cities.

Answer: FutureSkills PRIME Beta Platform

322. Union Information Technology Minister Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad has launched the International version of the UMANG application. What is the full form UMANG?

Answer: UMANG is Unified Mobile Application for New-age Governance.

It was launched in UK, US, Australia, Canada, Netherlands, UAE, Australia, Singapore and New Zealand.

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323. Saffron Production under the National Saffron Mission that was confined to Kashmir, will be implemented in the North East. For this purpose, the saffron plants are to be transported from Kashmir to _____.

Answer: Sikkim

324. Which State Government has recently notified that it would grant 100% motor vehicle tax exemption for Electric Vehicles?

Answer: Tamil Nadu

325. Which Indian state has become the first to provide free high-speed WiFi services to all government colleges and universities?

Answer: Uttarakhand

326. Which state government will organize International Bird Festival in February 2021?

Answer: Uttar Pradesh, Gorakhpur

327. First Moss Garden of India has been inaugurated at Khurpatal in Nainital district of _____.

Answer: Uttarakhand

This iconic garden has been developed by Uttarakhand forest department and is spread over an area of 10 hectares.

328. A Letter of Understanding (LoU) has been signed between the _____ and the United Nation's World Food Programme (WFP) for to achieve food and nutritional security goals of the state.

Answer: Rajasthan

329. The Central Board of Direct Taxes has recently exempted the interest, dividend and long-term capital gains made by the Sovereign Fund 'MIC Redwood 1 RSC Limited' of _____.

Answer: Abu Dhabi, UAE (United Arab Emirates).

The exemption has been provided under clause 23 FE of Section 10 of the Income Tax Act.

330. The Union Cabinet chaired by PM Modi has recently approved the Memorandum of Understanding signed between India and Israel in the field of _____.

Answer: Health and Medicine

331. Government of Bangladesh has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Serum Institute of India for priority delivery of _____.

Answer: 3 Crore COVID-19 Vaccine Doses

332. Which country has recently launched the first 6G experimental satellite?

Answer: China

333. The United Nations has created a new alliance to prevent COVID-19 food crisis. It was proposed by Italy and led by _____.

Answer: Food and Agriculture Organization

According to the State of Food Security and Nutrition Report, 2020 more than 690 million people went hungry in 2019.

334. The INTERPOL and the 'World Customs Organization' conducted an _____ in 103 countries. The operation was conducted against environmental crimes.

Answer: Operation Thunder, 2020

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335. How many countries, led by China, have recently signed a deal to set up the world largest trading bloc named 'Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP)'?

Answer: China+14 Other Countries (15 Countries)

These 15 countries account to 30% of world population and 30% of global GDP. Thus, the deal is the world largest Free Trade Agreement.

336. The 12th BRICS (Brazil-Russia-India-China-South Africa) Summit 2020 was recently held virtually on November 17, 2020 and hosted by Vladimir Putin, President of Russia on the theme of _____.

Answer: Global Stability, Shared Security and Innovative Growth"

337. The G20 summit of 2020 was recently hosted by which country?

Answer: Saudi Arabia

The subsequent G20 summits are to be held in Italy in 2021, Indonesia in 2022, India in 2023. G20 2020 summit focus was on resilient, inclusive, and sustainable recovery from covid-19 crisis.

338. The Indian Navy and _____ together held maritime exercise SIMBEX-20 in the Andaman Sea between November 23, 2020 and November 25, 2020.

Answer: Singapore Navy

339. The trilateral Naval exercise, SITMEX-20 between India, Singapore and _____ was held in the Andaman sea.

Answer: Thailand

340. India and Finland signed Memorandum of Understanding in the field of _____.

Answer: Biodiversity Conservation and Environment Protection

The agreement was signed by the Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar and his counterpart Krista Mikkonen of Finland.

341. Which country has recently become the first Arab country to generate electricity from coal?

Answer: United Arab Emirates

342. Which country's parliament has recently passed a landmark legislation that made menstruation products like sanitary pads and tampons free of cost to those people who need them?

Answer: Poland

343. Recently released 'World Wide Fund - Water Risk Filter' Report states that nearly 30 Indian cities are likely to face acute water risks. Of these 30 cities, which city has topped the list?

Answer: Jaipur

Jaipur was followed by Indore, Thane, Mumbai, Kolkata, and Delhi. The number of cities affected with water risks will increase to 100 by 2050.

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344. According to Annual Report on 'Vital Statistics on India based on Civil Registration System 2018', which state has recorded the Highest Sex Ratio at Birth in the country with 1,084 females born per thousand males?

Answer: Arunachal Pradesh

It was followed by Nagaland (965) & Mizoram (964), Kerala (963), and Karnataka (957).

The report was released by the Office of the Registrar General & Census Commissioner of India, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India.

Manipur (757), Lakshadweep (839), Daman & Diu (877) recorded the Lowest Sex Ratio at Birth in the country.

345. The 'International Air Transport Association' has recently announced that _____ is the world's most connected city in the world.

Answer: Shanghai

346. Government of India has recently expanded the PLI (Production Linked Incentive) scheme to how many sectors?

Answer: 10 Sectors

The Government of India in March 2020 introduced the PLI scheme to boost domestic manufacturing and cut down import bills. The central government aims to provide incentives to the companies on incremental sales from products manufactured in domestic units.

347. The Fifteenth Finance Commission headed by N K Singh has recently submitted its report to the President of India. The Commission has recommended that the states shall get _____ shares of central tax revenues.

Answer: 41%

Earlier, the fourteenth Finance Commission had recommended 42%.

348. The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy has recently issued an order to expand the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthan Mahabhiyan (PM-KUSUM). Accordingly, the new target of the scheme was enhanced to achieve solar capacity of _____ by 2022.

Answer: **30.8 GW**

349. The Ministry of Labor has recently notified the draft rules for the Industrial Relations Code, 2020. The rules are to be implemented from_____.

Answer: **1st April, 2021**

350. Which tech company has collaborated with 'National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC)' to skill over 1 lakh under-served women in India with digital skills over the next 10 months?

Answer: **Microsoft India**

351. The Government of India has set up a 22-member inter-ministerial committee to strengthen the Capital Goods Sector. The committee will be headed by_____.

Answer: **Secretary of Department of Heavy Industries (Shri Arun Goel)**

The government has set up a 22-member inter-ministerial committee in strengthening the Capital Goods (CG) Sector through interventions that help the CG Sector in contributing more actively in the national goal of achieving a USD 5 trillion economy and a USD 1 trillion manufacturing sector.

352. Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) has signed an agreement with which global agency to get advisory services regarding asset monetization and management?

Answer: **World Bank**

353. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 3rd Global Renewable Energy Investment called the RE-Invest. The 3rd Global RE-Invest Renewable Energy Investors Meet & Expo was organised by the _____.

Answer: **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)**

354. The _____ and the 'United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)' has launched the sustainable development goal investor map for India.

Answer: **Invest India**

*It has laid out 18 Investment Opportunity Areas which are in **six critical sustainable development goals** that were launched by the United Nations. The map will enable the factors that will help India in achieving its sustainable development goals. It will help India understand how it can reduce the SDG financing gap in the country.*

355. The Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology and which tech company has collaborated to create a robust education and skilling ecosystem to create critical thinkers, problem-solvers, and next-generation innovators through the Common Services Centre Academy?

Answer: **IBM India**

356. In a bid to develop skill sets of career-oriented individuals, SBI (State Bank of India) has entered into a strategic partnership with which education platform to offer Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs)?

Answer: **edX**, platform (edx.org)

357. Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has issued a circular on "Enhancement of overseas investment limits for mutual funds" under which the foreign investment limit per mutual fund (MF) house has been doubled to _____ within the overall industry limit of US \$ 1 billion.

Answer: **USD 600 million**

358. Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has introduced _____ as a New Category under Equity Schemes with an objective to protect the interests of investors in securities, to promote growth and to regulate the securities market.

Answer: **Flexi Cap Fund**

SEBI has made it mandatory for all open-ended debt mutual fund schemes to hold at least 10% of their net assets in liquid assets.

Flexi Cap Fund Schemes should have minimum investment of 65% of total assets in the equity & equity related instruments.

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359. HDFC Bank in Partnership with which global company has launched 'SmartHub Merchant Solutions 3.0': India's first comprehensive banking and payment solution for merchants?

Answer: **Visa**

360. HDFC Bank and IndusInd Bank were put in the 'red flag' list, which is a system used for monitoring _____.

Answer: **Foreign Portfolio Investor (FPI) limits**

361. Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) and New Development Bank (NDB) have signed a loan agreement for lending USD 500 Million for the _____.

Answer: **Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut Regional Rapid Transit System Project (RRTS)**

362. Which mobile app has been recently launched by Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) to support the prospective policyholder to get Life Insurance policy with the help of the Agent/ Intermediary without any paperwork?

Answer: ANANDA' (Atma Nirbhar Agents New business Digital App)

363. The Union Cabinet has recently approved _____ of capital infusion into the National Infrastructure Investment Fund as a part of the Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan.

Answer: Rs 6,000 crores

364. Which entity has recently launched an initiative called 'Securities Market Trainers' (SMARTs) program to enhance investor education and awareness?

Answer: SEBI

The program was launched during the World Investor Week (WIW), observed from Nov 23 to 29, 2020.

The first batch of SMARTs includes 40 individuals across 16 states and union territories, covering 31 districts on a pan-India basis with 4 days of training at National Institute of Securities Market (NISM).

365. Vice President Venkaiah Naidu has recently awarded the second National Water Awards. _____ won the first place followed by Maharashtra and Rajasthan at second and third places, respectively.

Answer: Tamil Nadu

Mizoram bagged the topmost position under the special category.

366. New York based Scottish writer Douglas Stuart has won the Booker Prize 2020 for his debut novel _____.

Answer: Shuggie Bain

367. The _____ under the Uttar Pradesh Forest Department has bagged the first international TX2 award.

Answer: Pilibhit Tiger Reserve

The Pilibhit Tiger Reserve was awarded for doubling its number of tigers in four years. The target set was to double the numbers in ten years.

368. The President of India Shri Ram Nath Kovind has appointed Shri Yashvardhan K Sinha as the new _____.

Answer: Chief Information Commissioner (CIC) of India

369. World's longest serving Prime Minister Khalifa Bin Salman Al Khalifa died recently in November. He belonged to which country?

Answer: Bahrain

370. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has appointed Senapathy Gopalakrishnan as the 1st chairperson of _____, a newly created entity.

Answer: Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH)

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371. The Election Commission of India (ECI) has approved the appointment of Sonu Sood as the State Election Icon of _____.

Answer: **Punjab.** Sonu Sood hails from the Moga district of Punjab.

372. Who has been recently elected as the External Auditor of Inter Parliamentary Union (IPU) for 3 years?

Answer: **Girish Chandra Murmu**, 14th Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India

373. Veteran Violinist and Padma Shri & Padma Bhushan Awardee _____ passed away at the age of 92 at Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

Answer: **Tripunithura Narayanaier Krishnan (T N Krishnan)**

He was born in 1928 in Kerala. He received the Padma Shri in 1973 and Padma Bhushan in 1992, India's highest civilian awards, for arts.

374. Name the former Chief Minister (CM) of Sikkim who recently passed away at the age of 73 due to prolonged illness in Gangtok, Sikkim.

Answer: **Sanchaman Limboo**

375. Name the renowned Sculptor and Padma shri awardee from Rajasthan who passed away recently in Jaipur?

Answer: **Arjun Prajapati.** He was popularly known as the "Maharathi of Cloning".

376. Mridula Sinha, first Woman Governor of Goa, has passed away at the age of 77 at a hospital. She was born in _____.

Answer: **Chhapra, Bihar**

Mridula Sinha was a proficient Hindi writer who contributed to the field of literature and culture.

377. Tarun Gogoi, former Chief Minister of _____ passed away due to post covid-19 complications.

Answer: **Assam**

378. Who has been crowned as the winner of the first-ever 'ITTF Women's World Cup' title?

Answer: Chen Meng, China

Chen Meng is the world's No.1 women tennis player at present. She defeated her Chinese compatriot Sun Yingsha by 11-13 11-6 11-9 11-6 11-8 to win the title.

379. MCX (Multi-Commodity Exchange of India) has recently launched India's first real-time Base Metals Index- 'MCX METLDEX' in the commodity derivatives segment. METLDEX is based on how many base metals?

Answer: Five base metals – Zinc, Copper, Nickel, Lead, and Aluminium.

380. Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Jodhpur and National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) have signed an MoU to share expertise for the _____.

Answer: Betterment of Highway Infrastructure

381. NITI Aayog and Quality Council of India (QCI) launched the 'National Program and Project Management Policy Framework (NPMPF)' to transform _____.

Answer: Infrastructure Sector In India

382. Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister for Science & Technology has launched a scheme titled 'SERB-POWER' which is designed exclusively for women scientists. What does 'P' stand for in POWER?

Answer: SERB-POWER = Science and Engineering Research Board - **Promoting** Opportunities for Women in Exploratory Research

The scheme has been initiated by SERB, a Statutory body of the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India.

383. Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) became the first Union Territory in India to operationalize Public Financial Management System (PFMS) at the _____.

Answer: District Level

384. 24th edition of MALBAR Exercise, 2020, saw the participation of which new country, thus making 24th edition of MALBAR the 1st "quadrilateral" naval exercise?

Answer: Australia

Rest three participants are: India, Japan, USA.

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385. As per Ministry of Tourism annual publication titled 'India Tourism Statistics at a Glance – 2020', which state has topped the 'Domestic Tourist Visits List 2019'?

Answer: **Uttar Pradesh**

386. The Labour and Employment Ministry has revised the base year of the Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (CPI-IW) from 2001 to _____.

Answer: **2016**

It gives more weightage to spending on health, education, recreation, and other miscellaneous expenses, while reducing the weightage given to food and beverages.

387. NITI Aayog has constituted a 14-member advisory committee headed by _____ to evaluate the reforms in the urban planning education system.

Answer: **Rajiv Kumar**

388. The Reserve Bank of India has issued the revised regulatory framework for Housing Finance Companies (HFCs) under which the minimum Net Owned Funds (NOF) size for HFCs is fixed at _____.

Answer: **Rs 25 crore**

389. Which Bank has become the 1st bank in India to go live as a Financial Information Provider (FIP) under the new Account Aggregator (AA) Framework of the Reserve Bank of India?

Answer: **IndusInd Bank**

390. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has released final guidelines for Housing Finance Companies (HFC) stating that these home financiers should have at least _____ of their net assets deployed in the business of providing finance for housing by March 31, 2024.

Answer: **60%**

391. Which organization has topped the list of Indian Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) featured in the 4th annual "World's Best Employer 2020" list published by Forbes?

Answer: **NTPC Limited**

392. Which entity has won the 2020 United Nations (UN) 'Global Climate Action Awards' under 'Financing for Climate Friendly Investment' for its efforts to combat climate change amid COVID-19 pandemic?

Answer: **Global Himalayan Expedition (GHE) of India**

393. Global Finance, a New York based trade publication, has recently released the list of World's 50 Safest Banks 2020. It has named _____ as the Safest Bank in Asia for the 12th consecutive year.

Answer: **DBS Bank of Singapore**

Global Finance has named State Bank of India (SBI) as the Safest Bank in India.

394. Who has been appointed as the 'National Brand Ambassador' of Parle Agro?

Answer: Priyanka Chopra

395. Indian origin 'Wavel Ramkalawan' has recently been elected as the President of which island country?

Answer: Seychelles

396. World Polio Day is annually observed across the globe on which date?

Answer: 24th October

The theme of 2020 World Polio Day is "A win against polio is a win for global health".

397. According to Intellectual Property India's Annual Report for 2018-19, which University has emerged as the Leading Stand-Alone University in India for filing 336 Patents?

Answer: Chandigarh University of Punjab

The reports were released by the Office of Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trademarks, Government of India

398. The National Authority of Ship Recycling will be set up in _____.

Answer: Gandhinagar, Gujarat

399. National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog has launched Frontier Technologies Cloud Innovation Center (CIC) in collaboration with which tech company?

Answer: Amazon Web Services (AWS)

CIC will help in addressing societal challenges through digital innovation with focus on agriculture, healthcare and skill development.

400. Nitin Gadkari, Union Minister for Road Transport, Highways and MSMEs has recently laid the foundation stone for India's first Multi-modal Logistic Park (MMLP) at _____.

Answer: Jogighopa, Assam.

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401. Which city of India will have Longest Bus rapid transit (BRT) network of 108 kms?

Answer: Surat, Gujarat

402. Manoj Sinha, Lieutenant Governor of which state/UT has recently announced the "My Town My Pride" programme to deliver governance services at doorsteps to the people in urban areas?

Answer: Jammu and Kashmir (J&K)

403. Which state has recently launched the electricity consumer service portal "Mo Bidyut" and mobile application?

Answer: Odisha

404. Which country has become the First Country in the World to attach Facial verification in its National Identification Database?

Answer: Singapore

The function is called 'SingPass Face Verification'.

405. According to the 'Global Tuberculosis Report 2020' released by World Health Organization (WHO), which country has the highest burden of drug-resistant TB?

Answer: India

India (27%), China (14%) and Russian Federation (8%) had the largest share of Tuberculosis in the world.

406. Concern Worldwide and Welthungerhilfe released the Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2020 report. What was India's rank in GHI 2020?

Answer: 94th among 107 countries with a serious level of hunger.

407. According to the 3rd Edition of "The Future of Jobs Report 2020" released by the World Economic Forum (WEF), COVID-19 and Technological Advances will disrupt how many global jobs by 2025?

Answer: 85 Million Jobs by 2025.

408. According to Asia Power Index 2020 released by Sydney based Lowy Institute, India is the _____ most powerful country in Asia-Pacific Region.

Answer: 4th. USA: 1st. China: 2nd.

409. Which country has formally joined the International Monetary Fund (IMF) as its 190th Member?

Answer: Andorra

Andorra had applied for membership to the IMF in January 2020. The capital Andorra is Andorra la Vella & Euro is its currency.

410. Which SFB becomes Sponsor Bank of Ashoknagar Co-operative Bank Limited?

Answer: Jana Small Finance Bank (SFB)

Jana SFB becomes the 1st SFB to go live under the bank sponsorship programme.

411. The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has constituted a Market Data Advisory Committee, headed by _____.

Answer: Madhabi Puri Buch

412. Who has become the first and youngest Indian Woman to win Wildlife Photographer of the year 2020?

Answer: Aishwarya Sridhar

413. Who has received the CEO of the Year and Visionary Leadership Award for his exemplary and inspirational leadership presented by the 'World Human Resource Development (HRD) Congress'?

Answer: Pravir Krishna, Managing Director of TRIFED

414. Which entity has received the 'Central Bank of the Year Award: 2020' given by 'Central Banking'?

Answer: The Bank of Ghana (BoG)

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415. Who has been elected as the Chairman of the Indian Banks Association (IBA), for the term 2020-21?

Answer: Rajkiran Rai G

416. Who has authored the new book titled "The Battle of Belonging"?

Answer: Shashi Tharoor

417. Name the renowned Malayalam Poet who has passed away recently and was the last Malayalam poet to be called as 'Mahakavi'?

Answer: Mahakavi' Akkitham Achuthan Namboothiri. He is a recipient of Jnanpith Award (2019).

418. The United Nations (UN)'s World Food Day is annually celebrated on _____ to commemorate the founding date of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the UN in 1945.

Answer: October 16

Year 2020 marks the 75th anniversary of FAO. Theme of World Food Day 2020- "Grow, Nourish, Sustain. Together".

419. India's premium cotton would be known by what name in the world cotton trade?

Answer: Kasturi Cotton

The Kasturi Cotton brand will represent Whiteness, Brightness, Softness, Purity, Luster, Uniqueness and Indianness.

420. The central government has abolished the interview for recruitment in government jobs in how many states and UTs?

Answer: 23 states and 8 Union Territories

421. Which tech company in association with International Institute of Information Technology Hyderabad (IIIT-H), has set up an artificial intelligence research Centre in Hyderabad?

Answer: Intel India

On the inaugural session of "all.ai 2020 Virtual Summit" on October 13, 2020 the Intel India announced the launch of an applied artificial intelligence (AI) research (INAI) center in Hyderabad.

422. Which state government has announced a 'Digital Seva Setu' programme to ensure optimum utilisation of technology for public welfare in rural areas?

Answer: Gujarat

423. Which state government has launched "Lab on Wheels" to test the water quality in the state under Jal Jeevan Mission?

Answer: Haryana

424. Which state has become the first state in the country that has made the public education completely digital?

Answer: Kerala

425. The Union Cabinet approved signing of an agreement with which country aimed at enhancing cooperation in emerging technologies, protection of critical infrastructure, cyberspace and to mitigate threats to communication networks?

Answer: Japan

426. Which country became the first country in the world to approve genetically modified wheat?

Answer: Argentina

427. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (US-FDA) has approved the first Ebola Virus treatment drug named _____.

Answer: Inmaze

428. PM Narendra Modi has launched physical distribution of property cards under which scheme?

Answer: **SVAMITVA**

Under this scheme, beneficiaries of 'SVAMITVA Scheme' can use the property as a financial asset for taking loans and other financial benefits.

429. What is India's rank in the health spending index 2020 released by Oxfam?

Answer: **155th**

430. According to a study published in the medical journal Lancet India is likely to become the third largest economy in the world by which year?

Answer: **2050**

431. Which tech company has partnered with All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) to empower students, educators in Next-Generation Technology such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), Internet of Things (IoT), Data Science and Cloud Computing?

Answer: **Microsoft**

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432. Which bank has launched a new entry-level credit card named ACE Credit Card, with a focus on increasing participation of users in the digital economy partnership with Google Pay?

Answer: **Axis Bank**

433. The Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**) has decided to move towards the _____ for managing the country's foreign exchange and gold reserves.

Answer: *Next Generation Treasury Application (**NGTA**). The NGTA application will help improve the functioning of the central bank.*

434. The Nobel Prize in Literature has recently been awarded to which American poet?

Answer: **Louise Glück**

435. The Nobel Prize for Economics, 2020 was awarded to Paul R Milgrom and Robert B Wilson for bringing improvement to which theory?

Answer: **Auction theory**

They were awarded for improvements to Auction Theory and also for inventing new auction formats.

436. The Nobel Peace Prize 2020 has been awarded to the which organization?

Answer: United nation's World Food Programme (WFP)

The programme has been awarded the prize for its efforts to fight the hunger specially in the war zones and conflict affected areas.

437. Who has been appointed as the new deputy governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)?

Answer: M Rajeshwar Rao

***Nilesh Shah** has been elected as the Chairman of Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI).*

***Piyush Goyal** has been assigned the additional charge of Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution after the demise of Ram Vilas Paswan.*

438. Former CBI Director _____ passed away recently, he also served as governor of Nagaland and Manipur.

Answer: Ashwani Kumar

*Union minister **Ram Vilas Paswan** passed away recently; he was president of which political party Lok Janshakti Party.*

*Justice **KK Usha**, passed away, she was first women chief justice of **Kerala High Court**.*

439. The **World Post Day** is observed every year on which date?

Answer: 9th October

*International Day of the Girl Child is observed globally every year on **11th October**. The theme for 2020 International Day of the Girl Child is "**My voice, our equal future**".*

440. Who has won the men's 2020 French Open Single?

Answer: Rafael Nadal

*This is his 13th French Open men's singles title and 20th Grand Slam title. The Spaniard defeated Novak Djokovic. Women's 2020 French Open Single Title has won by **Iga Swiatek**.*

441. Science and Technology Minister Harsh Vardhan has recently launched CSIR technologies for rural development. This is a joint initiative of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and _____.

Answer: Unnat Bharat Abhiyan, Indian Institute of Technology-Delhi and Vijnana Bharti (VIBHA).

442. The French Space Agency CNES announced that it will participate in ISRO's Venus Mission which has been named SHUKRAYAAN. The mission is going to be launched in which year?

Answer: 2025

443. Which Railway zone has launched the project, 'Operation my Saheli' to enhance the security of women passengers in the train?

Answer: South Eastern Railways (SER)

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444. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated 'Atal Tunnel' in Manali. It is "world's longest highway" tunnel (9.02 kilometres long) and is named Atal Tunnel, Rohtang. It connects Manali in Himachal Pradesh to _____.

Answer: Lahaul-Spiti

445. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated Vaishvik Bhartiya Vaigyanik (VAIBHAV) Summit 2020 to celebrate Science and Innovation from India and the World. It is organized by _____?

Answer: Department of Science & Technology and DRDO

*It is a month long global virtual summit of **overseas and resident Indian Researchers and Academicians**. The summit will conclude on 31st October 2020 (Birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel).*

446. Which Indian ministry has released India's first Pan India TIME USE SURVEY (TUS)?

Answer: Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation

TUS measures the amount of time people spend doing various activities, such as paid work, childcare, volunteering, and socializing.

Participation rate of men in paid employment is high compared to women.

Women's participation in unpaid services is much more than men.

Men tend to participate more in socializing, communication, and religious practice than women.

447. PM Narendra Modi has inaugurated virtual summit 'RAISE 2020 (Responsible AI for Social Empowerment 2020)'. It has been organized by _____.

Answer: Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and NITI Aayog.

448. The central government has extended the deadline of the TREM Stage-IV emission norms from October 2020 to _____.

Answer: October 1, 2021.

449. Which institution will commission the India's largest High-Performance Computing and Artificial Intelligence (HPC-AI) supercomputer, 'PARAM Siddhi - AI'?

Answer: Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC)

450. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between Indian Sign Language Research and Training Center (ISLRTC) and _____ in order to make education materials accessible for Deaf children.

Answer: **NCERT**

451. Which airport has become the first airport of Airports Authority of India (AAI) that is entirely solar-powered?

Answer: **Puducherry**

452. Red Cherry Pepper Chili, locally known as 'Dalle Khursani' belongs to which state that has recently got Geographical Indication (GI) tag from Department of Industry Promotion and Internal Trade?

Answer: **Sikkim**. *Dalle Khursani is considered as one of hottest chili in the world.*

453. India and which other country have collaborated to launch constellation of maritime surveillance satellites for the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) to trace illegal spillage of oil by ships?

Answer: **France**

*This surveillance satellite will be the **World's first space-based system** capable of tracking ships.*

454. The 12th BRICS Summit was held on 17th November 2020 through video conferencing. What was the theme of 12th BRICS Summit?

Answer: **BRICS Partnership for Global Stability, Shared Security and Innovative Growth**. *It is to be held under the Chairmanship of Russia.*

455. Who has recently launched the "Ambedkar Social Innovation and Incubation Mission (ASIIM)"?

Answer: **Union Minister Shri Thaawarchand Gehlot**

*The mission has been launched under the **Venture Capital Fund** for Scheduled Castes (SCs) in order to promote innovation and enterprise among SC students studying in higher educational institutions.*

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456. As per the National Institute of Nutrition (NIN) what is the ideal weight for Indian women?

Answer: **55kg**. Men **65 kg**.

The research body also increased the height for men to 5 feet 8 inches (earlier 5 feet 6 inches).

Similarly, the height of Indian women has now been increased to 5 feet 3 inches (earlier 5 feet in 2010).

NIN Headquarters: Hyderabad

457. Under which institution, Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office (**DMEO**) Survey was conducted to assess performance of different Ministries or Departments' on the implementation of Central Sector Schemes (CS) and Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS)?

Answer: **NITI Ayog**

458. Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda has recently inaugurated Tribal Entrepreneurship Development Programme through Video conference. Its Centre of Excellence (CoE) has been set up by _____.

Answer: **Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM)**

459. Which tech company has announced to launch its "mini app" store to support Indian developers in taking their products to the masses in line with Google?

Answer: **Paytm**

460. Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) has signed an MoU with which company to onboard street food vendors on its e-commerce platform under PM SVANidhi Scheme?

Answer: **Swiggy**

461. Prasar Bharati has signed an MoU with body to broadcast and promote new agriculture technology and innovations.

Answer: Indian Farmers Fertilizer Cooperative Limited (IFFCO)

*As per the MoU, **DD Kisan** will broadcast various innovative techniques of agriculture field in easy language through 30 minutes program series.*

462. Which Bank has unveiled an environment friendly initiative named "**IB-eNote**" to enable a total paperless working environment?

Answer: **Indian Bank**

463. Who has been appointed as the Chairman of State Bank of India (SBI)?

Answer: **Dinesh Kumar Khara**. He will succeed **Rajnish Kumar**.

464. Government has named three eminent economists Ashima Goyal, Jayanth R Varma and Shashanka Bhide as the new members of which body?

Answer: Monetary Policy Committee (MPC).

*The step is taken as **Chetan Ghate, Pami Dua, and Ravindra Dholakia** terms ended.*

465. Which organization has introduced 'very high-risk category' on its Mutual Funds (MF) riskometer tool, to warn investors, who are investing in mutual fund schemes?

Answer: SEBI

Prior to this, **MF risk-o-meter** (that indicates risk level of investment) had five categories: **low, moderately low, moderate, moderately high and high**. The 6th category will come into effect from 1 January 2021.

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466. Which states was ranked 1st under the Swachh Bharat Awards, 2020?

Answer: **Gujarat**

Swachh Bharat Awards 2020 were presented to States, Districts, Blocks and Village Panchayats in 3 categories:

Gujarat bagged 1st position at state level, while **Tirunelveli (Tamil Nadu)** at district level in **Swachh Sundar Samudayik Shouchalaya category**

Gujarat and **UP** were best performing states in **Samudayik Shouchalaya Abhiyan category**.

Haryana, Telangana bagged top position in **Gandagi Mukth Bharat category**.

467. The Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal announced the results of the first edition of National Startup Awards in New Delhi. The awards were given under how many categories?

Answer: **12**

Awards are given in 12 sectors: Agriculture, Education, Enterprise Technology, Energy, Finance, Food, Health, Industry and Urban Services

National Startup Awards for Agriculture Productivity: Nava Design and innovation Pvt Ltd.

Clean energy sector: Aloe E cell Pvt Ltd

Satellite technology: Bellatrix Aerospace Pvt Ltd.

468. Harvey J Alter, Charles M Rice (America) and Michael Houghton (British) jointly won the Nobel Prize for Medicine or Physiology 2020 for the discovery of_____.

Answer: **Hepatitis C virus (HCV)**

469. Roger Penrose and Reinhard Genzel & Andrea Ghez has been conferred with Nobel Prize in Physics 2020 for their discoveries about_____.

Answer: **Black hole.**

Roger Penrose used mathematical methods to prove black holes are direct consequence of Einstein's general theory of relativity. **Reinhard Genzel and Andrea Ghez** bagged the award for the discovery of supermassive compact object at centre of our galaxy.

470. Which Institute has developed an indigenous microprocessor titled as 'MOUSHIK'?

Answer: IIT Madras

*It is a processor cum **System on Chip (SoC)** that can execute the instructions and as a SoC, different components can be attached to it.*

*It is designed under Shakti Microprocessor programme (Project Shakti) of IIT Madras which is funded by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (**MeiTY**).*

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471. Which tech company has launched a nationwide campaign "Make Small Strong" in order to help support small businesses and drive demand through customer support?

Answer: Google India

"Make Small Strong" campaign is meant to "rally support from the citizens for small businesses. The citizens can help small businesses by buying locally,

472. Which state has won the UN Interagency Task Force (UNIATF) award 2020 for its "outstanding contribution" towards the non-communicable diseases-related sustainable development goals?

Answer: Kerala

473. The country's first medical device parks named MedSpark will be established in which state?

Answer: Kerala.

*Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan laid down the foundation stone for **Medical Devices Park**.*

474. International Arbitration Tribunal is a Permanent Court of Arbitration established in 1899. It is headquartered in _____.

Answer: Hague, Netherlands.

The organization is dedicated to resolve the dispute and facilitate arbitration between States.

475. India has signed an MoU on strategic water partnership to develop better water infrastructure in India with which country during virtual Water Partnership meeting?

Answer: United Kingdom

476. What is the name of India-Japan Maritime bilateral exercise that began in North Arabian Sea from September 26, 2020?

Answer: JIMEX

477. Which Indian ministry has released the "Health in India" report?

Answer: Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation

The main objective of the report was to gather quantitative data on India's health sector. The report has highlighted on the health of religious communities across country.

*The report highlights that around **7.5% of Indians** suffered from ailments.*

6.8% suffered from ailments in the rural area while in Urban area, the numbers were high at 9.1%.

478. Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) has opened its third branch office in which city?

Answer: Mumbai

*It already has branch offices in **Chennai** and **Hyderabad**.*

***IREDA** works **under Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)** with registered office in New Delhi.*

479. Who has released Cyber Security Vision Framework under the title 'Technology Vision for Cyber Security' for Urban Co-operative Banks (UCBs) – 2020-2023?

Answer: The Reserve Bank of India

The framework is aimed at achieving its objectives through five pillared strategic approach:

- Governance Oversight.
- Utile Technology Investment
- Appropriate Regulation and supervision.
- Robust Collaboration.
- Developing IT and Cybersecurity Skills Set.

480. Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has chosen Life Insurance Corporation of India, General Insurance Corporation and New India Assurance Co. Ltd as _____ for 2020-21.

Answer: Domestic Systemically Important Insurers (D-SIIs)

They are being chosen on the basis of their size, market importance and interconnectedness.

481. The Reserve Bank of India has introduced a "**Positive Pay System**" that will come into effect from_____.

Answer: January 2021.

*The system will make mandatory to **re-confirm key details of cheques** for the payments **beyond Rs 50,000**. Issuer can also submit the details through internet banking, mobile app or ATM.*

482. Which Bollywood Actor has been conferred with the prestigious SDG Special Humanitarian Action Award by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)?

Answer: **Sonu Sood.**

He has been awarded for his philanthropic work during the coronavirus induced lockdown.

483. Who have become India's first woman fighter pilot to fly the Rafale aircraft, which was formally inducted into Indian Air Force recently?

Answer: Flight Lieutenant **Shivangi Singh**

484. Reserve Bank of India has roped in which famous personality for the customer awareness campaign to prevent gullible account holders from being duped by fraudsters?

Answer: **Amitabh Bachchan**

485. Personal computers brand Acer India has roped in actor _____ as its brand ambassador.

Answer: **Sonu Sood**

486. Who has been appointed as the new chief of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI)?

Answer: **PD Vaghela**

487. The World Tourism Day is celebrated on which day of the year?

Answer: **September 27.**

The United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) has designated year 2020 as the "Year of Tourism and Rural Development". The day was celebrated under the theme- Tourism and Rural Development, this year.

The 74th United Nations General Assembly in 2019 announced that 28th September 2020 would observe the International Day for Universal Access to Information. 2020 edition of the day is focusing on the right to information in the times of crisis. It is celebrated to showcase the advantages of statutory and constitutional policies in order to provide public access to information.

488. India has launched the First Ever Direct Cargo Ferry Service between India and _____.

Answer: **Maldives**

489. Which Indian state has launched a 'Poshan Sarkar' program for ensuring active participation of local Bodies-Gram Panchayats and Urban bodies in the Nutrition Campaign?

Answer: **Madhya Pradesh**

490. Which Indian state has launched Cyber Security Policy 2020, Blockchain Policy 2020 and Safe and Ethical Artificial Intelligence Policy 2020?

Answer: Tamil Nadu

491. India and which other country were elected as Members of the United Nations (UN) Commission on Status of Women, a body of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)?

Answer: Afghanistan

492. Which country became the first country in the world to inaugurate sustainable financing program for the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by issuing a seven-year Sovereign SDGs Bond?

Answer: Mexico

493. Which city has topped of "Smart City Index (SCI) 2020" released by Institute for Management Development (IMD)?

Answer: Singapore City

Singapore City followed by Helsinki (Finland) and Zurich (Switzerland) in the second and the third place respectively.

494. World Bank released the report titled "The Human Capital Index 2020 Update: Human Capital in the time of COVID-19" on September 16, 2020. India has been placed at _____.

Answer: 116th Position. Singapore at top.

495. What is the name of Indian telemedicine services for Doctor-to-Doctor consultations?

Answer: eSanjeevani. Patient-to-Doctor (eSanjeevani OPD)

496. Which body has approved the increase in the Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for all mandated Rabi crops for marketing season 2021-22?

Answer: Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) chaired by the Prime Minister

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497. WhatsApp has partnered with which entity for a WhatsApp chatbot programme to empower rural communities by providing digital skills at their doorstep?

Answer: Common Services Centers (CSC)

498. The Centre Government has set up a high-level committee headed by _____ to prepare a roadmap for regularization of land leasing in the agriculture sector.

Answer: Ajay Tirkey

499. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued circular advising banks to switch to automatic identification of non-performing assets (NPAs) by_____.

Answer: June 30, 2021

500. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has allowed Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) to undertake exchange-traded rupee interest rate derivatives transactions subject to an overall ceiling of _____

Answer: Rs 5,000 crore

501. SBI Cards and Payment Services Limited has collaborated with which company to enable customers to use their SBI Credit Cards to make card payments using the Google Pay?

Answer: Google

502. Which entity has constituted the Technical Group under the Chairmanship of Harsh Kumar Bhanwala to develop a framework for onboarding non-profit organizations and for-profit enterprises?

Answer: Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)

503. What is the name of 18-year-old young boy who has been named to the 2020 Cohort of young leaders for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by the United Nations (UN)?

Answer: Udit Singhal

504. Who has been appointed as Executive Director of World Bank?

Answer: Rajesh Khullar

505. Who has been formally elected as Japan's New Prime Minister?

Answer: Yoshihide Suga

506. Paytm First Games, a subsidiary of digital financial service platform Paytm, has appointed which Indian cricketer as its brand Ambassador.

Answer: Sachin Tendulkar

507. As per 4th edition of State Business Reform Action Plan (BRAP) Ranking for 2018-19 which was released by Department of Industrial Promotion and Internal Trade (DPIIT), which state ranked first?

Answer: Andhra Pradesh (AP) topped the Ease of Doing Business (EODB) ranking 2019 followed by Uttar Pradesh (UP) and Telangana.

508. FutureSkills, an initiative of National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM) has partnered with which tech company to launch Artificial Intelligence (AI) Skilling initiative "AI classroom series" to skill 10 lakh students in India by 2021?

Answer: **Microsoft**

509. The first ever Cannabis Medicine project is to be set up in Jammu and Kashmir in collaboration with which country?

Answer: **Canada.**

510. Which state has launched a first-of-its-kind state-wide scheme called "GARIMA" to ensure the safety and dignity of core sanitation workers of the state?

Answer: **Odisha**

511. Byte Dance a Chinese Company which owns a popular video-sharing app called TikTok choose to merge with which company?

Answer: **Oracle** - a US-based firm.

512. India recently became the member of which UN agency?

Answer: **United Nation's Commission on Status of Women (CSW)**

It is a body of the prestigious Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

513. What is India rank in the recently released Global Economic Freedom Index 2020?

Answer: **105th**

It is an annual index created in 1995 first by the Heritage Foundation and the Wall Street Journal.

514. Recently, the United Nations released "Levels and Trends in Child Mortality" report. The report says that child mortality rate of India has declined between 1990 and 2019. It was 126 in 1990 and has now declined to _____ in 2019.

Answer: **Child Mortality in 2019 is 34**

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515. On September 10, 2020, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana. Along with the scheme, which app was also launched?

Answer: **e-Gopala application.**

The scheme focuses on sustainable development of fisheries in India. It is to be implemented between 2020-21 and 2024-25. The funds allocated to fisheries under the scheme is Rs 20,050 crores.

516. On September 10, 2020, which scheme was launched by the Department of Posts to ensure universal coverage of flagship postal schemes in rural areas of India.

Answer: Five Star Villages

517. Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar has recently launched how many bamboo clusters in nine states?

Answer: 22

518. The government introduced the new Banking Regulation (Amendment) Bill, 2020, that give RBI the powers to restructure _____.

Answer: Cooperative Banks

519. UNICEF (United Nations International Children Education Fund) appointed which Indian actor as its celebrity advocate for promoting and supporting its work around ending violence against children?

Answer: Ayushmann Khurrana

520. A famous personality who is regarded as Father of India's Radio Astronomy passed away due to age related complications in Pune Maharashtra. Name the personality?

Answer: Govind Swarup.

He was the founding director of National Centre for Radio Astrophysics of Tata Institute of Fundamental Research.

521. Former Union Minister for Rural Development, Raghuvansh Prasad Singh passed away at New Delhi due to post COVID complications. He BELONGS TO WHICH Indian state?

Answer: Bihar

522. Every year International Literacy Day is celebrated on September 8 by the UNESCO and other world organizations. What was the theme for the year 2020?

Answer: Literacy teaching and learning in COVID-19 crisis and beyond

523. Ministry of Coal and Mines has recently discussed the road map for achieving the 100 million tonnes (MT) coal gasification target by the year _____

Answer: 2030. With investment of Rs 4 lakh crores.

524. Power and New & Renewable Energy Raj Kumar Singh launched the Pan India Green Term Ahead Market (GTAM) for _____.

Answer: Electricity

GTAM is the World's First Exclusive Product Market for the renewable energy sector.

525. Which Union Territories have recently been included in the 'One Nation-One Ration Card' scheme on 'Integrated Management of Public Distribution System' (IM-PDS)?

Answer: Ladakh & Lakshadweep

526. Punjab has launched 'which application to safeguard the forest areas in the state by making common citizens as stakeholders in the process. It will help citizens to become 'Greenery Saviours'?

Answer: i-Rakhwali

527. Which state cabinet approved a new Information Technology Policy, 2020 to increase its contribution in achieving its GDP goal of 1 trillion USD along with creating six million jobs?

Answer: Karnataka

The policy is to be executed between 2020 and 2025.

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528. Which state has released Electronics and Hardware Manufacturing Policy? The main aim of the policy is to increase the electronics industry output to 100 billion USD by 2025.

Answer: Tamil Nadu

529. What was India's rank in the 13th Edition of Global Innovation Index (GII) 2020, which is a part of Annual report jointly released by World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), Cornell University and INSEAD Business School?

Answer: 48th

Theme of the 13th edition of the GI 2020 is "Who Will Finance Innovation?"

Switzerland has topped the list.

530. Which organization has launched a new publication, "The Little Book of Green Nudges", to inspire students around the globe to adopt environmentally friendly habits and greener lifestyles?

Answer: United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

531. The United States recently published an annual report on Chinese Military power. According to the report, the Chinese Navy is now the _____ in the world.

Answer: **Largest**

532. Which country has recently hosted the G-20 foreign ministers' meet focusing on cross border movement amidst the pandemic?

Answer: **Saudi Arabia**

533. The current European Union President and the largest economy of Europe has launched Indo-Pacific strategy. Identify the country?

Answer: **Germany**

534. Vice President of India, Venkaiah Naidu has released the report titled 'The State of Young Child in India'. The report provides an account of challenges related to early child development (0-6 years) in India. The report has been prepared by which organization?

Answer: **Mobile Creches**

535. The United Nations (UN) Women with which organization has published a report titled "From Insights to Actions: Gender Equality in the wake of COVID-19" which states that the COVID-19 pandemic will have negative impacts on the women and will increase the poverty rate of women?

Answer: **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)**

536. National Statistical Office released its report on "Household Social Consumption: Education in India as part of 75th round of National Sample Survey". According to the survey which state has highest literacy rate?

Answer: **Kerala**

Kerala has the highest literacy rate in the country. Around 96.2% of the people the state were literates. On the other hand, Andhra Pradesh was at the bottom with 66.4%.

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537. Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs launched the fourth edition of Business Reforms Action Plan for ranking of states. The Business Reform Action Plan 2018-19 includes how many reform points?

Answer: **180 reform points** that covers business regulatory areas such as Single Window System.

538. Which country has launched 'Agriota', a new technology-driven Agri-commodity trading and sourcing e-market platform?

Answer: United Arab Emirates (UAE)

AGRIOTA market platform aims to bridge the gap between millions of rural farmers in India and the Gulf nation's food industry.

539. As per Reserve Bank of India (RBI) reviewed Priority Sector Lending (PSL) Guidelines, which new category has been included?

Answer: Financing start-ups (up to Rs 50 crore); loans to farmers for installation of solar power plants for solarization of grid connected agriculture pumps and loans for setting up Compressed BioGas (CBG) plants.

540. Who has been selected for National Award to Teachers 2020?

Answer: Sudha Painuli, a vice-principal of Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) which is established under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs

541. Who has been conferred with the prestigious Indira Gandhi Peace Prize for the year 2019?

Answer: David Attenborough

He is an English broadcaster and a historian. He is popular for writing and presenting BBC Natural History unit.

542. Former President Pranab Kumar Mukherjee who passed away recently at the Army's Research and Referral Hospital, New Delhi, belonged to which Indian state?

Answer: West Bengal

543. On September 6, 2020, a personality who was famous for initiating the historic judgement of Supreme Court that "Basic Structure of Constitution" cannot be amended by the Parliament, passed away. Name the personality?

Answer: Kesavananda Bharti

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544. National Nutrition Week is an annual nutrition event observed in India during the _____.

Answer: 1st Week of September: 1st September to 7th September. *The events of NNW are organized by the Food and Nutrition Board of the Ministry of Women and Child Development.*

545. Which government body has recently launched Nationally Determined Contributions Transport Initiative for Asia (NDC-TIA)?

Answer: NITI Aayog

The initiative was launched to decarbonize transport and provide technical support on Green Gas emission reduction measures. The initiative is supported by International Climate Initiative of German Ministry of Environment.

546. The Indian Railways has solarized how many railway stations to achieve the objective of becoming 100% self-sustainable for all its power needs?

Answer: 960 Railway Stations

547. The New Delhi Railway Station is to be redeveloped by the which agency at the cost of Rs 6,500 crores?

Answer: Rail Land Development Authority

548. Which state will set up first of its kind in India International Women Trade Centre as per terms defined under United Nations Sustainable Development goals?

Answer: Kerala

549. Which state became the first to launch first sea plane services of India?

Answer: Gujarat

The first seaplane is to take off from Sabarmati river front to Statue of Unity in Kevadia in Narmada district.

550. Which State Government passed the resolution to bring the state under Schedule VI of Indian Constitution?

Answer: Arunachal Pradesh

The sixth schedule of the constitution provides for the administration of tribal areas in Assam, Tripura, Meghalaya and Mizoram.

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551. Which state has launched Marine Ambulance services named PRATHEEKSHA to provide more efficient rescue?

Answer: Kerala

The Marine Ambulance specializes in providing first aid and also rescue operations.

552. Which state has launched a new scheme 'Promotion of Intensive Aquaculture through Introduction of Bio-floc Technology during the year 2020-21'?

Answer: Odisha

553. World Health Organization declared Africa polio-free. The disease is now found only in _____.

Answer: Afghanistan and Pakistan.

554. Which country has launched its fifth Gaofen-9 series satellite named "Gaofen-9 05"?

Answer: China

555. Which technology company has launched 'The Anywhere School' initiative in more than 250 countries around the world?

Answer: Google.

The initiative is expected to benefit millions of students who have switched to learning from home, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Under the initiative, Google will roll out over 50 new features across products like Google Meet, Classroom, G Suite and other products.

556. Ministry of Civil Aviation sanctioned how many new routes under 4th round of regional connectivity scheme (RCS)?

Answer: 78.

So far 766 new routes have been sanctioned under the scheme. The fourth round of UDAN scheme was launched in December 2019 focusing on North Eastern Regions, Islands and Hilly states. The operation of seaplanes and helicopters were also incorporated under the scheme.

557. Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Piyush Goyal, has launched National GIS (Geographic Information System) enabled _____ to provide database of industrial clusters all over India.

Answer: Land Bank System.

The platform It will serve as one-stop solution to free and easy accessibility of industrial information. The platform is to be supported by National Centre of Geo-Informatics, Invest India, National E-Governance Division, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Bhaskaracharya Institute for Space Application and Geo-Informatics.

558. On August 28, 2020, Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana completed six years which is a National Mission for Financial Inclusion which benefitted around _____ beneficiaries in the form of account holders.

Answer: 40.35 crore beneficiaries benefitted under Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana since 2014.

As of August, 2020, of the accounts opened under the scheme, 63.6% were rural accounts and 55.2% were women accounts. A total of 29.75 crore RuPay cards were issued to Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana account holders.

559. Which global agency has recently released the first ever guidelines to social justice for people with disabilities in order to make it easy for them to access justice systems in the world?

Answer: The United Nations

560. NITI Aayog has released the Export Preparedness Index (EPI) in partnership with which agency?

Answer: Institute of Competitiveness

Gujarat has topped the index followed by Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu. This is mainly because of their location near the coast.

Among the land locked states, Rajasthan was the top performer followed by Telangana and Haryana.

In the category of Himalayan states, Uttarakhand topped the list followed by Tripura and Himachal Pradesh.

The report says that the 70% of exports of India are dominated by five states namely Maharashtra, Karnataka, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu and Telangana.

561. According to the data provided by Ministry of Finance to Rajya Sabha, which state has topped the list in availing MUDRA loans to women followed by West Bengal and Karnataka?

Answer: Tamil Nadu

562. Name the Government of India launched 'next generation start up challenge contest'.

Answer: Chunauti

The challenge is launched with a special focus on Tier-II towns. Around 300 startups working in select areas are to be identified and provided with seed fund up to Rs 25 lakhs.

563. Which government agency has released the Draft Health Data Management Policy under the National Digital Health Mission.?

Answer: National Health Authority

564. As per Finance Minister Nirmala Sitaraman's announcement, the businesses with annual turnover of up to what limit are exempted from GST?

Answer: Rs 40 lakhs. Earlier the limit was Rs 20 lakhs.

565. Reserve Bank of India released its annual report 2019-20. According to the report, the total income of RBI in 2019-20 has increased by _____.

Answer: 28.97%.

The Gross Non-Performing Ratio of banking system have declined to 9.1% as compared to 11.2% in March 2019. The currency in circulation has soared 17%. It was Rs 21.10 trillion in 2019-20. Bank frauds more than double in FY20 to Rs 1.85 trillion.

566. The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) announced that subscriber for Atal Pension Yojana has crossed _____.

Answer: 21 million

The PFRDA also announced that the Assets Under Management (AUM) of the National Pension Scheme is set to touch Rs 5 lakh crores by the end of September.

567. The Dutch author Marieke Lucas Rijneveld has become the youngest to win the _____.

Answer: International Booker Prize.

He won the prize for his debut novel "The Discomfort of Evening". The author is to share the prize along with the book's translator Michele Hutchinson.

568. Ministry of Tribal Affairs launched Tribal Health and Nutrition portal. What is the name of the portal?

Answer: SWASTHYA

The ministry launched the "ALEKH" e-newsletter on health and nutrition.

569. National Highway Authority of India launched the mobile application called "_____" for geo tagging the trees along the highways.

Answer: Harit Path

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570. The Prime Minister Modi in his Independence Day address mentioned the mega plan of trans-national electricity grid for supplying solar power. What is the name of the project?

Answer: "One Sun One World One Grid" project.

571. The Indian Railways is constructing world's tallest pier bridge in which state of India?

Answer: Manipur.

The bridge is 141 metres high. It has surpassed the record of 139 metres tall Mala-Rijeka bridge in Montenegro, Europe. The bridge is a part of the 111 km long Jiribam-Tupul-Imphal railway line project.

572. Assam minister Siddhartha Bhattacharya has inaugurated India's longest ropeway across river _____.

Answer: Brahmaputra

The ropeway cut short the travel time by almost an hour. It is 2 km long and the distance is covered in 7 minutes. One-way ride is to cost Rs 60.

573. Which state government has launched the Electronics Manufacturing Policy to bring in Rs 40,000 crores of investment in five years?

Answer: Uttar Pradesh

The policy aims to develop Bundelkhand and Purvanchal regions. The policy aims to make Uttar Pradesh a global electronics hub.

574. Which state Government has launched the 'Indira Rasoi Yojna' in order to pay special tribute to the former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi on his 76th birth anniversary on August 20?

Answer: Rajasthan

Indira Rasoi is a scheme to provide nutritious food to poor people in urban areas at affordable prices.

575. Which state become first to announce that it will be offering jobs based on the marks secured by candidates in the common eligibility test (CET) by National Recruitment Agency (NRA)?

Answer: Madhya Pradesh

Madhya Pradesh has become the first state in the country to offer jobs on the basis newly approved CET.

576. The International Solar Alliance has held World Solar Technology Summit for the first time in which month?

Answer: September 8, 2020.

The summit aims to bring the world scientists and engineers together to address the challenges to make energy affordable.

577. Which country has proposed the Supply Chain Resilience Initiative?

Answer: Japan

The initiative aims to reduce the dependency in China. Japan is to be joined by India and Australia. It is a direct response to companies that are concerned about Chinese political behavior and disruption to supply chain.

578. Central Government has directed to the State governments and the Union Territories that all the disabled persons should be included under _____.

Answer: National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013

579. The Atal Bimit Vyakti Kalyan Yojana is implemented by which organization?

Answer: Employee State Insurance Corporation.

The scheme was approved under the Employees State Insurance Act, 1948. The scheme aims to support the people who have lost their jobs due to changing employment pattern due to an international crisis or a domestic crisis.

580. As per the Swachh Survekshan, 2020, which city has bagged the award of cleanest Ganga Town?

Answer: Varanasi

For the fourth consecutive time, Indore, Madhya Pradesh bagged the cleanest city in the country. It was followed by Surat of Gujarat and Navi Mumbai of Maharashtra. Varanasi bagged the best "Ganga Town" in the survey. Mysuru won the award of cleanest city in India. The survey was held by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.

581. Union Cabinet approved to set up National Recruitment Agency. The agency is to conduct Common Eligibility Test for _____.

Answer: Public Sector Banks and Government Jobs.

*The Common Eligibility Test (CET) is to be conducted for non-gazette posts in public sector banks and central government. The score of CET is valid for **three** years. Candidates qualifying the test can apply for higher level of examination.*

582. Which government body has prepared a draft standard for the supply of piped drinking water named "Drinking Water Supply Quality Management System-requirements for piped drinking water supply service"?

Answer: The Bureau of Indian Standards

583. On August 19, 2020, the National Commission on Population submitted its report on population projections for the period of 2011-36. The commission was set up by which Indian ministry?

Answer: Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

584. Indian Council of Medical Research released "National Cancer Registry Programme Report", 2020. According to the report, the number of cancer patients in India would increase to 15.7 lakhs by the year of _____

Answer: 2025

The report also says that by the end of 2020, there will be 13.9 lakh cancer patients in India. The highest incidence of cancer in India was observed in North East region. According to the report, one out of four persons between the age of 0 and 74 years in Arunachal Pradesh had the possibility of developing cancer.

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585. Atal Rankings of Institutions on Innovation Achievements (ARIIA), 2020 was released, recently. Which institute emerged as the best institute under the institute of national importance category.

Answer: IIT Madras

The ARIIA is implemented by All India council for Technical Education (AICTE). Top 10 The institutions were:

- Rank I-IIT Madras
- Rank II-IIT Bombay
- Rank III-IIT Delhi
- Rank IV-IISc Bengaluru
- Rank V-IIT Kharagpur
- Rank VI-IIT Kanpur
- Rank VII-IIT Mandi
- Rank VIII-NIT Calicut
- Rank IX-IIT Roorkee
- Rank X-University of Hyderabad

586. Union Minister Prakash Javadekar announced that the CAMPA funds shall be used only for plantation drives and afforestation. Also, the forest-based devolution funds are to be increased from 7% to _____.

Answer: 10%. CAMPA is Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management.

587. Which task force of NITI Aayog has recommended to link sugarcane prices to sugar rates.

Answer: Ramesh Chand Task Force

The task force highlighted that it is essential to keep the industry in a good financial health. In its report, the task force has recommended for a one-time increase in the minimum sugar price at Rs 33 per kg.

588. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has launched the National Strategy for Financial Education (NSFE) to be implemented for the period of _____.

Answer: 2020 to 2025

This is the second national strategy; the first NSFE was launched in 2013. NSFE 2020-25 has been launched with an aim of achieving a financially aware and empowered India.

*The bank came up with 5-Core Actions approach with this second national strategy. The five Cs highlighted by NSFE 2020-25 are **Capacity, Content, Communication, Community, and Collaboration.***

589. Reserve Bank of India released Framework for Authorization of Pan-India Umbrella Entity for retail payments. The RBI will set up a new pan-India umbrella entity with a minimum paid-up capital of _____.

Answer: Rs 500 crores

The entity will set up, operate, manage new payment systems that comprises of ATMs, Aadhaar based payments, label Point of Sales, remittance services. Also, it will develop standards, payment methods and technologies related issues. The entities are to be incorporated under Companies Act, 2013. Also, the entities are to be authorized under Section 4 of Payment and Settlement Systems act, 2007.

590. Recently, which former finance secretary was appointed as the Election Commissioner of India?

Answer: Rajiv Kumar

591. On August 22, 2020, the Government of India announced the National Sports Awards, 2020. Who has been awarded Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award?

Answer:

Rohit Sharma

Para-Athlete Mariyannapn Thangavelu

Wrestler Vinesh Phogat

Indian Women Hockey Team Captain Rani Rampal

592. Defence Minister Raj Nath Singh launched _____, an online portal to promote indigenization of Defence production.

Answer: SRIJAN

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593. NITI Aayog has selected which IT company to modernise vital IT infrastructure in 112 most backward districts under its Aspirational Districts Programme?

Answer: Oracle Corporation

594. On August 15, 2020, PM Modi launched Project Lion and _____ during his speech at the 74th Independence Day celebrations.

Answer: Project Dolphin

595. Union Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar launched National Portal on Human Elephant conflict called _____.

Answer: SURAKHSYA

The portal aims to collect real time information and will also manage conflicts on real time basis.

596. On August 15, 2020, PM Modi announced the Optic Fibre Linking of _____ Islands with the mainland during his address at the 74th celebrations of Independence Day.

Answer: Lakshadweep

The undersea Optical Fibre Cable link to be established between Lakshadweep and the mainland is second in the country. The first of its kind was established between Chennai and Port Blair.

597. The Central Water Commission along with which IT Company has launched flood forecasting initiative?

Answer: Google

598. The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India recently announced that sale of junk and unhealthy food should be restricted within what limits of schools and education institutions?

Answer: 50 metres

599. The Khadi and Village Industries Commission is to set up the first of its kind training cum production centre of silk in which Indian state?

Answer: Arunachal Pradesh

600. NITI Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) in collaboration with which company has launched the 2nd edition of Student Entrepreneurship Program (SEP 2.0) for young innovators of Atal Tinkering Labs (ATLs)?

Answer: Dell Technologies

601. Which state Government has launched a new scheme called the Mukhya Mantri Kisan Sahay Yojana to replace Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana in the state for the current year alone?

Answer: Gujarat

602. Which state government has launched "Indira Van Mitan Yojana" on the eve of International Day of World Indigenous People to support forest dwellers?

Answer: Chhattisgarh

603. Who has launched "Delhi Electric Vehicle Policy"?

Answer: Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal.

604. Which state Government is to identify beneficiaries of new scheme called "ORUNODOI"?

Answer: Assam.

The scheme is being launched to help in women financial empowerment in Assam that will benefit more than 17 lakh families.

605. Name the Facility of the World Health Organization which is a mechanism designed to guarantee fair, rapid and equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines?

Answer: COVAX

COVAX is COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access facility. The facility is backed by Bill Gate Foundation.

606. The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs recently released ranking of states under AMRUT scheme. Which state has secured first position?

Answer: Odisha

This year, Odisha has topped the ranking followed by Chandigarh, Telangana, Gujarat and Karnataka in the implementation of the scheme.

607. Indian PM has launched financing facility of what amount under Agriculture Infrastructure Fund?

Answer: Rs 1 lakh crore

608. The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare recently announced that India ranks first in number of farmers working under Organic Farming. While India ranks _____ in terms of areas under Organic Farming.

Answer: 9th. Ninth.

Sikkim was the first state in the world to become completely organic. The other states that have similar targets include Uttarakhand and Tripura.

609. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has unveiled a new platform called "Transparent Taxation-Honouring the Honest". This was earlier announced by the Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman as _____ in Budget 2020-21.

Answer: Tax Charter

610. The Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman recently launched National Infrastructure Pipeline online dashboard. The dashboard will be hosted by _____.

Answer: India Investment Grid (IIG)

IIG is a dynamic online platform that showcases real time investment opportunities in the country.

611. Former Lieutenant Governor (LG) of Jammu and Kashmir Girish Chandra Murmu took oath as _____.

Answer: Comptroller and Auditor General of India. He is the first tribal to take oath as CAG of India.

612. The United Nations (UN's) International Day of the World's Indigenous People is annually observed on _____.

Answer: 9th August.

613. NITI (National Institution for Transforming India) Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), has launched AIM iCREST – an Incubator Capabilities enhancement program for a Robust Ecosystem focused on creating high performing Start-ups in collaboration with _____

Answer: Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and Wadhvani Foundation

614. Union Minister for Ministry of Science and Technology Harsh Vardhan has launched _____, a national level programme for popularizing pure science among school students of Class 6th to 11th.

Answer: Vidyarthi Vigyan Manthan

It is an initiative of Vijnana Bharathi (VIBHA) in collaboration with Vigyan Prasar, Government of India and National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT).

615. India's 1st snow leopard conservation center is to be set up in Lanka, near Bhaironghati bridge in Uttarkashi district, _____.

Answer: Uttarakhand

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616. India's 1st Kisan Rail, a Special Parcel Train is flagged off from Maharashtra's Devlali to _____

Answer: Bihar's Danapur Railway Station

617. Which state became the first state in India to collaborate with Google India for state-wide distribution of G suite for Education and Google Classroom?

Answer: Maharashtra

618. India has tied up with which country for five new medicinal research projects to tackle the anti-microbial resistance to support the combat against antibiotic resistant bacteria and genes?

Answer: The United Kingdom (UK)

619. Which ministry has approved a programme under “Gramodyog Vikas Yojana” for the benefit of artisans involved in manufacturing of Agarbatti and to develop village industry?

Answer: Ministry of Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MoMSME)

Nitin Gadkari, Union Minister for Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME), approved the Khadi Agarbatti Aatmanirbhar Mission proposed by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) to increase the production of Agarbatti (incense sticks) and to generate employment.

620. Who is the head of committee set up by RBI for onetime restructuring of loans?

Answer: KV Kamath

RBI sets up panel under KV Kamath for onetime restructuring of loans.

621. Who has been appointed as Chairman of Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) for 18 more months?

Answer: Ajay Tyagi

622. Green-Agriculture (Green-Ag), a project funded by Global Environment Facility (GEF) was launched in which state of India.

Answer: Mizoram.

Mizoram is first among the 5 states where the project is to be implemented. The other states are Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Rajasthan and Uttarakhand.

623. Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 which has replaced 34 years old _____. With this, the Ministry of Human Resource Development will officially be renamed the Ministry of Education (MoE).

Answer: National Policy of Education, 1986

624. The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports has partnered with UNICEF to strengthen the youth volunteers in the country to achieve under which platform of UNICEF.

Answer: YuWaah

625. The United Nations recently released the Multidimensional Poverty Index, 2020. According to the index, which country has recorded the largest reduction in number of people living in poverty between the period 2015-19.

Answer: India.

Around 273 million people have moved out of multidimensional poverty over 10 years. The report was released by the United Nations Development Programme and the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI). According to the report, both India and Nicaragua have halved their MPI value among children of age 10 and 10.5 years respectively.

626. National Payment Corporation of India (NPCI) launched _____ feature for recurring payments. The feature launched is dedicated to recurring payments.

Answer: UPI Auto Pay

627. What does second "E" stand in "ASSEM" a platform which was launched to bridge the demand-supply gap in the market across all the sectors in the country for the skilled workforce an Artificial Intelligence (AI) based digital portal was launched that will address the same by improving the information flow?

Answer: ASEEM (Aatamanirbhar Skilled Employee **Employer** Mapping).

The portal is launched by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.

628. The second Voluntary National Review (VNR) of India was presented on the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) of the United Nations by _____.

Answer: NITI Aayog

The VNR report provides a comprehensive detailed account of the schemes and initiatives taken by India for the successful implementation and adoption of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals Agenda of the United Nations.

The 2nd VNR report of India has also highlighted the features and responses of India under the Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Campaign that will help in accelerating progress on the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals during the COVID-19 pandemic.

629. The United Nations recently released the "State of Food Security and Nutrition" report. The report was prepared by Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and _____.

Answer: International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), World Health Organization (WHO), World Food Programme (WFP) and UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund).

The report says that around 8.9% of the world population, that is 690 million went hungry in 2019. This is 10 million more as compared to 2018. According to the report, this may increase to 83 to 132 million due to COVID-19 in 2020.

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630. As per the data from the Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry, which country remains top trading partner of India during the Financial Year 2019-20?

Answer: USA

This is the second consecutive Financial Year that the United States has become the top trading partner of India (in Financial Year 2018-19 United States surpassed the People's Republic of China to become the top trading partner of India), indicating the continuously increasing economic ties between both the countries.

631. Federation Internationale de Football Association announced that the 2022 World Cup is to be held in _____

Answer: **Qatar**

632. Which state has become the first state in the country to provide 100% LPG Gas connection to all households in the state?

Answer: **Himachal Pradesh**

633. Who will chair the advisory committee formed by the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) on Corporate Insolvency Resolution and Liquidation process?

Answer: **Uday Kotak**

634. India ranked _____ in the annual World Competitiveness Index 2020 compiled by Institute for Management Development (IMD).

Answer: **43rd**

635. The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has launched Food Safety Index of the year 2019-20 which state has topped the index?

Answer: **Gujarat**

Followed by Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra. Among the smaller states, Goa topped the ranking followed by Manipur and Meghalaya. Among Union Territories Chandigarh, Delhi and Andaman islands topped the ranking. The Food Safety Index was released on World Food Safety Day under the Theme: Food Safety is everyone business.

636. As per the new framework of the RBI the National Payment Corporation of India and National Electronic Fund Transfer will be treated as _____.

Answer: **Financial Market Infrastructure (FMI)**

It is to be noted that in general Systematically important FMIs till now only included Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS), Securities Settlement Systems (SSSs), Clearing Corporation of India Ltd. (CCIL) and Negotiated Dealing System (NDS). In addition, NPCI has also been designated as a "system wide important payment system (SWIPS).

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637. The Reserve Bank of India has constituted an internal working group to review guidelines of ownership of private sector banks, the group is headed by_____.

Answer: P K Mohanty

638. Who has the World Food Prize for mainstreaming and developing soil centric approach in order to increase food production?

Answer: Dr Rattan Lal

Dr Lal's strategy of restoring soil health has been adopted by three United Nations Climate Change Conferences.

639. The Government of India recently modified public procurement norms. Under the new norms maximum preference is to be given to those goods and services that have_____ or more local content.

Answer: 50%

640. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched technology platform called CHAMPIONS. CHAMPIONS Stand for _____.

Answer: Creation and Harmonious Application of Modern Processes for Increasing the Output and National Strength.

The portal aims to make smaller units big by supporting them, encouraging, solving their grievances, helping and handholding. It will act as one-stop shop solution of all entities of the MSME sector. The complete platform was created by National Informatics Centre.

641. The Yale University recently released the biennial Environment Performance Index (EPI) 2020. India scored _____ out of 180 countries.

Answer: 168th rank

All the South Asian countries were ahead of India except Afghanistan. India's rank in terms of Sustainable Development Goals was also low.

Around 32 indicators were considered to create the ranking. The index provided 10-year observation on environmental performance at national and international level.

642. The Union Cabinet approved the changes made to the definition of MSMEs. According to the new definition MSMEs with investment up to _____ have been classified as Micro units.

Answer: Rs 1 crore and turnover of Rs 5 crores

The MSMEs with investment of Rs 10 crore and turnover of Rs 50 crores are classified as small units.

The MSMEs with investment Rs 50 crore and turn over upto Rs 250 crores have been classified as medium units

643. The Reserve Bank of India created Payment Infrastructure Development Fund of _____.

Answer: Rs 500 crores

The apex bank has made an initial contribution of Rs 250 crores towards the funds. The rest of the fund is to come through the card issuing banks.

- The fund has been created to increase point of sale infrastructure and other digital payment infrastructure in the country.*
- The funds are to be governed through an advisory council. However, the funds will be administered and managed by RBI.*

644. The National Payment Corporation of India (NPCI) launched Artificial Intelligence based chatbot called _____.

Answer: Pai

The Chatbot aims to increase financial inclusion in India.

- The PAI can be accessed 24/7. It provides information about NPCI products.
- The queries can be sent by the users through text or voice.
- In order to send queries, the users shall use websites of RuPay, NPCI and UPI.
- Currently, PAI is available in English and Hindi languages.
- The AI based chatbot was created by Bengaluru based startup CoRover Private Limited.

645. Reserve Bank of India has increased Ways Means Advance limits of States by what percent?

Answer: 60%.

And the number of days state can be in continuous overdraft has been increased from 14 days to 21 days. And number of days state can be in overdraft in a quarter has been increased from 32 to 50 days.

646. The task force on National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP) headed by Atanu Chakraborty submitted its Final Report on NIP for FY 2019-25 to Finance Ministry projecting total infrastructure investment of _____.

Answer: Rs 111 lakh crore for 5-year

647. What was India rank in the recently released Global Energy Transition Index (GET Index) 2020 by the World Economic Forum (WEF)?

Answer: 74th

The World Economic Forum has ranked 115 countries based on GET Index in its report "WEF Fostering Effective Energy Transition 2020 report". Sweden has topped the ranking for the third consecutive year. It was followed by Switzerland and Finland.

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