





BAZOOKA

MONTHLY CURRENT AFFAIRS MAGAZINE

APRIL-2021 COVERAGE



CONTENTS

CONTENTS.....	2
NATIONAL AFFAIRS.....	3
STATES AFFAIRS.....	6
INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS.....	6
REPORTS & INDICES.....	10
GOVERNMENT SCHEMES & PROGRAMMES.....	13
ECONOMY & BUSINESS.....	16
FINANCE & BANKING.....	19
AWARDS & RECOGNITION.....	24
PERSON IN NEWS.....	26
OBITUARIES.....	27
IMPORTANT DAYS.....	29
SPORTS.....	32

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

1. The biggest floating solar power plant of India is to be set up at Ramagundam in **Telangana**. **Ramagundam Solar Power Plant** capacity is 100 MW. It is expected to be opened in May 2021.
2. The **Defence Research and Development Organization** has recently **allowed the private sector firms to develop and produce missile systems**. Also, they can make partnership with DRDO in Missile production. This is being done under the **Development cum Production Partner Programme**. The organization has already received bids for the Vertically-launched Short range Surface to Air Missile System.
3. The Defence Research and Development Organization recently developed an Advanced Chaff Technology to safeguard naval ships against missile attacks. One of the DRDO laboratories located in Jodhpur developed three variants of the **Advanced Chaff Technology**. They were Short Range Chaff Rocket, Long Range Chaff Rocket and Medium Range Chaff Rocket.
4. The **Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying** operating under the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying and Ministry of AYUSH signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to introduce the concept of Ayurveda and its allied disciplines into veterinary science.
5. The Atal Innovation Mission, **Centre for Innovations in Public Systems (CIPS)** and **NITI Aayog** has recently announced collaboration to reinforce entrepreneurship and innovation ecosystem in India. The CIPS and Atal Innovation Mission signed a Statement of Intent to promote innovation in the area of public system.
6. The **TRIFED** (Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation Limited), Ministry of Tribal Affairs and the Government of India have launched two competitions for the tribal people. They are "**Be the Brand Ambassador of Tribes India**" and "**Be a Friend of TRIBES INDIA**" contest. The contests were launched in association with MyGov.in.
7. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare recently approved the "**National Policy for Rare Diseases, 2021**". The policy focuses on early screening and prevention of rare diseases. This is to be achieved through Health and Wellness Centres.
8. The Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (**TRIFED**) operating under Ministry of Tribal Affairs recently launched the "**SANKALP SE SIDDHI**". SANKALP SE SIDDHI It is a hundred-day drive. The main aim of the drive is to activate the Van Dhan Vikas Kendras located in tribal villages. It aims to cover 1,500 villages in India
9. Union Health Minister **Harsh Vardhan** and Tribal Affairs Minister **Arjun Munda** has virtually launched Tribal Health Collaborative '**Anamaya**'

**SBI PO
Prelims**

Compare Your Performance with that of the Topper
Take a **FREE** Mock Test



- **Anamaya** is multi-stakeholder initiative that will converge efforts of various Government agencies and organisations to enhance the health and nutrition status of the tribal communities.
 - Supported by: **Piramal Foundation** and **Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation**
10. Education Minister **Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'** has launched NanoSniffer, the world's first Microsensor based Explosive Trace Detector (ETD). It was developed by IIT Bombay team. **NanoSniffer** provides trace detection of the nano-gram quantity of explosives and delivers results in seconds.
11. Union Education Minister **Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'** has presented **AICTE Lilavati Awards 2020 on women empowerment** to the winners.
- Awards aims to create awareness about issues like sanitation, hygiene, health, nutrition, literacy, employment, technology, credit, marketing, innovation, skill development, natural resources and rights among women
12. NITI Aayog will launch first-of-its kind **Online Dispute Resolution (ODR) handbook** in India. ODR is the resolution of disputes outside courts, particularly of small and medium-value cases, using digital technology and techniques of alternate dispute resolution such as negotiation, mediation, and arbitration.
13. Indian Army's Lieutenant Colonel Army man **Bharat Pannu** has made **two Guinness World Records for fastest solo cycling**
- He made the 1st record by cycling from **Leh to Manali (472) km** on Oct 10, 2020, in 35 hours, 32 min, 22 seconds
 - His second record saw him begin cycling **5,942-km-long 'Golden Quadrilateral' route**, which connects Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata. He started from India Gate, New Delhi, and, complete the route in 14 days, 23 hours and 52 minutes

**SBI Clerk
Prelims**

Get to Know Your Weak Areas
Take a **FREE** Mock Test



14. **NITI Aayog**, along with **Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation** and **Centre for Social and Behaviour Change, Ashoka University** has launched '**Poshan Gyan**'. It is a **national digital repository on health and nutrition**.
15. PM Narendra Modi has virtually inaugurated **2021 Raisina Dialogue (6th edition)**. It will be held from **April 13 to 16, 2021**, in fully digital form for the 1st time due to COVID-19.
- Theme for 2021 conference: "**#ViralWorld: Outbreaks, Outliers and Out of Control**"
 - It is being organised by **Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)** and **Observer Research Foundation**.
 - **Raisina Dialogue** is India's flagship conference on geopolitics and geoeconomics, organised annually since 2016.
16. Law Minister **Ravi Shankar Prasad** has launched **Online Grievance Management Portal of National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSCs)**.
- Currently, complaints of victims, who are members of Scheduled Caste are processed manually in the commission. This new mechanism has been introduced to handle the complaints in online mode from the victim.
17. Secretary of Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) **Ajay Prakash Sawhney** has inaugurated **three initiatives for National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI)**. Three NIXI's initiative:
- **IP Guru**: It will support all Indian entities to migrate and adopt Internet Protocol version (IPv6)
 - **NIXI Academy**: It will educate technical and non-technical people in India about technologies
 - **NIXI-IP-INDEX portal**: It will showcase IPv6 adoption rate in India and world
18. **Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)** and **NITI Aayog** has signed MoU with **Dassault Systems Foundation** for Innovation and digitally rich ecosystem among aspiring young minds
- Dassault Systems is dedicated to transform the future of education and research in India with 3D technologies.

- Foundation will contribute to Atal Tinkering Labs program in 3 broad areas: **project based, self-paced learning content, hackathons & challenges** and **inter-country academia collaborations**



19. Housing and Urban Affairs Minister **Hardeep Singh Puri** has virtually launched **EatSmart Cities Challenge** and **Transport 4 All Challenge**.
- **EatSmart Cities Challenge:** It is a competition among cities to recognize their efforts in adopting and scaling up various initiatives under Eat Right India
20. **Transport 4 All Challenge:** It aims to bring together cities, citizen groups, and start-ups to develop solutions that improve public transport to better serve the needs of all citizens.
21. **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)** has announced **#FOSS4GOV Innovation Challenge** to accelerate adoption of **Free and Open Source Software (FOSS)** in Govt departments.

STATES AFFAIRS

22. **Haryana** government has approved allotment of 140 acre of land to **Flipkart** for setting up its **largest fulfilment centre in Asia**.
- It will cover an area of 3 million square feet of land belonging to **Haryana State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (HSIIDC)** at a price of **Rs 3.22 crore** per acre to Instakart Services Private Limited (Flipkart subsidiary)
23. Renowned actor, **Sonu Sood** has been appointed as the **Covid-19 vaccine campaign** ambassador by **Punjab** Chief Minister Amarinder Singh.
- Sonu Sood launched **Sanjeevani A Shot of Life** vaccination drive to spread awareness about the Covid-19 vaccine and get our people vaccinated.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

24. The **US Navy** recently conducted **Freedom of Navigation Operation** in the **Indian Ocean Region** near **Lakshadweep**. During the operation, the US warship entered the Exclusive Economic Zone of India without seeking prior consent from India. The warship that entered Indian EEZ was a Arleigh Burke-class guided missile destroyer **USS John Paul Jones**.
25. The Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently held a high-level programme with the President of **Seychelles**. The Prime Minister presented several gifts to Seychelles during the meet.
- During the meet, the two leaders jointly inaugurated the new **Magistrate Court building** in Seychelles.
 - The Prime Minister handed over a Fast Patrol Vessel of worth Rs 100 crores and a Solar Power Plant with a capacity of 1 MW.
 - The leaders also inaugurated ten High Impact Community Development Projects (HICDP).
26. The International Monetary Fund recently announced **Solidarity Tax on Pandemic Winners**. That is, the companies that prospered during COVID-19 crisis should pay additional tax to show solidarity towards those hit hardest by the pandemic. Solidarity Tax suggested by IMF is a temporary tax. It shall be imposed to reduce social inequalities
27. India recently hosted the **BRICS Finance Ministers Meet**. This was the first BRICS meet under the **chairmanship of India** in 2021. As 2021 BRICS Chair, India aims to focus on strengthening intra-BRICS cooperation based on continuity, consolidation and consensus.
28. The **World largest solar company Longi Green** is to enter the Hydrogen Market. Longi Green is a **Chinese company** that manufactures solar panels, wafers and solar cells.
29. The **World Bank and International Monetary Fund** have launched a **platform to advise the poor countries on funding for conservation and climate activities**. Both the financial organizations will use the platform to factor climate change into negotiations about reducing debt burdens of poor countries.
30. The Union Cabinet recently apprised a MoU (Memorandum of Understanding) signed between India and Japan. The MoU was signed between **National Atmospheric Research Laboratory (NARL)** that operates under Department of Space, GoI and the Research Institute for Sustainable Humanosphere called the RISH that operates under Kyoto University of Japan.
31. **Singapore** has ratified world's largest free trade agreement, **Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) agreement**, led by China. Singapore became 1st among 15 participating countries to ratify RCEP.

SSC CHSL
Tier I**Get Your All India Rank**Take a **FREE** Mock Test

- **RCEP** is a multi-nation trade pact, comprising **10 ASEAN economies** as well as **Australia, China, Japan, New Zealand** and **South Korea**. RCEP was signed by 15 participating countries in Nov 2020
32. Tropical cyclone '**Seroja**' has ripped across **1000 km stretch of Western Australia**, leaving a trail of damage. It is 3-storm category that made landfall near the town of Kalbarri with gusts of up to 170 kilometers per hour.
33. **Ministry of Civil Aviation** has finalized an air **bubble agreement** with **Sri Lanka**. Under this, all eligible passengers will be able to travel between the two countries in the near future.
- Sri Lanka has become **6th country in SAARC region** to enter such agreement with India.
 - With this, India now has such pacts with 28 countries, including **Afghanistan, Bahrain, Canada, France, Germany, Iraq, Japan, the Maldives, Nigeria, Qatar, UAE, UK and US**.
34. Ecuadorian businessman and politician **Guillermo Alberto Santiago Lasso Mendoza** has been elected as the President of Ecuador. He defeated **Andrés Arauz** in the 2021 general election
35. **ISRO** has signed an agreement with space agency of France **CNES** for **cooperation in its first human space mission, Gaganyaan**.
36. **Italy** has virtually launched first ever mega food park project named as '**The Mega Food Park**' in India, comprising of food processing facilities.
- The Food Park was launched at **Fanidhar Mega Food Park, in Gujarat**.
37. **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), India** and **German Federal Ministry of Environment** signed an agreement on Technical Cooperation titled as '**Cities Combating Plastic Entering the Marine Environment**'
- It is in line with Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban focusing on sustainable solid waste management by 2022

38. **New Zealand** has become **1st country in the world to introduce a first-of-its-kind legislation** that will require the financial sector, including banks, insurers and investment managers, to report the effects of climate change on their business.
- Under this, financial firms will have to disclose how they would manage climate-related risks and opportunities.
 - First reports will be made by companies in **2023**, and those unable to disclose would have to explain their reasons.
39. Russia's space agency **Roscosmos** will be launching its own orbital station in **2025** as Moscow considers withdrawing from **International Space Station (ISS) programme** amid tensions soaring with the West
- Russia lost its monopoly for manned flights to ISS last year after the first successful mission of U.S. company Space X
40. **India** has been elected to three bodies of the **UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)** by acclamation, for a **three-year term** beginning January 1, 2022.
41. **NASA** has successfully flown its tiny robotic helicopter '**Ingenuity**' on Mars becoming the first human-made powered controlled flight machine to take flight on another planet.
42. **China's** first Mars rover will be named **Zhurong** after a traditional fire god. The rover is aboard the **Tianwen-1** probe that arrived in **Mars** orbit on February 24 and is due to land in May.
43. The **19th edition of Indian and French Navy bilateral exercise** titled as '**VARUNA-2021**' has been commenced in the Arabian Sea
- The exercise will be conducted from **25th to 27th April 2021**.
 - INS Kolkata, INS Tarkash, INS Talwar and Chetak integral helicopters will participate in the exercise
 - It was initiated in **1983** as Indo-French naval cooperation plays a key role in the two countries' joint vision for a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific.

**SBI Clerk
Prelims**

Get to Know Your Weak Areas
Take a **FREE** Mock Test



44. **Saudi Arabia** will join **United States, Canada, Norway, and Qatar** in forming ‘**Net Zero Producers Forum**’ for oil and gas producers

- The forum will about the implementation of the Paris Agreement on climate change and ways to achieve net zero carbon emission targets to limit global warming.
- Saudi Arabia aims to reduce its carbon emissions by generating 50% of the country's energy from renewables by 2030.

REPORTS & INDICES

45. The **International Monetary Fund** recently released the **World Economic Outlook** titled “**Managing Divergent Recoveries**”. The report has predicted GDP growth of India for the current fiscal year 2022 to be **12.5%**. This is 1% higher than the previous projection of 11.5% in January 2021.

46. The National Statistical Office operating under Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (**MoSPI**) recently released the **Women and Men in India report**. The report consolidates the crucial socio-economic indicators that portray gender situation in the country. This is the twenty second issue in its series. The report is published annually by the MoSPI.

47. **The World in 2030: Public Survey Report** was recently published by **UNESCO**. The report was published by the organization based on the survey held between May 2020 and September 2020. The survey collected responses from more than 15,000 people from all over the world.

- According to the report, Climate Change, Violence and Conflict, Loss of Biodiversity and discrimination and inequality, water and housing, lack of food are the four biggest challenges to peaceful societies of 2030.
- According to the participants, education is the only crucial solution to many difficulties to be faced in 2030. However, the North Americans (US, Canada) believe in science and not in education.
- Apart from education, the only other solution is international cooperation.

48. The **World Economic Forum** has released the **Global Gender Gap Report 2021**. India has seen a decrease in its ranking on the index by 28 places. **India has been ranked 140th among 156 countries** on the index. With this, India became the third-worst performer in South Asia.
49. A new report titled **Forest Governance by Indigenous and Tribal Peoples** has been released by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (**FAO**) and the **Fund for the Development of Indigenous Peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean (FILAC)**.
- The deforestation rates in the Caribbean and Latin America are lower in Indigenous and Tribal territories.
 - On the basis of over 300 studies published in the last two decades, the new report highlights that Indigenous and Tribal Peoples have generally been much better guardians of their forests in comparison to those responsible for the region's other forests.
 - Indigenous and tribal peoples and the forests in their territories play important roles in regional and global climate action as well as fighting against hunger, poverty, and malnutrition.
 - These territories contain about 1/3rd of all the carbon stored in the forests of Latin America and the Caribbean and 14% of the carbon stored in tropical forests worldwide.
50. **United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)** has released its flagship '**State of World Population Report 2021**' titled as '**My Body is My Own**'
- This is the first time a UN report has focused on bodily autonomy, defined as the power and agency to make choices about your body
 - **Nearly half the women from 57 developing countries** do not have the right to make decisions regarding their bodies, including using contraception, seeking healthcare or even on their sexuality.
51. **Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU)**, in partnership with **Facebook** has released **Inclusive Internet Index 2021**, that measure the extent to which internet is available and affordable by region
- **India** has been ranked at **49th** globally, among **120 nations** and shares its rank with Thailand.
 - Index score was based on 4 parameters: **Availability, Affordability, Relevance** and **Readiness** categories.

SSC CHSL
Tier I**Get Your All India Rank**Take a **FREE** Mock Test

Top 5 Countries:

- **Sweden**
- **United States**
- **Spain**
- **Australia**
- **Hong Kong**

52. **India** has been ranked **142nd** among **180 countries** in **World Press Freedom Index 2021**.

- India was at **142nd rank in 2020** as well.
- It is published every year by international journalism not-for profit body, '**Reporters Without Borders (RSF)**' to evaluate the press freedom situation in 180 countries and territories.
- **Norway** has retained its top spot for 5th year followed by **Finland** and **Denmark**.
- **Eritrea** is at the **bottom of the index at 180th place** and China is placed at 177th

53. **India** has been placed at **87th position** among 115 countries in the **10th edition of Global Energy Transition Index (ETI)**

- ETI tracks nations on the current performance of their energy systems across various aspects.
- Published by: **World Economic Forum (WEF)** in collaboration with **Accenture**
- **India** was ranked **74th** previous year.
- **Sweden** has topped the index, followed by **Norway, Denmark, Switzerland, and Austria**.
- Zimbabwe is the last ranked country in the index.

54. **India** has retained its position as the **3rd biggest military spender in the world in 2020**, according to '**SIPRI Military Expenditure Database**' published by **Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)**

- Top five biggest military spenders in 2020: US, China, India, Russia and UK
- These five nations together accounted for **62% of global military expenditure**
- Globally, military spending in 2020 rose by 2.6% as compared to 2019 to **\$1981 billion**

55. **India** has been placed at **49th rank** among 104 nations in **Chandler Good Government Index (CGGI) 2021**.

- **Finland** has topped the index, followed by **Switzerland, Singapore, Netherlands, Denmark**
- Venezuela is ranked 104 (last)



SBI Clerk Prelims | **Get to Know Your Weak Areas**
Take a **FREE** Mock Test

GOVERNMENT SCHEMES & PROGRAMMES

56. The Union Cabinet recently approved the **Production Linked Scheme for White Goods** such as Air conditioners and LED lights. The main objective of the scheme is to make manufacturing in India globally competitive. This is to be achieved by creating economies of scale, removing sectoral disabilities and ensuring efficiencies. The scheme will make India an integral part of the global supply chain.

- It is expected that the scheme will attract global investment, enhance exports and generate large scale employment.
- The budget allocated for the scheme is **Rs 6,238 crores**. The amount has been approved by the cabinet.
- The scheme will help to facilitate additional investments of Rs 7,920 crores.
- It will create four lakh jobs.
- The scheme will generate direct and indirect revenues of Rs 49,300 crores.
- The scheme will provide incentive of 4% to 6% to the companies engaged in the manufacturing of Air Conditioners and LED lights.
- The incentives are to be provided for a **period of five years**.

- The scheme is expected to increase production worth Rs 1,68,000 crores and exports worth Rs 64,000 crores.

57. The Union Cabinet has approved a **production-linked incentive scheme for the food processing industry** with an outlay of **Rs 10,900 crore**. The scheme was announced by the Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Piyush Goyal.

- The scheme is a fitting tribute to farmers and it will be helpful in generating employment for 2.5 lakh people.
- The scheme would also lead to additional exports of Rs 30,000 crore to Rs 35,000 crore.

58. The Union Cabinet recently approved the **Production Linked Incentive Scheme called the "National Programme on High Efficiency Solar PV Modules"**. PV stands for Photo Voltaic. They are units that convert light energy into electrical energy.

- The programme aims to achieve manufacturing capacity in Giga Watt scale in high efficiency solar PV modules.
- The total outlay of the scheme has been estimated as **Rs 4,500 crores**.
- The programme aims to bring additional 10,000 MW capacity of integrated solar PV manufacturing units in India.
- It will bring in direct investment of Rs 17,200 crores in solar Photo Voltaic manufacturing projects.
- The demand for "Balance of Materials" is expected to touch Rs 17,500 crores in five years after the launch of the scheme.
- It will bring indirect employment of 1,20,00 and direct employment of 30,000.
- It will stimulate research and development that will achieve higher efficiency in solar PV modules.

59. The Ministry of Rural Development recently announced that under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G), **92% target has been achieved in the first phase of the scheme**.

- According to the Ministry of Rural Development, all the houses in the Permanent Wait List are to be completed by the end of Amrit Mahotsav.

60. The **National Savings Institute** operating under the **Ministry of Finance** recently announced that **West Bengal is the top contributor to the Small Savings Scheme** in the country. The state

contributes 15% of the total corpus. It has so far collected Rs 90,000 crores under the Small Savings Scheme.

- Top performers of Small Savings Scheme
- West Bengal was followed by Uttar Pradesh with a contribution of 15.09%. The state of Uttar Pradesh has collected Rs 69,660 crores.
- Maharashtra was ranked third. The state of Maharashtra contributed 10.57%, which is Rs 63,026 crores.
- Gujarat was ranked fourth. Gujarat contributed 8.16%, that is Rs 48,645 crores.
- Tamil Nadu ranked fifth contributing 4.8%, which is Rs 28,598.



61. The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs recently announced that over twenty lakh street vendors have been provided loans under the PM SVANidhi scheme till March 29, 2021. Of this, eighteen lakh loans were provided by the Public Sector Banks. On the other hand, the private sector banks have provided only 32,534 loans. Bottom line, the private sector banks have provided only 1.6% loans under the PM SVANidhi scheme.
62. Education Minister **Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'** launched '**SARTHAQ**', the implementation plan for **NEP 2020**.
- The full form of **SARTHAQ** is '**Students' and Teachers' Holistic Advancement through Quality Education**.'
 - The plan delineates the roadmap for the implementation of **NEP 2020** for the next **10 years**.
63. Union Health Minister, **Harsh Vardhan** will launch a new mission titled as '**Aahaar Kranti**' with the motto of '**Good Diet-Good Cognition**'
- It aims to spread the message of the need for a nutritionally balanced diet and to understand the importance of accessible to all local fruits and vegetables.
 - It will be organized by **Vijnana Bharati** (Vibha) and Global Indian Scientists' and Technocrats' Forum (GIST)
 - It is designed to address the problem of '**hunger and diseases in abundance**'.

64. **Udhampur** district of Jammu and Kashmir has bagged top position at National level for successfully implementing **Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) during 2020-21**.
- Udhampur has received top position for constructing roads of 560.49 km in 2020-21.
65. Principal Scientific Adviser to Govt of India, **K Vijay Raghavan** has launched a mobile app titled as '**MANAS**' to cater mental well-being of citizens on scalable, secure and digital platforms
- **MANAS: Mental Health and Normalcy Augmentation System.**
 - It is an initiative of Principal Scientific Adviser to Govt of India executed by **NIMHANS Bengaluru, AFMC Pune** and **C-DAC Bengaluru.**
 - The app was developed under Prime Minister's Science, Technology, and Innovation Advisory Council (PM-STIAC).
66. PM Narendra Modi has extended the **SVAMITVA scheme** across entire country.
- About 4.09 lakh property owners were given their e-property cards during the event, in more than 5 thousand villages.
 - **Swamitva** (Survey of Villages and Mapping with Improved Technology in Village Areas) **Scheme:** It is a **Central Sector Scheme** to promote a socio-economically empowered and self-reliant rural India.
 - It will use drones in surveying and mapping of properties in villages.

SSC CGL Tier I | Compare Your Performance with that of the Topper
Take a **FREE** Mock Test 

ECONOMY & BUSINESS

67. In the first four months of ethanol supply year 2020-21, India has reached more than 7.2%. This is the first time India has reached this level. This puts the country right on its course of achieving the target of 10% blending by 2022.
68. The International Monetary Fund recently announced that the **debt to GDP ratio of India increased from 74% to 90% due to COVID-19 crisis**. This is to increase to 99% in 2021. The international financial organisation has also stated that this is to reduce to 80% after economic recovery.
69. The Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) recently announced that **six out of ten active Indian companies are eligible for the new pre-packaged bankruptcy scheme**. This is because out of the

1.3 million active companies in India, 60% belong to the category of MSME (Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises).

- The President of India recently promulgated an ordinance, Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code Amendment Ordinance, 2021. The ordinance will allow pre-packaged insolvency resolution process for the MSMEs.
- Now, the GoI has announced that it has decided on a minimum payment default threshold of Rs 10 lakhs for the initiation of pre-pack resolution process.

70. The Ministry of Finance recently announced that the **businesses with annual turn over of more than Rs 5 crores will have to furnish six-digit HSN code on their tax invoices**. The businesses with an annual turn over of less than five crores of rupees have to furnish four-digit HSN code.

71. The Indian Railways has achieved the highest ever electrification of sections during 2020-21. It has covered 6,015 kilo metres of electrification in a single year. This is 37% higher than that achieved in 2019-20. About the achievements The Broad-Gauge network of Indian Railway currently stand at 63,949 kilo metres.

72. Union Ministry of **Skill Development and Entrepreneurship** (MSDE) will organize the first regional workshop on Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana 3.0 (PMKVY 3.0).

- This will facilitate the state to understand provisions of PMKVY, along with the effective implementation of the scheme in the **North East Region** (NER).

73. **NITI Aayog** has launched **India Energy Dashboards (IED) Version 2.0** to provide single-window access to the energy data enabling easy downloading of data in a cleaner, more intuitive way.

- Energy data published by **Central Electricity Authority, Coal Controller's Organisation**, and **Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas** is compiled in the Dashboards
- **NITI Aayog** launched **Version 1.0** in **May 2017**.
- **Saubhagya, UJALA, PRAAPTI**, and **Vidyut PRAVAH** has been incorporated in the portal

74. Union Commerce & Industry Minister **Piyush Goyal** has launched **DGFT 'Trade Facilitation' mobile app** for promoting ease of doing business and providing quick access to information to importers/exporters

- **App** was **developed** by **Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)** under **Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT)**

75. Minister for Commerce **Piyush Goyal** has inaugurated an electronic marketplace providing a platform to connect aqua farmers and buyers, titled as **e-SANTA**.
- It will raise income, lifestyle, self-reliance, quality levels, traceability and provide new options for aqua farmers.
 - It will change the traditional way of carrying out business with formalized & legally binding methods.
 - e-SANTA: **Electronic Solution for Augmenting NaCSA farmers' Trade in Aquaculture**
76. **Union Ministry of Agriculture** has inked MoU with **Microsoft India** for a pilot project to improve farmers income in selected **100 villages of 6 states**, by creating a vibrant digital agro-ecosystem
- **Microsoft** along with its local partner, **CropData** will implement the project
 - 6 states comprises of **UP, MP, Gujarat, Haryana, Rajasthan** and **Andhra Pradesh**
 - The project has been approved for **1 year**
 - It will develop farmer interface for smart and well-organized agriculture.
77. **Amazon** has launched **\$250 million (Rs 1,873 crore) venture fund** titled as '**Amazon Smbhav Venture Fund**' to invest in Indian startups and entrepreneurs, with focus on digitizing SMEs. **It will focus on three key priorities:**
- Digitization of small and medium businesses (SME) in India
 - Drive innovation in Agri-tech innovations to empower farmer productivity and reach
 - Drive innovation in Health-tech to provide universal and quality health care
78. Commerce and Industry Minister **Piyush Goyal** has chaired **1st meeting of the National Startup Advisory Council**.
- Constituted by: Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade
 - Aim: to advise Govt on measures needed to build a strong ecosystem for nurturing innovation and startups
 - Council will act as the guiding light for many budding startup entrepreneurs in India.
79. Union Minister **Piyush Goyal** has launched **Startup India Seed Fund Scheme (SISFS)**
- It aims to provide financial assistance to startups for proof of concept, prototype development, product trials, market entry and commercialization
 - Govt has approved **Rs. 945 Crore** for SISFS, that will be divided over next 4 years for providing seed funding to eligible startups through eligible incubators across India

- It is expected to support an estimated **3,600 startups through 300 incubators**



SSC CGL Tier I Compare Your Performance with that of the Topper
Take a **FREE** Mock Test

The banner features a light blue background with a geometric pattern. On the right side, there is an illustration of three people standing on a podium with steps labeled 1, 2, and 3, representing a competition or ranking.

FINANCE & BANKING

80. The Ministry of Finance recently announced that the businesses with annual turnover of more than Rs 5 crores will have to furnish six-digit HSN code on their tax invoices. The businesses with an annual turn over of less than five crores of rupees have to furnish four-digit HSN code.
81. The **WazirX**, one of the leading **cryptocurrency exchanges** has recently launched India's first market place for NFT. NFT is Non-Fungible Tokens. The launch will now allow Indian creators to place their digital assets (such as images or videos, music, etc) for auction and earn royalty.
82. The Government of India recently appointed **S Ramann as the Chairman** and Managing Director of **Small Industries and Development Bank of India**. The appointment is for a period of three years. The name of the new Chairman and Managing Director was recommended by **Banks Board Bureau**.
83. The **Asian Development Bank** recently approved **484 million USD for CKIC (Chennai-Kanyakumari Industrial Corridor) in Tamil Nadu**. The project will upgrade 590 km of state highways in the CKIC influence areas. The Climate Change adaptation measures are to be incorporated in the highway upgrades.
84. The Reserve Bank of India recently revised its **Inflation Forecast Model**. The new model will capture how fiscal and monetary policy interact with real economy elements in a better way.
- The new model is broken into three blocks.
 - **The first block** decomposes the primary deficit of the Government into structural and cyclical components. It is also called fiscal block. A structural increase in deficit of the Government will create a positive output gap. This will in turn make borrowings costlier and will eventually depreciate the currency. This means country will face higher inflation. On the other hand, the cyclical shock is negligible.
 - **The second block** includes the complex system of pricing in India. It includes items such as diesel and petrol that are priced on the basis of international oil prices, local taxes and exchange rates. This block is also called the fuel block.

- **The third block** is the Balance of Payment block. This block recognizes the costs that are associated with spurts in volatility in exchange rate.

85. On April 7, 2021, the **Monetary Policy Committee of Reserve Bank of India** announced the outcome of its bi-monthly monetary policy review.

- The repo rate has been kept unchanged at 4%.
- The reverse repo rate has been kept at 3.35%.
- The real GDP growth for the Fiscal Year 2022 is predicted to be 10.5%.
- The CPI of 2022 is predicted to be at 5.1%.
- The MSF rate has been kept unchanged at 4.25%.
- The Bank rate has been kept unchanged at 4.25%.
- RBI is to buy Rs 1 lakh crores of G-Sec under the G-Sec Acquisition Programme.
- The Apex Bank has increased the centre's Ways and Means Advances by 46%. The current limit is Rs 32,225 crores. It has now been increased to Rs 47,010 crores.
- Maximum End of Pay balance for payment banks has been doubled to Rs 2 lakhs.
- Additional liquidity facility of Rs 50,000 crores announced for NABARD, SIDBI and NHB in 2021-22.
- Softening of cereal prices are expected.
- The mitigation of price pressure on key food items is to depend on supply side measures.
- The global growth is to gradually recover from slowdown.

86. Recently, RXIL is Receivables Exchange of India (RXIL) has become the first TReDS platform to cross monthly throughput of Rs 1000 crores. The transaction volume in the platform grew from Rs 69 crores in April 2020 to Rs 1,105 crores in March 2021

87. In 2021, **India has emerged as the largest recipient of Foreign Portfolio Investments**. The net FPI inflow for the fiscal year 2020-21 was **Rs 2.74 lakh crores**.

- The investments in the equity segment for the year 2020-21 touched Rs 2,74,503. This is the highest quantum of money recorded since the National Securities Depository Limited began to make the Foreign Portfolio Investment data publicly available.
- Earlier to this, the highest inflow in the equity segment was in 2012. And it has been recorded as RS 1.4 lakh crores.

**SBI PO
Prelims**

Compare Your Performance with that of the Topper

Take a **FREE** Mock Test

88. The Reserve Bank of India recently announced a **Government Security Acquisition Programme, GSAP 1.0**. Under the programme, the central bank will purchase government bonds of worth **Rs 1 trillion (or one lakh crores of rupees)**. The first purchase of Rs 25,000 crore is to be made on April 15, 2021.

- The GSAP 1.0 will provide more comfort to the bond market. As the borrowing of the Government increased this year, RBI has to ensure there is no disruption in the Indian market.
- In the fiscal year 2021, the Reserve Bank of India purchased Rs 3.13 trillion worth bonds from the secondary market. However, it was carried out in an ad hoc manner.
- The programme will help to reduce the spread between repo rate and the ten-year government bond yield.
- It will also help to reduce aggregate cost of borrowing for the centre and states in fiscal year 2022

89. The Ministry of Finance recently announced that nearly **Rs 15 lakh crores** have been sanctioned under Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana (PMMY).

- More than 28 crore 68 lakh loans have been sanctioned since the launch of Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana.
- Of the total loans provided, 68% were provided to women entrepreneurs.
- 51% of the total loans provided under the Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana were provided to SC, ST and OBC borrowers.
- The Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana has helped to generate 1 crore 12 lakh net additional employment between 2015 and 2018. Of this, women accounted for 62%.

90. The UK based payments system company ACI recently released a report on digital payments. According to the report, India has the highest number of real-time online transactions in 2020.

- The Digital payment market of India is led by Paytm, PhonePe, BharatPe, Pine Labs, etc.

- The UPI (Unified Payment Interface) transaction increased by 18.7% in March 2021 as compared to February 2021. In February 2021, the UPI transaction was Rs 4.25 lakh crores and in March 2021, it was Rs 5.05 lakh crores.
 - India was ahead of China, US, South Korea, UK, Thailand in number of online transactions.
 - According to the report, the share of electronic transactions in India will exceed 50% by 2024.
91. RBI has increased Way and Means Advances (WMA) limits for the State Governments/UTs from Rs. 32,225 crores (fixed in February 2016) to **Rs. 47,010 crores.**
- The limit has been enhanced on the recommendation of a committee headed by Shri Sudhir Shrivastava.
 - Revised WMA limits depicts an increase of about 46%.
 - RBI has extended enhanced interim WMA limit of ₹ 51,560 crore for a further period of six months i.e., from April 1, 2021 up to September 30, 2021.
92. RBI has enhanced limit of max balance of **Payments Bank** from Rs 1 to **Rs 2 lakhs per customer/** account.
- The step has been taken to encourage the efforts of Payments Bank for financial inclusion to cater customers needs, including MSMEs, small traders and merchants.
93. The **ADB** has approved a **USD 484-mn** to improve transport connectivity and road maintenance in the **Chennai -Kanyakumari Industrial Corridor (CKIC)** in Tamil Nadu.
- The CKIC is part of India's **East Coast Economic Corridor.**
94. The **SEBI** has imposed a penalty of **Rs 25 crore** on the **Ambani family** and firms linked to the promoter group for violation of takeover code regulations in the **year 2000.**
- In January 2000, the promoter stake in Reliance Industries (RIL) had increased by 6.83 per cent following conversion of warrants issued in 1994.
 - However, the promoter group failed to make an open offer as mandate under the **Substantial Acquisition of Shares and Takeovers (SAST) Regulations 1997.**
95. **Ghaziabad Nagar Nigam (GNN)** has announced successfully raising and listing **India's first Green Municipal bond issue.**
- GNN raised **₹150 crore** at a cost of **8.1%.**
 - This fund will be used to clean dirty water by setting up a tertiary water treatment plant and supply piped water through water-meters to places like Sahibabad

- **Ghaziabad** is **debt-free** and has maintained a revenue surplus position in the last few years, according to India Ratings, which rated the paper.
96. **Airtel Payments Bank** has rolled out new digital savings account called '**Rewards123**' to offer consistent value, with assured rewards on different types of digital transactions throughout the year.
97. **Reserve Bank of India** has decided to publish **Financial Inclusion (FI) Index** to measure the extent of financial inclusion in the country.
- As per RBI, FI index will be published annually in **July** for the previous financial year.
 - The index will use various parameters and shall reflect the broadening and deepening of financial inclusion in the country.
98. **World Bank** and **Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)** have approved **loan worth \$300 million for canal-based drinking water projects in Punjab**.
99. RBI has enhanced the loan limit against the pledge/hypothecation of agricultural produce backed by NWRs/(e-NWRs) issued by warehouses registered and regulated by WDRA from **Rs 50 lakh** to **Rs 75 lakh** per borrower.
- It aims to encourage farm credit to individual farmers against pledge/hypothecation of agricultural produce and leverage the inherent safety of NWRs/ e-NWRs.
 - Priority Sector loan limit backed by other Warehouse Receipts will continue to be ₹50 lakh per borrower.
100. According to Finance Ministry, **Direct tax collection** during **FY 2020-21** has registered nearly **5% growth** over the revised estimate.
- The **provisional figures** show collection at Rs. 9.45 lakh crore.
 - "The net Direct Tax collections represent 104.46% of the Revised Estimates of **Rs. 9.05 lakh crore** of Direct Taxes for the FY 2020-21,".
 - However, it is lower than the net direct tax collection of FY 2019-20, which was Rs. 10.51 lakh crore.
101. **RBI** will set up a new **Regulations Review Authority (RRA 2.0)** from **May 1, 2021**, to review the regulations, circulars, reporting systems and compliance procedures of the central bank
- RRA will make regulatory and supervisory instructions more effective by removing redundancies and duplications
 - Tenure of RRA: **1 year**, unless the timeline is extended by RBI.

- Head of RRA: **M Rajeshwar Rao**, Deputy Governor
- Similar RRA was set up by RBI on **April 1, 1999**, for 1 year.

SBI PO Prelims | Compare Your Performance with that of the Topper
Take a **FREE** Mock Test 

102. **RBL bank** has tied-up with Mastercard to launch mobile app titled as '**Pay by Bank App**'
103. **RBI** has constituted **6-member panel for comprehensive review of the working of Asset Reconstruction Companies (ARCs)** in the financial sector ecosystem.
- Panel will be headed by former Executive Director of RBI, **Sudarshan Sen**.
 - The panel will review existing legal and regulatory framework applicable to ARCs and recommend measures to improve efficacy of ARCs, among others.
104. **RBI** has issued guidelines for appointment of statutory auditors of banks (Commercial Banks excluding RRBs, UCBs) and non-banking finance companies (NBFCs), including housing finance companies
- It will be applicable for **financial year 2021-22** and onwards.
105. Central govt has nominated **Ajay Seth (IAS officer of Karnataka Cadre's 1987 batch)** as the **Director on the Central Board of Reserve Bank of India**.
106. **Shivalik Small Finance Bank Limited** has commenced operations as a **Small Finance Bank (SFB)** with effect from April 26, 2021, departing from being Mercantile Co-operative Bank.
- **Shivalik Mercantile Co-operative Bank (SMCB)** is the first urban co-operative bank (UCB) in India to receive license from RBI to operate as a Small Finance Bank (SFB) under **Section 22 (1) of Banking Regulation Act, 1949**
 - Shivalik SFB area of operation is UP, Delhi, Madhya Pradesh and Uttarakhand.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

107. **British Academy of Film and Television Arts** has announced **74th British Academy Film Awards (BAFTAs) 2021** to honour the best national and foreign films. **List of Winners:**

**SBI Clerk
Prelims**

Get to Know Your Weak Areas
Take a **FREE** Mock Test



- Best Film: Nomadland
- Best Director: Chloe Zhao (Nomadland)
- Best Actor-Leading Role: Anthony Hopkins (The Father as Anthony)
- Best Actress-Leading Role: Frances McDormand (Nomadland as Fern)
- Best Original Screenplay: Promising Young Woman (Emerald Fennell)
- Best Short Film: The Present

108. Indian film producer **Guneet Monga** has been conferred with **2nd highest French civilian honour** titled as **Honour of the Knight of the Order of Arts and Letters** (Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres).

- This honour has previously been awarded to **Meryl Streep, Leonardo DiCaprio** and **Bruce Willis**

109. Indian-origin businessman **Yusuffali MA (65 years)** has been honoured with Abu Dhabi's top civilian award, by Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi Sheikh Mohamed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan for his outstanding contribution to Abu Dhabi's business, industry and support to various philanthropic initiatives.

- He is **Chairman and Managing Director of Abu Dhabi-based LuLu Group** which operates hypermarkets and retail companies

110. Bengaluru-based **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)** has bagged **1st place for Innovative Training Practices 2019-20** at 30th National Award ceremony held at New Delhi

- Award is being conferred by **Indian Society for Training & Development (ISTD)**.

111. The **93rd Academy Awards** were held in a unique fashion in 2021 as the attendees observed social distancing while going maskless.

- **Nomadland** won big this year.
- The film won **Best Picture, Best Actress** for **Frances McDormand**, and **Best Director** for **Chloe Zhao**.
- Chloe is the second woman to win this year in the Academy's 93 years of giving awards.
- Judas and the Black Messiah, Ma Rainey's Black Bottom, Mank, Soul, and Sound of Metal – all won two Oscars each at the ceremony

112. **Rumana Sinha Sehgal** has bagged the prestigious '**Nelson Mandela World Humanitarian Award 2021**' by the Diplomatic Mission Global Peace.



SBI Clerk Prelims | **Get to Know Your Weak Areas**
Take a **FREE** Mock Test

PERSON IN NEWS

113. Justice **N V Ramana**, who was recently appointed as the **Chief Justice of India** is to assume charge on April 24, 2021. He is to take charge a day after the retirement of CJI Sharad Arvind Bobde. Justice Ramana is to take over as the 48th Chief Justice of India.

114. Cricketer **Virat Kohli** has been appointed as the brand ambassador of **Vivo** smartphone

115. **Poonam Gupta** has been appointed as the next **Director General of National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER)**

- She will succeed **Shekhar Shah**, who was the DG of NCAER since 2011
- She is **first woman Director General of NCAER**
- President of NCAER: **Nandan Nilekani**

116. **S Ramann** has been appointed as the **Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)**.

- He has been appointed for a tenure of three years from the date of his assuming the charge or until further orders.
117. **Sushil Chandra** has been appointed as the new **Chief Election Commissioner (CEC)** by the President Ram Nath Kovind under **clause (2) of article 324 of the Constitution**.
- He will succeed **Sunil Arora**, who demitted office on 12 April 2021
 - He is the senior-most election commissioner, ahead of Rajiv Kumar, in the three-member poll panel.
 - He will be the 24th CEC, having been appointed as an election commissioner on February 14, 2019.
118. Puma has roped in Indian cricketers **Washington Sundar** and **Devdutt Padikkal** as the brand ambassador.
119. **Rekha M Menon** has been appointed as the **Chairperson of National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM)** for 2021-22
120. Justice **Nuthalapati Venkata Ramana** took oath as the **48th Chief Justice of India**.
- The oath has been administered by **President Ram Nath Kovind** at a brief ceremony held at the Rashtrapati Bhavan.
 - He succeeded Justice **Sharad Arvind Bobde**.
121. **Jnanpith** winner and renowned author **Amitav Ghosh** authored a new book titled '**The Living Mountain: A Fable for Our Times**'.
- Written during the course of the pandemic the book will be published by **Harper Collins India**.
122. American author **Jhumpa Lahiri** has rolled out her new novel titled as '**Whereabouts**'
123. Expenditure Secretary **T V Somanathan (1987 batch IAS officer of TN cadre)** has been appointed as the **Finance Secretary of India**
- His designation has been approved by **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC)**
 - He succeeded **Ajay Bhushan Pandey**.

OBITUARIES

124. President of Gita Press, **Radheshyam Khemka (88 years)** passed away following a brief illness in Varanasi.

125. Eminent Historian and an expert on Awadh **Yogesh Praveen** passed away in Lucknow.

- He was known as living legend of Lucknow as well as Avadh, and its Culture, Literature & History.
- Awards: **Padma Shri in 2019**

126. Former Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) Director **Ranjit Sinha (68 years)** passed away due to COVID-19 in Delhi.

127. Renowned radiologist, Dr. **Kakarla Subba Rao (96 years)** passed away while undergoing treatment at Krishna Institute of Medical Sciences, Secunderabad.

128. Former Election Commissioner of India, **G.V.G. Krishnamurty (86 years)** passed away due to age-related ailments in New Delhi.

129. Former India International Football defender **Ahmed Hussain Lala (89 years)** passed away due to COVID-19 in Bengaluru

130. Former Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor **Maidavolu Narasimham (94 years)** passed away in Hyderabad.

- He was famously known as the **Father of Indian Banking Reforms**.
- Maidavolu Narasimham was the **13th Governor of Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** and served from May 2, 1977 to November 30, 1977
- He joined RBI as a research officer in Economic Department

131. Noted Bengali poet **Shankha Ghosh (89 years)** passed away due to COVID-19 complications in Kolkata

132. Padma Bhushan **Pandit Rajan Mishra** of **Pandit Rajan Sajan** musical group passed away due to cardiac arrest after being diagnosed with Covid-19.

- Rajan Mishra was a famous classical singer from '**Banaras Gharana**' of India.

**SBI PO
Prelims**

Compare Your Performance with that of the Topper
Take a **FREE** Mock Test



IMPORTANT DAYS

133. Every year the World Health Day is celebrated by the **World Health Organization on April 7**. This year, the World Health Day is celebrated under the Theme: **Building a fairer, healthier World for everyone**

- The World Health Day is celebrated on April 7 as the World Health Organisation held its first World Health Assembly on April 7, 1948.
- The World Health day is seen as an opportunity to draw worldwide attention to a subject of major importance to global health each year.
- The first World Health Day was observed in 1950.
- The World Health Day is one of the eleven official global health campaigns of WHO.

134. National Safe Motherhood Day is observed on **April 11** every year to raise awareness about adequate access to care for women during pregnancy, childbirth and postnatal services

- The day also marks birth anniversary of Kasturba Gandhi, wife of the father of Nation Mahatma Gandhi.
- The day was held under **initiative of White Ribbon Alliance in 2013** and also became 1st country to do so
- Theme: **'Stay at home during coronavirus, keep mother and newborn safe from coronavirus'**

135. Ambedkar Jayanti (Bhim Jayanti) is observed every year on **14 April** to commemorate the **birth anniversary of Babasaheb Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar (14 April 1891)**

- 2021 marks the 130th birth anniversary of B R Ambedkar (Father (chief architect) of the Indian Constitution)
- He was **1st Law and Justice Minister of the country after independence**
- He has been honoured with **Bharat Ratna in 1990** posthumously
- It has been observed as an official public holiday throughout India since 2015.

136. World Art Day is observed on **15 April** every year to celebrate fine arts and promote awareness of creative activity around the world.

- This day was declared by **International Association of Art (IAA)**, an NGO working in official partnership with UNESCO in 2019

- **World Art Day** was first held on April 15, 2012
- April 15 has been selected to mark the **birth anniversary of Leonardo da Vinci**, the famous painter of Mona Lisa.

137. **World Voice Day (WVD)** is observed every year on **April 16** globally to demonstrate the enormous importance of the voice in the daily lives of all people.

- Theme of World Voice Day 2021: **One World Many Voices.**

138. **World Heritage Day** or **International Day for Monuments and Sites** is observed every year on **April 18** to recognizing sites of historical importance, raising awareness regarding them, and stressing the need to restore and preserve them.

- Theme 2021: **Complex Pasts: Diverse Futures.**
- **UNESCO's General Conference** established **18 April** as World Heritage Day in 1982.

139. **National Civil Services Day** is observed every year on **April 21** in India as a thanks giving day to all the Civil Servants for their service

- It is also an occasion for the civil servants to rededicate themselves to the cause of citizen, public service
- The day has been chosen to commemorate the day when **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel (1st Home Minister of Independent India)** addressed the probationers of Administrative Services Officers in 1947 at Metcalf House, Delhi

140. **World Creativity and Innovation Day (WCID)** is observed every year on **April 21** to raise awareness about the importance of creativity and innovation in problem solving and encourage creative multidisciplinary thinking at the individual and group levels

- United Nation officially recognized this day in **April 2017.**
- First UN World Creativity and Innovation Day: **April 21, 2018.**
- Focus tagline for 2021 is **Celebrating the creative economy in 2021.**

141. **Earth Day** is observed every year on **April 22** every year across the globe to raise awareness about critical issues that the Earth is facing.

- The day marks the anniversary of the birth of the modern environmental movement in 1970.
- Earth Day was first celebrated on **April 22 in 1970.**
- Earth Day Theme 2021: **'Restore Our Earth'.**

142. **UN English Language Day** is observed every year on **23 April** to celebrate multilingualism and cultural diversity by exploring the language

- **23 April** has been chosen to mark the birth as well as **death anniversary of William Shakespeare**
- English Language is the most popular spoken language in the world with more than **983 million speakers**
- English is one of the 6 official languages used by UN
- Six official languages: **Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish.**

143. **World Book and Copyright Day** ('International Day of the Book' and 'World Book Day'), is observed every year on **April 23** to promote reading, publishing, and copyright

144. The day is an initiative of **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)**

145. **UN English Language Day** is observed every year on **23 April** to celebrate multilingualism and cultural diversity by exploring the language

- **23 April** has been chosen to mark the birth as well as **death anniversary of William Shakespeare**
- English Language is the most popular spoken language in the world with more than **983 million speakers**
- English is one of the 6 official languages used by UN
- Six official languages: **Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish.**

146. **World Book and Copyright Day** ('International Day of the Book' and 'World Book Day'), is observed every year on **April 23** to promote reading, publishing, and copyright

- The day is an initiative of **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)**
- The first World Book Day was celebrated on 23 April 1995.
- April 23 is chosen because it marks the birth and death of several prominent authors.
- **World Book Capital for 2021 is Tbilisi, Georgia.**

147. **National Panchayati Raj Day (National Local Self-Government day)** is observed every year on **April 24** In India.

- April 24 is the historic day on which Panchayati Raj had come into force through **73rd Amendment Act 1992** marking a defining moment in the history of decentralization of power to the grassroots in the country.
- National Panchayati Raj Day was declared on **24 April 2010** by the then PM Manmohan Singh
- On this occasion, **SVAMITVA scheme** will be launched this year

148. The **World Intellectual Property Day** is celebrated on **26th April** every year to highlight the importance of Intellectual Property.

- The day was established by the **World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)** in 2000.
- The day this is dedicated to Small and medium-sized enterprises.
- SMEs account for 90% of all companies worldwide and 70% of global employment that's why World IP Day 2021 is carrying the theme "**IP and SMEs: Taking your ideas to market.**"

149. **World Malaria Day (WMD)** is observed every year on **25 April** globally to recognize the efforts of the people worldwide to control malaria.

- WMD was established in **May 2007** at the **60th session of World Health Assembly**, WHO's decision-making body.
- Theme 2021: '**Reaching the zero-malaria target**'.
- WMD is one of eight official global public health campaigns currently marked by WHO.



SBI PO Prelims | Compare Your Performance with that of the Topper
Take a **FREE** Mock Test

The banner features a light blue background with a geometric pattern. On the left, the text 'SBI PO Prelims' is written in blue. In the center, the text 'Compare Your Performance with that of the Topper' is written in dark blue, and 'Take a FREE Mock Test' is written in dark blue with 'FREE' in red. On the right, there is an icon of three stylized human figures standing on a podium with three steps, representing a top performer.

SPORTS

150. Union Sports Minister, **Kiren Rijju** has inaugurated **Khelo India State Centre of Excellence (KISCE) for Rowing discipline** at Jammu & Kashmir Sports Council Water Sports Academy at the Nehru Park in the world famous Dal Lake in Srinagar.

151. Pakistan Captain **Babar Azam** has been placed at **No.1** spot in the International Cricket Council's (ICC) rankings for **ODI batsmen**.

152. He replaced Indian batsman Virat Kohli, who was occupying the top position for nearly three and a half years.
153. **Sarita Mor** (25 years) bagged gold in Asian **Wrestling** Championships by defending the women's 59 kg title in Almaty, Kazakhstan by defeating Mongolia's Shoovdor Baatarjav by 10-7.
154. Tamil Nadu teenager **Arjun Kalyan (18 years)** has become the **68th Chess Grandmaster of India**
155. **Rafael Nadal** has won **12th Barcelona Open Title** in Longest ATP Match of 2021 after beating **Stefanos Tsitsipas** by **6-4, 6-7 (6/8), 7-5**.

**SBI PO
Prelims**

Compare Your Performance with that of the Topper
Take a **FREE** Mock Test



**SBI Clerk
Prelims**

Get to Know Your Weak Areas
Take a **FREE** Mock Test

