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500+ CA
Most Probable Current Affairs
Question-Answer Pointers for
RRB OA Mains 2021

01 May 2021 - 30 September 2021



NOTE: This file contains most important 'Question-Answer' points pertaining to the current affairs news from **1st May 2021 to 30th September 2021**.

1. Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying (DAHD) signed a multi-year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with _____ to support India's livestock sector.

Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation

- The Gates Foundation will provide technical assistance to the department to ensure sustainable growth and prosperity of India's livestock sector.
2. Union Minister, Piyush Vedprakash Goyal, Ministry of Commerce & Industry launched the National Single Window System (NSWS), an online portal to enable global and domestic investors, entrepreneurs, and businesses to identify and obtain approvals and clearances needed in India. It is an effort toward _____.

Answer: Ease of doing business

- This portal is an integration of the existing clearance systems of the Centre and states.
 - It has been developed by the **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)** along with **Invest India**.
3. The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (**MeitY**) has organised a strategy workshop titled _____ to make India one of the largest connected countries in the world.

Answer: Connecting all Indians

4. The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) and which other organization has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to improve food, nutrition security and livelihoods in India against the impacts of climate change?

Answer: International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT)

5. _____ has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **MeitY Startup Hub**, an initiative of the Ministry of Electronics and IT (**MeitY**), to promote technology innovation and the sustainable growth of start-ups in India. AISPL undertakes the resale and marketing of Amazon Web Services (**AWS**) Cloud services in India.

Answer: Amazon Internet Services Pvt Ltd (AISPL)

6. The world's highest Electric Vehicle (**EV**) charging station was inaugurated at 500 feet in **Kaza**, in the Spiti Valley, _____, **Himachal Pradesh**.

Answer: Lahaul and Spiti district

7. Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) launched the 7th consecutive edition of Swachh Survekshan (SS)-2022 has a theme of _____.

Answer: 'People First'

8. In September 2021, the Union Law Minister **Kiren Rijiju** inaugurated India's **1st** 'Sports Arbitration Centre of India' (**SACI**) in _____.

Answer: Gujarat

9. Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi has recently launched 35 crop varieties which are climate resilient and higher nutrient-content. These have been developed by the _____ to address climate change and malnutrition.

Answer: Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)

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10. The Chief Minister of Kerala, has inaugurated '**Digital Hub**' under _____ in Kalamassery, Kerala.

Answer: Kerala Startup Mission (KSUM)

11. India's rank in _____ by the World Intellectual Property Organisation (**WIPO**) improved by two spots to **46th** from 48th in GII 2020.

Answer: Global Innovation Index (GII) 2021

- India entered into the group of top 50 countries in GII for the 1st time.
- The NITI (National Institution for Transforming India) Aayog, along with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and the WIPO, virtually hosted the India Launch of the GII 2021 and the Global Innovation Conclave in September 2021.

GII 2021:

Overall Rank of GII	Country
46	India
1	Switzerland
2	Sweden
3	United States of America
4	United Kingdom

12. The Prime Minister (**PM**) Narendra Modi launched '**Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission**' (ABDM) via video conference. The program was organized on _____.

Answer: World Tourism Day (27th September).

- **Objective** – To develop the integrated digital health infrastructure of the country.
- Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission will provide a digital health ID to people which will contain their health records. This mission was launched under the pilot project National Digital Health Mission (**NDHM**).
- The mission was launched under the pilot project National Digital Health Mission (**NDHM**).

- It will help connect digital health solutions of hospitals across the country. All Indians will get a **digital health ID** under this scheme. Every citizen's health record will now be digitally secure.

13. The **ICRA (formerly known as Investment Information and Credit Rating Agency of India Limited)** has revised India's gross domestic product (GDP) growth projection in **FY22** from 8.5 percent (June 2021) to _____.

Answer: 9 percent

14. **S&P Global Ratings** Retained India's Economic Growth Projection in FY22 to _____. The rating agency has reported a strong recovery in economic activity in India after the second wave of COVID-19.

Answer: 9.5 percent

15. Which Bank joined hands with fintech company OneCard to launch a mobile-first credit card to cater the individual's credit demand for the upcoming festive season. The cards will be powered by Visa?

Answer: Federal Bank

- The bank is targeting consumers aged **between 23 and 35 years** representing the Gen Z and millennials.

16. **ICICI Bank** partnered with _____ to offer an overdraft (**OD**) facility up to **Rs 25 lakh** to individual sellers and small businesses registered on the e-commerce marketplace **amazon.in**.

Answer: Amazon India

17. The government of India has set up a task force under _____, Secretary of the Department of Economic Affairs (**DEA**), Ministry of Finance, to strengthen the road map to enhance the sustainable finance architecture of India.

Ans **Ajay Seth**

18. The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has approved a loan of _____ for urban flood protection and management in the Chennai-Kosasthalaiyar river basin in India.

Answer: \$251 million

19. The **Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation** has awarded **Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka**, former United Nations (UN) Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of the UN Women, with the _____.

Answer: 2021 Global Goalkeeper Award

- As a part of its annual Goalkeepers campaign, the foundation also announced the winners of the 3 additional **Goalkeepers Global Goals Awards**.
- These awards were instituted by the Foundation to recognise the efforts taken by the people to help achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).

20. Indian Compound Archer and Arjuna Awardee _____, 3-time world cup gold medalist, has been elected to the **Athletes Committee of World Archery**, the international federation for the Olympic sport of archery.

Answer: Abhishek Verma

21. Mastercard joins the **Meltwater Champions Chess Tour** as an official partner and names _____ as Mastercard global brand ambassador.

Answer: Magnus Carlsen

22. The United Nations(UN)'s **World Tourism Day (WTD)** is annually observed across the globe on _____.

Answer: 27th September

WTD 2021:

- The United Nations World Tourism Organization (**UNWTO**) has designated World Tourism Day 2021 as a day to focus on "**Tourism for Inclusive Growth**" as the COVID-19 pandemic has had a massive social and economic impact on both developed and developing countries.

23. Who sets a new record by registering his 100th win after finishing first in **Russian Grand Prix** held at Sochi Autodrom in Russia on September 28. Hamilton is a British racer, competes for Mercedes?

Answer: Lewis Hamilton

- With this win, Hamilton became the first Formula-one driver in the history to reach 100 wins. Max Verstappen finished second at **Russian Grand Prix 2021**.

24. **NITI Aayog** in partnership with _____ launched a campaign named “**Shoonya**” – an initiative to promote the usage of Zero-pollution delivery vehicles among e-commerce companies, fleet aggregators, original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) and logistics companies.

Answer: Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI) and RMI India

- **Aim** – To create consumer awareness on the benefits of using pollution free Electric Vehicles (EV) in delivery of consumables.

25. **NITI**(National Institution for Transforming India) Aayog Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Amitabh Kant launched an initiative in collaboration with _____ to provide free access to the company’s “Premium Learning” resources to students of class 6-12 in government schools across 112 ‘Aspirational Districts’

Answer: BYJU’S

26. Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (**BHEL**) has developed India’s **1st High ash Indian Coal to Methanol conversion plant** in _____.

Answer: Hyderabad, Telangana

27. A report titled ‘**Reforms in Urban Planning Capacity in India**’ was released by _____.

Answer: NITI (National Institution for Transforming India) Aayog

28. Which state tops 3rd State **Food Safety Index (SFSI) 2020-21** among large states released by Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)?

Answer: Gujarat was the top ranking state among larger states

- **Goa** stood first in the category of smaller states.

- **Jammu & Kashmir** grabbed the topped spot among UTs.

29. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (**UNCTAD**) released its “**Trade and Development Report 2021**”, which predicts India’s Gross Domestic Product (**GDP**) to grow by **7.2 percent** in **2021**, whereas the Global Growth rate is projected at _____

Answer: 5.3 percent

30. Which company has become the **2nd Indian** company to hit the **200 Billion USD** market capitalization (**M-Cap**) mark?

Answer: Tata Consultancy Services (**TCS**) of TATA groups

- Reliance Industries (**RIL**) was the first Indian Company to achieve the feat.

31. Which company has launched ‘**Kisan Store**’ - a facility that allows Farmers to purchase agricultural products like seeds, farm accessories, plant protection, nutrition at Amazon Easy stores?

Answer: Amazon

32. **Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)** has reduced India’s Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth forecast in FY22 to 20 basis points to _____

Answer: 9.7 percent

33. As per the latest economic outlook of **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** titled ‘the Asian Development Outlook 2021 Update Transforming Agriculture in Asia’, India’s Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth forecast for FY2021-22 was reduced to _____ from its earlier projection of 11 percent (April 2021) due to the impact of COVID-19.

Answer: 10 percent

- The GDP growth forecast for FY2022-23 was increased from 7 percent to 7.5 percent.
- Inflation: The inflation forecast for FY2021-22 was increased to 5.5 percent from its earlier projection of 5.2 percent.

34. **HDFC Bank** announced partnership with _____ to launch a range of co-branded credit cards powered by Visa.

Answer: Paytm

35. Who has been conferred with '**SDG Progress Award**', for Bangladesh's steady progress in achieving the sustainable development goals (SDGs), by the UN sponsored Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN)?

Answer: Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina

36. Which company has named Olympic silver medalist (weightlifting), **Mirabai Chanu** as the face of its "Stay in Play" campaign, which is designed to keep more menstruating women in sports.

Answer: Adidas

37. Who has authored a new book titled "**Translating Myself and Others**", which is set to be released in 2022?

Answer: Jhumpa Lahiri

38. The Japanese Sports equipment company **Asics** announced Indian squash player _____ as its new brand ambassador.

Answer: Joshna Chinappa

39. United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has appointed 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Advocates, ahead of the 76th General Assembly.

- **Nobel Peace Laureate Kailash Satyarthi, STEM activist Valentina Munoz Rabanal, Microsoft President Brad Smith and K-pop superstars Blackpink were named in the list.**

40. Fino Payments Bank Limited (FPBL) has appointed _____ as its first-ever brand ambassador.

Answer: Pankaj Tripathi

41. The Air Marshal, _____ has been appointed as the **Chief of the Indian Air Force (IAF)**.

Answer: Vivek Ram (VR) Chaudhari

- He will succeed the current Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal Rakesh Kumar Singh Bhadauria (RKS Bhadauria), who will retire on September 30, 2021.

42. Padma Shri awardee, a noted physicist and cosmologist _____, 64, passed away in Pune on September 17, due to cardiac arrest. He was born in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.

Answer: Thanu Padmanabhan

- He was professor at the Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA) in Pune, Maharashtra.

43. **World Bamboo Day (WBD)** is annually observed across the globe on _____ to create awareness about Bamboo, a non-wood forest product, which is considered Green Gold and to promote the new cultivation of bamboo for new industries across the globe.

Answer: September 18th

- The Message of WBD 2021 is “#PlantBamboo: It is Time to Plant Bamboo”.
- World Bamboo Organisation(WBO) has launched a new hashtag #PlantBamboo to mark WBD 2021.

44. The **United Nations (UN)'s International Day of Peace** is annually observed across the globe on _____ to strengthen the idea of peace both within and among all nations and people by observing 24 hours of non-violence and cease-fire.

Answer: September 21st

- The theme of the International Day of Peace 2021 is “**Recovering better for an equitable and sustainable world**”.
- The 2021 theme focuses on the efforts of the UN on recovering better for a more equitable and peaceful world.

45. The Union Minister for Road Transport, Nitin Gadkari launched ‘ _____ - a two year pilot project in Nagpur, Maharashtra.

Answer: iRaste

- It is a collaborative project, developed by Intel India, International Institute of Information Technology, Hyderabad (IIIT-H), Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) – Central Road Research Institute (CRRI), Mahindra and Mahindra and Nagpur Municipal Corporation (NMC). It stands for Intelligent Solutions for Road Safety through Technology and Engineering.

46. Which state announced the plan to establish **India's first-ever Dugong (also known as Sea cows) Conservation Reserve?**

Answer: Government of Tamil Nadu

47. Which state has become the first state in the country to install **off-grid solar pumps** under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha Evam Uttan Mahabhiyan (PM KUSUM)?

Answer: Haryana

48. _____ in association with the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (**MeitY**) launched the "**Main Bhi Digital 3.0**" -A special Campaign for Digital Onboarding and Training for street vendors under Pradhan Mantri Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) Scheme on the pilot based in 223 cities in the country.

Answer: Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)

49. Government of India granted Special Livestock Sector Package with an outlay of _____ for next 5 years.

Answer: Rs. 9800 crores

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50. **Union Minister Parshottam Rupala** launched the portal for the **National Livestock Mission** (NLM). It is developed by Small Industries Development Bank of India (**SIDBI**) in collaboration with the _____.

Answer: Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying

51. India and which other country has jointly launched '**Centre of Excellence on Offshore Wind**' as part of the Green Strategic Partnership?

Answer: Denmark

52. Which State Government has announced the plan to establish **India's first-ever Dugong (also known as Sea cows) Conservation Reserve** in the marine region of Palk Bay?

Answer: Government of Tamil Nadu

53. Which state has introduced the new model of electronic receipt(e-receipt) "**e-Receipt 2.0**" in Lok Seva Bhawan?

Answer: Odisha

- The revamped e-receipt "e-Receipt 2.0" will avail the new modes of payment of taxes and other dues to the people of Odisha.

54. **Indian Navy and the Royal Australian Navy** (RAN) conducts the 4th Edition of biennial Maritime Warfare exercise – _____ in the North Australian Exercise Area from 6th to 10th September, 2021.

Answer: "AUSINDEX 21"

55. The **Central Banks of Australia, Singapore, Malaysia and South Africa** have launched '**_____**' under which these quad banks will test the use of central bank digital currencies (CBDCs) for international settlements.

Answer: Project Dunbar

56. According to a report, the **China National Space Administration** has launched its hyper spectral observation satellite, called _____.

Answer: Gaofen-502.

57. A Central American country _____ becomes the first country to **adopt bitcoin** as a national currency.

Answer: El Salvador

- The country has passed a resolution to make Bitcoin as a legal currency alongside the US dollar on last June 2021 and bill was the approved by President Nayib Bukele.
- **San Salvador** is the capital of El Salvador.
- The country launched the digital wallet called "**Chivo**" or "**Cool**" which offered \$30 of free Bitcoin for the adaption.

58. As per the first '**Hurun India Future unicorn List 2021**' released by **Hurun Research Institute**, **India** became the **third largest Unicorn ecosystem** in the world after the _____.

Answer: United States (US) and China

- India have 51 Unicorns worth \$168 billion.
- Number of Unicorns in the US and China is at 396 and 277 respectively. The United Kingdom (UK) is at 4th position with 32 unicorns and Germany at 5th spot with 18.

59. Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, **Ministry of Education** (MoE) released the **6th NIRF (National Institutional Ranking Framework) Rankings 2021** of Higher Educational Institutes (HEIs) of India in how many categories?

Answer: 11 categories

- The ranking has been **topped by IIT (Indian Institute of Technology) Madras**, Tamil Nadu in the overall category which is followed by IISc (Indian Institute of Science) Bengaluru, Karnataka at 2nd and IIT Bombay, Maharashtra at 3rd place.

- All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi retains top slot in Medical for the 4th consecutive year.

60. _____ is being celebrated from September 5 to 17, 2021 by the Ministry of Education in order to recognize the contributions of teachers in the formulation of **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020**.

Answer: Shikshak Parv 2021

- The theme of the '**Shikshak Parv-2021**' is "Quality and Sustainable Schools: Learnings from Schools in India".

61. Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (**MoHUA**) in association with the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (**MeitY**) launched the _____-A special Campaign for Digital Onboarding and Training for street vendors under Pradhan Mantri Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) Scheme.

Answer: "Main Bhi Digital 3.0"

62. The rating agency **Moody** in its August update to '**Global Macro Outlook 2021-22**' projected India's growth for calendar year (CY) 2021 at _____ and 7% for 2022.

Answer: 9.6%

63. Which company has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Government of **Gujarat** to boost the e-commerce exports from Gujarat?

Answer: Amazon India

64. Which bank has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC)** to offer credit support to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) across the country?

Answer: HDFC Bank

65. _____ and **LIC Housing Finance Ltd** (Life Insurance Corporation of India-HFL) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to provide home loans to over 4.5 crore customers of the former.

Answer: India Post Payments Bank (IPPB)

66. The Securities and Exchange Board of India (**SEBI**) will initiate the _____ **settlement** cycle for equity transactions from January 1, 2022 under which Indian stock markets can transfer shares and money into client accounts in under 24 hours.

Answer: T+1 (today plus one)

- It is not mandatory for the stock exchanges to go with the T+1 settlement cycle.
- They are flexible to offer either T+1 or T+2 settlement cycle
- Currently stock markets follow a T+2 settlement cycle which takes 48 hours or more for the shares to be transferred into the client account in case of purchase deals.
- This means a seller cannot demand payment for at least two days.

67. Recently which bank was delisted by the Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**) from its Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) framework, as the bank's earning in the last 1-year till 31st March 2021 has satisfied the necessary conditions for its removal?

Answer: UCO Bank

68. Which company has recently signed a multi-year brand partnership with Subedar Neeraj Chopra, an Indian athlete and Olympic gold medalist as its brand ambassador?

Answer: Tata AIA Life Insurance

69. The government of India has appointed _____ as the Managing Director (MD) of **Export-Import Bank of India** (India EXIM Bank) for a period of 3 years or until further orders. She took charge as the MD on 8th September 2021.

Answer: Harsha Bhupendra Bangari

70. President Ram Nath Kovind has appointed new governors for 4 states of _____.

Answer: Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Nagaland and Uttarakhand.

- The following appointments will take effect from the date they assume changes in their respective offices.
- *Banwarilal Purohit, Governor of Tamil Nadu who has been holding the additional charge of Governor of Punjab has been appointed as regular Governor of Punjab.*
- *Ravindra Narayan Ravi (RN Ravi), Governor of Nagaland has been appointed as the Governor of Tamil Nadu.*
- *Prof. Jagdish Mukhi, Governor of Assam, has been given additional charge to discharge the functions of the Governor of Nagaland in addition to his duties until regular arrangements are made.*
- *Lieutenant General (retired) Gurmit Singh, former Deputy Chief of Army Staff has been appointed Governor of Uttarakhand.*

71. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)'s **International Literacy Day (ILD)** is annually observed across the globe on _____ to highlight the importance of literacy as a matter of dignity and human rights.

Answer: 8th September

- The day also aims to advance the literacy agenda towards a more literate and sustainable society.
- The theme of UNESCO's ILD 2021 is "**Literacy for a human-centred recovery: Narrowing the digital divide**".

72. The Ministry of Food Processing Industries (**MoFPI**) has announced the celebration of the Food Processing Week from _____, as a part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebration to commemorate 75 years of India's independence.

Answer: 6th to 12th September 2021

73. India virtually hosted the **8th Meeting of Agriculture Experts** of _____.

74. **Answer: Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) Countries 2021**

75. National e-Governance Division (**NeGD**) under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with National Law University (NLU), Delhi and National Law Institute University (NLIU), Bhopal to establish a Cyber Lab for the _____.

Answer: "Online capacity building Programme on Cyber Law, Crime Investigation and Digital Forensics".

76. The _____ has signed an Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Indian Council of Agriculture Research (**ICAR**)- Indian Institute of Millet Research (**IIMR**) to increase export production by increasing quality and processing.

Answer: Agricultural and Processed Food Product Export Development Authority (APEDA)

77. Which state has launched 'Save Water to Get Free Water' scheme under which state households will not be charged for water consumption up to 16,000 litres?

Answer: Goa

- With this move, Goa becomes the first Indian state to supply water free of cost to its citizens w.e.f. September 1, 2021.

78. On September 1, 2021, the popular festival of the **Adi Tribe of Arunachal Pradesh** namely ' _____ ' has begun.

Answer: 'Solung'

- It is a harvest festival performed after sowing of seeds and transplantation, to seek for good crops.

79. **Jammu and Kashmir** (JK)'s Lieutenant Governor (LG) Manoj Sinha has launched a Rural Enterprises Acceleration Programme named " _____ " for the Self Help Groups (SHGs) Women.

Answer: Saath

80. **Nigeria's** Central Bank announced the partnership with Bitt Inc, the global fintech company, as a technical partner for the launch of its own cryptocurrency ' _____ ' by the end of 2021.

Answer: eNaira'

81. On 1st September 2021, Indian Army took part in " _____ " – a joint military exercise between India and Kazakhstan at Aisha Bibi village of Kazakhstan.

Answer: KAZIND-21

- 90 soldiers from Indian Army participated in the 5th edition of the **KAZIND**, an annual bilateral exercise, that is planned to be held between September 1 to 10, 2021.

82. In September 2021, _____ has released its flagship report on social protection named 'World Social Protection Report 2020-22: **Social protection at the crossroads – in pursuit of a better future**'.

Answer: International Labour Organization (ILO)

- As per the report, half of the global population i.e. 53 percent (4.1 billion) did not have any kind of social security.
- As of 2020, only 46.9 percent of the global population are effectively covered by at least 1 social protection benefit.

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83. Smriti Zubin Irani, the Union Minister for Women and Child Development (WCD) inaugurated **Poshan 2.0**, National Conference and urged all the districts to establish a _____ during the nutrition month starting from September 1.

Answer: Poshan Vatika (Nutrition Garden)

84. Which Indian company becomes 4th Indian Company to reach **100 Billion USD M-Cap**?

Answer: Infosys

- Infosys became the 4th Indian company and 2nd Indian software company after Tata Consultancy Services(TCS) to cross the 100 billion USD mark in terms of market capitalization(m-cap).
- TCS, Reliance Industries and HDFC bank are other Indian companies that have crossed the 100 billion mark in terms of m-cap.

85. As per the data of the National Statistical Office (**NSO**), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in the first quarter of the financial year 2021-22 (Q1 FY22) (i.e. April to June 2021) grew by _____ as compared to a contraction of 24.4 (-24.4) percent in Q1 FY21.

Answer: 20.1 percent

- GDP at Constant Prices (2011-12): It is estimated at Rs 32.38 lakh crore in Q1 FY22, as against Rs 26.95 lakh crore in Q1 FY21 (a growth of 20.1 percent).
- Gross Value Added (GVA) at Constant Prices: It is estimated at Rs 30.48 lakh crore in Q1 FY22, as against Rs 25.66 lakh crore in Q1 of FY21 (a growth of 18.8 percent).

86. Which Fintech company has received in-principle approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to operate as an Account Aggregator (AA) to share financial information?

Answer: PhonePe

87. _____ launched a P2P (Peer-to-Peer) investment-cum-borrowing application named the '12% Club', which will enable its consumers to invest and borrow at a 12 percent interest rate.

Answer: BharatPe

88. The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) increased the maximum age for joining the National Pension System (NPS) from 65 years to _____ of age.

Answer: 70 years

89. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) allocated a **Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) 12.57 billion** to India in August 2021. The total SDR holdings of India now stands at _____.

Answer: SDR 13.66 billion

90. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) plans to set up a 5-member committee headed by _____ to examine applications and give recommendations on New Umbrella Entity (NUE) licences.

Answer: P Vasudevan

91. India's Foreign direct investment (FDI) equity inflow grew by _____ in Q1 FY22 (i.e. April-June 2021) (USD 17.57 billion) compared to Q1 FY21 (USD 6.56 billion).

Answer: 168 percent

- The total FDI comprises equity inflows, reinvested earnings and other capital.
- The automobile industry has become the top sector with 27 percent share of the total FDI equity inflows.

92. On September 2, 2021, _____ has virtually launched the industry-wide 'Account Aggregator (AA) ecosystem Go-Live' and announced the joining of **8 Major Banks** viz, State Bank of India, ICICI Bank, Axis Bank, IDFC First Bank, Kotak Mahindra Bank, HDFC Bank, IndusInd Bank, and Federal Bank, under AA Network as financial information providers (FIP).

Answer: iSPIRT Foundation

- The 8 banks along with GSTN (Goods and Service Tax Network) have received the in-principle approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to join AA as an FIP.

93. Which Bank became the **1st Indian lender to list Additional Tier-I (AT-1) bonds** on the Gujarat International Finance Tec-City – International Financial Services Centre (GIFT-IFSC)?

Answer: HDFC Bank

- HDFC Bank listed its \$1 billion (3.7 percent) foreign currency AI-1 bonds on GIFT (Gujarat International Finance Tec-City)-IFSC.

- So far, Global Securities Market, the primary market platform of India INX (International Exchange), has received over \$55 billion medium-term notes and over \$28 billion of bond listings, since its establishment in 2018.
- India INX, the Bombay Stock Exchange's international arm, is India's 1st international exchange set up at the GIFT IFSC

94. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a _____ for building sustainable housing projects for Urban Poor in Tamil Nadu.

Answer: USD 150 million loan

- From this loan the Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board (TNSCB) will construct houses in 9 different locations.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

95. Bangladeshi scientist _____, who developed a cheap oral vaccine against cholera won the Ramon Magsaysay award 2021 which is also called Asia's Nobel Prize.

Answer: Firdausi Qadri

Along with her, the other recipients received the award for the year 2021.

- 2021 other awardees are:
- **Muhammad Amjad Saqib (Pakistan)** – for helping people through social entrepreneurship.
- **Steven Muncy (Southeast Asia)** – for extending humanitarian and peace-building efforts across borders.
- **Filipino fisher** and community environmentalist Roberto Ballon from Philippines.
- **Watchdoc Indonesia** (Indonesia) – for emergent leadership and for using journalism and filmmaking to give voice to the people.

96. Odisha born neurosurgeon _____ received the "International Lifetime Achievement Award in Neurosurgery" by American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS).

Answer: Basant Kumar Misra

- Basant Kumar will be the first Indian who received the prestigious AANS award.

- The award was presented at a virtual ceremony during the AANS Annual Scientific Meeting 2021 held in Orlando, Florida.

97. International Astronomical Union (IAU) has inducted India's _____ as one of its Honorary Members, along with 10 other inductees.

Answer: Dorje Angchuk

- He is the 1st and only Indian to become an Honorary member of IAU.
- **Dorje Angchuk**, who currently serves in the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA) in Ladakh, was recognized by IAU for his work towards astrophotography.

98. Former Indian **cricketer** and renowned coach, _____ passed away in Mumbai.

Answer: Vasoo Paranjape

99. **World Coconut Day** is annually observed across the globe by the coconut growing countries on _____.

Answer: 2nd September.

- The day aims to create awareness about the various uses of coconut and its health and commercial benefits.
- The theme of World Coconut Day 2021 is "Building a Safe Inclusive Resilient and Sustainable Coconut Community Amid COVID-19 Pandemic & Beyond".

100. The United Nations (UN)'s **International Day of Charity** is annually observed across the globe on _____ to recognize the role of charity in attenuating humanitarian crises and human suffering across the globe.

Answer: 5th September

- The day also commemorates the death anniversary of Nobel laureate Mother Teresa of Calcutta.

101. Olympic Medalist **Lovlina Borgohain** named Brand Ambassador of Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan in _____ State.

Answer: Assam

102. Red Bull Racing Honda's _____ won the 2021 Formula 1(F1) Heineken Dutch Grand Prix held at the Circuit Zandvoort in the dunes north of Zandvoort, the Netherlands?

Answer: Max Verstappen (23 years) from the Netherlands

103. Ministry of Science & Technology released 'Biotech-PRIDE (Promotion of Research and Innovation through Data Exchange) Guidelines' developed by _____.

Answer: Department of Biotechnology (DBT)

- These Guidelines will be implemented through **Indian Biological Data Centre (IBDC)** at Regional Centre for Biotechnology supported by DBT.
- The Minister also launched the website of IBDC.
- Biotech-PRIDE is the **1st of its kind** by the DBT.

104. Intel collaborated with the Central Board of Secondary Education (**CBSE**) and launched the initiative _____ under its 'AI For Citizens' programme to create a basic understanding of artificial intelligence (AI) for Indian people.

Answer: AI For All

- It plans to introduce AI to 1 million people in its 1st year of launch.
- The **4-hour** self-paced learning programme 'AI For All' will explain AI in an easier way, it is available in **11 vernacular languages** and it is divided into two sections such as AI Awareness (1.5 hours) and AI Appreciation (2.5 hours).

105. DefExpo-2022 (12th Edition), the land and naval systems show of the Ministry of Defence has been scheduled to be held at _____ from March 11-13, 2022. It is a **biennial event** and is organised by the Ministry of Defence.

Answer: Gandhinagar, Gujarat

106. Nano Biotechnology Research Centre (**NBRC**), the research and development unit of the Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (**IFFCO**) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) with the _____ for “research consultancy, knowledge transfer and collaborative projects”.

Answer: Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) - Delhi

107. Which organization has constructed the world’s highest **52-km-long** tarmac road or motorable pass at Umling LA Pass in eastern **Ladakh** at an altitude of 19,300 feet which has surpassed the record of a road in Bolivia, South America at 18,953 ft which connects to its volcano **Uturuncu**.

Answer: The Border Roads Organisation (BRO)

108. **MeitY Startup Hub** (MSH), the nodal entity under the Ministry of Electronics & IT (MeitY), collaborated with _____, the start-up accelerator, to support deep-tech startups.

Answer: India Accelerator

109. Government of India (GoI) is set to host the **1st India Internet Governance Forum 2021 (IIGF 2021)** in India from October 20-22, 2021. IIGF 2021 will be conducted by the_____.

Answer: Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY)

- The theme of the IIGF-2021 will be “**Inclusive Internet for Digital India**”.
- IIGF is the **Indian chapter** of the **United Nations based Internet Governance Forum**. It will act as a platform to discuss public policy issues related to the Internet.

110. The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (**MoHUA**) has declared which city as the **1st ‘water plus’ city** of India?

Answer: Indore, Madhya Pradesh

111. The **total installed renewable energy capacity in India**, excluding large Hydro, has crossed the milestone of _____.

Answer: 100 GigaWatts (GW)

- With this, India holds 4th position in the world in terms of installed Renewable Energy (RE) capacity, 5th in solar and 4th in wind in terms of installed capacity.
- **Target** – 100 GW achievement is considered to be part of India's target of 450 GW of renewable energy capacity by 2030, increasing 25 GW every year and it will reach 146 GW installed RE capacity if we include large hydro projects.

112. Who have conducted a nationwide assessment of **minority schools** and released a report titled 'Impact of Exemption under Article 15 (5) with regards to Article 21A of the Constitution of India on Education of Minority Communities'.

Answer: The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR)

113. **Dr Jitendra Singh**, has released ' _____ ', India's first and world's largest Cattle Genomic Chip for the conservation of pure varieties of indigenous cattle breeds like, Gir, Kankrej, Sahiwal, Ongole etc.

Answer: IndiGau'

- The chip was developed by the scientists of **National Institute of Animal Biotechnology (NAIB)**, Hyderabad (Telangana). It is an autonomous institution under the aegis of the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Ministry of Science & Technology (MoST).

114. Which National Park has become India's **first** National park to be equipped with **satellite phones**, an initiative to boost anti-poaching measures in the park.

Answer: Kaziranga National Park of Assam

115. **MyGov** under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (**MeitY**) along with the United Nations (**UN**) **Women** launched the _____.

Answer: “Amrit Mahotsav Shri Shakti Innovation Challenge 2021”.

116. Which Highway has become India’s 1st EV-Friendly Highway?

Answer: Delhi-Chandigarh Highway

117. Intel India collaborated with **Society for Innovation & Entrepreneurship** (SINE)-Indian Institute (IIT) of Bombay has launched first-of-its-kind industry-technology alliance “**Plugin Alliance**”, for enhancing _____ revolution in India.

Answer: Industry 4.0

118. India is all set to host the 2nd **United Nations World Geospatial Information Congress** (UNWGIC) in October 2022 in _____, Telangana on the theme ‘Towards Geo-enabling the Global Village’.

Answer: Hyderabad

119. As a part of the Nationally Determined Contributions-Transport Initiative for Asia (NDC-TIA) project, _____ has jointly launched the ‘**Forum for Decarbonizing Transport**’ in India.

Answer: NITI Aayog and World Resources Institute (WRI), India

- The forum will act as a channel to bring in the diverse needs to adopt an integrated approach for greening the transport sector in India.

120. **Microsoft** India has entered into a partnership with _____ to support the tech startups in India.

Answer: Invest India

Under this partnership, Microsoft will work with Invest India and Accelerating Growth of New India’s Innovations (AGNI) Mission to support the ‘Microsoft for Startups’ programme.

121. Government of India (GoI) has launched which programme to support 300 Information Technology (IT) enabled Startups for a period of 6 months.

Answer: Startup Accelerator of Meity for Product Innovation, Development & Growth (SAMRIDH)

- It aims to create 100 unicorns out of the selected IT Startups by providing Seed funding, Mentorship and Market access.

122. Dharmendra Pradhan, Union Minister of Education has virtually inaugurated the **Centre for Research and Innovation in Artificial Intelligence (AI)** established at the _____ in collaboration with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and Honeywell Technology Solutions.

Answer: Indian Institute of Technology-Hyderabad (IIT-H)

123. **MeitY Startup Hub (MSH)**, under the aegis of Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with _____, a digital payment and financial technology, to support deep tech startups.

Answer: Paytm

124. **NITI** (National Institution for Transforming India) Aayog launched the next phase of its flagship platform Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP) titled '**WEP Nxt**' in partnership with

Answer: Cisco

- Under this, Cisco's technology and experience of working with India's startups will be utilized to foster women entrepreneurship in India.

125. Which state has become the first state in the country to provide **1% horizontal reservation** for the **transgender** in each category of general, Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST) and Other Backward Classes (OBC) for all government services?

Answer: Karnataka

126. **Meghalaya** State Investment Promotion (**MSIP**) Society has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) with _____ an investment promotion agency under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, to promote the trade and industries of Meghalaya.

Answer: Invest India

127. Asian Development Bank (**ADB**) has sanctioned loans worth _____ to finance Urban Water Supply Infrastructure Projects in 4 towns (Ranchi, Hussainabad, Jhumri Telaiya and Medininagar) of Jharkhand. This is **the ADB's 1st urban sector project in Jharkhand.**

Answer: USD 112 million

128. Which state/UT has launched a month-long campaign named '**Pani Maah** (water month)' to accelerate the implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission (**JJM**) and to inform and engage village communities on the importance of clean water in the Union Territory (UT) of Ladakh?

Answer: Ladakh

129. Chief Minister of _____ launched '**eNagar**' mobile **application** and **portal** which covers 10 modules offering 52 services.

Answer: Gujarat

- The eNagar project aims to have efficient, transparent and scalable online citizen-centric services and a back-office operation support system.
- The Urban Development and Urban Housing Department has appointed **Gujarat Development Mission** as the **nodal agency** of the eNagar Project.

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130. Which state has become first to implement the **National Education Policy (NEP) – 2020** from the current academic year 2021-2022?

Answer: Karnataka

131. **Uttarakhand** Chief Minister has appointed Indian Women's Team Hockey Player _____ as the Brand Ambassador of the State's Department of Women Empowerment & Child Development.

Answer: Vandana Kataria

132. On the occasion of International Day of **World's Indigenous People Day** i.e. August 9, 2021, the _____ has recognized **Community Forest Resource Rights** in an urban area, making it the first state in India to do so.

Answer: Chhattisgarh

133. On the lines of Digital India, which state is all set to launch India's first 'Smart Health Cards scheme'?

Answer: Odisha

134. The Asian Development Bank (**ADB**) will provide _____ **loans** to Government of India to expand the metro rail network in Bengaluru, Karnataka.

Answer: USD 500 million

135. Small Industries Development Bank of India (**SIDBI**) has provided the first approval under SIDBI Cluster Development Fund (SCDF) to the _____ state government.

Answer: Tamil Nadu (TN)

136. Which state cabinet has approved the new scheme titled “**Mera Kaam Mera Maan (MKMM)**” scheme to help the unemployed youths of Punjab to enhance their skills and increase the chance of getting a job?

Answer: Punjab

137. Bollywood Actor, **Sonu Sonu** will be appointed as brand ambassador of the programme of Delhi Government _____ by the Chief Minister of Delhi Arvind Kejriwal.

Answer: “Desh Ke Mentor”

138. The 36th Edition of Coordinated Patrol (**CORPAT**) was held between the Navies of India and Indonesia from July 30-31, 2021 in the _____.

Answer: Indian Ocean region (IOR)

- Indian Naval ship (**INS Saryu**), an indigenously built Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV) along with Indonesian Naval ship KRI Bung Tomo took part in the coordinated patrol.

139. The **1st G20 Culture Ministers’ Meeting 2021** was held in July 2021, virtually in _____.

Answer: Rome, Italy

140. Which country became the **5th country** to join the **International Solar Alliance (ISA)** Framework Agreement after amendments to the ISA Agreement entered into force on **8th January 2021**.

Answer: Germany

141. _____ joined the **Coalition on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)**, an initiative of India launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the UN Climate Action Summit in September 2019.

Answer: Bangladesh and Canada

- India’s external affairs minister **S Jaishankar** has welcomed both nations as partners under CDRI.

142. In order to boost global liquidity and to curb COVID-19 impact, the Board of Governors of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has approved a general allocation of Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) equivalent to _____ w.e.f. August 23, 2021.

Answer: US\$650 billion

143. Which country became the **1st Country in the World to grant Patent** to an Artificial Intelligence (AI) System.

Answer: South Africa

- It has granted a patent related to an Food Container system based on Fractal Geometry invented by the AI system '**DABUS**' (Device for Autonomous Bootstrapping of Unified Sentience).

144. Who has chaired the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) High-level Open Debate on '**Enhancing Maritime Security – A Case for International Cooperation**'.

Answer: Prime Minister Narendra Modi

145. Which country chaired the meeting of the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) Working Group on Agriculture 2021 on the theme '**BRICS Partnership for Strengthening Agro Biodiversity for Food and Nutrition Security**'.

Answer: India

- Discussions were held on the Joint declaration of the **11th meeting of BRICS and Action Plan for 2021-24** for agricultural cooperation of BRICS countries and BRICS Agriculture Research Platform.
- This BRICS Working Group meeting will endorse the Action Plan of 2021-24 for adoption in the BRICS 2021 meeting.

146. '**Exercise Konkan- 2021**', a bilateral Naval Exercise held **between the Indian Navy and the Royal Navy of Britain** in _____.

Answer: Portsmouth, United Kingdom (UK)

147. The 12th Edition of **Exercise** _____, a bilateral **Military Exercise** held between Indian Army and the military forces of Russian Federation in **Volgograd, Russia** (from 1st to 13th August, 2021).

Answer: INDRA-2021

148. Which organization has created a new advisory group “The International Scientific Advisory Group for Origins of Novel Pathogens” or ‘**SAGO**’ to study into the origin of the COVID-19.

Answer: The World Health Organisation (WHO)

149. The _____ have signed an agreement for the cooperation in remote sensing satellite data sharing.

Answer: BRICS nations (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa)

- The agreement was signed under India’s BRICS chairship.
- The agreement was signed by the Heads of BRICS Space Agencies.

150. As per the report of Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) lender **SIDBI** (Small Industries Development Bank of India) and **Transunion-Cibil, MSME Pulse** – Edition XII, the value of new loans disbursed to the MSME sector in **FY21** (COVID-19 period) was _____, 40% higher than Rs.6.8 lakh crore in FY20 (pre-COVID-19 period).

Answer: Rs.9.5 lakh crore

151. The 2nd Edition of the ‘**COVID-19 Innovation report 2021**’ released by _____ in association with Health Innovation Exchange & UNAIDS (United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS) has ranked India 32nd (score 0.396) in the global coronavirus innovation rankings for countries. The US has topped the rankings, followed by Israel & Canada.

Answer: Startup Blink

- The report ranks the 40 countries and 100 cities in the world based on Innovation solutions developed to combat the pandemic.
- In the Cities Rankings, San Francisco Bay (US), New York (US) & Moscow (Russia) were ranked as the Top 3 cities. India has 2 cities – Bengaluru, Karnataka (49th Rank), New Delhi (55th) in the top 100 rankings.

152. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change’s (IPCC) **Sixth Assessment Report** (AR6) Climate Change 2021. The report states that if the emissions decline slowly, the temperature rise of 2°C, the limit set by the Paris Agreement will be breached by _____.

Answer: 2060

- The report gave 5 scenarios for the future based on carbon emissions, as per it, the world will cross the 1.5° C warming mark in the 2030s, earlier than past predictions.
- Under the very high emission scenario with little action, temperatures are likely to rise by up to 5.7°C by the year 2100.

153. The Commonwealth Secretariat released its triennial rankings of **Global Youth Development Index (YDI) 2020**. In the country wise ranking, India ranked _____ out of 181 countries.

Answer: 122nd

Singapore topped the Index

154. According to the 2nd Edition of Global Crypto Adoption Index 2021 released by **Chainalysis**, a crypto-analysis firm, **India with a score of 0.37 ranked** _____ out of 154 countries.

Answer: 2nd

- Vietnam topped the index.

155. According to the UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund) report titled 'The Climate Crisis Is a Child Rights Crisis: Introducing the **Children's Climate Risk Index**' (CCRI), India is among the **33 extremely high-risk countries** where approximately _____ are most at risk of the impacts of climate change that will affect their health, education, and protection.

Answer: 1 billion children

- The four South Asian countries named in the list are Pakistan, Bangladesh, Afghanistan and India with ranks of 14th, 15th, 25th and 26th respectively.

156. According to the recent technical report by the **National Centre for Coastal Research (NCCR)** under the Ministry of Earth Sciences, what percent of India's coastline underwent sea erosion and between 1990 and 2018.

Answer: 32%

- India's coastline is 6,631.53 kilometres long in which 2,135.65 kilometres faced erosion and 1,760.06 km expanded during this period. About 2,700 km of the coastline is stable.

157. Asian Development Bank (**ADB**) has released the 52nd Edition of the **Key Indicators for Asia & the Pacific, 2021**. As per the report, in the Asia-Pacific region, the Extremely poor population has reduced from the size of 1.2 Billion in 1999 to _____ in 2017.

Answer: 202.9 Million

- Asia-Pacific Region's Economy grew from 27% of Global GDP in 2000 to 35% in 2019 (Exceeding the share of Europe & North America).

158. The 1st Edition of North Eastern Region (NER) District Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Index & Dashboard 2021-22 was released. The district of _____ topped the rankings.

Answer: East Sikkim

- It was prepared by Niti Aayog (National Institution for Transforming India) & Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (M/DoNER) with the support of United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).
- It aims to rank the 103 districts of 8 NER states based on their relative performance across 15 SDGs (Goal 14-Life below Water & 17-partnerships to achieve the goals are not taken)
- The score ranges from 0 (bottom) to 100 (top). Each district is categorized into one of the four categories of Aspirant (score of 0-49), Performer (50-64), Front Runner (65-99) and Achiever (100).

159. In order to provide weather forecasts for farmers, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) is all set to install Agro-Automatic Weather Stations (AWS) at _____ located in Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) network.

Answer: 200 District Agromet Units (DAMUs)

- These AWSs will be used for augmenting block level Agromet Advisory Services (AAS) under **Gramin Krishi Mausam Sewa** (GKMS) scheme.

160. The Government of India (GoI) has signed a **US \$250 million loan** agreement with the _____ for the Second Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (**DRIP-2**) **Phase II**, the world's largest dam management program.

Answer: World Bank (WB)

161. Who has launched a 'PM-DAKSH' Portal and 'PM-DAKSH' Mobile App under the scheme **PM-DAKSH** (Pradhan Mantri Dakshta Aur Kushalta Sampann Hitgrahi) **Yojana** to ease the access of **skill development** schemes by the **target groups**.

Answer: Virendra Kumar, the Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment

- The portal and app were developed by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (**MoSJ&E**), in collaboration with National e-Governance Division (**NeGD**).
- **PM-DAKSH Yojana** is the National Action Plan launched by the **MoSJ&E** in **2020-21** for skilling the target group.

162. Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually launched the **Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana 2.0** (PMUY 2.0) Scheme from _____ of Uttar Pradesh.

Answer: Mahoba district

- Under PMUY 2.0, an **additional 10 million LPG (Liquefied Petroleum Gas) connections** will be provided to the beneficiaries. Lakhs of Migrant Families are also expected to benefit from the scheme.

163. Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi launched the National Edible Oil Mission-Oil Palm (**NMEO-OP**) to reduce India's dependence on _____ and achieve self-reliance in its production.

Answer: imported edible oils

- The government plans to invest **Rs 11,000 crore** under NMEO-OP for a **5-year**. The mission was launched on the anniversary day of the Quit India Movement.

164. Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (National Mission of Financial Inclusion) completed its _____ on 15th August, 2021.

Answer: 7th Anniversary

- It was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on February 28, 2014.
- As per government data, PMJDY now has **42.89 crore beneficiaries** (basic bank account holders) with **INR 1,43,834 crore total balance**.
- More than 50% of them are women – 23.76 crore, while 28.57 crore belong to rural and semi city areas.
- The average balance of PMJDY accounts stands at around INR 3000-3500.

165. Secretary of Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) Durga Shankar Mishra has launched a logo and brand named “**SonChiraiya**” to promote market products of _____.

Answer: Urban Self Help Groups (SHG)

166. **Mansukh Mandaviya**, Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare virtually inaugurated which programme to increase the reach of the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Aarogya Yojana (**AB-PMJAY**) programme to the poorest households of India and to create awareness about the scheme.

Answer: Aarogya Dhara- 2.0

167. The **Ministry of Jal Shakti** has launched a 100 Days campaign – ‘_____’ as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations to achieve Open Defecation Free (ODF) Plus Status in villages across the country by undertaking waste water management at the village level.

Answer: SUJALAM

168. Which Organization & Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilisers Ltd (RCF) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (IFFCO) for ‘**Transfer of Technology**’ of fertiliser **Nano Urea Liquid**.

Answer: National Fertilisers Limited (NFL)

169. National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (**NABARD**) has partnered with the _____ through the NABFoundation, to offer storage facilities for the Farmers Producer Organisation (**FPOs**) at lower rates for the next 5 years.

Answer: Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC)

170. India Recorded Highest Ever Monthly Merchandise Export of \$35.17 billion in _____.

Answer: July 2021

- **In July 2021**, India has recorded the highest ever monthly merchandise export.

- The merchandise exports in July 2021 was increased by **47.91 percent** to USD 35.17 billion from USD 23.78 billion in July 2020.
- India's exports have covered 32.64 percent of its annual target of 400 billion dollars.
- The top 5 commodity groups of export which have recorded positive growth during July this year are – Petroleum Products, Gems and Jewellery, Other Cereals, Man-made fabrics, and Cotton Fabrics, Handloom Products.

171. The Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) in collaboration with **Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office**, United Kingdom (FCDO UK) has launched _____ to promote entrepreneurship.

Answer: Swavalamban Challenge Fund (SCF)

- The **National Stock Exchange (NSE)** partnered with **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI)** to enhance research efforts in the area of insolvency and bankruptcy.

172. Which organisation has launched the programme '**Digital Prayaas**' an **App based** end to end **digital lending tool** platform to sanction loans to entrepreneurs from low income group (especially the people at the bottom of the pyramid) by the end of the day.

Answer: Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)

173. _____ has become the **first Indian cryptocurrency exchange to grab the title of 'unicorn' with valuation to \$1.1 billion** (Rs 8,150 crore).

Answer: CoinDCX

- The exchange achieved this status after a \$90-million (Rs 668 crore) series-C funding round, led by Facebook co-founder Eduardo Saverin's B Capital.
- It should be noted that Unicorns are startups with a valuation of \$1 billion or more.

174. Union Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** has launched _____ of Corpus INR 250 crore with a green shoe option of INR 250 crore for Export oriented Small & mid sized companies across the country.

Answer: Ubharte Sitaare Fund (USF)

- USF is jointly funded by Export and Import (EXIM) Bank of India & Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)

- It is an Alternative Investment Fund (AIF) with a contribution of INR 40 crore each by EXIM Bank & SIDBI has been registered with Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) in July 2021.

175. Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs, Nirmala Sitharaman launched the asset monetization pipeline of Central ministries and public sector entities named **National Monetization pipeline (NMP)**. The aggregate monetization potential under NMP through core assets of the central govt over the 4-year period (i.e. from FY22 to FY25) is estimated at _____.

Answer: Rs 6 lakh crores.

176. Which organization has launched an online portal named 'My e-Haat' to empower artisans and strengthen the value chain of the handicraft sector in India.

Answer: HCL Foundation

177. Union Minister for Labour & Employment, Bhupender Yadav has launched _____ for registration of Unorganized workers across the country.

Answer: e-Shram Portal

- The portal is the 1st of its Kind initiative for the Unorganized workers in India.

178. Which bank has launched a '**SIM Binding**' feature in its digital banking platform YONO (You Only Need One), YONO Lite.

Answer: State Bank of India (SBI)

- The technology allows Only one user per device with a Registered Mobile Number (RMN).
- It is aimed at protecting customers from various digital frauds.
- The SIM Binding feature will work with the basic rule of One Mobile Device – One User – One RMN.

179. According to information provided by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the total amount of unclaimed deposits of Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) was _____, as on **July 31, 2020**.

Answer: Rs. 24,356 crore

180. _____ launched the UPI based **AutoPay** functionality for its Mutual Fund (MF) Systematic Investment Plans (SIPs) offerings, became the **1st** digital investment platform in India to introduce such a feature.

Answer: PhonePe

181. On August 2, 2021, the **SBI (State Bank of India) General Insurance** collaborated with _____, the promoter of **SahiPay** to expand its non-life penetration in rural areas.

Answer: Manipal Business Solutions

182. The _____ reduced the minimum application value of real estate investment trusts (REITs) and infrastructure investment trusts (InvITs) to the range of **Rs 10,000-15,000** from earlier requirement of Rs 50,000 for REITs and Rs 1 lakh for InvITs.

Answer: Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)

- It also revised the trading lot to **one unit** for REITs and InvITs from earlier 100 units for initial listing. In this regard, allotment to any investor is required to be made in the multiples of a lot.

183. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has empanelled which bank as an '**Agency Bank**' to facilitate transactions related to government (govt) businesses.

Answer: IndusInd Bank

- RBI has allowed IndusInd Bank to handle transactions related to revenue receipts under Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) and Goods and Services Tax (GST) on behalf of the state/central govt.

184. **The Banker**, the Financial Times publication has honoured _____, a Singapore based financial service group, as the **Global** and **Asia-Pacific** winner for the Most Innovative in Digital Banking, at its **Innovation in Digital Banking Awards 2021**.

Answer: DBS Bank

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185. The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** allowed _____ to carry out the activities of investment bankers in order to ease the access for investors to participate in public and rights issues by using various payment avenues.

Answer: Payments Banks

186. Which Insurance Company has partnered with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) and integrated NPCI's **UPI (Unified Payment Interface) AutoPay** platform into its system to enable its customers to make instant automated **recurring premium payments** of insurance policies?

Answer: ICICI Prudential Life

187. On August 02, 2021, Prime Minister (PM) **Narendra Modi** virtually launched a **prepaid electronic voucher**-based digital payment solution named '**e-RUPI**' to strengthen the _____ and the financial inclusion of unbanked citizens.

Answer: Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)

- e-RUPI, the 'person and purpose-specific' one-time cashless and contactless digital payment vouchers was developed by the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** on its **UPI (Unified Payments Interface)** platform, in association with the Department of Financial Services (DFS), National Health Authority (NHA), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW), and partner banks.
- The e-RUPI e-Voucher/coupon could be shared in the form of an **SMS-string** or **QR code** (instead of Money) to the beneficiaries' **mobile** for a specific purpose (health, education, subsidies, etc).

188. Government of India (GoI) has set the Loan Disbursement Target under Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana (**PMMY**) at _____ for the current Financial Year (**FY 2021-22**).

Answer: INR 3 trillion

189. On August 04, 2021, the Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**) extended the timeline for **Banks** to implement the revised rules on **opening current accounts** to 3 months till _____.

Answer: October 30, 2021.

- In August 2020, RBI revised the directions on opening and operating current accounts by banks and **restricted** the banks from opening current accounts for customers who have

availed credit facilities from the bank in the form of **cash credit (CC)/ overdraft (OD)**. Earlier the deadline was fixed by RBI till July 2021 to implement the regulations.

190. The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) 6-members Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) had met on 4th, 5th and 6th **August 2021** and released its **third** bi-monthly **monetary policy** statement for _____.

Answer: FY22 (April 2021 – March 2022)

Policy Rates:

- The Policy rates were kept unchanged, which are as follows:

Category	Rates
Policy Rates	
Policy Repo Rate	4.00%
Reverse Repo Rate	3.35%
Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) Rate	4.25%
Bank Rate	4.25%
Reserve Ratios	
Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR)	4.00%
Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR)	18.00%

- Key Points**

- Growth:** The MPC has retained India's real gross domestic product (GDP) growth projection for FY22 at **9.5 percent**. Real GDP growth for Q1 FY23 is projected at **17.2 percent**.
- Inflation:** Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation was projected at 5.7 percent in FY22. CPI inflation for Q1 FY23 was projected at **5.1 percent**.

191. **Six Banks** namely State Bank of India (SBI), Axis Bank, Indian Bank, Yes Bank, IDBI Bank, and ICICI Bank have brought **Equity Stakes in Financial Technology Platform** _____.

Answer: IBBIC (Indian Banks' Blockchain Infrastructure Co).

- The 6 Banks have picked up **5.55 percent stake each**, representing 50,000 shares in IBBIC, for cash at INR 5 lakh each.

192. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has empanelled the _____ as the 'Agency Bank' to facilitate transactions related to government (govt) businesses.

Answer: Karnataka Bank

- RBI has allowed Karnataka Bank to handle transactions related to **revenue receipts** under the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) and Goods and Services Tax (GST) on behalf of the state/central govt.
- The bank was also authorized to make transactions such as income tax, indirect taxes, pension payments, collection of **stamp duty** charges, and State taxes such as professional tax, value-added tax and State excise duties.

193. In August 2021, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) amended the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements (LODR)) Regulations, 2015 named LODR (Third Amendment) Regulations, 2021. It modified certain norms related to the process of appointment/removal of _____.

Answer: Independent directors (IDs)

- **Objective:** To enable the transparent appointment/removal of IDs and overcome corporate fraud and promoters' mismanagement.
- Appointment/Re-appointment and Removal of IDs were now directed to be made only through a special resolution of shareholders.
- A cooling-off period of **1 year** has been introduced for an ID transitioning to a whole-time director (WTD) in the same company.

194. On August 9, 2021, the collateral free loans to self-help groups (SHGs) provided under **Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM)** have been enhanced to Rs 20 lakh from Rs 10 lakh by _____.

Answer: Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

- Under this enhancement, for loans to SHGs up to Rs 10 lakh there will be no collateral and no margin will be charged, also, no lien should be marked against savings bank account of SHGs and no deposits should be insisted upon while sanctioning loans.
- For loans to SHGs above Rs 10 lakh and up to Rs 20 lakh, no collateral should be charged and no lien should be marked against savings bank account of SHGs.

195. Which organization has joined hands with price housing financier **IIFL** (India Infoline) **Home Finance Ltd**, subsidiary of IIFL home finance to reduce carbon emissions and preserve water and vitality in India?

Answer: Asian Development Bank (ADB)

- The total cost of the project is \$1 million & ADB will fund through its **Urban Climate Change Resilience (UCCR) Trust Fund**, IIFL, will contribute \$0.15 million towards inexpensive housing in India.

196. _____, the sole reinsurer in the domestic reinsurance market, is set to shut down its Dubai Office.

Answer: General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC Re)

- The GIC Re has decided to shift its operation to Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (**GIFT City**), the only International Financial Services Centre in India.

197. Which organization has introduced the 'Financial Inclusion Index' (**FI-Index**) to measure the extent of financial inclusion across India?

Answer: Reserve Bank of India (RBI)

- *The FI-Index will be published annually in **July month** (for the financial year (FY) ending previous March).*
- *The annual FI-Index for the **FY21** (period ending March 2021) is **53.9** as against 43.4 of FY17.*
- *The FI-Index contain 3 different parameters with variant weightage viz, **Access** (35 percent), **Usage** (45 percent), and **Quality** (20 percent). The FI-Index has **no 'base year'**.*

198. **SBI Life Insurance** launched a new Individual, Non-Linked, Non-Participating Life Insurance solution named _____.

Answer: 'SBI Life eShield Next'

199. The Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**) has issued revised guidelines for both new and existing Safe Deposit Locker and Safe Custody Article Facility with the banks.

- At present, banks do not have any liability towards lockers. The guidelines would come into effect from **January 1, 2022**.

200. _____ and partners announce a New Global Fund for Cybersecurity named **Cybersecurity Multi-Donor Trust Fund** under the broader Digital Development Partnership (DDP) umbrella program.

Answer: World Bank

201. NPCI International Payments Ltd (NIPL) has partnered with the UAE (United Arab Emirates)-based **Mashreq Bank** to provide the _____ in the **UAE**.

Answer: Unified Payments Interface (UPI)

202. Which bank made a partnership with PayTM to share their network and provide digital lending and payment solutions for consumers and merchants across India.

Answer: HDFC Bank Ltd

203. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has introduced a web-based and end-to-end workflow automation system named _____ to strengthen the compliance of the entities that are supervised by RBI.

Answer: 'Platform for Regulated Entities for Integrated Supervision and Monitoring' (PRISM)

- *To make continuous supervision of entities for – earlier identification of risks; conduct of supervisory actions; and strengthen their internal resilience.*
- *RBI supervises entities including banks, NBFCs, financial institutions and Payment System Providers.*
- *RBI has included **Root Cause Analysis (RCA)** in the current supervisory cycle. RCA includes a detailed assessment of governance, oversight and assurance function, business strategy and risk and compliance culture.*
- *RBI's Department of Supervision (DoS) plans to introduce a dedicated market intelligence (MI) unit for frauds and implementation of automated unique system generated numbers for each fraud.*

204. In August 2021, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) released the recommendation report of the Expert Committee on Primary (Urban) Co-operative Banks (UCBs) under the chairmanship of _____, which was constituted by RBI to review the issues of UCBs and to provide a road map for strengthening the sector.

Answer: N. S. Viswanathan

- **Committee's Recommendation:**

- To ease the regulatory process, the committee has recommended a 4-tier structure for the UCBs, based on their capital availability and other factors.

- Tier 1 – All unit UCBs and salary earner's UCBs (irrespective of deposit size), and all other UCBs having deposits up to Rs 100 crore*
- Tier 2 – UCBs with deposits between Rs 100 crore – Rs 1000 crore*
- Tier 3 – UCBs with deposits between Rs 1000 crore – Rs 10,000 crore*
- Tier 4 – UCBs with deposits more than Rs 10,000 crore*

205. Nirmala Sitharaman, the Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs unveiled the 4th edition of the Public Sector Bank (PSB) Reforms Agenda '**EASE 4.0**' (Enhanced Access and Service Excellence) for 2021-22 for_____.

Answer: tech-enabled, simplified, and collaborative banking

206. Who has been selected for Lokmanya Tilak National Award, 2021.

Answer: Dr. Cyrus Poonawalla

207. The Highest sporting honour of India, "**Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award**", has been renamed as_____.

Answer: "Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award"

208. The Information Technology, Electronics and Communication (**ITE&C**) Department of the **Government of Telangana** has won the_____ for the implementation of the '**Crowd Monitoring using AI**' scheme.

Answer: AI GameChanger Award 2021

- The winners of the awards were announced at the Xperience AI Summit 2021 organised by the National Association of Software and Services Companies (**NASSCOM**).

209. Which state has won **7 Van Dhan Awards 2020-2021** for its outstanding performance in various categories?

Answer: Nagaland

- *The state topped in 3 categories, Best Survey State, Best Training State and the most number of Van Dhan Vikas Clusters (**VDVKCs**).*

- The awards were announced by Arjun Munda, Union Minister of Tribal Affairs, during the 34th Foundation day of the Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (**TRIFED**).
- The Van Dhan Awards was instituted by the TRIFED to recognise Van Dhan Self Help Groups (**VDSHG**), **VDVKCs**, tribal artisans, forest produce gatherers and people working for them, for their achievements and contributions.

210. Which state government has been honoured with **4 SKOCH Awards** for various schemes under **Ease of Doing Business Initiatives**?

Answer: West Bengal Government

211. **Mohammad Azam** from Karimnagar district in Telangana has been awarded the _____ recently by the Union Youth Affairs and Sports Minister **Anurag Singh Thakur** in Delhi for displaying exemplary leadership qualities.

Answer: National Youth Award

212. Which title is awarded for '**Most authors on a single peer-reviewed academic paper**', a study about COVID-19 conducted at Indian hospitals among others around the world by the United Kingdom (UK) experts along with University of Birmingham and Edinburgh.

Answer: Guinness World Records

213. the Union Ministry of Education (MoE), Department of School Education and Literacy, published a list of _____ from India for the National Awards to Teachers, 2021, the highest teachers award in India.

Answer: 44 selected teachers

214. Recently, the Government of India has appointed _____, as the **25th** Controller General of Accounts (**CGA**) under the Ministry of Finance, Department of Expenditure.

Answer: Deepak Das

215. The government of India has appointed _____ as the new Managing Director of the Life Insurance Corporation (**LIC**) of India. She has been serving as the Executive Director, Legal Department, LIC of India.

Answer: Mini Ipe

216. The government of India has nominated _____ as the **Chairperson of the National Commission for Women (NCW)** for another term of **3 years** with effect from 7th August 2021 or till the age of 65 or until further orders.

Answer: Rekha Sharma

217. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) roped in _____ for its new public awareness campaign against **digital banking frauds**.

Answer: Neeraj Chopra

218. Who has been appointed as the brand ambassador of **Samsung India** to endorse Galaxy Z, a series of foldable smartphones, in India?

Answer: Bollywood actress Alia Bhatt

219. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the reappointment of **Sandeep Bakhshi** as the Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of _____.

Answer: ICICI Bank

220. Who was the **1st Modern woman poet of Dogri language** and Padma Shri awardee that passed away at Mumbai hospital due to health reasons?

Answer: Padma Sachdev (81),

- She had won the **Sahitya Akademi Award** in 1971 for her anthology of poems – '**Meri Kavita Mere Geet**'.

221. Centenarian sprinter and World Masters Games Medalist _____, who is referred as '**Miracle from Chandigarh**', has passed away in Patiala, Punjab.

Answer: Man Kaur

222. An **Olympian** and excellent defender in the Indian **Football** team passed away at the age of 86. Name the person.

Answer: O. Chandrasekharan

223. The renowned **Agricultural Scientist** and Padma Shri award recipient, _____ passed away at the age of 90 years in Satara district of Maharashtra.

Answer: Bonbehari Vishnu Nimbkar

224. United Nations (UN)'s **World Breastfeeding Week (WBW)** is annually observed across the globe from _____.

Answer: 1st to 7th August

- The annual observance of the WBW is organised by the World Alliance for Breastfeeding Action (WABA).

225. The Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (**TRIFED**), under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs (**MoTA**), celebrated its **34th Foundation day** on _____.

Answer: 6th August 2021

226. When is **National Handloom Day (NHD)** is observed across India?

Answer: 7th August

227. The **Quit India Movement Day** is annually observed across India on _____ to commemorate the launch of the Quit India Movement on 8th August **1942**.

Answer: 8th August

228. United Nations (UN)'s **International Youth Day(IYD)** is annually observed across the globe on _____ to create awareness about the cultural and legal issues surrounding youth and to celebrate the potential of youths as the partners of the global society.

Answer: 12th August

- The theme of International Youth Day 2021 is **“Transforming Food Systems: Youth Innovation for Human and Planetary Health”**.

229. The United Nations (UN)'s **International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples** is annually observed across the globe on _____ .

Answer: 9th August

- The day is also known as **“World Tribal Day”**.
- The theme of International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples 2021 is **“Leaving No One Behind: Indigenous peoples and the call for a new social contract”**.

230. **When is World Biofuel Day** is annually observed across the globe?

Answer: 10th August

231. **World Photography Day** is annually observed across the globe on _____ to celebrate the art, craft, science and history of photography.

Answer: 19th August

- World Photography Day is also known as **World Photo Day**.

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232. _____ is observed annually across the globe on **20th August** to commemorate the discovery of British doctor Sir Ronald Ross in 1897 that female mosquitoes transmit malaria between humans.

Answer: World Mosquito Day

233. **World Water Week** (WWWeek) is annually celebrated across the globe in the month of _____ to address the major water issues across the globe.

Answer: August

- The WWWeek 2021 is being held as an online event from 23rd to 27th August.
- The theme of 2021 World water Week is “**Building Resilience Faster**”.

234. **National Small Industry Day** is annually observed across India on _____ to celebrate and recognise the contribution of small-scale industry to the development of India.

Answer: 30th August

235. Who has defeated Sergey Karjakin (Russia) to win the **9th Edition of FIDE (International Chess Federation) World Cup 2021**?

Answer: Jan-Krzysztof Duda (Poland)

236. The 32nd Edition of Olympic Games took place in Tokyo, Japan from 23rd July, 2021 – 8th August, 2021. India finished with _____ and has been ranked at 48th Position.

Answer: 7 Medals (1 Gold, 2 Silver, 4 Bronze)

- This was India's highest ever medals tally in an Olympics (Previous one was 6 medals 2016 Rio Olympics)
- The US topped the Medals tally with 113 Medals (39 G, 41 S, 33 B) followed by China & Japan.

Overall Medals Tally of India:

Name	Sport	Event	Medal
------	-------	-------	-------

<i>Neeraj Chopra</i>	Athletics	Men's javelin throw	Gold
<i>Saikhom Mirabai Chanu</i>	Weightlifting	Women's 49 kg	Silver
<i>Ravi Kumar Dahiya</i>	Wrestling	Men's freestyle 57 kg	Silver
<i>P. V. Sindhu</i>	Badminton	Women's singles	Bronze
<i>Lovlina Borgohain</i>	Boxing		

237. The Tokyo 2020 Summer Paralympic Games were held from 24th August – 5th September, 2021.

The official Mascot was _____.

Answer: 'Someity'

238. Which Indian Table Tennis Player won the 2021 International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) Czech International Open?

Answer: Sathiyam Gnanasekaran

239. Red Bull driver _____ has been declared the winner of the **Belgian Grand Prix (GP), 2021**. It was the Shortest ever Grand Prix in terms of distance Completed.

Answer: Max Verstappen (Netherland)

240. Which organization has released the Study on **Not-For-Profit Hospital Model in India-Web** providing insight into their operation model.

Answer: NITI (National Institution for Transforming India) Aayog

241. Science and Engineering Research Board (**SERB**), a statutory body under Department of Science & Technology (DST) in partnership with _____ has launched the 1st of its kind research initiative called '**Fund for Industrial Research Engagement (FIRE)**' to advance deep tech-based research in India.

Answer: Intel India

242. Prime Minister of India, virtually inaugurated a _____ at Ahmedabad Management Association (**AMA**) in Ahmedabad, Gujarat to display the bond between India and Japan.

Answer: Zen Garden and Kaizen Academy

- The Zen Garden and the Kaizen Academy is a symbol of spontaneity and modernity of relation between Indian and Japan.

243. The Office of Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA) to the Government of India launched the **Atmanirbhar Krishi app under the KisanMitr initiative**. Who has been designed and built the app?

Answer: Tech Mahindra Makers Lab team

244. A first fintech cohort of AIM-iLEAP (**Innovative leadership for entrepreneurial agility and profitability**) was concluded recently which was organized by _____.

Answer: Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) of NITI Aayog

245. Recently which project was launched by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC)

- as a part of KVIC's "Khadi Bamboo Festival" to celebrate 75 years of independence "**Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav**".

Answer: "Bamboo Oasis on Lands in Drought (BOLD

246. '**National Initiative for Proficiency in Reading with Understanding and Numeracy (NIPUN Bharat)**' Mission aims to ensure that every child in India attains **foundational literacy and numeracy by the end of Grade 3, by** _____.

Answer: 2026-27

247. Which ministry has signed an '**Joint Communication**' with Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (**MoEFCC**) to give more powers to the Tribal communities in **managing the forest resources**?

Answer: Ministry of Tribal Affairs

248. The Central Government has created a separate '_____ to provide a separate administrative, legal and policy framework for strengthening the Co-operative Movement in India.

Answer: Ministry of Co-operation (Sahkarita Mantralaya)

- The New Ministry has been carved out from the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare, Ministry of Agriculture & Agriculture Welfare.
- The new process will help in realizing the government's vision of '**Sahakar se Samridhi**' (prosperity from cooperation).

249. Recently, Government of India brought the 'Department of Public Enterprises (Lok Udyam Vibhag)' which was part of the Ministry of Heavy Industries & Public Enterprises under the _____.

Answer: Ministry of Finance

- The **Department of Public Enterprises (DPE) will be the 6th Department in the Finance Ministry**. It has been brought under the Finance Ministry to enable better coordination and better facilitate the Government's Disinvestment programme.
- The other 5 departments under the Finance Ministry are Economic Affairs, Revenue, Expenditure, Investment & Public Asset Management and Financial Services

250. The Ministry of Tourism signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with _____ to strengthen the Hospitality & Tourism Industry of India.

Answer: Yatra

251. Who has launched an Online Course Mobile App '**Matsya Setu**' to spread latest freshwater aquaculture technologies to **aqua farmers** of India.

Answer: Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Giriraj Singh

- The app has been developed by ICAR-CIFA (Indian Council of Agricultural Research-Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture) with funding support from the National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB), Hyderabad.

252. Which organization has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Union Territory of Ladakh to set up **India's 1st Green Hydrogen Mobility project in Ladakh**?

Answer: NTPC Renewable Energy Ltd

- The Agreement will enable NTPC to help Ladakh develop a carbon-free economy based on renewable sources and green hydrogen, which is in line with Prime Minister's vision of '**Carbon Neutral**' Ladakh.

253. Which Expressway which covers important cities of **Uttar Pradesh** is set to be constructed in September 2021?

Answer: Ganga Expressway

- The planned expressway is the **2nd longest in India**, with 6 lanes covering Uttar Pradesh from **Meerut to Prayagraj**.

254. Hyderabad based Startup incubator '**T-Hub**' in partnership with _____ has launched a new program called '**AIC T-HUB Foundation**'.

Answer: NITI Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)

- The program is launched with an aim to support deep tech startups in the field of **life science & healthcare sector**.

255. The National Commission for Women (**NCW**) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the _____ for Gender Sensitisation of Police personnel across India. To bring changes in **attitude & behaviour of police officers** dealing with **crimes against women**.

Answer: Bureau of Police Research and Development (**BPR & D**)

256. Minister Rajnath Singh launched an Artificial Intelligence (AI)-powered **grievance management** application called _____.

Answer: '**CPGRAMS** (Centralized Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System) **app**'.

- it was developed by the Ministry of Defence (**MoD**) along with the Indian Institute of Technology (**IIT**)-Kanpur.

257. The **Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology** (MeitY) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with _____, thereby enabling map services in 'UMANG App'.

Answer: MapmyIndia

258. Union Minister for Power, R K Singh inaugurated '**Aiming for Sustainable Habitat: New Initiatives in Building Energy Efficiency 2021**', which is a set of 6 new initiatives aimed at improving energy efficiency in the _____.

Answer: building sector.

- The new initiatives were launched virtually by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE).

259. Convergence Energy Services Ltd (**CESL**) and the _____ entered into a partnership to devise strategies for India's transition path towards a **net-zero emission**.

Answer: World Resources Institute (WRI) India

260. The '**monk fruit**' which is native to China was introduced for field trials in _____.

Answer: Himachal Pradesh (HP)

- It was introduced by Palampur-based Council of Scientific Research and Industrial Technology-Institute of Himalayan Bioresource Technology (**CSIR-IHBT**) in Kullu, **Himachal Pradesh**.

261. Which state will launch India's 1st Pod taxi service?

Answer: Uttar Pradesh (UP)

262. Which entity has organized the second edition of Digital Conference & Exhibition '**Aatmanirbhar Bharat – Self-Reliance for Renewable Energy Manufacturing**'?

Answer: Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)

- It was organized virtually in collaboration with **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy** (MNRE) under its RE-INVEST agenda and Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).

263. The Chief Justice of India (CJI) **Nuthalapati Venkata Ramana** led bench has initiated a secure electronic transmission mechanism named _____ that will fast forward the process of bail.

Answer: FASTER (Fast and Secure Transmission of Electronic Records)

264. _____ is set to build **India's 1st 'Green Hydrogen' plant** at Mathura refinery, Uttar Pradesh (UP).

Answer: Indian Oil Corporation (IOC)

265. The Central Government has decided to set up a world class _____ at Noida, **Gautam Buddha Nagar** (Uttar Pradesh) to focus on conservation and research in India's tangible heritage.

Answer: Indian Institute of Heritage

266. The World Universities Summit 2021 (**WUS 21**) organised by _____.

Answer: O.P. Jindal Global University, Sonapat, Haryana.

- **Theme** – "Universities of the Future: Building Institutional Resilience, Social Responsibility and Community Impact".

267. Which institute has developed '**AMLEX**', a 1st of its kind device that is capable of regulating the flow of medical oxygen from a cylinder during inhalation and exhalation by a patient. It significantly reduces oxygen wastage.

Answer: IIT, Ropar

268. Recently, the Union cabinet has approved the formation of a **Central University** in the Union Territory (UT) of **Ladakh** with a project cost of _____.

Answer: Rs 750 crore.

269. In which state the **Ministry of Science and Technology** (MoST) will launch a first-of-its-kind Centre of Excellence (CoE) i.e. '**Centre for Bio-Resources and Sustainable Development**' in the Northeast Region?

Answer: Arunachal Pradesh

270. **MyGov** celebrates 7 Years of Participatory Governance India's Citizen Engagement Platform '**MyGov**' platform was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on _____.

Answer: 26th July 2014

271. Which Indian city has become the only city from India to be selected for International **Clean Air Catalyst** Programme?

Answer: Indore

272. Lt Governor of Jammu & Kashmir **Manoj Sinha** launched a **Women Entrepreneurship scheme** called _____ in the Union Territory (UT).

Answer: "HAUSLA - Inspiring her Growth"

- Hausla is a comprehensive program on promoting entrepreneurship among women, which will be implemented by the Jammu and Kashmir Trade Promotion Organization.

273. Which state has launched a mobile app '**Jan Sahayak-Aapka Sahayak**' to ensure 'anywhere-anytime-anybody' delivery of **Government to Citizen** (G2C) and **Business to Citizen** (B2C) services under single digital platform?

Answer: Haryana

274. **Shravan Harela festival** 2021, an important folk festival celebrated across the **Kumaon** region of _____.

Answer: Uttarakhand

275. Which state has launched a **mobile** application named- '**Raj Kisan Organic**' to enable the farmers and the consumers of the state to make online purchases and sale of **organic products** in the state?

Answer: Rajasthan

276. Which celebrity has partnered with the launch of **Himachal Pradesh (HP)** government state's initiative, '**Digital Saathi-Baccho Ka Sahara, Phone Humara**', India's **1st** state-led phone donation campaign for online learning?

Answer: Yami Gautam

277. The _____ government plans to launch a flagship startup promotion scheme to '**Accelerate Startups in AP**' (ASAP) for early-stage **startups** to offer plug-and-play office space and access to a network of investors and mentors.

Answer: Andhra Pradesh

278. Which Indian state plans to implement the **world's largest** blockchain-powered educational credentialing system by issuing tamper-proof digital diploma certificates under the blockchain system?

Answer: Maharashtra

- *Through such initiative, the Govt of Maharashtra became the **1st** state in India to implement a blockchain-based educational document registry, and around the globe, India (Maharashtra Government) became the **4th country** to achieve such registry after **Malta, Singapore, and Bahrain.***

279. Which state became the 1st State in India to launch **SOHUM – Automated Auditory Brainstem Response System (AABR)** under Universal Newborn Hearing Screening Programme?

Answer: Punjab

280. The _____ became the first court of India to **formally start live streaming of proceedings on its YouTube channel** to ensure transparency and openness in the Indian judiciary.

Answer: High Court (HC) of Gujarat

281. Which state government is to launch the '**One Block, One Product**' scheme to encourage and promote **small industries in the rural areas**?

Answer: The State Government of **Haryana**

282. _____ has launched the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)'s '**Historic Urban Landscape Project**' for the city of Gwalior and Orchha?

Answer: Madhya Pradesh

283. In July 2021, _____, a global agriculture firm, signed a 3-year agreement with the 2030 Water Resources Group (**2030 WRG**) to transform 40,000 acres of land in **Uttar Pradesh** with sustainable rice cultivation techniques.

Answer: Corteva Agriscience

284. The World Health Organization (**WHO**), World Intellectual Property Organization (**WIPO**) and _____ have launched a joint platform to tackle COVID-19 Pandemic.

Answer: World Trade Organization (**WTO**)

- *This platform will help countries plug the gaps in accessing Covid-19 vaccines, treatments and technologies.*

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285. Recently, the **Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)** stated that _____ including G20 members, India & China have joined the G20-OECD Tax Framework Deal for Global Minimum Corporate Tax.

Answer: 130 countries

- The Global Minimum Corporate Tax is **set to come into force from 2023 mandates 15% Tax on globally operating companies (such as Google, Facebook)**.
- It is applicable for Global companies with global annual revenue of at least 20 billion Euros (USD 24 billion) and a profit margin of over 10%.
- The objective of introducing the tax is to prevent global companies from shifting to low-tax regions to secure extended profits.
- The 15% tax is expected to generate an estimated **USD 150 billion additional tax revenue each year**.

286. _____ awarded **China** a **malaria-free certification**. This certification recognized China's 70-year effort to eradicate this disease.

Answer: World Health Organization (WHO)

287. China National Space Administration (CNSA) launched a new meteorological satellite ' _____' aboard a Long March-4C carrier rocket from Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in China.

Answer: Fengyun-3E (FY-3E)

- Called the '**dawn satellite**', FY-3E is the world's 1st meteorological satellite for civil service in a dawn-dusk orbit.

288. Which state/UT has trained 80600 Elementary School Teachers through online mode using **DIKSHA portal**, leading it as India's top performer under **National Initiative for School Heads and Teachers Holistic Advancement (NISHTHA)** portal?

Answer: Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir (J&K)

- NISHTHA is the World's largest teacher training program that was launched under **Samagra Shiksha scheme** in 2019-20.

- It aims to provide an Integrated Teacher Training Programme for improving the quality of school education.

289. Which state/UTs has launched a fellowship programme namely '**Lieutenant Governor's Sustainable Development Fellowship (LGSDF)**' for engineering, management and other graduates?

Answer: Jammu and Kashmir (J&K)

- It will be monitored by a three-member committee comprising IIT (Indian Institute of Technology) Jammu's **Director** (Current- Manoj Singh Gaur) and chief secretary and principal secretary to the LG.

290. India's 1st **Cryptogamic Garden** which has nearly 50 species of Lichens, Ferns and Fungi was inaugurated at **Deoban area of** _____.

Answer: Dehradun district, Uttarakhand

291. Which state government has signed MoUs (Memorandum of Understanding) with **14** different companies under its women empowerment scheme '**YSR Cheyuta Scheme**'?

Answer: Andhra Pradesh (AP)

292. United Nations _____ in India and the Rajasthan government's Department of **Food and Civil Supplies** established a partnership to improve the **Targeted Public Distribution System (TDPS)**, world's largest food safety net scheme in Rajasthan.

Answer: World Food Programme (WFP)

293. _____ signed a tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) with '**Sikkim State Organic Certification Agency**' (**SSOCA**) regarding the implementation of '**Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana**' (**PKVY**) and Mission Organic Development Initiative (**MODI**)?

Answer: Union Territory (UT) of Ladakh

294. **Jovenel Moïse (53 years old)**, President of the _____ was assassinated on 7th July 2021 at his private residence.

Answer: Republic of Haiti

295. Who was re-elected as **Prime Minister of Sweden** by the Swedish Parliament in July 2021?

Answer: Stefan Lofven

296. Which entity has become the **1st technology company** which is qualified as 'Significant Social Media Intermediaries (SSMIs)' to publish a **Transparency report** under the new 'Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021'?

Answer: Google India

297. India will host the **International Climate Summit 2021 (ICS)** on 3rd September in New Delhi, with key focus on '_____' and making India as a Global hub for Hydrogen production.

Answer: Green Hydrogen'

- The event was organised in partnership with the **Government of Norway**, where Prime Minister Narendra Modi will address the delegates.
- The Summit is being organised jointly by **NITI Aayog**, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Department of Scientific & Industrial Research, CSIR, and the Department of Science & Technology.

298. The 3rd G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting (FMCBGs) was held on July 9-10, 2021 in _____.

Answer: Venice, Veneto (Italy)

- India was represented by Union Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Ministry of Finance.

299. The executive board of the **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** approved the **Special Drawing Rights (SDRs)** allocation equivalent to _____, to support the economically vulnerable member nations' battle against COVID-19.

Answer: USD 650 billion

300. The 5th and final session of the 3rd **ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) Conference on Biodiversity in 2020** (ACB 2020), held in July 2021, it focused on the theme _____.

Answer: 'Towards 2050: Living in Harmony with Nature'.

301. Which entity became partner with UN Women (**United Nations entity for Gender Equality and Ladies' Empowerment**) to implement the United Nations Women's Empowerment Principles (**UNWEP**) via corporates in India?

Answer: **Interweave**, Diversity Consulting Organisation

- This principle was established by **UN Women and UN Global Compact** in 2010 to enhance women's empowerment through a set of below 7 principles offering practical guidance to businesses on promoting gender equality.

302. Who was sworn in as the **Prime Minister (PM) of Nepal** for the 5th time?

Answer: **Sher Bahadur Deuba**, President of Nepali Congress,

303. The China National Nuclear Corporation (**CNNC**) has announced the official beginning of the construction of the **world's 1st commercial Small Modular Reactor (SMR)** named _____.

Answer: 'Linglong One'

304. Defence Officials from **India, Sri Lanka and the Maldives** participated in a virtual Trilateral Tabletop Exercise 2021 (**TTX-2021**), name _____ on **Maritime Security**.

Answer: 'Exercise Shield'

305. Which intergovernmental body has proposed plans to impose **World's 1st 'Carbon Border Tax'** from **2026** on imports of carbon-intensive goods, including steel, cement, fertilisers and aluminium as part of a programme to meet its new climate target (**Reducing emissions by 55% from 1990 levels by 2030**)?

Answer: **European Commission (EC), the executive branch of European Union (EU)**

306. _____ implemented one of the world's largest **floating solar panel farms**, spanning an area equivalent to **45-hectare (111.2 acres)** and producing electricity to power the island's 5 water treatment plants.

Answer: **Singapore**

307. Russia successfully test-fired the _____ Hypersonic Cruise Missile from Russian Navy's Admiral Gorshkov warship in White Sea.

Answer: **Zircon (also known as Tsirkon)**

308. Which country has unveiled a new Maglev transportation system, which is capable of achieving a maximum speed of **600 kph or 372 mph**?

Answer: China

309. On July 20, 2021, which Rocket System built by Blue Origin (a Company owned by Amazon's Founder, Jeff Bezos) successfully completed its **1st human spaceflight** with 4 people on board?

Answer: 'New Shepard'

310. _____, the **world's largest Emissions Trading System (ETS)** began its trading on July 16, 2021.

Answer: China's National Carbon Market

311. Who has been appointed as a member of the **UN Tax Committee**, formally known as the United Nations (UN) **Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters**?

Answer: Rasmi Ranjan Das, Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Finance (FinMin), Government of India

312. Indian Navy participated in a two-day bilateral Passage Exercise Indian Navy (IN) participated in a Bilateral Passage Exercise (**PASSEX**) with United Kingdom's (UK) Royal Navy in _____.

Answer: Bay of Bengal

313. G20 (Group of Twenty) Environment Ministers' Meeting 2021 was held in hybrid format which was hosted by Italy (2021 G20 Presidency) in _____.

Answer: Naples.

314. Which UN agency in partnership with **Atal Innovation Mission, NITI Aayog**, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Rabo Foundation, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and Bayer has launched **AgriTech Challenge 2021** to address the challenges faced by the smallholder farmers in Asia and Africa?

Answer: United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF)

315. _____, a leading member of the European Union (EU), ratified the framework agreement for International Solar Alliance (**ISA**).

Answer: Sweden

316. _____ and the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in Tokyo, Japan to cooperate for the promotion of diversity and equity in health and sports through global initiatives.

Answer: World Health Organization (WHO)

317. United Nations (UN) General Assembly adopted a new first-ever resolution on **vision** named _____ to make eye care services an integral part of universal health coverage and address the increasing impact of vision loss on sustainable development.

Answer: 'Vision for Everyone'

- **Objective:** To provide eye care service for at least **1.1 billion people** with vision impairment by 2030, especially those who lack eye service.

318. Which country became the 1st in the world to approve Genetically Modified (GM) '**Golden Rice**' for Commercial Production?

Answer: Philippines

319. According to Mercer's 2021 Cost of Living City Rankings - _____ has become the world's **most expensive city for foreign workers (Expatriates)** followed by **Hong Kong, Hong Kong (SAR) & Beirut, Lebanon**.

Answer: Ashgabat, the capital of Turkmenistan

- Mumbai, Maharashtra was ranked at 78, making it India's most expensive city for expatriates (a fall of 18 places compared to 60th rank in 2020 Mercer Survey).

320. _____ released the **Global Startup Ecosystem Index 2021**, which ranks countries & cities depending on the Startup Environment.

Answer: StartupBlink

- *In the country-wise ranking, **India with a score of 8.833 was ranked 20th** out of 100 countries.*
- *The United States (US) topped the index followed by the United Kingdom (UK) & Israel.*
- *In the **City-wise ranking** – San Francisco Bay, USA topped the ranking followed by New York, USA & Beijing, China. A total of 1000 cities were ranked in the index.*
- ***Bengaluru, Karnataka** was the highest ranked Indian City at 10 (up from 14 in 2020). Overall 43 Indian cities featured in the list, out of which 9 were new.*

321. Recently, the Global Cybersecurity Index 2020 (GCI 2020) – 4th Edition was released by International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the UN agency for Information & Communication Technologies (ICT). **India** with a score of 97.5 has been ranked _____ in the Index.

Answer: 10th

- The **US topped the Index**, UK & Saudi Arabia shared the 2nd spot while Estonia took the 3rd rank.
- Among the Asia-Pacific nations, **South Korea & Singapore** topped the index, while India was ranked 4th.

322. As per the joint report released by the UN (United Nations) Conference on Trade and Development (**UNCTAD**) and the UN World Tourism Organisation (**UNWTO**) named '**COVID-19 and Tourism: An Update**', India has experienced a _____ in tourist arrivals in 2020 due to COVID-19.

Answer: 54 percent drop

- The report has estimated a loss of **\$4 trillion** in terms of **global GDP** (Gross Domestic Product) for 2020 and 2021 due to the fall down of international tourism due to COVID-19.
- In 2020, a loss of **\$2.4 trillion** is estimated for 'International tourism and linked sectors' due to the sharp drop in international tourist arrivals.

323. World Health Organisation (**WHO**) released the World's 1st report on the use of Artificial Intelligence (**AI**) in the healthcare sector called, _____.

Answer: "Ethics and governance of artificial intelligence for health".

- WHO with inputs from various international experts prepared the report that can be used by countries to minimize the risk & maximize the benefits of AI.

324. Union Minister for Education Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' released the report on '**United District Information System for Education Plus (UDISE+) 2019-20**' for _____.

Answer: School Education in India.

- Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) has improved at all levels of school education in 2019-20 compared to 2018-19. Pupil Teacher Ratio (PTR) has also increased at all levels of school education.

- Enrolment of girls from primary to higher secondary is more than 12.08 crore, an increase of 14.08 lakh compared to 2018-19.

325. International Migrant Workforce increases to _____ as per the “**ILO Global Estimates on International Migrant Workers: Results and Methodology**” report released by the United Nations International Labour Organisation (ILO).

Answer: 169 million in 2019

326. The Organisation for Economic Cooperation & Development (OECD) in its ‘**OECD Employment Outlook 2021**’ stated that over _____ were lost in developed nations due to COVID-19.

Answer: 22 million jobs

- The report states that **worldwide, 114 million jobs were lost** during the pandemic.

327. “Transforming global Agriculture & Food Security in a way more appealing to the younger population will be the key to secure the future of global food & nutrition security”. This observation is the part of the report released by _____.

Answer: Committee on World Food Security (CFS).

- The report titled “**Promoting youth engagement and employment in agriculture and food systems**” was prepared by CFS’s High Level Panel of Experts (HLPE) on food security and nutrition.
- CFS is an intergovernmental platform that works on food security and nutrition for all. It is hosted by the Food and Agriculture Organization (**FAO**).

328. Each minute 11 people die of hunger and there is a 6-fold increase (compared to last year) in the number of people threatened over famine-like conditions, as per the report titled “**The Hunger Virus Multiplies**” released by global anti-poverty organisation _____.

Answer: ‘Oxfam’

- The report also states that the global death toll of **11/minute from famine** outpaces that of **COVID-19 (7 deaths/minute)**.

329. According to ‘The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World – 2021’ released by 5 Agencies of UN, _____ in the world faced hunger in 2020 compared to 2019.

Answer: Between 720-811 million people

- It is the **1st comprehensive report on food insecurity and nutrition** in the Post-Pandemic era.
- The 5 UN Agencies are – Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), United Nations Children’s Emergency Fund (UNICEF), World Food Programme (WFP) & World Health Organization (WHO).
- The report states that around 9.9% of the world’s population were estimated to have been undernourished in 2020, compared to 8.4% in 2019.

330. According to a recent review '**Energising Commonwealth Trade in a Digital World: Paths to Recovery Post-COVID**' released by the Commonwealth Association, due to COVID-19 commonwealth countries lost trade worth _____ of trade in 2020, including USD 60 billion in intra-Commonwealth trade.

Answer: USD 345 billion

331. According to the mid-2021 edition of '**Electricity Market Report**' released by the International Energy Agency (IEA), **Electricity demand is expected to grow by _____ in 2021.**

Answer: 5%

332. In July 2021, the High -Level Political Forum (**HLPF**) on Sustainable Development Goals (**SDG**) conducted the review meeting on the 2030 Agenda for attaining the 17 SDGs. The meeting was hosted by the _____.

Answer: United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

- During the review meeting, ECOSOC mentioned that, COVID-19 crisis has pushed 119 million to 124 million people into extreme poverty.

333. Which entity has released the report titled '**India Inequality Report 2021: India’s Unequal Healthcare Story?**

Answer: Oxfam India

- Report observes that there are sharp inequalities across different caste, religious, class and gender categories on various health indicators.
- Notably, it named **Kerala** as a success story in handling the pandemic.

334. A recently released World Trade Organization (WTO) report has ranked **India** _____ among the Top 10 list of Agricultural produce exporters in 2019.

Answer: 9th (holding 3.1% share in global agri exports)

- European Union (EU) with a global share of 16.1% has replaced the US as the World's largest Agriculture produce exporter (13.8%).
- The report states that India holds a significant share in the export of rice, cotton, soya beans and meat.

335. The Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro Food processing Enterprises (**PMFME**) scheme, which was launched under the Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan completed one year of its launch on _____.

Answer: 29th June, 2021

- PMFME is a centrally sponsored scheme, which aims to enhance the **competitiveness of existing individual micro-enterprises** in the unorganized segment of the food processing industry, **promote formalization of the sector**, and support Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), Self Help Groups (SHGs) and Producers Cooperatives along their entire value chain.
- It was launched with an outlay of **INR 10,000 crore over a period of 5 years from 2020-21 to 2024-25**.
- Under the scheme, 2,00,000 micro food processing units will be directly assisted with credit linked subsidy.

336. Indian Government's Flagship Programme '**Digital India**' completed _____ on **July 1, 2021**.

Answer: 6 years

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337. On July 16, 2021, Education Minister, **Dharmendra Pradhan**, and Tribal Affairs Minister, **Arjun Munda**, jointly launched a training program for **school teachers** named _____.

Answer: 'School Innovation Ambassador Training Program' (SIATP).

- Under the training module of SIATP, **50,000** school teachers will be trained online in the field of Innovation, Entrepreneurship, Intellectual property rights (IPR), Idea generation, etc.

338. India set a target of attaining over _____ through Deep Ocean Missions (**DOM**) and conducting deep sea explorations.

Answer: Rs 100 billion Blue Economy

339. In order to promote and facilitate investments in the Indian Dairy sector, the **Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying (DAHD)** has setup Dairy Investment Accelerator under its _____.

Answer: Investment Facilitation Cell.

340. The _____ initiated a welfare scheme namely '**SMILE – Support for Marginalized Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise**' covering several comprehensive measures for the welfare of beggars.

Answer: Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MoSJE)

- SMILE also includes a sub scheme - 'Central Sector Scheme for Comprehensive Rehabilitation of persons engaged in the act of Begging'.

341. The Gol is implementing **Bhartiya Prakritik Krishi Padhati (BPKP)** as a **sub-scheme** of **Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY)** for promoting _____.

Answer: Organic Farming

- Under BPKP, financial assistance of **Rs 12200/hectare for 3 years** is being provided for cluster formation, capacity building, and continuous handholding. It promotes biomass mulching, use of cow dung-urine formulations, plant-based preparations and time to time working of soil for aeration.

342. Union Minister for Education, Dharmendra Pradhan proposed to set up a _____ for strengthening the research ecosystem in India.

Answer: National Research Foundation (NRF)

- The total proposed outlay of NRF is **INR 50,000 crores over a period of 5 years**.
- The Agriculture ministry has already started the work of creating '**Agristack**' – a digital ecosystem of agriculture.

343. As per the order of the **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)**, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry has set up a 9-member **Advisory Council** to advise the government on measures needed to design and fast adoption of _____.

Answer: 'Open Network for Digital Commerce' (ONDC)

- ONDC is a project initiated by DPIIT, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, and assigned to the Quality Council of India (QCI).

344. The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (**DPIIT**), Ministry of Commerce and Industry, has set up a **25-member** Development Council for the Cement Industry (**DCCI**) under the chairmanship of _____.

Answer: Puneet Dalmia.

345. FICCI's (Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry) latest report 'A progressive shift from transactions to trust' states that **India's Online Commerce Industry is expected to touch USD 188 billion by** _____.

Answer: 2025

- The contribution of the Online Commerce Industry to India's GDP will reach **3.8% by 2025**.

346. The **Ministry of Commerce and Industry** indicated that the India Industrial Land Bank (**IILB**) will achieve pan-India integration by _____.

Answer: December 2021.

- IILB is a GIS (*geographic information system*) based portal that acts as a repository for industrial infrastructure-related information, including connectivity, infrastructure, natural resources and terrain, plot-level information on vacant plots, line of activity, and contact details.

347. Amazon India launched its 1st '**Digital Kendra**' in Krushi Bazar (APMC Market), _____ as part of its commitment to digitize 10 million Indian micro, small and medium enterprises by 2025.

Answer: Surat, Gujarat

348. Union Minister for Road Transport & Highways Nitin Gadkari **inaugurated India's 1st Private LNG (Liquefied Natural Gas) Facility** plant at _____.

Answer: Nagpur, Maharashtra.

- The Plant has been set up by **Baidyanath Ayurvedic Group**.

349. The **Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority** (APEDA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with _____ to utilize the export potential of agricultural and processed food products of cooperatives, Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), partners and associates.

Answer: National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd (NAFED)

- The **facilitation** of exports will be done by APEDA while NAFED will **promote** them.

350. The Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) has incorporated the '**National Asset Reconstruction Company (NARCL)**' also known as **Bad Banks/Asset Reconstruction Company (ARC)** with an authorised capital of _____.

Answer: INR 100 crore

351. Which digital platform was jointly launched by Union Minister for Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Narendra Singh Tomar and Union Minister for Electronics & Information Technology, Ashwini Vaishnaw to help farmers get 'right information at the right time' in their desired language?

Answer: Kisan Sarathi'

- The portal was launched virtually on the occasion of **93rd Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)** Foundation Day i.e 16th July, 2021.

- The portal is powered by Interactive Information Dissemination System (IIDS), Digital India Corporation (DIC), Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).

352. The Asian Development Bank's (**ADB**) Asian Development Outlook (ADO) 2021 Supplement has reduced India's GDP growth forecast for FY22 by 1 percent to _____, from its earlier projection of 11 percent due to COVID-19.

Answer: 10 percent

- The GDP growth estimation for FY23 was increased by ADB to **7.5 percent** from its earlier projection of 7 percent.

353. Which agency has decided to promote and **brand organic items** from the Union Territory (UT) of Ladakh to boost exports of agricultural produce and enhance farmers' incomes?

Answer: Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)

354. Which company based in Bengaluru has acquired the Singapore based higher education platform "**Great Learning**" for 600 million USD?

Answer: Byju's

355. In its July 2021 World Economic Outlook (WEO) titled ' _____, the International Monetary Fund (**IMF**) has reduced India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth forecast in **FY22** to **9.5 percent** from 12.5 percent.

Answer: Fault Lines Widen in the Global Recovery'

- The IMF has unchanged the global economic growth forecast in 2021 to **6 percent** and for 2022 it was estimated to be 4.9 percent.
- The global trade volumes are projected to expand 9.7 percent in 2021 and moderate to 7.0 percent in 2022.
- India and Indonesia were mentioned as the most suffered among G20 economies.

356. Central Govt launched Secured Logistics Document Exchange & Calculator for _____.

Answer: GHG Emissions

- As a part of efforts for improving the ease of doing business, the Central Government launched the '**Secured Logistics Document Exchange (SLDE)**' and '**Calculator for Green House Gas (GHG) Emissions**'.

- The proof of concept of the platform has been developed and executed with banks (**ICICI, Axis Bank, State Bank of India (SBI)** and **HDFC Bank**) and stakeholders including freight forwarders, exporters, importers and vessel operators.

357. As per the 'Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS)- Annual Report (July, 2019 – June, 2020)' conducted by National Statistical Office (NSO), unemployment rate for women fell to _____ in 2019-20 from 5.1% in 2018-19.

Answer: 4.2%

- The Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) for women has increased from 24.5% in 2018-19 to **30%** in 2019-20.

358. Which Indian bank has made a **multi-year agreement** with **Amazon Web Services (AWS)** to build a portfolio of new digital financial services with technology changes, and new payment modes for better banking experiences to customers?

Ans: **Axis Bank Ltd**

359. The Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**), 'Quarterly Basic Statistical Returns (BSR)-1: Outstanding Credit of Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs), March 2021', reported a _____ **growth in industrial sector** in FY21 due to COVID-19.

Answer: Negative Credit

360. **World Bank (WB)** Board of Executive Directors approved a _____ loan programme to support India's **informal working class** to overcome the COVID-19 distress and to support the states to manage the current pandemic, future climate and disaster shock.

Answer: USD 500 million

- Out of the USD 500 million loan, **USD 112.50 million** will be financed by the International Development Association (**IDA**) and the remaining **USD 387.50 million** will be provided as a loan from International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (**IBRD**).

361. Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**) released the **23rd** issue of its bi-annual **Financial Stability Report (FSR)** 2021. It estimated the Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) **Gross Non Performing Assets (GNPAs)** to rise by _____ in March 2022 (as per the baseline scenario), from **7.48 percent** in March 2021.

Answer: 9.8 percent

362. Life Insurance Corporation (**LIC**) of India launched a non-linked, non-participating, single premium, individual '**immediate annuity plan**' named ' _____ ' as per the guidelines of the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI).

Answer: Saral pension plan

- The plan allows policyholders to pay a lump sum amount as the purchasing price of the plan and to receive a fixed amount of money at regular intervals.

363. **Paytm**, digital payments platform, in partnership with _____, launched a small-ticket instant loans service named '**Postpaid Mini**'.

Answer: Aditya Birla Finance Ltd

- It was as an extension of its 'Buy Now-Pay Later' service, to support new-to-credit customers.

364. National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (**NABARD**) has sanctioned a loan worth **Rs 2891.15 lakh** under the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (**RIDF**) to the Government of _____.

Answer: Goa

365. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) modified the rules on applicable interest on unclaimed **term deposits** (TDs) after maturity in all commercial banks, small finance banks, local area banks, and cooperative banks.

366. **Razorpay**, a Payments solution provider, in partnership with **Mastercard** launched a **recurring payment interface** named ' _____ ', to support card-issuing banks that wish to enable recurring payments for its customers.

Answer: MandateHQ'

367. Which bank has become the **2nd** most-valued listed Public Sector Bank (**PSB**) with a market capitalisation (market-cap) of over **~Rs 50,000 crore**?

Answer: Indian Overseas Bank (IOB)

368. Multi Commodity Exchange (**MCX**) of India signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with European Energy Exchange AG (**EEX**) towards knowledge sharing and exchange of expertise on _____.

Answer: Electricity derivative products.

369. On the occasion of Chartered Accountants'(CA) Day i.e. on _____, the **Institute of Chartered Accountants of India** (ICAI) Board of Studies-BoS (Academics) launched a mobile application 'ICAI BOS' for students of foundation, intermediate and final CA course.

Answer: July 1, 2021

370. Which Insurance company has launched a comprehensive health insurance plan named '**Arogya Supreme**' with multiple benefits and coverages?

Answer: SBI General Insurance

- Under the policy the insured persons will get a wide range of sum insured options up to **Rs 5 crore** for their medically necessary hospitalization due to illness or accident that occurred during the policy period.

371. The Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**) issued an advisory to banks and other RBI-regulated entities to prepare for the transition from the international benchmark reference rate, '**London Interbank Offered Rate**' (**LIBOR**), to any other widely accepted _____.

Answer: Alternate Reference Rates (ARR).

- *LIBOR is used widely by the global financial system as one of the interbank benchmarks for a large volume and broad range of financial products and contracts.*
- *In March 2021, Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) ceased the use of LIBOR by any administrator and stated that it would no longer be representative.*
- *RBI has advised the Financial Institutions (FI) not to enter into new LIBOR referenced contracts and encouraged them to use any widely accepted ARR.*
- *It has also instructed the FI to incorporate robust fallback clauses in all the LIBOR reference-based financial contracts that have maturity after December 31, 2021.*

372. The Securities and Exchange Board of India (**SEBI**) has reduced the 'Advance Intimation **timelines**' for **Stock Exchanges** to make modifications in the contract specifications of _____.

Answer: 'Commodity Derivatives Contracts' (CDCs).

- **Categories:** In November 2019, based on materiality, SEBI has categorized the Contracts' modifications of CDCs into three categories viz, **Category A, Category B, and Category C.**

- **Intimation:** Before making any modification, the Stock exchanges need to inform SEBI and market participants along with reasons for the modifications.
- **Timeline:** For such intimation, SEBI has provided 'Advance Intimation Timeline' i.e. the number of days for prior intimation as **10 days** for Category A and **30 days** for Category B and Category C.
- **Change:** Now, the timeline for all the three categories i.e Category A, Category B and Category C, was reduced to **10 days** to bring uniformity.

373. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI), issued the **new 10-year** Government Security (**G-Sec**) (that would mature in 2031), at a cut-off yield of _____ per annum, **higher** than the earlier cut-off yield of 5.85 percent.

Answer: 6.10 percent

G-sec Auctions:

- RBI sold 3 auctions such as New 10-year G-Sec 2031 at 6.10 percent (for Rs 14,000 crore), 2023 G-Sec at 4.3 percent (Rs 3,000 crore), and 2061 G-Sec at 7.18 percent (for Rs 9,000 crore).
- Through the 3 auctions, an aggregate of Rs 26,000 crore was raised by the government.

374. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) introduced a scheme named _____ to facilitate investment in **Government Securities(G-Sec)** by **retail investors** (individuals).

Answer: 'RBI Retail Direct'

Key Points:

- **Objective:** The bond-buying window was opened to increase the retail participation in G-Sec, and to democratize the ownership of G-Sec beyond banks and managers of pooled resources such as mutual funds.
- Under the scheme, the retail investors are enabled to open and maintain their gilt securities account named '**Retail Direct Gilt Account**' (RDG Account) with RBI through an '**Online portal**'.

List of G-Secs under the scheme:

- Government of India Treasury Bills
- Government of India dated securities

- Sovereign Gold Bonds (SGB)
- State Development Loans (SDLs)
- **Fees and Charges:** No fee will be charged for opening and maintaining the RDG Account, and for submitting bids in the primary auctions.

375. NPCI International Payments Ltd in partnership with the _____ implemented the Bharat Interface for Money (BHIM) Unified Payments Interface (UPI) QR-based payments in **Bhutan**.

Answer: Royal Monetary Authority (RMA) of Bhutan

376. The Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) has incorporated the '**National Asset Reconstruction Company (NARCL)**' also known as **Bad Banks/Asset Reconstruction Company (ARC)** with an authorised capital of _____ and paid-up capital of INR 74.6 crore.

Answer: INR 100 crore

Key Points

- **Padmakumar Madhavan Nair**, a stressed assets expert from SBI will serve as the **Managing Director of NARCL**.
- NARCL will **house bad loan accounts of INR 500 crore or more**. It will pay up to 15% of the agreed value for the loans in cash and the remaining 85% would be Government-guaranteed security receipts.
- **Canara Bank would be the sponsor of NARCL** and will hold a **12% equity**, other large public sector banks will hold less than 10% each in NARCL.
- In the 1st phase, 22 stressed accounts worth **INR 89,000 crore** identified by the lenders will be transferred to NARCL.

377. **FEDDY**, an Artificial Intelligence (AI) powered virtual assistant was launched by **Federal Bank** to provide 24*7 assistance to its customers on banking related queries. FEDDY is a State-of-Art tool that can also be integrated and accessed through Alexa, Google Assistant and WhatsApp. Notably, Federal Bank previously launched

- **"FedSelfie"**- a user-friendly tool that allows users' to open a bank account by taking selfies.
- **"Federal 24*7"** – Users can open bank accounts through Video Call

378. 'Pension Funds Regulatory and Development Authority' (**PFRDA**) has made amendments over the PFRDA (Pension Fund) Regulations, 2015 and **modified** the Foreign Direct Investment (**FDI**) **limit** in the pension fund management under the National Pension System (NPS) to _____ from **49 percent**.

Answer: 74 percent

379. In July 2021, the Bank of Maharashtra (**BoM**) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with 'National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development' (**NABARD**) to foster the existing developmental initiatives that are linked to _____ in Maharashtra.

Answer: Priority Sector Lending (PSL)

380. To protect the interest of investors in securities, the 'Securities and Exchange Board of India' (**SEBI**) has devised a certain new standardised rating scale viz. **Expected Loss (EL) based RatingScale** for the **Credit Rating Agencies** (CRAs).

- The EL based RatingScale has to be used by the CRAs while rating projects/instruments associated with the infrastructure sector.
- The EL-based rating symbols and their definitions provided by the CRAs were divided into a scale of **7 levels**, spanning from lowest to highest expected loss.

381. Paytm enabled its **Paytm Payments Bank's** (PPB) customers to make instant payments across online platforms through its all-in-one payment gateway using balances available in their **Fixed Deposit (FD)** account, which is held with **IndusInd Bank**, the partner bank of Paytm.

382. Life Insurance Corporation of India (**LIC**) launched a non-linked, non-participating, regular premium, individual, health insurance plan named – '**Arogya Rakshak**' to provide fixed benefit health insurance cover against certain specified health risks.

383. **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India** (IBBI) amended the IBBI (Insolvency Resolution Process for Corporate Persons) Regulations, 2016 to enhance the discipline, transparency, and accountability in corporate insolvency proceedings.

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384. Indian Bank signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with IIT (Indian Institute of Technology) Guwahati Technology Incubation Centre (TIC) for financing Start-ups under the bank's loan product '**IND Spring Board**'.

385. After 26 years, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has amended the regulatory restrictions on personal loans and advances that are granted to bank directors and their relatives.

- RBI has increased the threshold of 'personal loans' that could be granted to any directors and their relatives of other banks to **Rs 5 crore** from **Rs 25 lakh** (which was fixed by RBI in 1996).
- The revised threshold regulations were applicable only for the personal loans of the directors (not for business loans), whereas the limit of **Rs 25 lakh** was allowed to continue for **business loans**.

386. The Reserve Bank of India's Deputy Governor _____ stated about the RBI's plan for the phased introduction of a '**Central Bank Digital Currency**' (CBDC).

Answer: T. Rabi Sankar

387. State Bank of India (SBI) selected _____ as **National Corporate Business Correspondent** of the Bank. It has been selected to ensure **greater financial inclusion** and to increase the delivery of its financial services.

Answer: Paisalo Digital

- As a Business Correspondent (BC), Paisalo Digital will provide banking services through Kiosks.
- As a Business Correspondent for SBI, Paisalo Digital will focus on boosting the fully digital small loan business under SBI-Paisalo Loan Co-origination.

388. The investment arm of the World Bank Group, **International Finance Corporation (IFC)** has sanctioned _____ to HDFC (Housing Development Finance Corporation) Ltd to enhance inexpensive housing finance in India under the themes Affordable & Green housing.

Answer: USD 250 million

389. Which bank topped the list of Public Sector Banks (PSB) **writing off loans** in **FY21** followed by Union Bank of India (**UBI**).

Answer: State Bank of India (SBI)

- As per the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) report, the reduction in NPAs through write-off by PSBs in FY21 stood at Rs 1,31,894 crore from Rs 1,75,877 crore in FY20. The NPAs of banks in FY21 declined by Rs 61,180 crore to Rs 8.34 lakh crore.

390. Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunications (**SWIFT**) has launched a new solution for Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (**SMEs**) named '_____ ' to enable seamless **Low-Value Cross-Border Payments** anywhere in the world, directly from their bank accounts.

Answer: SWIFT Go

391. On July 28, 2021, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) released the RBI – Digital Payments Index (RBI-DPI) in March 2021 at _____, increased from 207.84 in March 2020.

Answer: 270.59

- The digital payments of the country have recorded a growth of **30.19 percent** in **FY21** due to COVID-19.
- It is the index launched by RBI in January 2018 with **March 2018** as the **base period** (ie. DPI score for March 2018 is set at 100) to identify the extent of digitisation of payments across the country. The index will be released semi-annually.

392. On July 28, 2021, the Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**) allowed _____ to participate in its Centralised Payment Systems (**CPS**) viz, Real Time Gross Settlement (**RTGS**) and National Electronic Fund Transfer (**NEFT**) systems, in a phased manner.

Answer: Non-banks

- In the **1st phase**, authorized non-bank **Payment System Providers** (PSPs) such as Prepaid Payment Instruments (**PPIs**) Issuers, **Card Networks**, and **White Label ATM** Operators will be allowed to participate in CPS as direct members.
- To be eligible to get direct access to CPS, the Non-bank PSPs need to have a valid Certificate of Authorisation (CoA) from the RBI under the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007 (PSS Act).
- Their Net-worth has to be **Rs 25 crore** or as prescribed as per CoA, whichever is higher.

393. Which entity has sanctioned around **Rs.446 Crore** for five large surface-based drinking water projects in Ferozpur, Fazilka, Hoshiarpur and Rupanagar districts of Punjab?

Answer: National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)

- The funds have been sanctioned under the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF).
- The project will benefit a rural population of 10.39lakh in 700 villages by providing 70 litres per capita per day of potable drinking water through household tap connections.
- The Punjab government is leveraging Centre's assistance under "Jal Jeevan Mission" with support under RDIF for the benefit of larger sections of the society.

394. Which entity was awarded as **World's Most Innovative Investment Promotion Agency of 2021?**

Answer: Invest India

395. A documentary on singer Shankar Mahadevan titled _____ has won Best Biographical Film Award at the Toronto International Women Film Festival, 2021.

Answer: 'Decoding Shankar'

396. Indian Economist _____ has been honoured with the **Humboldt Research Award for Economics for 2021** by the **Alexander von Humboldt Foundation** based in **Bonn, Germany**.

Answer: Kaushik Basu

397. **Kajal Chakraborty**, Principal Scientist Marine Biotechnology Division of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI), Kochi, Kerala has been honoured with the _____, the National Award For Excellence In Agricultural Research.

Answer: ICAR Norman Borlaug Award 2020

398. **3 Indian Small and Medium-sized Enterprises(SMEs)** have won the United Nations (UN) Food Systems Summit competition _____, which aims to showcase innovative solutions in improving access to healthy and sustainable food.

Answer: 'Best Small Business: Good Food for All'

- The 3 Indian SMEs: **Edible Routes Private Limited, Oorja Development Solutions India** and **Taru Naturals** were among the 50 SMEs which were announced as the winners

of the Best Small Businesses of the Good Food for All competition held in conjunction with the UN Food Systems Summit.

399. Journalist _____ authored a new book, "**Fiercely Female: The Dutee Chand Story**".

Answer: Sundeep Mishra

- The book insights on the Gender-identity controversy of popular Indian sprinter Dutee Chand. She is India's first openly homosexual athlete.

400. Indian Economist and Padma Bhushan _____ has authored a new book titled "**Policymaker's Journal: From New Delhi to Washington, D.C.**".

Answer: Kaushik Basu

401. Internet and Mobile Association of India (**IAMAI**) has appointed **Google India** Vice President and Managing Director _____ as its Chairman for **2021-23** by succeeding Amit Agarwal, Amazon Senior Vice President and India Country Manager.

Answer: Sanjay Gupta

402. Indian photojournalist and Pulitzer prize winner _____ was killed by the Taliban militants in Spin Boldak district of Afghanistan's Kandahar province.

Answer: Danish Siddiqui

403. **Bimal Jalan**, Former Governor of Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**) and Member of Parliament (**MP**), has authored a new book titled "_____ based on extensive research and data, and his experience as RBI Governor.

Answer: The India Story: An Epic Journey Of Democracy And Development"

- The book published by **Rupa Publications India** focuses on the economic history of India and provides lessons for the future of the political economy.

404. Who has authored a new book titled “**An Ordinary Life: Portrait of an Indian Generation**” featuring the experiences of his father – Udai Singh and the way of life in India during his generation?

Answer: Ashok Lavasa,

405. Padma Shri _____ who has been serving as the editor of **Sudharma**, India’s only Sanskrit Daily, for the past 31 years passed away at Mysore, Karnataka.

Answer: K V Sampath Kumar

406. Veteran Bollywood Actor and Padma Awardee **Dilip Kumar**, popularly known as the _____, passed away in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

Answer: ‘Tragedy King of Bollywood’

- He was born as Mohammed Yusuf Khan in Peshawar, British India (now in Pakistan) on 11th December 1922.

407. _____, member of 2-time Olympics Gold Medal winning **Indian Hockey team** passed away at the age of 95.

Answer: Keshav Datt

408. Former Chief Minister (**CM**) of Himachal Pradesh _____ passed away in Shimla, Himachal Pradesh.

Answer: Virbhadra Singh

- He was popularly known by the honorific ‘**Raja Sahib**’.

409. Veteran Theatre and television actress _____, 3-time national Award winner passed away in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

Answer: Surekha Sikri

410. **Gautam Benegal**, National Award-winning _____ passed away.

Answer: animation filmmaker and cartoonist

- He was born in 1965 in Kolkata, West Bengal.

411. Marathi litterateur and Banker, _____ passed away in the Raigad district of Maharashtra.

Answer: Satish Kalsekar

- He received Sahitya Akademi Award in 2013 for his essay collection '**Vachanaryachi Rojanishee**'.

412. Indian Badminton Legend & Arjuna awardee _____ passed away due to age related ailments in **Pune, Maharashtra**.

Answer: Nandu Natekar

- He was the **1st Indian Badminton Player to win an International event**, when he won the Selangor International title held at Malaysia in 1956.

413. Veteran Multilingual actress and national award winner _____ who was popularly known as '**Abhinaya Sharadhe**', passed away in Bengaluru, Karnataka.

Answer: Jayanthi,

- She was born as Kamala Kumari in Ballari, Karnataka. She has starred in more than 500 movies in Tamil, Malayalam, Kannada, Telugu and Hindi.

414. 'Kalaimamani' Sikkil **R Bhaskaran**, a noted Carnatic Classical _____ has passed away in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

Answer: Violinist

415. The **International Fruit Day** is annually observed across the globe on _____ to share fruits in sympathy and joy with family, friends or needy people.

Answer: 1st July

- The motto of the International Fruit Day was “**Create Change Together**” and the Fruit Of The Year 2021 is **Watermelon**.

416. The _____ is annually observed across India on **10th July** in memory of the Scientists – Dr K. H. Alikunhi and Dr Hiralal Chaudhuri – who successfully demonstrated the induced breeding in Indian Major Carps on **10th July 1957**.

Answer: National Fish Farmers Day

417. United Nations (UN)'s **World Population Day** is annually observed across the globe on _____ to create awareness about the urgency and importance of population issues.

Answer: 11th July

418. The United Nations (UN)'s **World Chess Day** is annually observed across the globe on _____ to highlight the role of the World Chess Federation or International Chess Federation (**FIDE**) towards international cooperation for chess activity and improving harmony among the people across the globe.

Answer: 20th July

419. The _____ is annually observed across the globe on **22nd July (22/7)** to honour the concept of pi, represented using the Greek alphabet – ‘**π**’ and the approximation of pi values to 3.14 in a mathematically pleasing way.

Answer: Pi Approximation Day

420. The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) celebrated the 161st Income Tax Day or Aaykar Diwas on _____.

Answer: July 24, 2021

- It was on July 24, 1860 that income tax was introduced in India by **Sir James Wilson** to compensate the British government for the losses incurred during the First War of Independence in 1857.

421. **World Hepatitis Day** is annually observed across the globe on _____ to highlight the need for the global response defined in the World Health Organisation (**WHO**)'s Global hepatitis report 2017.

Answer: 28th July

422. Indian American chess player _____ became the youngest ever Chess Grandmaster after he scored his third Grandmaster (**GM**) norm in Budapest, Hungary.

Answer: Abhimanyu Mishra (12 years 4 months, 25 days old)

- He won the title against 15-year-old Indian chess player Leon Luke Mendonca
- Abhimanyu Mishra broke the record of Grandmaster Sergey Karjakin who held the position for 19 years.
- He became the youngest grandmaster at the age of 12 years and seven months.

423. The International Cricket Council (ICC) has shifted the venue of ICC Men's T20 World Cup Tournament from India to _____, due to India's prevailing pandemic situation.

Answer: United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Oman

424. **Red Bull Racing driver** _____ won the **Austrian Grand Prix 2021**, making his 3rd consecutive win and 5th win in 2021.

Answer: Max Verstappen (Belgium)

425. Mountain biker _____ completed the **World's 1st Solo Motorcycle Expedition** covering 18 passes in the Himalayas covering 3,187 kilometers from New Delhi-Manali-Leh-Umlingla-Delhi in 25 days.

Answer: Kanchan Ugursandi

- She is also the **1st woman biker** to cover the 18 passes.
- Her Expedition was flagged off by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on 11th June from New Delhi, on a move to promote COVID safety awareness in border areas.

426. Indian cricketer and women's ODI Captain _____ became the leading scorer in women's international cricket in all three formats.

Answer: Mithali Raj

- She overtook former England's batter **Charlotte Edward's** tally of **10273** runs during the 3rd and final One-Day Internationals (**ODI**) between England and India held in Worcester, Massachusetts, United States.
- Mithali Raj has scored a total of **10277** runs in 317 matches.
- She is the **only Indian cricketer** and 2nd international cricketer to score more than 10000 runs in Women's International Cricket.

427. Who won the women title of the **134th Edition** of Wimbledon Championships 2021?

Answer: Ashleigh Barty (Australia)

Category	Winner	Runner-up
Men's Singles	Novak Djokovic (Serbia)	Matteo Berrettini (Italy)
Women's Singles	Ashleigh Barty (Australia)	Karolina Pliskova (Czech Republic)
Men's Doubles	Nikola Pietrangeli & Mate Pavic (Croatian Pair)	Marcel Granollers (Spain) & Horacio Zeballos (Argentina)
Women's Doubles	Elise Mertens (Belgium) & Hsieh Su-wei (Chinese Taipei)	Veronika Kudermetova & Elena Vesnina (Russian Pair)
Mixed Doubles	Neal Skupski (UK) & Desirae Krawczyk (US)	Joe Salisbury & Harriet Dart (UK Pair)

428. The _____ won the **16th Edition of '2020 UEFA European Football Championship (UEFA Euro 2020)'** by defeating England on penalties in the finals held at Wembley Stadium, London, UK.

Answer: Italy National Football Team

- This is Italy's 2nd European Championship Title (1st one was in 1968).

429. West Indies cricketer Chris Gayle popularly known as “Universal Boss” created history by becoming the 1st ever batsman to score _____ runs in T20 format.

Answer: 14,000

430. Which country will host the **BWF’s (Badminton World Federation) World Badminton Championships** in 2026?

Answer: India

431. _____ were inducted as Members of the International Cricket Council (ICC) during ICC’s 78th Annual General Meeting.

Answer: Mongolia, Tajikistan and Switzerland

- With this, the total number of ICC members stands at 106 (12 Full Members, 94 Associate Members).

432. Who won the British Grand Prix 2021 held at Silverstone Circuit, Silverstone, United Kingdom (UK)?

Answer: Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton (Britain)

- This is Hamilton’s 8 victory at the British GP (his victory coming in 2008) & overall **99th GP victory**.

433. The International Olympic Committee (IOC) awarded the honour of hosting the Games of the 35th Olympiad or **2032 Summer Olympics** to **Australia’s** _____.

Answer: Brisbane city.

- Brisbane was selected unanimously by the IOC’s 15-member executive board as the host city for the 2032 Olympics.
- This will be the **3rd time** Australia will host an Olympic game, after the Melbourne games in 1956 and Sydney games in 2000.
- Notably, Australia’s Queensland has recently hosted the 2018 Commonwealth Games

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332. _____ has introduced the **world's first Nano Urea Liquid** for farmers during its 50th annual general body virtual meeting.

Answer: Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (**IFFCO**)

333. The **Common Services Centres (CSC) E-Governance India Ltd** has unveiled a unique _____ that will act as a one-stop destination and **marketplace for small farmers**.

Answer: Agri Services Portal

334. The **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)** has sanctioned a **Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF)** of Rs 254 crore for setting up two mega piped drinking water supply projects in _____.

Answer: Odisha.

335. Which organization has signed **CEO Water Mandate** with **UN Global Compact**, an initiative to mobilize business leaders on water security and sanitation as part of the Sustainable Development Goals?

Answer: NTPC Limited

336. The **National Medicinal Plant Board (NMPB)** and the **National Botanical Research Institute (CSIR-NBRI)** have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the promotion of _____.

Answer: cultivation and production of medicinal plants and herbs in India.

337. The _____ has established the **Koita Centre for Digital Health**, **India's first of its kind Center for Digital Health** with the contribution from the **Koita Foundation**.

Answer: Indian Institute of Technology (**IIT**) Bombay

338. Which institute has developed a device named “**Jivan Vayu**”, **India’s first** Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (**CPAP**) device that can function without electricity?

Answer: Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Ropar

339. Which state has generated the highest employment in India under the **IBPS Scheme (India Business Process Outsourcing Promotion Scheme)** by creating 12, 234 new jobs?

Answer: Andhra Pradesh

- Tamil Nadu came 2nd by creating 9, 401 jobs, while the remaining jobs were spread across Punjab, Odisha, Maharashtra and others.
- **Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh** received the distinction for providing employment to a large number of youth under the IBPS scheme.
- The scheme has generated direct employment for more than 40, 000 people residing in Tier-II and Tier-III cities, out of which 38% are women.
- The IBPS scheme was launched in 2014 under **Digital India Programme** to incentivize establishment of 48, 300 seats under BPO/ITES (Business Process Outsource/Information Technology Enabled Services) operations across India.
- It aims to create employment opportunities for the youth, by promoting the IT/ITES industry.

340. The Department of Biotechnology (**DBT**) under the Ministry of Science and Technology has issued a Special Call to Farmers of North East Region (**NER**) under its Mission Programme _____.

Answer: ‘**Biotech-Krishi Innovation Science Application Network (Biotech-KISAN)**’.

341. Mamata Banerjee, Chief Minister of **West Bengal (WB)** relaunched the revised _____ scheme, a financial scheme for the farmers of West Bengal.

Answer: “**Krishak Bandhu**”

342. Which state government has constituted an “**Economic advisory council to the chief minister**”?

Answer: Tamil Nadu

343. In June 2021, the government of **Odisha** and the _____ made a partnership to **improve the household food and nutritional security in Odisha** by strengthening the livelihood initiatives and working with thousands of state-supported Women’s Self-Help Groups (**WSHGs**).

Answer: United Nations World Food Programme (**UN WFP**)

344. Which state became the **First Rabies-Free State** in India as it has not reported a single rabies case in the last three years?

345. 74th session of the **World Health Assembly (WHA)** of World Health Organization (WHO) held virtually from **Geneva**, Switzerland amid COVID-19. The theme of the 74th WHA is _____.

Answer: “Ending this pandemic, preventing the next: building together a healthier, safer and fairer world”

346. Which country hosts the most important **Clean Energy and Innovation Summit** of the year 2021?

Answer: Chile

- **Theme** – ‘Ambition into Action – Turning a Year of Ambition into a Decade of Delivery’.

347. The **8th** triennial conference of the **International Nitrogen Initiative (INI)** held virtually from May 31-June 3, 2021, with a main focus on the _____

Answer: United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

348. **INTERPOL**, The International Criminal Police Organization, has launched a new global database named _____ to identify missing persons through family DNA.

Answer: “I-Familia”

- The I-Familia will support the police to solve the cold cases of the member countries.

349. G7 nations' Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors meeting was held in **London**, chaired by the _____, made an agreement to introduce a global minimum corporate tax rate of at least **15 percent** for multinational companies (MNCs).

Answer: British finance minister, Rishi Sunak

- The G7 nations include the United States, Japan, Germany, Britain, France, Italy and Canada. The meet was held in Cornwall, southwest England.
- **Objective:** To overcome the cross-border tax loopholes used by some of the world's biggest MNCs like Apple, Google and Amazon.

350. Maldives' Foreign Minister _____ elected as President of the **76th** session of the United Nations **(UN) General Assembly**.

Answer: Abdulla Shahid

351. China's ' _____ project or known as '**Artificial Sun**' set a new record by running at **216 million degrees Fahrenheit or 120 million degrees Celsius** for 101 seconds.

Answer: Experimental Advanced Superconducting Tokamak (EAST)

352. Which country has become the first country in the world to grant **legal tender status to bitcoin**?

Answer: El Salvador

353. European Space Agency (ESA) has announced the launching of its probe called '**EnVision**' to study _____.

Answer: Venus.

- It will probably be launched in early **2030**.

354. In an introductory move, the **European Space Agency (ESA)** will launch the world's first wooden satellite, _____, designed and built in **Finland**, on Earth's orbit by the end of 2021.

Answer: WISA Woodsat

355. 31st North Atlantic Treaty Organization (**NATO**) summit happened at _____

Answer: Brussels in Belgium

356. India and Fiji signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for cooperation in the **field of** _____ during a virtual meeting.

Answer: Agriculture and allied sectors

357. _____ launched a **Trilateral partnership** to establish stability and a govern-based global order based on approval of all in the **Indo-Pacific region**.

Answer: India, Italy & Japan

358. As per the Central government data, _____ replaced the **United Arab Emirates (UAE)** as the **2nd largest** export destination for India in **FY21**.

Answer: China

- The **United States (US)** remained as India's top export partner.

359. Which organization has released the **3rd** edition of **Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) India Index** and dashboard for 2020–21 in New Delhi?

Answer: NITI Aayog (National Institution for Transforming India)

- Report Title: '**SDG India Index and Dashboard 2020–21: Partnerships in the Decade of Action**'.
- **State wise Top Rank: Kerala** has retained its rank as the top state with a score of 75 and Bihar has been adjudged as the worst performer.
- **Union Territories (UTs) wise Top Rank: Chandigarh** topped among the **UTs**, followed by Delhi, Puducherry. Dadra and Nagar Haveli & Daman and Diu has been adjudged as the worst performer.

360. _____, the Capital city of Bahrain topped the **AIRINC Global 150 Cities Index for Financial Attractiveness ranking** for the 3rd consecutive time.

Answer: Manama

- Indian Cities of **New Delhi & Mumbai** were the only two to be listed in the Index.

361. Which UN agency has released a report titled “**World Employment and Social Outlook: Trends 2021(WESO Trends 2021)**” which states that **global unemployment rate will be 5.7% in 2022**, 6.3% in 2021 & there will no recovery in global jobs until 2023>

Answer: International Labour Organisation (ILO)

362. According to the “**Scientific review of the impact of climate change on plant pests**” report of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (**FAO**), globally around _____ is damaged due to invasive pests every year.

Answer: 40% of agricultural produce

363. _____ and UN Environment Programme’s (**UNEP**) has released a report titled, “**Becoming #GenerationRestoration Ecosystem Restoration for People, Nature & Climate**”.

Answer: Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

- The report states, to avoid biodiversity loss, land equivalent to **size of china** or **one billion hectares** of degraded land should be restored by **2030**.

364. According to the **Performance Grading Index (PGI) 2019-20** for States & UTs released by Department of School Education and Literacy (DoSEL), Ministry of Education, the states of _____ occupied the highest grade (Grade I ++) for 2019-20 (i.e Scores are between 901-950).

Answer: Punjab, Chandigarh, Tamil Nadu, Andaman & Nicobar Islands (A&N Islands) and Kerala

- **Performance Grading Index** measures the progress made by States/UTs with regard to **school education** such as learning outcomes, access and equity, infrastructure and facilities, and governance and management processes. For this, it uses around **70 Indicators**.
- The PGI 2019-20 is the **3rd edition of the report**, the 1st report was published in 2019.

365. As per the _____, which was released by the Centre for Science and Environment (**CSE**), India’s rank has dropped by 2 places from last year’s 115 to **117** on the 17

Sustainable Development Goals (**SDGs**), which are adopted as a part of the 2030 agenda by 193 United Nations (UN) member states in 2015.

Answer: State of India's Environment Report, 2021

- The overall SDG score of India is **61.9** out of 100 and it ranks below four South Asian countries viz, Bhutan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh.
- **State-wise preparedness: Kerala, Himachal Pradesh and Chandigarh** were the **best states** with an overall score which are on the path to achieving the SDGs.
- **Jharkhand and Bihar** were the least prepared states to meet the SDGs by the target year, 2030. Jharkhand and Bihar lag in 5 and 7 out of the 17 SDGs.

366. According to the **Global Liveability Index 2021** released by the **Economic Intelligence Unit (EIU)**, _____ has been named as the World's Most Liveable City due to its ability to control the spread of COVID-19 pandemic faster and lift restrictions earlier than other cities in the world even though city had more COVID-19 cases.

Answer: New Zealand's Auckland

- Osaka (Japan), and Adelaide (Australia) came 2nd and 3rd respectively.
- Auckland has replaced Vienna (Austrian Capital) as the most livable city.

367. As per the 'Global Skills Report 2021' released by Coursera, India has been ranked **67th** overall globally. _____ **topped the rankings** followed by Luxembourg & Austria.

Answer: Switzerland

- India has been ranked number 55 in business and at number 66 in both technology and data science categories.
- At the Asia level, Japan has topped the rankings (Global Rank – 4). India has been ranked 16th in the Asian region ahead of Philippines & Thailand.

368. Which state with a score of 64.1 has been ranked 1st in the **Anemia Mukt Bharat Index 2020-21**.

Answer: Madhya Pradesh

- Odisha (59.3) came 2nd followed by Himachal Pradesh (57.1) in the 3rd position.

- The score card and rankings in Anemia Mukht Bharat Index are based on parameters like coverage of **Iron-Folic Acid (IFA) supplementation** across beneficiaries to support assessment of progress and performance of the programme.
- The Anemia Mukht Bharat (AMB) strategy was launched in **2018** to reduce prevalence of Anemia all over India. It is an initiative of the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) & United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)**.

369. In the recently released **World Competitiveness Index 2021** released by the Institute for Management Development's (IMD) World Competitiveness Center, **India retained its _____ out of 64 nations** (for the 3rd consecutive year).

Answer: 43rd rank

- **Switzerland** topped the Index followed by Sweden in the 2nd spot & Denmark in the 3rd spot.
- India's ranking in the **4 parameters** are – Government Efficiency 46 (from 50 in 2020), the ranking in other 3 parameters remained unchanged compared to 2020 – Economic performance – 37, business efficiency – 32, infrastructure – 49.
- Botswana (61st) was added to the ranking this year 2021.

370. According to the 6th Edition of '**Sustainable Development Report 2021 (SDR 2021)**' released by Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN), India with a score of 60.1 has been placed at **120th rank out of _____**

Answer: 165 countries.

- **Finland** topped the Index followed by Sweden & Denmark.
- For the 1st time since 2015, all countries have shown a reversal in progress in achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) due to COVID-19 pandemic.
- SDR 2021 has been written by a group of authors led by Professor Jeffrey Sachs, President of the SDSN and has been published by Cambridge University Press.

- SDR is an annual report which ranks the 193 UN member countries based on their performance against the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).
- It has been released since 2015 and is based on official data sources (UN, World Bank, etc.) and non-official data sources (research institutions and non-governmental organizations)

371. According to the **15th Edition of Global Peace Index 2021 (GPI 2021)** released by Institute of Economics and Peace (IEP), India with a score of 2.553 has been ranked _____ **out of 163 countries**, which specifies '**Low State of Peace**'.

Answer: 135

- **Iceland** topped the GPI 2021 Index followed by New Zealand & Denmark.
- The average level of **global peacefulness decreased by 0.07 per cent** in the 2021 Global Peace Index. It has deteriorated for the 9th time in the last 13 years.
- The Middle East and North Africa (**MENA**) **region remained the world's least peaceful region**, while **Europe remained the most peaceful region** in the world. 8 of the 10 most peaceful countries are from Europe.
- In the 2020 GPI, India was ranked 139th.

372. According to the '**World Investment Report 2021**' released by the UN Conference on Trade and Development (**UNCTAD**) – India received Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflows worth _____ **in 2020** making it the **5th largest recipient** of inflows in the world.

Answer: USD 64 billion

- The **US** with 156 Billion was the top destination for FDI in 2020 followed by **China** (USD 149 billion) & Hong Kong, China (USD 119 billion).
- **Global FDI inflows declined to USD 1 Trillion** in 2020 (35% decline) compared to USD 1.5 trillion in 2019 due to pandemic.
- India's FDI inflow has increased to USD 64 billion in 2020 from USD 51 billion in 2019 (37% increase) due to acquisition in the Information & Communication Technology (ICT) industry.

- India was ranked 8th in the UNCTAD's 2020 Report based on its FDI Inflows.
- Countries with Largest FDI outflows are China (133 billion), Luxembourg (127 billion) & Japan (116 billion). India was ranked 18th with USD 12 billion (compared to USD 13 billion in 2019).

373. According to the '**Ease of Living Index 2020**' released by Centre for Science & Environment (CSE) – _____ with a score of 66.7 has been ranked as India's most liveable capital city followed by Chennai, Tamil Nadu at No. 2, Shimla, Himachal Pradesh at No. 3.

Answer: Bengaluru (Karnataka)

- The Index is part of the report titled State of India's Environment 2021.
- This is the 2nd edition of Ease of Living Index 2020, the 1st edition was published in 2018.

374. On June 24, 2021, the **United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime's** (UNODC) released a World Drug Report 2021 which states that around _____ **used drugs worldwide in 2020** of which **36.3 million** people or 13% suffered from drug use disorders.

Answer: 275 million people

375. The Ministry of Education, Department of Higher Education, launched an Author Mentorship programme _____.

Answer: 'YUVA (Young, Upcoming and Versatile Authors)

- Objective: To promote reading, writing, and book culture of Indians; to project Indian writings globally.
- Implementing Agency: The National Book Trust, India under the Ministry of Education will be the Implementing Agency of the scheme

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376. Union Minister of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, _____ virtually launched the **Horticulture** Cluster Development Programme (**CDP**).

- Initially, the programme will be implemented in a **pilot phase** in **12** horticulture clusters out of the total **53** clusters selected for the programme.

Answer: Narendra Singh Tomar

377. To reduce India's dependence on costly oil imports, the government (govt) has brought forward the target year for achieving **20 percent ethanol-blending** with petrol by 2 years to April 2023 from _____.

Answer: 2025

378. Union Minister **Narendra Singh Tomar**, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (MoA&FW), launched the _____ for distributing seed mini-kits (higher-yielding varieties of seeds) to farmers.

Answer: Seed Minikit Programme

- The mini-kits are being provided by the central agencies National Seeds Corporation (NCS), National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd.(NAFED), and Gujarat State Seeds Corporation.
- The programme was **wholly funded** by the **Centre** through the National Food Security Mission.

379. The Ministry of Jal Shakti under Swachh Bharat Mission Gramin (SBM-G) Phase 2 is set to support around **2 lakh villages to achieve Solid and Liquid Waste Management (SLWM) arrangements** through an investment of _____ during the FY 2021-22.

Answer: INR 40, 700 Crore

380. India's export of agriculture and allied products (including marine and plantation products) increased by **17.34 percent** to _____ during 2020-21 (in INR terms the increase was 22.62 percent).

Answer: USD 41.25 Billion

- Exports during 2020-21 amounted to INR 3.05 lakh crore compared to INR 2.49 lakh crore during 2019-20.
- **India's Agricultural & Allied Imports** for 2020-21 stood at USD 20.67 billion compared to USD 20.64 billion in 2019-20.
- India's export figures during 2019-20 stood at **USD 35.16 billion**.

381. The Union Minister for Tribal Affairs launched the Tribal Livelihoods Initiative _____.

Answer: 'Sankalp Se Siddhi-Mission Van Dhan'.

- **Sankalp Se Siddhi – Mission Van Dhan:** Through this scheme, TRIFED aims to expand its operations through convergence of various schemes of different Ministries and Departments and **launch various tribal development programs in Mission Mode**.

382. _____ & National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) launched its 'Digital Skill Champions Programme'.

Answer: WhatsApp

- The programme aims to **train Indian youth on digital skills to make them employable** and more productive in their work environment.

383. Wipro Limited joined the _____ for New Work Standards initiative to establish a healthy, resilient and equitable future of work.

Answer: World Economic Forum's (WEF) Partnership

- The initiative aims to build **human-first work standards** by co-creating new frameworks, and utilizing tools and technologies.

384. Bharti Airtel & _____ have announced a strategic partnership for implementing 'Made in India' 5G network solutions for India.

Answer: Tata Group

385. India's largest crypto exchange, _____ has announced its own **Non-Fungible Token (NFT)** marketplace, a first of its kind for India and South Asia.

Answer: WazirX

- NFTs are digital tokens that exist on a blockchain and represent ownership of digital items, like artwork, music, etc.
- It will have no listing price and "minimal gas fees" of \$1 for transactions.
- The WazirX marketplace will run on the Binance Smart Chain and will use the company's own WRX token.

386. Securities and Exchange Board of India (**SEBI**) enhanced the overseas investment limit for a mutual fund house to **USD 1 billion** from the existing _____.

Answer: USD 600 million.

387. The Asian Development Bank (**ADB**) and the **Government of India** has signed a **\$2.5 million project readiness financing (PRF) loan** to support preparation and design activities to upgrade major district roads in _____.

Answer: Sikkim

388. India's largest private lender, **HDFC Bank** has planned to become **carbon neutral** by _____.

Answer: 2031-32.

389. Public sector banks have sanctioned _____ of the total loans under **PM SVANidhi** scheme to Street Vendors.

Answer: 95 percent

390. The **World Bank's(WB)** Board of Executive Directors has approved _____ programme named '**Raising and Accelerating Micro, Small and Medium**

Enterprise (MSME) Performance' (RAMP), to support the Government of India's nationwide initiative to strengthen the MSME sector, which has been heavily impacted due to COVID-19.

Answer: USD 500 million

391. ICICI Bank launched a first-of-its-kind initiative, a comprehensive set of digital banking solutions named – _____ for corporates and their entire ecosystem including promoters, group companies.

Answer: ICICI STACK

392. Government of India virtually signed a **\$484 million** loan agreement with the _____ to improve transport connectivity and facilitate industrial development in the Chennai–Kanyakumari Industrial Corridor in **Tamil Nadu**.

Answer: Asian Development Bank

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393. As per the data of the **Bank for International Settlements (BIS)**, the **bank credit-to-GDP ratio** of India in **2020** rose to a **5-year high** of about _____ (whereas in 2016 the ratio was at 59 percent)

Answer: 56.075 percent

- The **incremental credit growth** in FY21 was about **5.56 percent** (at Rs 109.51 lakh crore), which was the lowest recorded growth in 59 years (whereas in FY 1962 it was at 5.38 percent), in FY20, credit growth was at a 58-year-low at 6.14 percent.
- The total outstanding bank credit in 2020 stood at **\$1.52 trillion**.

394. The country's largest lender, **State Bank of India (SBI)** launched _____, for the healthcare sector to extend loan support in view of the novel coronavirus pandemic.

Answer: "Aarogyam Healthcare Business Loan"

395. The _____ has approved a **\$125 million** program under the '**Resilient Kerala Program**' to support Kerala's preparedness against natural disasters, climate change impacts, and COVID-19.

Answer: World Bank

396. _____ has been recognised as a '**Great Place to Work**' for the 15th year in a row by the Great Place to Work (GPTW) Institute.

Answer: National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) Ltd.

397. The founder of Tata Group, _____ has emerged as **the biggest philanthropist globally** in the last century (between 1901-1999) by donating **\$102.4 billion**, according to the list of top 50 givers prepared by the **Hurun Report and EdelGive Foundation**.

Answer: Jamsetji Nusserwanji Tata

398. Who broke the record and became the **fastest female climber** to reach the peak of Mount Everest, she scaled the peak in **25 hours 50 minutes**, (the shortest time taken by any woman)?

Answer: Tsang Yin-Hung from Hong Kong

399. Former Justice of Supreme Court, Arun Kumar Mishra appointed as the **Chairperson** of the _____.

Answer: National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) of India.

400. Who was appointed as the **Educational Advisor of the World Bank** from June 2021 till December 2024?

Answer: Ranjitsinh Disale, a schoolteacher from Maharashtra

- He was one of the 12 advisors from the World to be appointed by the World Bank.
- Notably, Ranjitsinh Disale was the **winner of 2020's Global Teacher Prize** and also the 1st Indian to win the prize.

401. **World Milk Day** is annually observed across the globe on _____ to create awareness about milk and to highlight the importance of milk and dairy products as a global food.

Answer: June 1

402. United Nations (UN)'s **World Environment Day** is annually observed across the globe on **5th June** to promote and encourage the involvement of the government, businesses, celebrities and citizens to focus on environmental issues. World Environment Day 2021 is focused on ecosystem restoration and its theme is _____.

Answer: "Reimagine. Recreate. Restore."

- **Pakistan** is the host of 2021 World Environment Day, they host the day with the theme "Ecosystem restoration".

403. The United Nations (UN)'s **World Food Safety Day** is annually observed across the globe on _____ to create awareness about the methods to prevent and detect foodborne risks, and to ensure food security, human health, economic prosperity, agriculture, market access, tourism and sustainable development.

Answer: 7th June

- The **theme** of the World Food Safety Day 2021 is "**Safe food today for a healthy tomorrow**".
- The **slogan** of the World Food Safety Day 2021 is "**Food safety is everyone's business**".

404. The **International Olympic Day** is annually observed across the globe on _____ to promote the Olympic movement.

Answer: 23rd June

- The day commemorates the creation of the International Olympic Committee (**IOC**) on 23rd June 1894 in Paris, France.

405. The United Nations (**UN**)'s Micro-, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises Day (**MSME Day**) is annually observed across the globe on _____ to create awareness about the contributions of the MSME sector towards sustainable development and the global economy.

- The theme of MSME Day 2021 is “**MSME 2021: Key to an inclusive and sustainable recovery**”.

Answer: 27th June

406. The National Statistics Day is annually observed on _____ to popularise the use of Statistics in everyday life and sensitise the public as to how Statistics helps in shaping and framing policies.

Answer: 29th June

- The day also commemorates the birth anniversary of **Padma Vibhushan** Prof Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis (**P C Mahalanobis**) who was referred to as the “**Father of Indian Statistics**”.

407. Global sports brand **PUMA** extended its partnership with **former Indian** _____ by signing him as the Brand Ambassador of **PUMA motorsports in India**.

Answer: Cricketer Yuvraj Singh

408. Indian women cricketer _____ became the first women’s cricketer to hit 3 sixes in a test match.

Answer: Shafali Verma (17 years old)

- She achieved the feat during the one-off test match between India and England held in Bristol, England.

409. _____ has granted conditional exemption to conduct **Beyond Visual Line of Sight (BVLOS)** experimental flights of drones from **Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) Rules, 2021 to 20**.

Answer: Ministry of Civil Aviation

410. _____ has developed a blockchain-based healthcare information system for mobile phone applications.

Answer: Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Madras

- **'BlockTrack'** is said to be a blockchain-based secure medical data and information exchange system for a mobile phone-based application.
- The system has been developed with the support of Infosys.

411. The Drugs Controller General of India recently approved an oral drug to treat COVID-19 called the _____.

Answer: 2-DG

- The 2-DG was developed by the **Defence Research Development Organisation** (DRDO) for Emergency Use. 2-DG is 2-Deoxy – D – Glucose.
- It was developed in collaboration with Dr Reddy's Laboratories.
- The drug ensures faster recovery of hospitalized patients and will reduce supplemental oxygen dependence during clinical trials.

412. Ayush Ministry has launched a massive nationwide campaign to distribute its poly herbal ayurvedic drugs _____ for COVID-19 patients, who are at their home.

Answer: AYUSH 64 and Kabasura Kudineer

413. Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has rolled out mobile app titled as _____ for psycho social wellness of students and parents.

Answer: 'CBSE Dost for Life'

- It has been designed for **students of classes 9 to 12** and will be available from 10th May
- It will also provide students **information on academics, tips on mental health and well-being, corona and rap songs**

414. Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) has signed MoU with _____ on **Joint initiative for Digital Transformation of Tribal Schools** like Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) and Ashram Schools.

Answer: Microsoft

- Microsoft will make **AI curriculum** available to tribal students in both **English and Hindi** at all EMRS schools to skill educators and students in next-generation technologies

415. Who has developed an antibody detection-based kit, the DIPAS-VDx COVID 19 IgG Antibody Microwell ELISA or **DIPCOVAN**?

Answer: DRDO

- The kit can be used for sero-surveillance for detecting the presence of Covid antibodies amongst the population.
- **DIPCOVAN** was developed indigenously by DRDO scientists and has been tested on over 1,000 patient samples at various Covid hospitals in **Delhi**.

416. _____ has launched **National Mobile Monitoring Software (NMMS) app** and Area officer monitoring App.

Answer: Union Minister of Rural Development

417. E-Committee of Supreme Court has released manual for its **free e-Courts Services Mobile App** in _____.

Answer: 14 languages.

- SC's app is available in **English, Hindi, Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Kannada, Khasi, Malayalam, Marathi, Nepali, Odia, Punjabi, Tamil and Telugu.**

418. After almost 70 years, **Cheetahs** will be reintroduced in India in _____.

Answer: November 2021

- 10 African cheetahs, including 5 females will be introduced in **Kuno National Park (KNP) in Madhya Pradesh** from South Africa
- **National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)** is releasing Rs 14 crore for the relocation project.

419. DMK leader _____ takes oath as the **Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu** at Raj Bhavan.

Answer: M.K. Stalin

420. Indian Army has launched **first green solar energy plant** in _____ to harness renewable energy

Answer: Sikkim

- It will use **vanadium-based battery technology**, and has been built at an altitude of **16000 ft.** in northern part of Sikkim and has a capacity of 56 KVA

421. NR Congress Chief **N Rengasamy (70 years)** will be sworn in as the **Chief Minister of** _____.

Answer: Union Territory of Puducherry

422. **Himanta Biswa Sarma** has been named as the next **Chief Minister of** _____.

Answer: Assam

- He will replace incumbent **Sarbananda Sonowal**

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423. **Himachal Pradesh Govt** has been building _____ to check the depletion of the groundwater and to harvest the rainwater.

Answer: 'Forest Ponds'

424. _____ has become '**Har Ghar Jal**' Union Territory by ensuring that every rural home gets a household tap connection.

Answer: Puducherry

- **Puducherry** is the fourth state or UT after Goa, Telangana and Andaman and the Nicobar Islands to provide assured tap water supply to every rural home under **Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)**.

425. Punjab Chief Minister **Amarinder Singh** has declared _____ as the **23rd district of Punjab** on the occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr, after long-pending demand of the people.

Answer: Malerkotla

426. Manipur CM, **N Biren Singh** has launched mobile app titled as _____ for home delivery of fresh vegetables, for day to day consumption amid COVID-19

Answer: 'MOMA Market'

- It has been introduced by **Manipur Organic Mission Agency (MOMA), Dept of Horticulture and Soil Conservation, Manipur**

427. Haryana CM **Manohar Lal Khattar** has launched Haryana govt's integrated program for Covid-19 titled as _____.

Answer: 'Sanjeevni Pariyojna'.

428. Which state has launched a scheme '**Ankur**' under which citizens will be awarded for planting trees during monsoon?

Answer: Madhya Pradesh

429. World's longest pedestrian suspension bridge, **Arouca Bridge 516** and was officially inaugurated in northern _____.

Answer: Portugal.

430. First-ever India-France-Australia Trilateral Foreign Ministerial Dialogue has been held in _____, on the sidelines of G7 Foreign Ministers' Meeting.

Answer: London, UK

431. First BRICS Employment Working Group (EWG) Meeting has been held virtually under the **chairmanship of** _____, which has assumed BRICS Presidency in 2021.

Answer: India

432. Which country has successfully achieved the feat of landing its first Mars Rover '**Zhu Rong**' on the red planet, becoming the only second nation to do so?

Answer: China

- Till now, only **United States** have successfully landed its rover on Mars.

433. Which country has unveiled a new supercomputer '**Simorgh**', which is 100 times more powerful than previous supercomputer of the country.

Answer: Iran

434. Elon Musk-owned **SpaceX** has tied-up with _____ to offer high-speed satellite internet to customers across the world.

Answer: Google Cloud

- Under this, SpaceX will set up Starlink ground stations within Google's data centres, that connect to Starlink satellites to enable high-speed broadband internet through Google Cloud.

435. Google has launched its global licensing programme _____ in India amid mounting pressure from media houses urging technology platforms to pay a fair price and share a part of the advertising revenue for featuring articles.

Answer: 'News Showcase'

- It is a part of **Google's \$1-billion investment** to support quality journalism.

436. China has successfully launched a new ocean-monitoring satellite titled as ' _____' into orbit on Long March-4B rocket, from **Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre, China**.

Answer: Haiyang-2D (HY-2D)

437. NASA is planning to search for water, other resources on the moon by its first mobile robot named as _____ in **2023**, as a part of NASA's Artemis program.

Answer: VIPER

- **Volatiles Investigating Polar Exploration Rover (VIPER)** will collect data that would help NASA map resources at the lunar South Pole that could one day be harvested for long-term human exploration at the Moon.
- **VIPER will carry 4 instruments:** TRIDENT hammer drill, MSolo instrument, NIRVSS and NSS.

438. Fiame Naomi Mata'afa (64 years) has been sworn-in as **first female Prime Minister** of _____.

Answer: Samoa

439. India has been working towards developing a mobile tech platform _____ that helps increase situational awareness and provides terrain-related information to peacekeepers.

Answer: 'UNITE AWARE'

- It has been developing the platform in partnership with the **UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations** and **Department of Operational Support**

440. World Health Organization (WHO) and _____ has signed MoU to launch **1st WHO BioHub Facility** as part of WHO BioHub System, which was announced in November 2020.

- It will enhance the rapid sharing of viruses and other pathogens between laboratories and partners globally.
- It will serve as a center for the safe receipt, sequencing, storage and preparation of biological materials for distribution to other laboratories.

Answer: Swiss Confederation

441. Bashar al-Assad has been re-elected as the **President of _____** for the fourth consecutive term in a landslide victory by winning 95.1% of the total votes cast.

Answer: Syria

442. The UN has released its Global Forest Goals Report 2021. The Report has been prepared by the _____ of the UN.

Answer: Department of Economic and Social Affairs

- According to the report, the Covid-19 pandemic has **aggravated the challenges faced by countries in managing their forests.**
- It provides an initial overview of the progress of Goals and targets contained within the **United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2030.**
- According to the report, almost **25% global population** rely on forest.

443. World Bank has released **Migration and Development Brief report** in which _____ has been declared as the largest recipient of remittances in 2020 with over **\$83 billion**, which is a drop of 0.2% from 2019 (USD83.3 billion).

Answer: India

- India has been the largest recipient of remittances since **2008**
- India is followed by **China, Mexico, Philippines and Egypt**
- Globally, the remittance flow was \$540 billion in 2020, which is 1.9% lower as compared to that of 2019, when it was \$548 billion

444. NITI Aayog and _____ has released report titled as '**Connected Commerce: Creating a Roadmap for a Digitally Inclusive Bharat**'.

Answer: Mastercard

445. India has moved up to _____ in the **57th Renewable Energy Country Attractiveness Index (RECAI)** released by **EY (Ernst & Young)**.

Answer: third spot

- Installed solar capacity in India grew nearly 12% to 39GW in financial year 2020-21 and is expected to grow significantly with generation from solar PV forecast to exceed coal before 2040
- **United States** topped the index, followed by **China, India, United Kingdom** and **France**.

446. _____ has published its quarterly "**Business Confidence Survey**". According to it, Business confidence of Indian companies has come down to its lowest in three quarters in May. In last survey, confidence was at decadal high.

Answer: FICCI

- Business Confidence Index (BCI) declined due to decline in optimism levels of participating companies with respect to current conditions.
- BCI stands at 51.5 in latest survey, after hitting 74.2 in previous survey round.
- However, index is still higher than 2020 (42.9) when nationwide lockdown was imposed.

447. The **Ministry of Youth Affairs**, the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**, the **UNICEF** and its partner organization YuWaah has launched a pan-India campaign called _____.

Answer: #YoungWarrior.

448. _____ has decided to set up 'National Mission on the use of Biomass in coal based thermal power plants'.

Answer: Power Ministry

- It will address the issue of air pollution due to farm stubble-burning and will reduce carbon footprints.
- It will also support the energy transition in India and its targets to move towards cleaner energy sources.
- It is being envisaged that the Mission will have a Steering Committee and will also contribute to **National Clean Air Programme**.

449. Tribal Co-operative Marketing Federation of India (TRIFED) has partnered with NITI Aayog to implement _____.

Answer: Van Dhan Yojana scheme

- They will work together to prepare the follow-up-plan for its implementation in each of the 39 Tribal Aspirational Districts
- These districts are from **Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Jharkhand, MP, Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Odisha, Telangana and Tripura**
- **Special focus** will be given to areas with **tribal more than 50%**

450. _____ has launched two loan products at a concessional rate for MSME for ramping up supply of products used in the fight against the COVID-19 for **MSMEs**.

Answer: SIDBI

- These products will help augment supply of oxygen cylinders, oxygen concentrators, oximeters, and essential drugs by MSMEs. These loan products are
- **SHWAS** – SIDBI assistance to Healthcare sector in War Against the Second wave of COVID19
- **AROG** – SIDBI Assistance to MSMEs for Recovery and Organic Growth during COVID19

451. Tribal Co-operative Marketing Federation of India (TRIFED) has signed MoU with _____ for a collaborative project titled 'Sustainable Livelihoods For Tribal Households in India'.

Answer: The LINK Fund

The MoU will facilitate:

- **Tribal Development and Employment Generation**
- Sustainable livelihoods and value addition, produce and crafts diversification, skill training
- The LINK Fund is a **Geneva, Switzerland** based philanthropic operational foundation.

452. Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has given its approval for strategic disinvestment along with transfer of management control of _____

Answer: IDBI Bank Ltd.

- The extent of shareholding to be divested by Govt and LIC shall be decided at the time of structuring of transaction in consultation with RBI
- Govt and LIC together own more than 94% of equity of **IDBI Bank (GoI 45.48%, LIC 49.24%)**
- **LIC is currently the promoter of IDBI Bank with Management Control and GoI is the co-promote**

453. Who has been appointed as the **Commerce Secretary in the Union Commerce Ministry.**

Answer: B V R Subrahmanyam

- He will also serve as the **Officer on Special Duty (OSD) in the Commerce Ministry.**
- He will succeed Commerce Secretary **Anup Wadhawan** on his retirement in June 2021.

454. Tata Sons has acquired majority stake of **64%** in popular online grocer _____ through its subsidiary, **Tata Digital Limited.**

Answer: BigBasket

- The acquisition will help the conglomerate take on the likes of Amazon, Walmart's Flipkart, Reliance's JioMart and Softbank-backed Grofers.
- Tata's acquisition of BigBasket could be a part of the conglomerate's bigger plan to launch a 'super app' that will serve as a holistic platform for all its consumer businesses.

455. _____ has joined group of Central Banks and Supervisors '**Network for Greening the Financial System (NGFS)**' as a Member.

Answer: RBI

- **NGFS:** Network of central banks and financial supervisors that are willing to share best practices and contribute to environment, climate risk management, mobilizing mainstream finance
- NGFS was launched at Paris One Planet Summit on December 12, 2017.
- NGFS HQs: **Paris, France**

456. RBI has imposed monetary penalty of **Rs 3 crores** on _____ for non-compliance with certain RBI directions in the matter of shifting of securities from one category to another.

Answer: ICICI Bank

- As per RBI, penalty has been imposed for contravention of certain in Master Circular of 2015 on '**Prudential Norms for Classification, Valuation and Operation of Investment Portfolio by Banks**'
- RBI has imposed this penalty in exercise of powers under provisions of the **Banking Regulation Act, 1949.**

457. The RBI has set up the second **Regulatory Review Authority (RRA 2.0)**, initially for a period of one year from _____.

Answer: May 1, 2021.

- It will be headed by SBI Managing Director **S Janakiraman.**

- The group will assist the regulatory review authority by identifying areas, regulations, guidelines, returns which can be rationalized and submit reports. periodically to RRA containing the recommendations
- RBI Deputy Governor M Rajeshwar Rao was appointed as the Regulations Review Authority.

458. HDFC Bank in partnership with **Common Services Centres (CSCs)** has launched an artificial intelligence chatbot named as _____.

Answer: 'Eva'

- 'Eva' will work on the CSC's Digital Seva Portal to educate and support **Village Level Entrepreneurs (VLEs)** about the banks' products and services in quick and easy manner before providing banking services to rural customers

459. RBI has granted an authorization to **Bajaj Finance** for issuance and operation of **semi-closed Prepaid Payment Instruments with perpetual validity**

- This means, Bajaj Finance is all set to join Paytm and Amazon in prepaid payment segment

460. SEBI has proposed to rationalize the definition of '**promoter group**' and move to the concept of _____ as well as lower the minimum lock-in periods for promoters and other shareholders after an IPO.

Answer: 'person in control'

- The regulator has proposed to do away with the current definition of promoter group as the deletion would rationalize the disclosure burden and bring it in line with the post listing disclosure requirement.
- **Three years period** has been proposed for such a shift

461. Airtel Payments Bank has rolled out digital platform titled as _____ for making investments in gold by its customers.

Answer: 'DigiGold'

- It is launched in partnership with **SafeGold**, a provider of digital gold.

462. Institute for Development and Research in Banking Technology (IDRBT) is building Digital Financial Infrastructure named as _____.

Answer: National Digital Financial Infrastructure (NADI).

- NADI will provide a roadmap and framework for future digital financial services growth
- It will consist of modern network infrastructure including 5G/Edge Cloud with software defined networking for connecting to the data centre infrastructure.
- **IDRBT** is an arm of **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**

463. The **RBI** has approved the transfer of _____ as surplus to the govt for the accounting period of nine months ended **March 31**.

Answer: Rs. 99,122 crore

- RBI also decided to maintain the **Contingency Risk Buffer** at 5.50%.
- The decision was taken at the 589th meeting of the Central Board of RBI.

464. India is the _____ **insurance-technology market** in **Asia-Pacific region** as per **S&P Global Market Intelligence report**.

Answer: 2nd largest

- India accounts for **35% (\$1.28 billion)** of the **total venture capital (\$3.66 billion)** attracted by insurtech-focused sector in the Asia Pacific region
- China was the largest **insurance-technology market** (43% of the total investment)

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465. **RBI** has increased the max amount outstanding in respect of **full-KYC PPIs (KYC-compliant PPIs)** from Rs. 1 lakh to _____.

Answer: Rs. 2 lakhs.

- Apart from this, RBI has instructed PPI issuers to give the holders of full-KYC PPIs interoperability through authorized networks in the form of cards and UPI for PPIs in the form of electronic wallets.

466. _____ has partnered with **SBI** to provide convenient digital banking services to the customers of SBI with one of its flagship products, **Video Banking solution**.

Answer: HyperVerge

- Under this, **SBI customers** can instantly open savings account using Video Banking process, during COVID, with minimal ID documents

467. Finance Ministry has notified rules for **increased FDI in the insurance sector**. **Insurance Amendment Bill 2021** has increase the foreign direct investment (FDI) limit in the insurance sector to _____ **from 49%**.

Answer: 74%

468. Who has been appointed as the **Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH)** by the RBIH Board?

Answer: Rajesh Bansal

469. _____ has launched **1st phase of MCA21 Version 3.0 (V3.0)** comprising of revamped website, new email services for MCA Officers and 2 new modules, named **e-Book and e-Consultation**.

Answer: Minister of Corporate Affairs (MCA)

470. ICICI Bank has partnered with **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** to link the UPI network with its digital wallet named as _____.

Answer: 'Pockets'

- The facility will do away with the current practice of **linking UPI IDs with savings bank account** in a safe and secure manner

471. According to a report by **Brand Finance Insurance 100 2021** state-owned _____ has emerged as the third strongest and the tenth most valuable insurance brand globally.

Answer: LIC

- As per the report, the total value of the world's top 100 most valuable insurance brands declined by 6% from \$462.4 billion in 2020 to \$433.0 billion in 2021.
- However, **LIC's brand value increased by almost 7%** to \$8.65 billion
- Brand Finance is a **London-based** brand valuation consultancy

472. Investigative journalist and media executive, _____ of the Philippines has been named as the winner of **2021 UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize**.

Answer: Maria Ressa (57 years)

- She was chosen because of her more than 3-decade dedication as a journalist, including her work as **CNN's lead investigative reporter (Asia)** and news chief of ABS-CBN

473. Indian descent, _____ has won **2021 World Food Prize** for her groundbreaking research in developing holistic, nutrition-sensitive approaches to aquaculture and food systems.

Answer: Shakuntala Haraksingh Thilsted

- She is a global nutrition expert.
- Her **research on small native fish species in Bangladesh** led to the development of nutrition-sensitive approaches to aquatic food systems at all levels
- **World Food Prize** is presented by **World Food Prize Foundation**

474. _____ has been conferred with the **International Invincible Gold Medal for 2021** for his extraordinary commitment and outstanding service to humanity through his writings, social and illustrious public life at a two-day virtual session.

Answer: Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank

475. Cambridge University chemists **Shankar Balasubramanian** and **David Klenerman** has been declared the winners of the _____ for their development of revolutionary sequencing techniques.

Answer: 2020 Millennium Technology Prize

- Balasubramanian is an India-born British professor of medicinal chemistry

476. Emmy Award-nominated Indian choreographer _____ has won **10th Annual 'World Choreography Award 2020'** (Choreo Awards or Oscars of Dance).

Answer: Suresh Mukund

- He is the first Indian to win the Choreo Awards.
- He won the award in 'TV Reality Show/Competition' category, for his work on hit American TV reality show **'World of Dance'**.

477. Private Secretary to Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik, _____ named as a recipient of the prestigious **FIH (International Hockey Federation) President's Award**.

Answer: V Karthikeyan Pandian

- He was instrumental in successfully organizing the men's Hockey World Cup and other international hockey events in Bhubaneswar
- Odisha has come up with campaigns **'Odisha by Morning, Hockey by Evening'**

478. Bharat Ratna Professor _____ has been conferred with **International Eni Award 2020** for research into renewable energy sources and energy storage.

Answer: C.N.R. Rao

- He has been working on hydrogen energy, metal oxides, carbon nanotubes, and other materials and two-dimensional systems.
- **International Eni Award 2020:** It is also known as Energy Frontiers award and Nobel Prize in Energy Research.

479. Indian economist and Nobel Laureate **Amartya Kumar Sen (87 years)** has been conferred with '_____ by Spain in the social sciences category.

Answer: 2021 Princess of Asturias Award'

- He was selected from **41 candidates from 20 nation** for his research on famines and theory of human development, welfare economics.
- **Princess of Asturias Awards:** It is awarded every year and comprises a cash prize of **50,000 Euros** along with **Joan Miro sculpture** representing the award, a diploma, an insignia.

480. Vaishali S Hiwase became the first woman officer to be appointed as officer commanding in the _____.

Answer: Border Roads Organisation

- She will be responsible for providing connectivity through an **Indo-China** border road.

481. Mahindra Group Chairman **Anand Mahindra** has rolled out a project titled as _____ to ease the transportation of oxygen from plants to hospitals and homes, following acute oxygen shortage.

Answer: 'Oxygen on Wheels'

482. RBI's executive director _____ has been named as the **4th Deputy Governor of RBI.**

Answer: T Rabi Sankar

- He will succeed **B P Kanungo**, who retired on April 2

483. Chief Justice of India (CJI) **N.V. Ramana** has launched a new feature in the Supreme Court's official website titled as _____.

Answer: 'Indicative Notes'.

- This feature is aimed at providing concise summaries of landmark judgments in an easy-to-understand format.

484. Bollywood actress **Kalki Koechlin** is making her debut as an author, with her first book titled as _____.

Answer: 'Elephant In The Womb'.

485. Sherpa guide **Kami Rita** scaled **Mount Everest** for the 25th time breaking his own record.

- He and 11 other Sherpa guides are the first group of climbers to reach the summit in 2021 and were fixing the ropes on the icy route so that hundreds of other climbers can scale the peak later this month.
- He first scaled Everest in **1994** and has been making the trip nearly every year since then

486. Who has been appointed as the **CEO of the proposed National Asset Reconstruction Company Ltd (NARCL)?**

Answer: Padmakumar M Nair

- He is currently serving as the **Chief General Manager of Stressed Assets Resolution Group at SBI**
- **About NARCL:**
 - i. Proposed bad bank for taking over stressed assets in the budget 2021-22 to consolidate and take over existing stressed assets of lenders and undertake their resolution.
 - ii. 15% of the agreed value will be in cash, rest in govt security receipts.

487. New Zealand Prime Minister _____ has topped '**World's 50 Greatest Leaders' list for 2021**, which is released by Fortune Magazine.

Answer: Jacinda Ardern

- She is followed by **mRNA pioneers, Paypal CEO Daniel H Schulman** and **NBA Rescuers**
- **Adar Poonawalla** (CEO of Serum Institute of India) is the only Indian among the top 10 names at list. He is placed at 10th rank

488. Sir **David Attenborough (95 years)** has been named as '**People's Advocate for Climate Change**' of _____.

Answer: UN Climate Change Conference (COP26)

- **COP26** is scheduled to be held in **Glasgow in November 2021** under the Chairmanship of UK
- He is a renowned English broadcaster and natural historian

489. Mexico's _____ has won **2020 Miss Universe beauty pageant** in Florida, United States.

Answer: Andrea Meza (26 years)

490. Book titled as '**India and Asian Geopolitics: The Past, Present**' has been released. It has been authored by Indian diplomat _____.

Answer: Shivshankar Menon (former National Security Adviser of India under Manmohan Singh)

491. **Subodh Kumar Jaiswal** (IPS officer of 1985 batch Maharashtra cadre) has been appointed as the **Director of** _____ for two years.

Answer: Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)

- He is currently serving as the **Director General of Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)**
- He succeeded **Rishi Kumar Shukla**, who retired in February 2021

492. Who has been elected as the **President of Oxford University Student Union (OUSU)** in a by-election?

Answer: Anvee Bhutani

- She won by **655 votes** after 11 stages of counting in a close contest with **Yannis Baur**, social secretary of the OU LGBTQ+ society, who got 649 votes.

493. French fashion tycoon _____ has become the **world's richest person** with an estimated net worth of \$186.3 billion.

Answer: Bernard Arnault

- His net worth is \$300 million above Amazon's Jeff Bezos now, whose net worth is \$186 billion, and Tesla's Elon Musk's worth is \$147.3 billion.
- He is the chairman and chief executive of LVMH (Louis Vuitton Moët Hennessy).

494. Former Narcotics Commissioner of India _____ has been elected as the **President of International Narcotics Control Board (INCB)**.

Answer: Jagjit Pavadia

- She is a retired officer of Indian Revenue Service (Customs) and is the 1st Indian to be appointed as the Chief of INCB.
- She has served as **Narcotics Commissioner of India, Central Bureau of Narcotics** from 2006-2012.
- She has been a member of INCB since 2015
- Headquarters of INCB: **Vienna, Austria.**

495. _____ maestro **Pandit Debu Chaudhuri (85 years)** passed away due to COVID-19 related complications in New Delhi's Guru Teg Bahadur Hospital.

Answer: Sitar

496. Eminent **sculptor, architect**, and Rajya Sabha member _____ passed away due to COVID-19 at AIIMS, Bhubaneswar.

Answer: Raghunath Mohapatra (78 years)

- He was nominated by the Ministry of External Affairs as a **Member of Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) in 2000**
- **Award:** Padma Shri in 1975, Padma Bhushan in 2001 and Padma Vibhushan in 2013.

497. Renowned **environmentalist** _____ passed away due to Covid-19 in **Rishikesh**. He was 94.

Answer: Sundarlal Bahuguna

- The Garhwali environmentalist and **Chipko movement** leader were undergoing treatment at **AIIMS, Rishikesh**.
- For years, Bahuguna has been fighting for the preservation of forests in the **Himalayas**

498. India's boxing coach _____ passed away due to age-related ailments in New Delhi.

Answer: Om Prakash Bhardwaj (79 years)

499. **World Press Freedom Day** is being observed every year on _____ globally to discuss journalistic ethics and to celebrate journalists who gave their lives in the pursuit of truth.

Answer: 3rd May

- The day also celebrates anniversary of **Declaration of Windhoek**
- Theme 2021: **Information as a Public Good**
- **2021 Global Conference** is hosted by **UNESCO** and **Govt of Namibia**.

500. **National Technology Day** is observed on _____ every year to highlight the achievements of engineers and scientists in the field of technology and science.

Answer: May 11

- It was first celebrated on **May 11, 1999**.

- The day is chosen as on this day in 1997, India successfully test-fired **Operation Shakti missile** at the Pokhran Test Range in Rajasthan

501. _____ is observed every year on **May 12** to mark the contributions and hard work of nursing staff around the world.

Answer: International Nurses Day

502. International Day of Families is observed on _____ every year to reflect the importance that the international community attaches to families.

Answer: 15 May

- UN General Assembly proclaimed this day in **1993**.
- Theme 2021: '**Families and New Technologies**'.

503. International Tea Day is observed every year on _____ annually to raise awareness of the deep cultural and economic significance of tea around the world and promote its importance in fighting hunger and poverty.

Answer: May 21

- The day is recognized by **UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)**

504. World Hunger Day is observed every year on _____ to create awareness about the people living in chronic hunger worldwide and celebrate sustainable solutions to hunger and poverty and make people inspire to be a part of the solution.

Answer: 28 May

- The day was introduced in **2011** by **The Hunger Project**
- **Hunger Project:** US based organization committed to the sustainable end of world hunger.
- 2021 campaign title: **#Access Ends Hunger**.

505. World No Tobacco Day (WNTD) is observed globally on _____ every year to inform the public on the dangers of using tobacco and to discourage the use of tobacco in any form.

Answer: 31 May

- Theme of the 2021 WNTD: **Commit to quit**
- WNTD was created by the member states of **World Health Organization (WHO)** in **1987**

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