

PRACTICE
MOCK





BAZOOKA

MONTHLY CURRENT AFFAIRS MAGAZINE

JANUARY-2021 COVERAGE



CONTENTS

CONTENTS.....	2
NATIONAL AFFAIRS.....	2
STATES AFFAIRS.....	6
INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS.....	7
REPORTS & INDICES.....	11
GOVERNMENT SCHEMES & PROGRAMMES.....	13
ECONOMY & BUSINESS.....	14
FINANCE & BANKING.....	15
AWARDS & RECOGNITION.....	19
PERSON IN NEWS.....	20
OBITUARIES.....	21
IMPORTANT DAYS.....	21
SPORTS.....	22

**RBI Grade B
Phase I**

Get Your All India Rank

Take a **FREE** Mock Test



NATIONAL AFFAIRS

1. The Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently laid the foundation of the **Light House Project** in **six states**. The Light House Projects are to be implemented in Agartala (Tripura), Ranchi (Jharkhand), Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh), Indore (Madhya Pradesh), Rajkot (Gujarat) and Chennai (Tamil Nadu) under the Global Housing Technology Challenge.

2. Minister of State for External Affairs **V. Muraleedharan** has launched the **Global Pravasi Rishta portal** and mobile App, to connect with Indian Diaspora across the world.
3. **ISRO** will launch first satellite completely developed in Brazil, named as **Amazonia-1** from Satish Dhawan Space Centre.
4. Union Education Minister **Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'** has laid foundation stone of '**TiHAN-IIT**' through virtual mode at IIT Hyderabad. It is **India's first Testbed for Autonomous Navigation Systems (Terrestrial and Aerial)**.
5. **Indian Navy** has signed contract with **Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)** to procure **Light Amplification by Stimulated Emission of Radiation Dazzlers (Laser Dazzlers)**.
6. **Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)** has capped trans fatty acids (TFA) in oils and fats amount to 3% for 2021 and 2% by 2022 from the current permissible limit of 5%. The regulation has been amended by **Food Safety and Standards (Prohibition and Restriction on Sales) Regulations**.
7. PM **Narendra Modi** addressed **National Metrology Conclave 2021** through video conferencing. It is being organized by **Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-National Physical Laboratory, New Delhi**. Theme 2021: **Metrology for the Inclusive Growth of the Nation**.
8. PM Narendra Modi has dedicated '**Kochi-Mangaluru Natural Gas Pipeline**' to nation in line with One Nation One Gas Grid. Length: **450 km**. Built by: **GAIL (India) Limited**.
9. The **Bird Flu** in India has been reported in wild Geese in Himachal Pradesh, ducks in Kerala, crows in Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh.
10. The Indian Space Research Organization recently released the **plan for the decade**. The plan included **reusable satellite launch vehicle, heavy lift rocket and semi-cryogenic engine**. ISRO is to complete its moon mission Chandrayaan-3, the solar mission Aditya-L1 and first Indian Data Relay Satellite.
11. The Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently flagged off the **first double stack** long-haul container train from New **Ateli** in Haryana to New **Kishanganj** in Rajasthan.
12. The **Drug Controller General of India** recently announced that it has authorized two COVID-19 vaccines- COVAXIN and COVISHIELD- for restricted Emergency Use in 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).
13. The **Indian Space Research Organization** announced that it is to adopt **100 Atal Tinkering Labs** across the country. By adopting hundred Atal Tinkering Labs, ISRO is to facilitate mentoring and coaching of students in cutting edge technologies related to space and to promote education in the field of **Space Education and Space Technology** among school students.

14. The University Grants Commission (UGC) recently asked the higher education institutes across the country to **establish an office for international affairs**. The Office of International Affairs will be an integral part of internationalisation of higher education in India.
15. PM Narendra Modi has flagged off the world's first **double-stack long-haul container train** from **New Ateli in Haryana** to New Kishanganj, Rajasthan. He also dedicated 306 km long New **Rewari-Madar Section** of Western Dedicated Freight Corridor (WDFC) to nation connecting Haryana to Rajasthan.
16. Health Ministry has set up an **expert panel** under chairmanship of **Joint Secretary Preeti Pant** to examine the adverse findings from National Family Health Survey-5. It will recommend ways to improve malnutrition, stunting, anemia, and C-section cases.
17. **Nitin Gadkari** has launched an innovative new paint termed as '**Khadi Prakritik Paint**' developed by **Khadi and Village Industries Commission**. 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**.
18. **Bangladesh** is chosen as '**Country in Focus**' for **51st International Film Festival of India (IFFI)**.
19. **National Informatics Centre (NIC)** and **Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE)** jointly launched '**CollabCAD Software**' for students and Faculty of Engineering Graphics Curriculum. It will provide a platform for students across the country to create and modify 3D digital designs with free flow of creativity and imagination.
20. **DRDO** and **Indian Army** has launched **India's first indigenous 9 mm machine pistol**.
21. The **Petroleum and Natural Gas Ministry** has launched a month-long mass awareness campaign '**SAKSHAM**' to spread awareness about green and clean energy. It will focus on the adoption of cleaner fuels which include moving towards a gas-based economy, cleaner use of fossil fuels, greater reliance on domestic sources to drive **biofuels** and increased use of electric vehicles.
22. **India** plans to achieve **20%** ethanol-blending (E20) with gasoline by 2025 (five years ahead of its previous target) to help reduce its dependence on costly oil import. Earlier, the govt. had set a target of reaching 10% ethanol-blending **by 2022** - meaning 10% of ethanol mixed with 90% of gasoline - and 20% by 2030. India is the **world's third-biggest oil importer**, relying on foreign suppliers to meet more than 80% of its demand.
23. Piyush Goyal 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. Inaugural event of summit was attended by **BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation)** nations.
24. Defense Minister **Rajnath Singh** has launched **India's First Indigenously Designed & Developed Driverless Metro Car**. This driverless metro has been indigenously designed & developed for **Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA)**. It has been manufactured at **BEML Bangaluru** manufacturing facility.
25. The Defence Research Development Organisation (DRDO) and the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) recently developed a bike ambulance called "**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 Allies Science) operating under DRDO.

26. PM Narendra Modi has inaugurated **8 trains** connecting different regions of the country to **Kevadiya, Gujarat**. These trains are launched to facilitate seamless connectivity to **Statue of Unity** situated in Gujarat. **Kevadiya station is India's 1st railway station with Green Building Certification.**
27. **TRIFED** and **IFFDC** entered into an MoU to work for tribal livelihood generation. Both the organizations have agreed to partner with each other to organize training programmes for tribal artisans in the area of entrepreneurship skill and business development. They will also collaborate further to identify and implement **CSR initiatives.**
28. **Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH)** has notified **Inter Country Transport Vehicles Rules, 2021** to facilitate and regulate the movement of passenger and goods vehicles between India and neighboring countries.
29. 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: '**Aatmanirbhar Bharat – Start of New Decade**'. India Digital Summit is the flagship event of the **Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI).**
30. NITI Aayog has released book on **Fecal Sludge and Septage Management (FSSM)** in urban areas. It is jointly developed with **National Fecal Sludge and Septage Management (NFSSM)** Alliance. It presents 27 case studies across 10 states and various service and business models adopted by Indian cities while implementing FSSM initiatives.
31. **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)** along with **Amazon Web Services (AWS)** will establish '**Quantum Computing Applications Lab**' to accelerate quantum computing-led research and development.
32. **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)** has launched **Regulatory Compliance Portal** to minimize Regulatory Compliance Burden for Businesses and Citizens.
33. Union Minister Harsh Vardhan has inaugurated **7th Edition of MASGRADE (Movement against Smuggled & Counterfeit Trade) 2021.** It is being organized by **FICCI Cascade.**
34. **DRDO** 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.
35. **Arjun Munda** has virtually launched '**ShramShakti**' at a programme in Goa. It is **National Migration Support Portal** that will help in the smooth formulation of state and national level programs for migrant workers. It will address the data gap and empower migrant workers who generally migrate in search of employment and income generation. Along with this, **tribal migration cell, tribal museum at Goa** and '**ShramSaathi**' (training manual for migrant workers) has also been launched.
36. The **Operation Sard Hawa** was launched by the **Border Security Force** in the western border of Rajasthan. The main purpose of the operation is to check the instances of infiltration due to dense fog in the region. The Operation has also been launched to enhance the security ahead of Republic Day.

37. The Indian Army has conducted a large scale joint military exercise **Kavach** in the **Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal**. The exercise is to be held under the aegis of Andaman and Nicobar Command. The Joint Military Exercise Kavach will involve Indian Navy, Indian Army, Indian Air Force and Indian Coast.
38. **President of India** has launched **ECI's Web Radio: 'Hello Voters'** programme that will be accessible through a link on the Election Commission of India website.
39. **Bharat Parv 2021** has been organized virtually at bharatparv2021.com platform. It is a festival to celebrate the spirit of India.
40. Large-scale tri-service joint amphibious exercise '**AMPHEX 21**' was held in Andaman & Nicobar group of islands from 21 to 25 Jan 2021. 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.
41. **South-East Central Railways (SECR)** zone in **Chhattisgarh** breaks record by successfully operating the longest ever freight train named as '**Vasuki**' by amalgamating five rakes of goods trains as one unit of around 3.5 km. The train covered a distance of **224 km** between **Bhilai and Korba railway stations** and took about 7 hours.
42. Union Minister **Ravi Shankar Prasad** has launched electronic version of voter identity card, **e-EPIC (Electronic Electoral Photo Identity Card)**.
43. Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change **Prakash Javadekar** has released **Marine Mega fauna Stranding Guidelines** and **National Marine Turtle Action Plan**.

RRB Clerk | **Get Your All India Rank**
Mains | Take a **FREE** Mock Test



STATES AFFAIRS

44. **Gujarat Government** has announced its new **Solar Power Policy - 2021** for the next five years.
45. **India's first pollinator park** was recently inaugurated at **Haldwani, Uttarakhand**.
46. **Karnataka govt** has allowed all shops and commercial establishments employing 10 or more persons to **operate round the clock all days of week (24X7)**.
47. **Pankaj Mithal** has been appointed as the **new Chief Justice** of the common **high court for Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir and Union Territory of Ladakh**.
48. **Madhya Pradesh** 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. Under this scheme, the District Administration will provide space to these youths for opening of coffee shops, stationery, photocopying, computer typing work.

49. **Uttar Pradesh** Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has launched '**Kishan Kalyan Mission**' for farmer welfare. The objective of the Mission is to double the farmers income of the state.
50. The TRIFED (Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India) operating under Ministry of Tribal Affairs has signed a memorandum of understanding with Akhil Bhartiya vanvasi Kalyan Ashram to setup **TRIFOOD parks in Madhya Pradesh**.
51. **Delhi** government announced that it is to set up a **Tamil Academy** to protect the Tamil language and culture.
52. The **World's Largest Floating 600 MW Solar Energy Project** is under construction at **Omkareshwar** dam on **Narmada** river. located in **Khandwa** district of **MP**.
53. **Arunachal Pradesh** is going to become India's prime producer of **Vanadium**, a high-value metal used in strengthening steel.
54. West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee has inaugurated **26th Kolkata International Film Festival**. Bollywood actor and brand ambassador of West Bengal **Shah Rukh Khan** virtually participated in the event. '**Apur Sansar**' was screened as the inaugural film to show respect to the veteran Tollywood actor Soumitra Chatterjee.
55. Odisha become first state to establish '**Fire Park**' to educate and bring awareness on basic fire safety measures among the people, particularly the students.
56. **Uttar Pradesh** CM Yogi Adityanath has launched '**Udyam Sarathi App**' on the occasion of 71st Foundation Day of UP, on 24 Jan 2021. **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**.
57. **Uttar Pradesh** has become **1st state** in the country with **two airstrips on expressways** to facilitate emergency landing and take-off of fighter planes.
58. **Madhya Pradesh**, CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan has launched '**PANKH Abhiyan**' scheme on the occasion of National Girl Child Day. 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.**
59. **Uttar Pradesh** govt will establish **India's 1st leather park in Kanpur district**.
60. **Rajasthan** has launched a new **School of Public Health**. 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.

61. **India** has launched **40th Scientific Expedition to Antarctica** marking four decades of nation's scientific endeavour to the southern white continent.
62. India and Israel has successfully tested '**Medium-Range Surface-to-Air Missile (MRSAM)**' defence system. **MRSAM missile defence system** has been developed jointly by **DRDO** and **Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI)** to deal with airstrikes by enemy countries.
63. **Argentina** recently became the largest Latin American country to **legalize abortion**. Under the new law Argentina has legalised abortion up to the 14th week of pregnancy. In India, abortion is legal till 24th week of pregnancy according to medical termination of pregnancy (Amendment) act, 2020.
64. **Japan** aims to launch **world's first wood-based space satellite** to combat the growing problem of space debris or junk. The 1st satellite is scheduled to be launched in **2023**.
65. The Union Cabinet recently approved the Memorandum of Understanding between India and Japan on "**Specified Skilled Worker**". Under the agreement, India will send skilled labours to Japan.
66. The **World Health Organisation** recently announced that the United Kingdom covid-19 variant has been detected in more than 41 countries. The **VOC-202012/01** the was first detected in South Africa. This variant is 70% more transmissible than the other covid-19 mutants.
67. The Union Cabinet recently approved **India-UAE Memorandum of Understanding for 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.
68. **NASA** is to launch the **most powerful rocket** in the world on January 17, 2021. NASA has named it as the "**Space Launch System**". The Space Launch System is to carry the first woman and the next man to the moon.
69. The **Great Green Wall** for Sahel and Sahara Initiative recently received **14 billion USD funds** at the recent **One Planet Summit for Biodiversity**. The funding is to be used to restore degraded land, strengthen resilience, create green jobs and protect biodiversity. Among the financiers, the **World Bank** has committed 5 billion USD, **African Development Bank** committed 6.5 billion USD and Government of France committed 14 billion USD. The Great Green Wall initiative aims to transform the lives of 100 million Africans by growing 8,000 kilo meter long and 15 kilo meter wide mosaic of trees, vegetation, grasslands, plants.
70. **India and Japan** recently signed Memorandum of Understanding to enhance cooperation in the field of **Information and Communications Technology**. India and Japan will enhance cooperation in the field of telecom security, **5G technologies**, submarine optical fiber cable system to islands of India.
71. **France** has organized **4th 'One Planet Summit'** through videoconferencing to protect world's biodiversity. **Theme: Let's act together for nature!** The Summit was organized in cooperation with **UN** and **World Bank**.
72. **Sadyr Japarov** has won **Kyrgyzstan's Presidential election** by landslide victory with 79% of the total votes cast.
73. Kerala Governor **Arif Mohammad Khan** has rolled out '**One School One IAS**' scheme. It will provide free coaching for civil services and other competitive examinations to 10,000 meritorious but financially weak students.

74. The state of Tamil Nadu celebrates **Thiruvalluvar Day** during Pongal celebrations. Every year, the Thiruvalluvar Day is celebrated on the second day of Tamil month “thai”. Thiruvalluvar is a Tamil poet and is best known as the author of *Thirukkural*. Thirukkural is a collection of couplets on political and economic matters, ethics and love.
75. **India's first Labor Movement Museum** will be launched in **Kerala's** houseboat tourism hub, **Alappuzha** showcasing the history of world labor movement.
76. The **Karnataka** Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa recently launched **Avalokana software**. The software will enable the state government to access data on expenditures and sanctions incurred on 1,800 programmes. Avolokana software It is a transparent e-governance tool that will provide Assembly constituency wise release of government grants and allocations to different government programmes.
77. **WE Hub** recently announced its partnership with i-Hub. I-Hub operates under Government of Gujarat. WE Hub operates under Government of Telangana. WE Hub is Women Entrepreneurs Hub. It is a **start-up incubator**, that is, it provides an environment for the women entrepreneurs to grow their business.
78. Maharashtra govt has renamed **Gorewada International Zoo** in Nagpur as 'Balasaheb Thackeray Gorewada International Zoological Park'.
79. Meghalaya CM **Conrad K. Sangma** has formally inaugurated **India's longest road arch bridge** named as '**Wahrew Bridge**' at Sohbar in East Khasi Hills district of Meghalaya.
80. The government of **Maharashtra** has decided to start a '**jail tourism**' from the **Yerawada** prison of **Pune**. It will start on January 26, 2021. This initiative is being launched in the state with the aim of facilitating the people to visit and see the historical prisons in the state.
81. The **Gujarat** chief Minister recently announced the “**Horticulture Development Mission**”. 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.
82. **India** has signed MoU with **Japan** to enhance cooperation in the field of **Information and Communications Technologies (ICT)** . Under the MoU, both nations will enhance cooperation in ICT including 5G technologies, telecom security, submarine optical fiber cable system etc.
83. **India** and **France** will carry out a five-day **Mega Air Ex- Desert Knight 21** near **Jodhpur**. It is expected to see **Rafale** jets of the two countries engaging in complex maneuvers to enhance operational coordination.
84. **India** and **Japan** have signed a Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) on a basic partnership framework for the operation of the ‘specified skilled worker’ (SSW) system. **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.
85. Uganda's incumbent President **Yoweri Museveni** has been elected as **President of Uganda** in presidential election for 2021. Capital of Uganda: **Kampala**. Currency of Uganda: **Ugandan shilling**.
86. **Joe Biden (78 years)** was sworn in as the **46th President of United States** in the US Capitol building in Washington. He is the **oldest US President in history**.

87. Nine former officials who served in the Michigan, US and the state's former governor Rick Snyder were recently charged in connection with a criminal investigation into the Flint Water crisis. The **Flint Water Crisis** is an ongoing investigation on public health crisis. The issue began when the City of Flint in the state of Michigan shifted its water supply from Lake Huron to Flint river.
88. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the **Chinese President Xi Jing Ping** are to participate in the Davos Agenda Summit. The Davos Agenda Summit is organised by the World Economic Forum. The "**Great Reset Initiative**" of the World Economic Forum is to be launched during the Davos Agenda Summit. The theme of the Davos Agenda Summit, 2021 is "**Stakeholders for a cohesive and sustainable world**"
89. The US President Joe Biden recently proposed to extend New **START (Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty)** Treaty by five years. Russia has welcomed the proposal. The New START Treaty was signed between United States and Russia in 2010 in Prague (capital of Czech Republic).
90. **China** became **world's largest current account surplus nation in 2020** overtaking Germany, as per the survey of IFO institute. Current account surplus of China is **\$310 billion** in 2020, while current account surplus of **Germany** shrank to **\$261 billion** in 2020. China and Germany is followed by **Japan** with current account surplus of \$158 billion. **IFO (Information and Forschung) Institute for Economic Research** is based in Munich, Germany and analyses economic policy.
91. **India-Bangladesh** held **19th meeting of Joint Steering Committee** on cooperation in energy sector held in Dhaka. Committee took stock of implementation decisions taken during the last meeting of **Joint Working Group (JWG)** and **Joint Steering Committee (JSC)**.
92. **SpaceX** has successfully launched rideshare mission named as **Transporter-1**, carrying **143 small satellites** by **Falcon 9 rocket** from Cape Canaveral Space Station in Florida. It created record of launching the **largest number of satellites** from single rocket.
93. **India** has signed framework for **Strategic Partnership** with **International Energy Agency (IEA)** members to strengthen mutual trust and cooperation, enhancing global energy security, stability, and sustainability. It will lead to an extensive exchange of knowledge and help India becoming a full member of International Energy Agency (IEA). IEA HQs: **Paris, France**.
94. The **United Arab Emirates (UAE)** has announced its new **citizenship policy**. The government has planned to offer citizenship to a select group of foreigners. The UAE has thus become the first Gulf Arab nation that formalized the process of giving expatriates a bigger stake in the economy.
95. India and France will launch the Year of Environment. It will be launched by the Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar and his French counterpart Ms. Barbara Pompili in a bid to strengthen the ecological partnership. Highlights Indo-French partnership on Environment, Biodiversity, Climate Change and other allied areas will be an example for the world.
96. India has extended its "Vaccine Maitri Initiative" to Sri-Lanka now. As per the agreement, India dispatched 500000 doses of Covishield vaccines to Sri Lanka as grant assistance. The vaccine maitri initiative has delivered nearly five million doses to seven countries in the neighbourhood, till date.

SEBI
Grade A

Get Your All India Rank
Take a **FREE** Mock Test



REPORTS & INDICES

97. The **World Bank** recently released the **Global Economic Prospects** report. According to the report the Indian economy is to contract by **9.6% in 2020-21**. 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. The informal sector that accounts to four fifth of employment in the country has been badly affected. On the other hand, the world economy is to expand by 4% in 2021. The services and manufacturing sector are gaining Momentum. According to World Bank India is facing its first **technical recessionary phase**.
98. The Food and Agriculture Organization recently released the **Food Price Index**. The Food Price for the month of December was 100 7.5 points. the Food and Agriculture Organisation calculates the food price index measuring the monthly changes of a basket of oilseeds, cereals, meat, dairy products and sugar.
99. The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) recently released its **Statement on Climate of India** during 2020. According to IMD, **2020 was the eight warmest year** on record since 1901. Around twelve out of fifteen warmest years since 1901 were between 2006 and 2020.
100. The United Nations recently released the report **“International Migration 2020 Highlights”**. According to the report, the **Indian diaspora is the largest in the world**. More than **18 million** people from India were living outside India as of 2020. 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.
101. **Henley & Partners** has released **Henley Passport Index 2021** presenting original ranking of world’s most powerful passports as per the number of destinations their holders can access without a prior visa. **India** has been ranked **85th** among 110 countries with visa-free score of 58. **Japan** has topped the list, followed by **Singapore**. Syria, Iraq, and Afghanistan are the countries with the worst passport rankings.
102. **NITI Aayog** along **Institute for Competitiveness** has released **2nd edition of India Innovation Index 2020** examining innovation capabilities and performance of states and UT. It has 5 parameters:
- **Human Capital**
 - **Investment**
 - **Knowledge Workers**
 - **Business Environment**
 - **Safety and Legal Environment**
- Karnataka** occupied top position, 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.
103. **World Economic Forum (WEF)** in partnership with **Marsh McLennan**, **SK Group** and **Zurich Insurance Group** has released **16th edition of Global Risk Report**. 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.*
104. The **Global Firepower Index** ranks the countries based on their potential military strength. **India** was ranked **fourth** in the index. 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.
105. **India** has been placed at **7th rank** among top 10 most affected countries by climate change, in **Global Climate Risk Index 2021**. It has been published by Bonn-based environmental think tank **Germanwatch**. **Mozambique** tops the index, followed by **Zimbabwe** and **Bahamas** as most affected countries in 2019. Top 3 Countries most affected in 20 years: **Puerto Rico, Myanmar, Haiti**.
106. **China** 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**). 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.
107. **Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)** has been ranked **3rd most-valued IT services brand globally**, according to a report released by Brand Finance. **Accenture** and **IBM** has been ranked as the most-valued IT services brand. TCS has a brand value of USD 15 billion.
108. **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** has forecasted Indian economy to contract by **8%** in 2020-21. However, 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**.
109. **India** has secured **86th rank** with a score 40, among 180 countries in **Corruption Perception Index (CPI) 2020**. The index is released by **Transparency International**, which is headquartered in Berlin, Germany. Top Ranked Country: **New Zealand and Denmark** have jointly secured first position with scores of 88, followed by **Finland, Singapore, Sweden** and **Switzerland**. Lowest Ranked Country: **Somalia** and **South Sudan** are ranked lowest with scores of 12.
110. **India** has been ranked **86th** among 98 countries in **Coronavirus Performance Index**. 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.
111. The **Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU)** has released the 'Asia-Pacific Personalized Health Index'. **India** ranked **10th** out of 11 Asia Pacific countries. **Singapore** ranked first in the index followed by Taiwan (2nd), Japan (3rd) and Australia (4th).
112. **Maharashtra** ranks first in the second edition of the **India Justice Report (IJR) 2020**, that judges states on delivery of justice to people. **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.

113. As per the data released by the **Department of Science and Technology (DST)**, India ranked third globally after **China** and the **US** in scientific publications. 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**.
114. The United Nations World Economic Situation and Prospects report has said that, the world economy is expected to recover slightly by 4.7 percent in the year 2021. The economy had declined by 4.3 percent in 2020 because of COVID-19 pandemic.

GOVERNMENT SCHEMES & PROGRAMMES

115. The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas recently announced that **more than 14 crores of free of cost cylinders** have been provided under Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana to the beneficiaries of the scheme during covid-19 crisis.
116. Govt decided to extend the benefit of **Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) scheme** to all export goods to boost export. RoDTEP scheme will refund embedded **Central, State and local taxes to exporters** that were so far not being given rebate or refunded.
117. The **UJALA** (Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LEDs for All) and **SLNP** (Street Lighting National Programme) completed **six years of successful implementation**. The two programmes revamped household and public lighting system across the country. Under UJALA, the EESL distributed 6.69 crores of LED bulbs.
118. The **Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas** recently launched **SAKSHAM** awareness campaign. The campaign will spread awareness about clean energy. It is a **one-month long** people centric fuel conservation campaign. The campaign is to be launched by the Petroleum Conservation Research Association (**PCRA**).
119. The UJALA (Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LEDs for All) and SLNP (Street Lighting National Programme) completed **six years** of successful implementation. The two programmed revamped household and public lighting system across the country. Under UJALA, the EESL **distributed 6.69 crores of LED** bulbs. The EESL installed more than **1.1 crores of LED streetlights** under SLNP.
120. On January 15, 2021, the Government of India has launched the third phase of **Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana**. 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. Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana 3.0 is to **train more than 1 lakh candidates** for a period of one year with an investment of Rs. 950 crores.
121. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs recently chaired by Prime Minister approved an ambitious **scheme to boost the industrial development of 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**.
122. Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** announced the launch of Rs 1,000-crore '**Startup India Seed Fund**' to support startups and help budding entrepreneurs pursue innovative ideas. The action plan of this initiative is focusing on **three areas**:
- *Simplification and Handholding.*
 - *Funding Support and Incentives.*
 - *Industry-Academia Partnership and Incubation.*

- The Government of India has approved the ‘**Startup India Seed Fund Scheme**’ (SISFS) to provide financial assistance to startups for proof of concept, prototype development, product trials, market entry and commercialization.
- *SISFS shall provide financial assistance to startups via a corpus of Rs. 945 cr 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.*

ECONOMY & BUSINESS

123. **Bajaj Auto** has become **world’s most valuable two-wheeler company**, after crossing a market capitalization of more than Rs. 1 lakh crore.
124. **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade**, under Ministry of Commerce & Industry has organized ‘**Udyog Manthan** - a marathon of focused sector-specific webinars for promoting Quality and Productivity in Indian Industry’. It has been launched in association with **Quality Council of India, National Productivity Council, and Industry bodies**.
125. Union Education Minister **Ramesh Pokhriyal ‘Nishank’** and Textile Minister **Smriti Zubin Irani** jointly launched ‘**Toycathon 2021**’, with an aim to conceptualize innovative toys based on the Indian value system.
126. Railway Minister Piyush Goyal launched **Freight Business Development Portal** as one stop solution for all the needs of freight customers. The new portal will be game changer in ensuring ease of doing business with Railways.
127. The Government of India is to construct the **largest floating solar energy project** in the world. The project is to be constructed at **Omkareshwar Dam** on **Narmada** river. The project will begin its power generation by 2022 to 2023.
128. The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) recently fined the Reliance Industries Limited and its Managing Director Mukesh Ambani. The fine was imposed for carrying out manipulative trade in Reliance Petroleum Limited. **SEBI imposed Rs 25 crores on Reliance**.
129. The Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched and addressed Start-up India International Summit, **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.
130. The Union **Ministry of Commerce and Industry** recently announced that the new **Foreign Trade Policy:2021-26** which is to come into effect from 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.
131. First advanced estimates of national income have been released by National Statistical Office (NSO), MOSPI. As per the estimate, India’s GDP is expected to **contract by 7.7%** in the current fiscal year 2020-21. Sector wise contraction as per NSO:
- Manufacturing sector is to contract by 9.4% compared to 0.03% in the previous fiscal.
 - Agriculture sector to grow by 3.4% in 2020-21.
 - Services sectors, trade, hotel, transport to contract by 21.4% compared to growth of 3.6% a year ago.

132. Elon Musk-owned electric vehicle (EV) company **Tesla** has registered its fully owned subsidiary in Bengaluru with name '**Tesla India Motors and Energy Private Limited**'.
133. **NITI Aayog** has collaborated with **Flipkart** to launch **revamped Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP)**
134. **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** has approved acquisition of **Aditya Birla Fashion and Retail Ltd (ABFRL)** by **Flipkart Investments Pvt Ltd (FIPL)**.
135. 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 **River Chenab** in Jammu and Kashmir.
136. The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (**DPIIT**) recently launched a regulatory compliance portal. The portal is to act as a bridge between the industries, citizens, and the government in minimising burdensome compliances.
137. **FICCI** has forecasted **India's gross domestic product (GDP) to contract by 8% in 2020-21**, according to its Economic Outlook Survey. **FICCI** expect the economy to perform better with GDP growth rate of 9.6% in FY22.
138. The Larsen & Toubro (L&T) has bagged a contract worth Rs 1390 crore for the Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train project. 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).
139. The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) and Azim Premji University have put forward the Udyog Sahayak Enterprises Network (USENET) framework draft policy.
140. **National Statistical Office (NSO)** released the **First Revised Estimate of GDP** of for FY 2019-20 and 2nd Revised Estimates for FY 2018-19 & 3rd Revised Estimates for 2017-18. (Base Year 2011-12).
Nominal GDP for FY 2019-20 is estimated at ₹203.51 lakh crore as against ₹188.87 lakh crore for the year 2018-19, showing a growth of 7.8 per cent during 2019-20 as compared to 10.5% during 2018-19.
Real GDP for FY 2019-20 and 2018-19 stands at ₹145.69 lakh crore and ₹140.03 lakh crore, respectively.

SSC CGL
Tier I

Get Your All India Rank

Take a **FREE** Mock Test



FINANCE & BANKING

141. **GST Revenue collection** for last month has been recorded to be an **all-time high** (1 lakh 15 thousand 174 crore rupees) since the implementation of the **Goods and Services Tax** in the country. The revenue collected is **12 per cent** higher than the GST revenues in the corresponding period lasting last financial year.
142. International Financial Services Centres Authority (**IFSCA**) has become an **Associate Member** of International Organization of Securities Commissions (**IOSCO**). With this, IFSCA will get the platform to exchange information at global and regional level. **IOSCO** is an International organisation covering more than 95% of

world's securities markets. **HQs: Madrid, Spain. IFSCA** is a Unified authority to regulate all financial services in IFSCs. HQs: Gandhinagar, Gujarat.

143. **Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation** has signed MoU with **UNDP India** to co-create **India's first 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.
144. **ADB** has signed **USD 231 million** loan with **Govt of India** to augment electricity generation capacity in Assam. This is the 3rd tranche loan for '**Assam Power Sector Investment Programme**' that was approved in July 2014.
145. **RBI** has launched **Digital Payments Index (DPI)** to capture the extent of digitization of digital/electronic payments. It has 5 broad parameters for measurement of deepening and penetration of digital payments:
- **Payment Enablers**
 - **Payment Infrastructure**
 - **Payment Infrastructure**
 - **Payment Performance**
 - **Consumer Centricity**
146. **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has signed **USD100 million loan agreement** with **Govt of India** to modernize and upgrade the power distribution system in Bengaluru to enhance the quality and reliability of electricity supply in the city.
147. **Govt of India, Govt of West Bengal and World Bank** has signed **USD 105 million** agreement for **West Bengal Inland Water Transport, Logistics and Spatial Development project** to improve inland water transport infrastructure in Kolkata, West Bengal.
148. **RBI** has introduced **Legal Entity Identifier (LEI) system** for all payment transactions of value Rs .50 crore and above using **Centralized Payment Systems operated by RBI** like Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS) and National Electronic Funds Transfer (NEFT). **LEI** is a 20-digit number used to uniquely identify parties for financial transactions worldwide. It has been introduced in phased manner. LEI can be obtained in India from **Legal Entity Identifier India Ltd. (LEIL)**.
149. **Shivalik Mercantile Co-operative Bank (SMCB)** has become **first urban co-operative bank (UCB)** in India to receive license from RBI to operate as a **Small Finance Bank (SFB)**. **SMCB** bank received commercial banking license from banking regulator RBI to transition to a SFB, under the voluntary transition scheme. The bank will start its banking operations from April 2021. **SMCB** is headquartered at **Saharanpur, Uttar Pradesh**.
150. The **IRDAI** is to introduce standard products covering the risk of fire and allied perils. The policy being introduced is to replace the Standard Fire and Special Perils Policy. It has three main components namely the **Bharat Griha Raksha, Bharat Laghu Udyam Suraksha** and **Bharat Sookshma Udyam Suraksha**.
151. 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 tier-3 to tier-6 centres and in the north eastern states.
152. New Development Bank (NDB) has signed **USD 646 million loan agreements** with **Govt of India** for two road projects in Andhra Pradesh.

153. The Reserve Bank of India recently formed an advisory council under former deputy governor N S Vishwanathan to advise the director of the central bank on supervisory colleges. The council will identify areas where upskilling and building are required in supervisory colleges.
154. The Reserve Bank of India recently released to the financial stability report for December 2020. This is the 22nd issue of financial stability report of the apex bank. It is released twice a year. The Gross Non-Performing Assets Ratio of the scheduled commercial banks is to increase to 13.5% by September 2021.
- 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.
155. The Reserve Bank of India recently constituted a working group on digital lending. The working group was constituted to study all aspects of digital lending activities in the regulated and regulated financial sector. The working group will ensure that an appropriate regulatory approach is put in the digital lending platform.
- The working group consists of both internal and external members. The internal members include Jayant Kumar Dash as Chairman.
156. Punjab National 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.
157. RBI has set up an academic advisory council 'College of Supervisors (CoS)' to strengthen supervision over regulated entities. It will be headed by former deputy governor N S Viswanathan and will have five other members.
158. Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs, CBIC has taken a new initiative to introduce its flagship Liberalised MSME AEO Package. 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.
159. Bank of Baroda has signed an MoU with the SIDBI to enable MSMEs to apply online for one-time restructuring (OTR). The bank's MSME customers can now access the web-based portal, 'Asset Restructuring Module for MSMEs (ARM-MSME)'.
160. State Bank of India and Indian Oil Corporation launched a co-branded contactless Rupay debit card.
161. RBI issued 'Risk Based Internal Audit (RBIA) Framework' for Strengthening Governance arrangements of banks as part of internal control framework which will be applicable to:
- All Scheduled Commercial Banks (Excluding RRBs)
 - Local Area Banks
 - Small Finance Banks and
 - Payments Banks
- 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.

162. **RBI** has **cancelled** the license of **Vasantdada Nagari Sahakari Bank, Maharashtra**, with immediate effect from January 11, 2021. The move is taken as the bank has failed to comply with **Section 11(1) and Section 56 of Banking regulation Act**.
163. **IRDAI** has constituted '**Health Insurance Advisory Committee**' to examine availability of health insurance products. It has been formed considering the need of the Indian society and recommend suitable products and processes. Committee will be headed by IRDAI Chairperson, **Subhash Chandra Khuntia**.
164. **Yes Bank** launches the '**YES BANK Wellness**' and '**YES BANK Wellness Plus**' Credit Cards – aimed at the holistic health, self-care and wellness of consumers.
165. **State Bank of India (SBI)** has launched loan settlement schemes 'Rin Samadhan Yojna' in **Mahrashtra**. 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.
166. **India Post Payments Bank (IPPB)** has collaborated with **Financial Software and Systems (FSS)** to promote financial inclusion among underserved and unbanked segments. Under this, IPPB will use **FSS' Aadhaar Enabled Payment System (AePS)** to provide interoperable and affordable doorstep banking services to customers across India.
167. **ICICI Bank** has launched mobile app named as '**InstaFX**' for authorized money changers, helping customers of any bank get '**ICICI Bank Forex Prepaid Card**' swiftly.
168. **Airtel Payments Bank** has launched secure mode of payment gateway titled as '**Airtel Safe Pay**' to protect Airtel customers from incidents of online payment frauds.
169. **Axis Bank** has rolled out '**AURA**' **credit card** exclusively loaded with several health and wellness benefits for its users at an affordable price.
170. **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has retained **State Bank of India, ICICI Bank** and **HDFC Bank** as domestic systemically important banks (**D-SIBs**) or banks that are considered as '**too big to fail**'.
171. **RBI** has suggested tougher regulatory framework for **non-banking finance companies (NBFCs)** to prevent recurrence of any systemic risk. It will be based on **4-layer structure**:
- Base layer (NBFC-BL)
 - Middle layer (NBFC-ML)
 - Upper layer (NBFC-UL)
 - Top layer
172. Revisions for lower layers will also be applicable to NBFCs in higher layers. Current threshold of **₹500 crore** for systemic importance is to be revised to **₹1,000 crore**. Extant NPA classification norm will be reduced to 90 days
173. **Company Law Committee (CLC)** has recommended that **12 offences under LLP Act should be decriminalized** and LLPs must be allowed to issue NCDs to raise funds improving ease of doing business for limited liability partnership (LLP) firms. CLC was headed by Corporate Affairs Secretary **Rajesh Verma**.
174. 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 "Green Tax". Th decision was taken to curb pollution. It will also motivate people to switch to environment-friendly alternatives to the vehicles.

175. Union Health Minister, **Harsh Vardhan** has addressed 4th edition of **Future Investment Initiative (FII) Forum**. Hosted by **Public Investment Fund of Saudi Arabia (PIF)** with an aim to find solutions on how business and government can expand access to healthcare, train healthcare workers, remove regulatory barriers and encourage investment in technologies
176. Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** has inaugurated virtually **new Bench of National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) at 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.
177. **HDFC Bank** has joined hands with **CSC e-Governance Services India Ltd** to provide EMI Collection Services for **CSC-HDFC Bank's Business Correspondents** across the country.

RBI Grade B |

Get Your All India Rank

Phase I

Take a **FREE** Mock Test



AWARDS & RECOGNITION

178. The United States recently passed the Malala Yousafzai Act for Pakistani Women. The Act requires the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to award at least 50% of scholarship to Pakistani women between 2020 and 2022.
179. 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, Gurugram.
180. Tribal Affairs Minister **Arjun Munda** virtually received **SKOCH Challenger Award**, conferred to the Ministry of Tribal Affairs for e-Governance.
181. Govt has announced **Subhash Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar 2021** on the birth anniversary of **Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose (23 Jan)**. The award was given in 2 categories:
- **Institutional category:** *Sustainable Environment and Ecological Development Society*
 - **Individual category:** *Rajendra Kumar Bhandari*
182. **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 **7 Padma Vibhushan, 10 Padma Bhushan** and **102 Padma Shri**
- **Padma Vibhushan:** *Shinzo Abe and late singer SP Balasubramaniam*
 - **Padma Bhushan:** *Tarun Gogoi and Keshubhai Patel, Ram Vilas Paswan, Sumitra Mahajan*
183. **51st edition of International Film Festival of India (IFFI)** was held from **16 to 24 January 2021** in Goa. Bangladesh was country of focus in the festival. 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.*

184. **Election Commission of India (ECI)** has conferred **Office of Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Meghalaya** for Special Award for Information Technology (IT) applications in the category of **National Best Electoral Practices Awards 2020.**

PERSON IN NEWS

185. Former Eastern Railway GM **Suneet Sharma** (SCRA Officer of the 1978 batch) has been appointed as the new **Chairman** and CEO of the Railway Board.
186. **Soma Mondal** has taken over as the **Chairman of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL)** with effect from January 1, 2021.
187. **Umesh Sinha** has been appointed as the **deputy election commissioner in the Election Commission of India.**
188. **Nazhat Shameem Khan** has been elected as the **President of UN Human Rights Council for 2021.** Nazhat Shameem Khan is the **Permanent Representative of Fiji to the United Nations.**
Human Rights Council HQs: **Geneva, Switzerland.**
189. **Govt** has nominated **28 non-official members** on **National Startup Advisory Council** for 2 years. Council has been set up by **Dept for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)** to advise govt on measures needed to build an ecosystem for nurturing innovation. Council members consist of founders of successful startups, veterans, etc. such as:
- Byju Raveendran (Founder of Byju's)
 - Lizzie Chapman (ZestMoney Co-founder)
 - Kris Gopalkrishnan (Axilor Ventures founder)
190. Union Sports and Youth Affairs Minister **Kiren Rijiju** has been given the **additional charge of Ministry of AYUSH.**
191. Goa CM Pramod Sawant released a book '**Manohar Parrikar- Off the Record**' at a function organized at Institute Menezes Braganza hall in the city. The book has been written by senior journalist Waman **Subha Prabhu.**
192. Flight lieutenant **Bhawana Kanth** will be the **1st woman fighter pilot** to take part in the Republic Day parade on 26 January 2021. She is one of the **first women fighter pilots to be inducted in IAF.**
193. **Siddhartha Mohanty** has been appointed as **Managing Director of Life Insurance Corporation (LIC).**
194. **Supreme Court** has recently **upheld the validity of Section 32 A of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC)** that mandated minimum of 100 home buyers to file an insolvency application together in National Company Law Tribunal against defaulting developer.

195. **Swaminathan Janakiraman** and **Ashwini Kumar Tewari** has been appointed as **Managing Directors (MDs)** of **State Bank of India (SBI)** for 3 years.
196. Leader of the Reform Party, **Kaja Kallas** has been elected as the new **Prime Minister of Estonia**. She is **first female Prime Minister of Baltic country, Estonia**.
197. Lieutenant General **Chandi Prasad Mohanty** has been appointed as the **new Vice-chief of Army staff**.
198. **R. S. Sharma** 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).

OBITUARIES

199. Ace mountaineer Colonel **Narendra 'Bull' Kumar** has passed away in New Delhi due to age-related illness.
200. Former Union Minister and senior Rajasthan Congress leader **Buta Singh** passed away. He served as the Home Minister of India during Rajiv Gandhi govt from 1986 to 1989.
201. Ace fashion designer **Satya Paul**, known for giving the **Indian Saree** a contemporary touch, passed away.
202. Veteran Congress leader **Madhavsinh Solanki** passed away at his residence in Gandhinagar. He served as the **Chief Minister of Gujarat thrice between 1976 to 1990** and was the longest serving chief minister of the state before Narendra Modi.
203. Veteran Malayalam actor **Unnikrishnan Namboothiri (98 years)** passed away due to COVID-19.
204. Former Governor of Arunachal Pradesh and senior Congress leader **Mata Prasad** passed away. Mata Prasad hailed from Jaunpur district of Uttar Pradesh.
205. Famous Indian Bhajan singer **Narendra Chanchal** passed away in Delhi due to age-related ailment.
206. Former Indian National Football team goalkeeper, **Prasanta Dorap** passed away.
207. Noted economist **Shaibal Gupta** passed away after a prolonged illness. He was the founder of the **Asia Development Research Institute (ADRI)**.



SEBI Grade A Get Your All India Rank Take a FREE Mock Test

IMPORTANT DAYS

208. **World Braille Day** is being observed every year on **4th January** to celebrate the birth anniversary of **Louis Braille**. Louis Braille was the inventor of Braille.

209. **World Hindi Day** or **World Hindi Diwas** is observed annually on **January 10** to promote Hindi language across the globe.
210. Every year the **Pravasi Bharatiya Divas** is celebrated on **January 9**. Theme: **Contributing to Atma Nirbhar Bharat**. It is celebrated to mark the contribution of overseas Indian community towards the development of India.
211. Every year **National Youth Day** is celebrated on **January 12**. It is also called the “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**.
212. **Indian Army Day** is observed every year on **15 January** to honor our valiant soldiers who sacrificed their lives to protect the country and its citizens.
213. Government of India has decided to celebrate the birth anniversary of **Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose** that falls on **January 23** as '**Parakram Diwas**'.
214. **National Girl Child Day (NGCD)** is observed every year on **January 24**. On this occasion, **Punjab** has launched **Dheeiyen Di Lohri** scheme and announced **January 2021 to be the ‘month of the girl child’**
215. The **National Voters’ Day (NVD)** is being celebrated every year on **January 25** By **Election Commission of India**. The Day was introduced in **2011**, all across the country to mark the **foundation day of Election Commission of India (25th January 1950)**. Theme for 2021: **‘Making Our Voters Empowered, Vigilant, Safe and Informed’**.
216. **National Tourism Day** in India is celebrated every year on 25 January. Theme of National Tourism Day 2021: **'Dekho Apna Desh'**
217. India observed **72nd Republic Day** on 26 January 2021 at Rajpath in New Delhi. **Republic Day** marks the date on which the **Constitution of India** came into effect on **26 January 1950**. Our constitution replaced **Government of India Act 1935** as the governing document of India.
218. **International Customs Day (ICD)** is observed every year on **26 January**. Theme 2021: **Customs bolstering Recovery, Renewal and Resilience**. It was introduced by **World Customs Organization (WCO)** in **1953**. WCO HQs: **Brussels, Belgium**.
219. **International Day of Education** is observed every year on **24 January** across the globe. International Day of Education was held for the first time in 2019. Theme of 3rd International Day of Education: **‘Recover and Revitalize Education for the COVID-19 Generation’**.
220. **Data Privacy Day (Data Protection Day)** is observed every year on **28 January**.
221. 30th January 2021 marked the second annual World Neglected Tropical Diseases Day.

SPORTS

222. The Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports **Kiren Rijiju** recently launched the Assam Rifles Public School as a **Khelo India Sports School** in Shillong.

223. Nubra Adventure Club has organized **1st ever Ice climbing festival** has been started in Nubra valley, **Leh**. It is a **7-day event** and will promote winter tourism in valley.
224. **First Khelo India Zaskar Winter Sports Festival** has begun to engage the Youth and opening new vistas of tourism in **Zaskar**.
225. **Sports Ministry** has decided to name all upcoming and upgraded sporting facilities of the Sports Authority of India, after renowned athletes, who have contributed to sports in India.
226. **Badminton World Federation (BWF)** conducted **Yonex Thailand Open Super 1000 badminton tournament** from 12 to 17 January 2021.
Men's Single: **Viktor Axelsen of Denmark** by defeating Angus Long (Hong Kong)
Women's Single: **Carolina Marin of Spain** by defeating Tai Tzu-ying (Taiwan).
227. **Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)** has won **10th National Ice Hockey Championship trophy**, after defeating team Ladakh with the score line goals of 5-1. **National Ice Hockey Championship** was organized by **Ice Hockey Association of India (IHAI)** at Gulmarg Ice Rink, in Jammu and Kashmir.

SSC CGL
Tier I

Get Your All India Rank

Take a **FREE** Mock Test

