

March Current Affairs

1. Name the 2021 United Nations World Water Development Report, that reported on the decreasing per capita water capacity in the world's reservoirs?

- 1) Leaving no one behind
- 2) Valuing Water
- 3) Nature for Water
- 4) Water and Climate Change
- 5) Wastewater

Answer- 2) Valuing Water

According to the 2021 edition of the United Nations World Water Development Report (UN WWDR 2021)

titled 'Valuing Water', Each person on the planet may have to live on less Water as the per capita reservoir capacity is decreasing.

- The World population is set to increase to 9 Billion by 2040, but the projected reservoir volume is stabilising around 7, 000 billion cubic metre.

- This report was published by the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) on behalf of UN-Water.

2. In March 2021, SEBI amended the valuation rule of Perpetual Bonds. Starting from _____ the deemed residual maturity of Basel III AT-1 bonds will be of 100 years.

- 1) 1st April, 2023
- 2) 31st July, 2022
- 3) 1st April, 2022
- 4) 31st September, 2023
- 5) 1st October, 2022

Answer- 1) 1st April, 2023

SEBI amended the valuation rule of Perpetual Bonds: Additional Tier-1(AT-1) & Tier-2 Bonds). The deemed residual maturity of Basel III AT-1 bonds is to be 10 years until March 31, 2022, & would be increased to 20 and 30 years over the subsequent 6-month period. Starting from 1st April, 2023 the deemed residual maturity of Basel III AT-1 bonds will be 100 years.

Mutual funds are one of the largest investors in perpetual debt investments and currently hold Rs 35,000 crores in AT-1.

3. Which movie received the Best Feature Film award in the 67th National Film Awards in March 2021?

- 1) Oththa Seruppu Size 7
- 2) Marakkar: Arabikadalinte Simham
- 3) Jallikattu
- 4) Helen

5) Manikarnika: The Queen of Jhansi

Answer- 2) Marakkar: Arabikadalinte Simham

4. Which organisation recorded India's 1st successful demonstration of free-space Quantum Communication over a distance of 300m?

- 1) DRDO
- 2) IISC, Bangalore
- 3) ISRO
- 4) IIT-Madras
- 5) IIT-Delhi

Answer- 3) ISRO

For the 1st time in India, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully demonstrated free-space Quantum Communication over a distance of 300 Metres. The free-space QKD (Quantum Key Distribution) was demonstrated at Space Applications Centre (SAC), Ahmedabad, Gujarat. It is a major milestone achievement for unconditionally secured satellite data communication using quantum technologies.

5. When is the World Tuberculosis Day annually observed by the World Health Organisation (WHO)?

- 1) 24th March
- 2) 22nd March
- 3) 21st March
- 4) 23rd March
- 5) 25th March

Answer- 1) 24th March

World Tuberculosis Day is observed annually on 24th March by the World Health Organisation (WHO). It is observed to raise awareness about the global epidemic of Tuberculosis (TB). 2021 Theme – 'The Clock is Ticking'

It is on 24th March, 1882 that Dr Robert Koch announced that he had discovered the cause of Tuberculosis – the TB Bacillus.

India has set an ambitious goal to achieve "End Tuberculosis" by reducing the incidence of new TB cases by 80% by 2025.

6. In March 2021, Union Cabinet approved the signing of a Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) between India & _____ for improving water security & water resource development.

- 1) France
- 2) Germany
- 3) Israel
- 4) Japan
- 5) Sweden

Answer- 4) Japan

In March 2021, the Union Cabinet gave approval for the signing of a Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) between the Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India & Water and Disaster Management bureau, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism of Japan in the field of Water resources.

· Targeted to achieve water security, improved irrigation facility and sustainability in water resources development.

7. Which country's space agency collaborated with ISRO for developing the earth observation satellite, TRISHNA (Thermal infraRed Imaging Satellite for High-resolution Natural Resource Assessment)?

- 1) Japan
- 2) USA
- 3) Russia
- 4) Germany
- 5) France

Answer- 5) France

India's ISRO & France's CNES are working on the 3rd joint satellite mission, as a bilateral space collaboration is entering into multiple domains like space exploration and human spaceflight programme.

ISRO and CNES have completed the feasibility study to realise the earth observation satellite mission with thermal infrared imager, 'TRISHNA (Thermal infraRed Imaging Satellite for High-resolution Natural Resource Assessment)'.

8. What is India's rank in the 2021's International Intellectual Property (IP) Index released by the US Chamber of Commerce?

- 1) 19
- 2) 40
- 3) 53
- 4) 24
- 5) 13

Answer- 2) 40

India with a score of 38.40 has been ranked 40th out of 53 Global Economies in the 9th Edition of the 'International Intellectual Property (IP) Index: Recovery through Ingenuity 2021' released by US Chamber of Commerce's Global Innovation Policy Centre (GIPC). USA, UK & Germany topped the Index.

9. Which is the 1st bank in India to launch an instant EMI facility, "EMI @ Internet Banking"?

- 1) HDFC Bank
- 2) Kotak Mahindra Bank
- 3) Axis Bank
- 4) State Bank of India
- 5) ICICI Bank

Answer- 5) ICICI Bank

On March 24, 2021, ICICI Bank became the 1st Indian bank to launch an instant EMI (Equated Monthly Instalments) facility in its internet banking platform 'EMI @ Internet Banking' in partnership with BillDesk and Razorpay, leading online payment gateway companies.

· It enables its Customers with purchases of products or services ranging from ₹50,000 to ₹5 lakh.

10. In March 2021, India & Pakistan held the 116th Joint Meeting under the Indus Water Treaty (IWT) in New Delhi, where Pakistan raised objections on the 1000MW Pakal Dul Hydro Electric Project that is built over _____ river.

- 1) Zaskar
- 2) Beas
- 3) Sutlej
- 4) Jhelum
- 5) Marusudar

Answer- 5) Marusudar

India & Pakistan held the 116th Meeting of Permanent Indus Commission (PIC) under the Indus Water Treaty (IWT) in New Delhi from March, 2021. Indian side was led by Pradeep Kumar Saxena. The last meeting under IWT took place in Lahore in August, 2018.

· Pakistan raised objections over the designs of 2 Hydroelectric projects in J&K – Pakal Dul Hydro Electric Project & Lower Kalnai Project.

· Pakal Dul Hydro Electric Project (1, 000 MW) is proposed on the Marusudar river, a tributary of the Chenab river, in Kishtwar district in J&K.

11. Which bank was awarded the 'India's Best Bank for Small & Medium Enterprises (SMEs)' at the Asiamoney Best Bank Awards 2021?

- 1) State Bank of India
- 2) Kotak Mahindra Bank
- 3) Axis Bank
- 4) YES Bank
- 5) HDFC Bank

Answer- 5) HDFC Bank

HDFC Bank, was adjudged the 'India's Best Bank for Small and Medium Enterprises(SMEs)' at the Asiamoney Best Bank Awards 2021 of Asiamoney for the transformation of its Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) business.

Category of Award	Bank
Best Domestic bank	Kotak Mahindra Bank
Best corporate and investment bank 2021	
Best International bank	DBS Bank
Best Digital bank	Axis Bank

12. In March 2021, Moudud Ahmed, former Prime Minister of _____ passed away.

- 1) Singapore
- 2) Pakistan

- 3) Afghanistan
- 4) Bangladesh
- 5) Malaysia

Answer- 4) Bangladesh

In March 2021, former Prime Minister of Bangladesh and one of the founding members of Bangladesh

Nationalist Party (BNP), Barrister Moudud Ahmed, passed away at the age of 80 in Singapore.

13. Which organisation partnered with ISRO (in Mar'21) to undertake Joint Research Activities under ISRO's 'New, advanced, futuristic projects' initiative?

- 1) NASA
- 2) Indian Institute of Science
- 3) California Institute of Technology
- 4) Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology
- 5) Harvard University

Answer- 4) Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology

ISRO partnered with Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology (IIST) to undertake Joint Research Activities, under ISRO's 'New, advanced, futuristic projects' initiative. This partnership model is similar to the JPL-Caltech model followed by USA's NASA.

· A Framework has been framed with Capacity Building Programme Office (CBPO), Bangalore. It will act as a focal point for coordinating Joint research activities.

· IIST is Asia 1st University to be solely dedicated to study & research on Outer Space. IIST is located in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.

14. Which country is planning to construct the World's 1st Ship Tunnel that runs underneath a mountain?

- 1) Denmark
- 2) Sweden
- 3) Norway
- 4) China
- 5) Italy

Answer- 3) Norway

The World's 1st Ship Tunnel is to be constructed in Norway. The tunnel will run underneath the mountains in Norway's Stadhavet peninsula and will help ships to cross the Stadhavet sea.

· The works on the bridge will commence in 2022 and are expected to get completed by 2025-26.

15. Which country recently (in Mar'21) provided Rs. 8000 crores financial assistance for the Phase-4 of Delhi Metro project?

- 1) South Korea
- 2) France
- 3) United Kingdom
- 4) Germany

- 5) Japan

Answer- 5) Japan

On March 26, 2021, Japan finalised loans and a grant totaling around 232.86 Billion Yen (~ INR 15524 Crores) for development of several key infrastructure projects in India.

Project	Grant Amount
Bengaluru Metro Rail Project (Phase 2)	INR 3445 crores
Delhi Mass Rapid Transport System Project (Phase 4) (I)	INR 8000 crores
Himachal Pradesh Crop Diversification Promotion Project (Phase 2)	INR 748 Crores
Rajasthan Rural Water Supply and Fluorosis Mitigation Project (Phase 2)	INR 3032 Crores
Project for Improvement of Power Supply in Andaman and Nicobar Islands	INR 265 Crores

16. Who was appointed as the CEO of UIDAI in March 2021?

- 1) D. P. Singh
- 2) Manoj Ahuja
- 3) Sanjeev Kumar
- 4) Pradeep Kumar Joshi
- 5) Saurabh Garg

Answer- 5) Saurabh Garg

On 25th March 2021, as a part of the Bureaucratic reshuffle, the Appointment Committee of the Cabinet approved the appointment of Saurabh Garg, as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI).

17. Where was the World's 1st Mobile Water Generator launched by Indian startup 'MEGHDOOT solution', which is capable of generating water from Air?

- 1) Darjeeling, West Bengal
- 2) Mumbai, Maharashtra
- 3) Shimla, Himachal Pradesh
- 4) Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh
- 5) Chennai, Tamil Nadu

Answer- 4) Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh

Maithri Aquatech, a startup, formed under the initiative 'Make in India' has set up the 'World's First Mobile Water from Air Kiosk and Water Knowledge Centre' with the use of its 'MEGHDOOT solution' in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.

It is the only atmospheric water generator(AWG) approved by the Ministry of Jal Shakti.

· It is capable of generating over 1 mn lts of water/day, producing 100% microbe-free potable water.

18. What is the total capital allocated for setting up the National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NBFID), an institution that provides long-term loans for infrastructure development projects?

- 1) 1 lakh crore
- 2) 10,000 crore
- 3) 83,000 crore
- 4) 50,000 crore
- 5) 10 lakh crore

Answer- 1) 1 lakh crore

President Ram Nath Kovind gave his Assent to the National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID) Bill, 2021.

· It aims to establish the National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NBFID) as the principal Development Financial Institution (DFI) for Infrastructure financing in India.

· It will be set up as a corporate body with authorised share capital of 1 Lakh Crore Rupees. The institution is 100% owned by the Govt. of India.

· Central Government will provide grants worth INR 5, 000 Crore to NBFID by the end of the 1st financial year.

19. Which type of banking institutions were covered under the RBI's recent (in Mar'21) guidelines for mergers/amalgamation to evolve as a strong group of financial providers?

- 1) Local Area Banks
- 2) Payments Banks
- 3) Cooperative Banks
- 4) Regional Rural Banks
- 5) Small Finance Banks

Answer- 3) Cooperative Banks

Explanation:

In March, 2021, the RBI issued RBI (Amalgamation of Urban Cooperative Banks) Directions, 2020, guidelines for merger/amalgamation to all Primary/Urban Co-operative Banks (UCBs) to place them in the public domain.

· A cooperative bank can merge only with another cooperative bank situated in the same state or with a cooperative bank registered under the Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act.

20. Which organisation co-branded the contactless credit card, 'UNI-CARBON CARD' launched by Union Bank of India?

- 1) Steel Authority of India
- 2) Coal India
- 3) Infosys
- 4) Hindustan Petroleum
- 5) Tata Motors

Answer- 4) Hindustan Petroleum

Union Bank of India launched 1st of its kind 'UNI-CARBON CARD', a credit card that is co-branded by Hindustan Petroleum Corp. Ltd (HPCL) in Rupay platform of National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) to create an opportunity to create value for the Bank's customers.

· This card is a contactless "Tap & Go" card and National Common Mobility Card(NCMC).

21. Which state is set to become India's 1st state to have 2 Green Energy Efficient towns which will supply solar energy to cater the needs of the towns by 2023?

- 1) Rajasthan
- 2) Tamil Nadu
- 3) Gujarat
- 4) West Bengal
- 5) Bihar

Answer- 5) Bihar

Bihar is set to become India's 1st State to have 2 Green Energy Efficient towns, the 2 towns are Rajgir & BodhGaya. They will start getting Solar Energy through 1st of its kind Renewable energy project from 2023.

The green energy supply required for running the towns will be developed and supplied by the Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI).

· SECI was set up in 2011 under the National Solar Mission.

About Bihar:

Chief Minister – Nitish Kumar
Governor – Phagu Chauhan

22. Which company made India's 1st oil imports from Guyana?

- 1) IndianOil-Adani Gas Ltd
- 2) Aavantika Gas Limited
- 3) HPCL-Mittal Energy Ltd
- 4) Bhagyanagar Gas Ltd.
- 5) HPCL-Shapoorji Energy Ltd.

Answer- 3) HPCL-Mittal Energy Ltd

Explanation:

In March 2020, HPCL-Mittal Energy Limited (HMEL) a joint venture between state-run Hindustan Petroleum Corp and steel tycoon L.N. Mittal, became India's first company to buy cargo from the oil producers of Guyana. It is an oil producing country in South America.

· HMEL bought the 1 million-barrel cargo of Guyana's Liza light sweet crude.

· India is the third-biggest oil importer in the world.

· This step is taken to overcome the overdependence on the Middle East for India's Oil needs.

23. In March 2021, Union Minister, Harsh Vardhan launched the 'Tribal TB Initiative' to achieve TB free India by 2025, where he also announced the merging of _____ & _____ Portals.

- 1) SPICe+ & Swasthya
- 2) NDSAP & Bhoomi Rashi
- 3) Swasthya & NIKSHAY
- 4) Bhoomi Rashi & DIKSHA
- 5) NTIPRIT & NDSAP

Answer- 3) Swasthya & NIKSHAY

Explanation:

Union Minister for Health & Family Welfare, Dr Harsh Vardhan launched the 'Tribal TB Initiative' as a step towards the goal of 'TB Mukta Bharat' by 2025.

Harsh Vardhan highlighted the linking of the NIKSHAY Portal of MoHFW & Swasthya Portal of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs to boost data compilation under the National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP).

• The Joint plan will initially focus on 162 Tribal districts across 18 identified states, towards TB Preventive Therapy (IPT) to identify vulnerable populations.

24. As per the 'Global Wind Report 2021', India may miss its Renewable Energy Capacity Targets. What were the targets set by India in Renewable Energy generation?

- 1) 200 GW by 2025
- 2) 500 GW by 2024
- 3) 175 GW by 2022
- 4) 450 GW by 2024
- 5) 250 GW by 2022

Answer- 3) 175 GW by 2022

According to 'Global Wind Report 2021' released by Global Wind Energy Council (GWEC), India may miss its 2022 Renewable Energy Capacity Targets (175 GW RE by 2022 – 100 GW Solar, 60 GW Wind, 10 GW BioEnergy, 5 GW Small Hydro) due to several constraints.

At the Global level, 2020 was the best year in history for the Global wind industry. Around 93 GW of new capacity were installed (53% increase).

25. Which country collaborated with India to establish Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant, the 1st Nuclear Power Plant of Bangladesh?

- 1) Germany
- 2) Russia
- 3) France
- 4) South Korea
- 5) Japan

Answer- 2) Russia

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Bangladesh from March 26-27, 2021 at the invitation of Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. PM Modi was the Guest of Honour in the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of the Independence of Bangladesh.

• Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant is Bangladesh's 1st Nuclear Power Plant.

• It is the 1st initiative under the Indo-Russian deal to undertake atomic energy projects in Third World Countries

26. 30 researchers from CSIR-NIO are on a 90-days mission in Indian Ocean to study the internal working of Unicellular organisms. Which Research Vessel was used by them?

- 1) Sindhu Sadhana

- 2) Sindhu Sankalp
- 3) Sagar Nidhi
- 4) Sagar Sampada
- 5) Sagar Sukti

Answer- 1) Sindhu Sadhana

Explanation:

A 30-member team of Scientists & Researchers from CSIR-NIO (National Institute of Oceanography) will spend 90 days on the research vessel Sindhu Sadhana travelling over 10, 000 nautical miles in the Indian Ocean. The aim of the mission is to study about the internal working of the body of the ocean at a cellular level.

27. India's arms import has decreased by 33% between 2011-15 and 2016-20 due to 'Make-in-India' initiative. Currently, India is targeting Rs. 1.75 Lakh Crore turnover in Defence manufacturing by _____.

- 1) 2030
- 2) 2022
- 3) 2028
- 4) 2035
- 5) 2025

Answer- 5) 2025

According to a report by Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), India's import of arms decreased by 33% between 2011-15 and 2016-20 due to its increased push for 'Make-in-India' initiative and other measures to boost the domestic defence industry. India has set a target of INR 1.75 Lakh Crore turnover in Defence manufacturing by 2025.

• India's Top 3 Arms suppliers during 2016-20 were Russia (49% imports), France (18%) & Israel (13%).

• The major recipients of India's arms were Myanmar, Sri Lanka & Mauritius.

28. What was the deadline set by RBI for all banks in India for implementing "Image-based Cheque Truncation System (CTS)"?

- 1) 30 June, 2021
- 2) 1 July, 2021
- 3) 30 September, 2021
- 4) 1 September, 2021
- 5) 31 July, 2021

Answer- 3) 30 September, 2021

On March 15, 2021, the RBI asked all the banks in India to implement the "Image-based Cheque Truncation System (CTS)" under respective grids in all banks by September 30, 2021. CTS is an online image-based cheque clearing system undertaken by the RBI for faster clearing of cheques by transferring the electronic image.

29. Which UPI handle got approval from SEBI (in Mar'21) to provide Initial Public Offering (IPO) applications, enabling users to invest in the capital market?

- 1) Citi Mobile

- 2) Google Pay
- 3) BHIM SBI Pay
- 4) PhonePe
- 5) Paytm

Answer- 5) Paytm

SEBI approved Paytm UPI handle to enable fast and seamless payment mandates for Initial Public Offering (IPO) applications to benefit millions of users to invest in capital markets through various brokerage platforms using them @Paytm. Unified Payments Interface (UPI) is an instant real-time payment system developed by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) on 11 April 2016 to facilitate inter-bank transactions.

30. India recently (in Mar'21) commissioned an Ocean Surveillance & Nuclear Missile Tracking Vessel, _____, to become the 5th country in the world to have such a Tracking Vessel.

- 1) INS Arihant
- 2) INS Arighat
- 3) INS Sindhughosh
- 4) INS Dhruv
- 5) INS Tarkash

Answer- 4) INS Dhruv

Explanation:

India commissioned its Ocean Surveillance & Nuclear Missile Tracking Vessel called 'INS Dhruv', with this it became the 5th Country after USA, France, Russia & China to possess such a Tracking vessel. It was constructed at Hindustan Shipyard Ltd, Visakhapatnam under the Make in India initiative at an ~ cost of INR 725 Crore. Apart from tracking missiles & satellites, it can also gather electronic intelligence. The vessel will have a crew of 300 personnel & a single helicopter.

31. The Union Cabinet gave approval (in Mar'21) for the creation of the Development Finance Institution (DFI). What was the total amount allocated in Union Budget-2021 for creating DFI?

- 1) Rs. 50,000 crore
- 2) Rs. 1,00,000 crore
- 3) Rs. 20,000 crore
- 4) Rs. 10,000 crore
- 5) Rs. 35,000 crore

Answer- 3) Rs. 20,000 crore

On March 16, 2021, the Union Cabinet headed by Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi gave approval for the creation of Development Finance Institution (DFI) with Capital Infusion of INR 20, 000 Crore. The setting up of DFI was announced in the Union Budget 2021-22. DFI is a government-backed specialised banking institution for enabling the development of the private sector in developing countries.

32. Which bank signed (in Mar'21) India's 1st SOFR linked External Commercial Borrowing (ECB) deal with Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) replacing World bank's LIBOR?

- 1) Reserve Bank of India
- 2) State Bank of Mauritius
- 3) Indian Bank
- 4) State Bank of India
- 5) Canara Bank

Answer- 4) State Bank of India

Explanation:

State Bank of India (SBI) and Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) inked the first SOFR (Secured Overnight Financing Rate) linked External Commercial Borrowing (ECB) deal by replacing the London Inter-Bank Offered Rate (LIBOR) which is used by world banks when charging each other for short-term loans. The SOFR linked ECB deal is for about \$100 million with a maturity of 5 years. This deal made by SBI & IOCL is the first SOFR linked ECB deal in India.

33. Italy joined recently at the International Solar Alliance (ISA) (also known as International Agency for Solar Policy and Application (IASPA)) after signing the amended ISA Framework Agreement.

How many countries have signed and ratified the ISA Framework Agreement as of March 19,2021?

- 1.71
- 2.72
- 3.73
- 4.74
- 5.75

Answer - 3.73

On March 17, 2021, Italy joined the International Solar Alliance (ISA) (also known as International Agency for Solar Policy and Application (IASPA)) after signing the amended ISA Framework Agreement. Vincenzo de Luca, Ambassador of Italy to India signed the Italian membership to the ISA. The new ISA Framework Agreement came into force on January 8, 2021. It was launched by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi & the then-French President Francois Hollande ahead of the 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference or COP21 in Paris. It is an alliance of over 121 countries. At present 73 countries have signed and ratified the ISA Framework Agreement.

34. Asian Development Bank (ADB) has raised over USD 307 Million (~ INR 2232 Crore) from the 1st Panda bond issue in more than a decade. Which country's currency will be used in Panda bond?

- 1) Chinese Currency
- 2) Indian Currency
- 3) US Currency
- 4) European Currency
- 5) Australian Currency

Answer - 1) Chinese Currency

Explanation:

Asian Development Bank (ADB) has raised over USD 307 Million (~ INR 2232 Crore or CNY 2 billion) from the 1st Panda bond issue in more than a decade. This is

ADB's largest-ever borrowing in an Asian local currency. It is the first borrowing of ADB from a CNY10 billion program approved by regulator National Association of Financial Market Institutional Investors in June 2020.

35. Dr Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare(MoHFW) was appointed as the Chairman of 'Stop TB Partnership Board' for a term of 3 years from July 2021. Who is the current chairman of 'Stop TB Partnership Board'?

- 1) Dr. Luiz Henrique Mandetta, Minister of Health, Brazil
- 2) Xavier Becerra, Minister of Health Department, U.S
- 3) Matt Hancock, Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, U.K
- 4) Yuli-Yoel Edelstein, Minister of Health, Israel
- 5) Theresa Tam, Chief Public Health Officer of Canada.

Answer - 1) Dr. Luiz Henrique Mandetta, Minister of Health, Brazil

On 17th March 2021, Dr Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare(MoHFW) was appointed as the Chairman of 'Stop TB Partnership Board' for a term of 3 years starting from July 2021.

The appointment is in recognition of his contribution to the movement to eradicate Tuberculosis(TB) from India by 2025. He will succeed Dr. Luiz Henrique Mandetta, Minister of Health of Brazil. He will work alongside Dr. Joanne Carter, Vice-Chair of the Stop TB Partnership Board.

36. As per the study conducted by Zutobi, India was ranked as the ____ Most Dangerous Road in the World, while ____ was ranked as the World's Safest Road.

- 1) 5th, USA
- 2) 1st, Japan
- 3) 7th, Germany
- 4) 8th, Sweden
- 5) 4th, Norway

Answer- 5) 4th, Norway

According to the Study conducted by International driver education company, Zutobi, South Africa was ranked 1st in the World's Most Dangerous Roads study, it was followed by Thailand and United States. India was ranked 4th in among 56 Countries listed in the study. While Norway topped the World's Safest Road.

37. Which country is building (as of Mar'21) the World's Largest Floating Solar Farm?

- 1) South Korea
- 2) Japan
- 3) India
- 4) China
- 5) Singapore

Answer- 5) Singapore

Singapore, Asia's biggest per capita carbon dioxide emitter, is building the World's Largest Floating Solar Farm, as a part of its plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The solar power plant expands from the coast into the Johor Strait that separates Singapore from Malaysia. This project is being built by Sembcorp Industries.

38. What was India's position among the top 10 nations in Market Capitalization, as per Bloomberg report released in March 2021?

- 1) 6th
- 2) 9th
- 3) 10th
- 4) 8th
- 5) 7th

Answer- 4) 8th

Explanation:

As per Bloomberg's recent data on Market capitalization, India remained at the 8th position among the top 10 nations with a market capitalization of \$2.8 trillion. US, China & Canada were the Top 3 countries.

• India's benchmark Sensex surged 78% so far this fiscal year and became the best performer among the top 10 nations.

39. With which organisation, ISRO recently (in Mar'21) signed an MoU to set-up a Space Technology Incubation Center (S-TIC), enabling students to build applications & products for space applications?

- 1) NIT-Warangal
- 2) NIT-Rourkela
- 3) NT-Raipur
- 4) NIT-Allahabad
- 5) NIT-Aizawl

Answer- 2) NIT-Rourkela

Explanation:

In March, 2021 ISRO signed an MoU with NIT-Rourkela to set-up a Space Technology Incubation Center (STIC) at NIT-Rourkela campus, Odisha covering the Eastern region. This will be the 4th S-TIC of the 6 targeted by ISRO to build application & products for space applications.

Rs. 2 crores will be provided by ISRO to the NIT for infrastructure development of S-TIC.

• Already 3 such centers have been inaugurated at NIT-Agartala, NIT-Jalandhar and NIT-Trichy.

40. Where was the 'India Chem 2021' a bilateral International Exhibition & Conference held?

- 1) Mumbai, Maharashtra
- 2) Kolkata, West Bengal
- 3) Chennai, Tamil Nadu
- 4) New Delhi
- 5) Bangalore, Karnataka

Answer- 4) New Delhi

Explanation:

In March 2021, Sadananda Gowda, Union Minister for Chemicals & Fertilizers inaugurated 'India Chem 2021' – the 11th Biennial International Exhibition & Conference at New Delhi. It is organized by the Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals & FICCI.

Theme – "India: Global Manufacturing Hub for Chemicals and Petrochemicals"

Government has launched 12 Production Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes that directly/indirectly benefit the chemicals sector. It is anticipated to bring an investment of INR 8 Lakh Crore to the sector by 2025.

41. What is India's Rank in the 'World Happiness Report 2021' released by UN- Sustainable Development Solutions Network (UNSDSN)?

- 1) 101
- 2) 105
- 3) 141
- 4) 149
- 5) 139

Answer- 5) 139

Explanation:

India with a score of 3.819 has been ranked 139 out of 149 countries in the 'World Happiness Report 2021' published by United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network (UNSDSN). The ranking was topped by Finland for the 4th Time.

· Apart from Afghanistan (149), all neighbouring countries ranked higher than India.

· India was ranked 140 in the World Happiness Report 2020.

42. Who is the 1st Indian to receive the International Federation of Film Archives award, the FIAF Award 2021?

- 1) Amitabh Bachchan
- 2) Kamal Haasan
- 3) Mohanlal
- 4) Shahrukh Khan
- 5) Aamir Khan

Answer- 1) Amitabh Bachchan

Indian Actor Amitabh Bachchan received the FIAF Award 2021 by the International Federation of Film Archives (French: Fédération Internationale des Archives du Film, FIAF).

· Amitabh became the 1st Indian to receive this award. He was a recipient of Padma Vibhushan in 2015.

· He received the Dadasaheb Phalke Award, the highest honours of Indian Cinema in 2019.

43. Name India's 1st indigenous Mobile app store that was recently (in Mar'21) launched by Union Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad?

- 1) Mobile Seva Appstore
- 2) Bharat Appstore

- 3) Kendra Sarkar Appstore
- 4) e-Bharat Seva
- 5) Mobile Sarkar Seva

Answer- 1) Mobile Seva Appstore

On 18th March 2021, Ravi Shankar Prasad, Union Minister, Ministry for Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), stated that the government is keen to develop and strengthen India's 1st indigenously developed cloud based mobile app store – "Mobile Seva Appstore" as a part of India's efforts towards selfreliance.

44. Which state govt. became the 1st in India to launch a web portal 'Shakti Portal' specifically for Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs)?

- 1) Gujarat
- 2) Punjab
- 3) Tamil Nadu
- 4) Andhra Pradesh
- 5) Uttar Pradesh

Answer- 5)

Uttar Pradesh

Uttar Pradesh (UP) Chief Minister (CM) Yogi Adityanath launched UPFPO (Uttar Pradesh Farmer Producer Organisation) Shakti Portal as part of the Kisan Kalyan Mission in Gorakhpur, UP.

It is the 1st of its kind portal in India for Farmer Producer Organisations (FPO).

At present, UP has 576 FPOs comprising around 2.15 Lakh Farmers.

· The portal was developed by the Department of Agriculture, UP with technical support & funding from Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF).

45. India was ranked as the ____ Strongest Military Force in the World in the 'Ultimate Military Strength Index' released in March 2021, where _____ topped the ranking.

- 1) 4th, China
- 2) 3rd, USA
- 3) 5th, Russia
- 4) 6th, USA
- 5) 3rd, China

Answer- 1) 4th, China

According to a study, 'Ultimate Military Strength Index' by Defence Website 'Military Direct', India with 61 Points is the 4th Strongest Military Force in the World. China (82 Points) was rated as the World's Strongest Military Force followed by the USA (74) & Russia (69). Countries are rated based on their Military budget, total active personnel, defence capabilities etc.

46. What is the revised (in Mar'21) maximum limit for health insurance covered under "Arogya Sanjeevani Policy" as per the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)?

- 1) Rs. 15 lakhs
- 2) Rs. 2 lakhs
- 3) Rs. 5 lakhs

4) Rs. 2.5 lakhs

5) Rs. 10 lakhs

Answer- 5) Rs. 10 lakhs

Explanation:

IRDAI has hiked the maximum cover under the standard health insurance plan – “Arogya Sanjeevani Policy”

– from Rs 5 lakh to Rs 10 lakh and also has expanded the sum insured bands under the policy to between Rs. 50,000 and Rs. 10 lakhs in multiples of 50,000 as against the previous range of Rs 1 lakh – Rs 5 lakh.

About IRDAI:

Headquarters – Hyderabad, Telangana

Chairman – Subhash Chandra Khuntia

47. What is the theme of 2021's International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, that is annually observed by UN on 21st of March?

1) United Against Racism: Dignity and Justice for All

2) Youth Standing Up Against Racism

3) Mitigating and countering rising extreme supremacist ideologies

4) The Role of Leaders in Combating Racism and Racial Discrimination

5) I Stand Up To Racism

Answer- 2) Youth standing up against racism

The United Nations(UN)'s International Day for the elimination of Racial Discrimination is annually observed across the globe on 21st March to eliminate all forms of racial discrimination and to create awareness about the impacts of racial discrimination.

The theme of International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination 2021 is “Youth standing up against racism”.

48. Recently (in Mar'21) Madhya Pradesh & Uttar Pradesh state gov'ts signed an agreement for river water sharing between _____ & _____ rivers, registering India's 1st water sharing agreement.

1) Ken & Gomati

2) Narmada & Ganga

3) Ken & Betwa

4) Gomati & Narmada

5) Betwa & Ganga

Answer- 3) Ken & Betwa

PM Modi witnessed the signing of a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) between the Union Minister of Jal Shakti & the Chief Ministers of Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh for implementation of the Ken Betwa Link Project (KBLP). It is the 1st project under the National Perspective Plan for interlinking of rivers.

• Through this surplus water from Ken river will be transferred to Betwa river for irrigation.

• It is one of the 30 river interlinking projects conceived across India.

49. Which state gov't. became the 1st in India to have its own ethanol policy, “Ethanol Production Promotion Policy, 2021”?

1) Uttar Pradesh

2) Telangana

3) Tamil Nadu

4) Bihar

5) Chhattisgarh

Answer- 4) Bihar

Explanation:

Bihar Cabinet has approved the state's own Ethanol policy called ‘Ethanol Production Promotion Policy, 2021’. The approval has made Bihar as the 1st State in India to implement Ethanol Promotion Policy.

• The policy allows Bihar to directly make ethanol from Maize, Molasses, broken rice & rotten grains.

• Through this policy, Investors will get a 15% Capital subsidy.

• Bihar government aims to produce around 50 Crore litres of Ethanol each year.

50. Which Natural disaster will be covered under the World's 1st Catastrophe (CAT) Bond that was recently (in Mar'21) launched by the Danish Red Cross?

1) Earthquake

2) Volcanic Eruption

3) Tsunami

4) Global Warming

5) Landslide

Answer- 2) Volcanic Eruption

On March 22, 2021, The Danish Red Cross, Denmark's branch of the Red Cross has sponsored and launched the world's first Catastrophe Bond (cat bond) for Volcano-related disasters with the support of several financial firms.

• The cat bond covers 10 volcanoes, which aims to raise up to \$3 million and will transfer money from investors to the Danish Red Cross for aid in the aftermath of an eruption.

• Previously in 2017, The World Bank has launched specialized “Pandemic bonds”.

51. Who heads the 5-member Standing External Advisory Committee of RBI that evaluates applications for universal banks and small finance banks?

1) B Mahapatra

2) T N Manoharan

3) Shyamala Gopinath

4) Revathy Iyer

5) D. Subbarao

Answer- 3) Shyamala Gopinath

On March 22, 2021, the RBI set up a five-member Standing External Advisory Committee (SEAC) which is headed by former RBI Deputy Governor Shyamala

Gopinath, for evaluating applications for universal banks and small finance banks (SFBs).

The tenure of SEAC will be for 3 years.

RBI has already indicated the constitution of SEAC in the guidelines for “on-tap” licensing of universal banks.

52. India topped in ‘Technology and Innovation Report 2021’ as the biggest over performer in Frontier Technologies amongst countries with similar per capita GDP. Which organisation released the report?

- 1) UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)
- 2) International Labour Organization (ILO)
- 3) International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC)
- 4) International Telecommunication Union (ITU)
- 5) UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)

Answer- 1) UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

In accordance with the new country-readiness index released by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) in its ‘Technology and Innovation Report 2021’, India is the biggest over performer in frontier technologies than its per capita gross domestic products (GDP) among 158 countries.

Frontier technologies are the ones who take advantage of digitalisation and connectivity.

53. What is India’s Rank in the “UNCTAD B2C E-COMMERCE INDEX 2020”, that measures economic preparedness of the countries to support online shopping?

- 1) 54th
- 2) 43rd
- 3) 71st
- 4) 12th
- 5) 21st

Answer- 3) 71st

In accordance with the ‘UNCTAD B2C E-COMMERCE INDEX 2020- Spotlight on Latin America and the Caribbean’, India ranked 71 out of 152 countries as compared to 75th position in 2019. The index measures an economy’s preparedness to support online shopping where B2C stands for Business to Consumer.

UNCTAD is an acronym for United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. The index has been topped by Switzerland.

54. Which bank launched the “SmartUp Unnati”, a mentoring program by women for women entrepreneurs?

- 1) ICICI Bank
- 2) State Bank of India
- 3) UCO Bank
- 4) Axis Bank
- 5) HDFC Bank

Answer- 5) HDFC Bank

Explanation:

On 8th March 2021 the HDFC Bank launched “SmartUp Unnati”, a mentoring program by women for women entrepreneurs. Under this programme, senior women leaders from HDFC bank with expertise spanning domains will mentor women entrepreneurs to achieve their goals in the next one year.

Previously, HDFC Bank has also launched ‘Mooh Band Rakho’ campaign to increase awareness on cyber frauds.

55. Which country won the Test tournament, “Anthony de Mello Trophy” in March 2021?

- 1) Australia
- 2) Bangladesh
- 3) India
- 4) England
- 5) West Indies

Answer- 3) India

Explanation:

The Indian Cricket Team defeated England in the 4th Test Match held at Narendra Modi Stadium, Ahmedabad, Gujarat to win the Match & consequently the 2020-21 Test series by 3-1. With the win, India has yet again retained the Anthony de Mello Trophy. Player of the Series – Ravichandran Ashwin. The final test was held at Narendra Modi Stadium, the World’s Largest Cricket Stadium at Motera, Ahmedabad, Gujarat.

56. What is the theme of 2021’s International Women’s Day that is annually celebrated by the United Nations on 8th March?

- 1) Women in leadership: Achieving an equal future in a COVID-19 world
- 2) Time is Now: Rural and urban activists transforming women’s lives
- 3) Women in the Changing World of Work: Planet 50-50 by 2030
- 4) Think equal, build smart, innovate for change
- 5) I am Generation Equality: Realizing Women’s Rights

Answer- 1) Women in leadership: Achieving an equal future in a COVID-19 world

Explanation:

United Nations(UN)’s International Women’s Day (IWD) is annually observed across the globe on 8th March to recognise the achievements of the women regardless of their nation, ethnic, language, culture, economic or political. The theme of International Women’s Day 2021 is “Women in leadership: Achieving an equal future in a COVID-19 world”. Globally, India ranks 3rd with the 39% of women in senior management.

57. Where is India’s 1st World Skill Center(WSC), an advanced skill training institute, that was developed under the assistance of Asian Development Bank?

- 1) Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh

- 2) Bhubaneswar, Odisha
- 3) Kolkata, West Bengal
- 4) Raipur, Chhattisgarh
- 5) Chennai, Tamil Nadu

Answer- 2) Bhubaneswar, Odisha

Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik inaugurated the India's first World Skill Center(WSC), an advanced skill training institute at Bhubaneswar with the cost of Rs 1342.2crore, under the Odisha Skill Development Project. The Centre is developed with the assistance of Asian Development Bank(ADB) and ITE Education Services (ITEES), Singapore as the knowledge partner. It will act as the Centre for Industry Partnership and landing point for industries in Odisha for their employment needs.

ADB: Headquartered at Manila, Philippines was established in 1966.

58. Which country (in Mar'21) leased 4-Heron TP Unmanned Aerial Vehicles to Indian Army for 3 years?

- 1) Israel
- 2) Japan
- 3) USA
- 4) France
- 5) Australia

Answer- 1) Israel

Indian Army has leased 4 Heron TP medium-altitude, long-endurance (MALE) Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) from Israel for 3 years. The leases were done under the emergency procurement programme of the Indian army. Under 'Emergency Powers', the Indian Armed Forces (all 3 services) can buy any weapon system under INR 500 Crore per procurement project for 'urgent' requirements. The UAVs will be deployed along with the 3, 448 Km long India-China border.

59. What is India's Rank in the '2021 Economic Freedom Index' released by The Heritage Foundation?

- 1) 72
- 2) 108
- 3) 56
- 4) 64
- 5) 121

Answer- 5) 121

Explanation:

India with a score of 56.5 was ranked 121 (category – 'Mostly Unfree') in the '2021 Index of Economic Freedom' (27th Annual Edition) released by The Heritage Foundation. Singapore topped the list for the 2nd time in a row followed by New Zealand & Australia. For the 1st time, The Heritage Foundation has excluded Hong Kong from its rankings. Hong Kong had topped the Index for 25 out of 27 years (1995-2019).

60. Which small finance bank launched (in Mar'21) "Garima Saving Accounts", a special savings account for women that provides a maximum interest rate of 7%?

- 1) AU Small Finance Bank
- 2) Ujjivan Small Finance Bank
- 3) Equitas Small Finance Bank
- 4) Jana Small Finance Bank
- 5) Fincare Small Finance Bank

Answer- 2) Ujjivan Small Finance Bank

Ujjivan Small Finance Bank (USFB) launched "Garima Saving Accounts", a women Saving Account to provide the financial needs of women. The account offers various customised benefits for women which includes a maximum of 7% rate of interest on savings account. The account comes with a complimentary membership to Kavach Plan with protection worth up to Rs. 60,000.

About Ujjivan Small Finance Bank:

MD & CEO– Nitin Chugh

Tagline– Build a Better Life

Headquarters– Bengaluru Karnataka

61. NISAR, a Synthetic Aperture Radar, is a Joint Earth Observation Satellite Mission of ISRO & _____.

- 1) JAXA
- 2) Roscosmos
- 3) European Space Agency
- 4) NASA
- 5) SpaceX

Answer- 4) NASA

Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has completed the development of a Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) called 'NISAR' (NASA-ISRO SAR) which is capable of producing high-resolution images. It will be used for the Joint Earth Observation Satellite Mission of ISRO & NASA. The Earth Observation Mission is targeted to be launched in early 2022 from ISRO's Sriharikota spaceport, Andhra Pradesh.

62. Which State/UT became the 1st in India to incorporate Gender Budget in its annual budget, aimed at providing better service to women?

- 1) Maharashtra
- 2) Uttarakhand
- 3) Himachal Pradesh
- 4) Andhra Pradesh
- 5) New Delhi

Answer- 4) Andhra Pradesh

Andhra Pradesh CM YS Jagan Mohan Reddy announced that the state would become the first state of India to incorporate the Gender Budget in its annual budget of the fiscal year 2021 to 2022 with an aim to provide better service to women. He launched the SWECHHA (freedom) Programme to create awareness about menstrual hygiene among the adolescent girls. He also flagged off the 900 Disha patrolling vehicles

63. Which country recently (in Mar'21) became the 1st in Europe to conduct a Military Exercise in Space named "AsterX"?

- 1) Germany

- 2) Belgium
- 3) Netherlands
- 4) United Kingdom
- 5) France

Answer- 5) France

On 8th March, 2021 France started its 5-day long 1st Military Exercise in Space, "AsterX" to analyse its ability against attacks on its Satellites & other defence equipment. The exercise was named in memory of its Astérix, the 1st satellite launched in 1965. Alongside the French Space Forces Command, the new US Space Force and German space agencies also participated in the space exercise. The exercise consists of 18 simulated events that are conducted from an operations room.

64. Who recently (in Mar'21) became the 9th Chief Minister of Uttarakhand?

- 1) Bhupesh Baghel
- 2) Tirath Singh Rawat
- 3) Pema Khandu
- 4) Neiphiu Rio
- 5) Trivendra Singh Rawat

Answer- 2) Tirath Singh Rawat

Explanation:

On 10th March 2021, Tirath Singh Rawat, Members of Parliament (Lok Sabha), was sworn in as the 9th Chief Minister(CM) of Uttarakhand following the resignation of Trivendra Singh Rawat on 9th March 2021 following the unease over his governance. Tirath Singh Rawat was the 1st Education Minister of Uttarakhand.

65. Which country participated with India in the 2nd edition of 'DUSTLIK-II' a joint Military Exercise, that was held in March 2021 at Uttarakhand?

- 1) Thailand
- 2) Uzbekistan
- 3) Kazakhstan
- 4) Mongolia
- 5) Kyrgyzstan

Answer- 2) Uzbekistan

Explanation:

The 2nd Edition of Annual Bilateral Joint Military Exercise 'DUSTLIK-II' between the Indian Army & Uzbekistan Army is being held from March 10-19, 2021 at Chaubatia, near Ranikhet, Uttarakhand. The 1st Edition of 'Dustlik-I' was hosted by Uzbekistan in 2019. Focusing on people-centric intelligence-based surgical operations, utilizing technological advancements to minimize collateral damage.

66. Which bank launched India's 1st Wearable payment device, "Wear 'N' Pay" that enables its customers with contactless payment facility?

- 1) ICICI Bank
- 2) HDFC Bank
- 3) State Bank of India
- 4) Punjab National Bank

- 5) Axis Bank

Answer- 5) Axis Bank

On March 10, 2021, Axis Bank became India's first bank after launching its own wearable payment device named 'Wear 'N' Pay', to make contactless transactions. It includes a variety of accessories like the band, key chain, and watch loop. Customers can make contactless payments up to Rs. 5,000 at PoS machine using simple wave or tap.

About Axis Bank:

India's 3rd largest private sector Bank

Commenced operations – 1994 (founded – 1993)

MD & CEO – Amitabh Chaudhry

67. Which bank topped in the digital payment scorecard (in Mar'21) released by the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) for 3 consecutive months?

- 1) ICICI Bank
- 2) HDFC Bank
- 3) State Bank of India
- 4) Punjab National Bank
- 5) Axis Bank

Answer- 3) State Bank of India

Explanation:

State Bank of India (SBI) topped the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) Digital Payment Scorecard for 3 consecutive months. The scorecard tracks the performance of the commercial banks on various digital parameters. SBI topped the list by recording the highest UPI transaction volume.

About SBI:

Chairman– Dinesh Kumar Khara

Headquarters– Mumbai, Maharashtra

Tagline– The Banker to Every Indian

68. Who was awarded with the BBC Indian Sportswoman of the year – 2020?

- 1) Manu Bhaker
- 2) Dutee Chand
- 3) Vinesh Phogat
- 4) Rani Rampal
- 5) Koneru Humpy

Answer- 5) Koneru Humpy

Explanation:

Padma Shri Koneru Humpy, a 33-year-old chess player from Andhra Pradesh(AP) won the 2nd edition of the BBC Indian Sportswoman of the year (BBC ISWOTY) 2020. The award was given based on the public vote in which Koneru Humpy won against sprinter Dutee Chand, Air-gun shooter Manu Bhaker, wrestler Vinesh Phogat, and hockey captain Rani Rampal.

69. In which country the 1st of its kind India Energy Office (IEO) was inaugurated (in Mar'21), that aims at expanding bilateral investment in the Energy Sector?

- 1) Russia
- 2) UAE
- 3) USA
- 4) Iran
- 5) Saudi Arabia

Answer- 1) Russia

On 2nd March 2021, A 1st of its kind India Energy Office (IEO) was inaugurated by Tarun Kapoor, Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas at Russia's landmark Federation Tower in Moscow. India's top 5 eminent oil companies – ONGC Videsh, IndianOil, GAIL, Oil India Ltd and Engineers India Ltd will use this as a common platform to expand cross investment in the Energy Sector.

70. Which country partnered with Australia in conducting the World's 1st trial on producing Hydrogen from Brown Coal?

- 1) China
- 2) India
- 3) Russia
- 4) USA
- 5) Japan

Answer- 5) Japan

In a World-first trial, a Japan-Australia venture has started to produce Hydrogen from Brown Coal. The production is taking place at the Hydrogen Energy Supply Chain (HESC) coal-to-hydrogen plant in Brown Coal Reserves in the state of Victoria, Australia. Brown Coal is considered the lowest rank of coal due to its low energy content. The Victoria state in Australia is home to a Quarter of World's known brown coal reserves. The project will help Japan in meeting its target of net zero carbon emission by 2050.

71. Recently (in Mar'21), SEBI formed a Group of Experts under its Primary Market Advisory Committee (PMAC) to check the feasibility to implement SPACs. What does SPACs stand for?

- 1) Simultaneous Problem Avoidance Corporations
- 2) Specified Problem Avoidance Companies
- 3) Special Purpose Acquisition Companies
- 4) Special Purchase & Acquisition Corporations
- 5) Simultaneous Purchase & Acquisition Companies

Answer- 3) Special Purpose Acquisition Companies

On March 11, 2021, Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) had formed the Group of Experts under its Primary Market Advisory Committee (PMAC) to check the feasibility to implement Special Purpose Acquisition Companies (SPACs) like structures in India.

· SPACs are blank-cheque companies, which have no operations or business plans when they seek investor money.

· The traditional way of raising money via Initial Public Offering (IPO) is Tedious, whereas SPACs consume less time than IPO for an organization to acquire the target company.

72. Which organisation received the King Bhumibol World Soil Day 2020 award for its contribution in creating awareness on the importance of healthy soils?

- 1) Centre for Agriculture and Biosciences International
- 2) Tamil Nadu Rice Research Institute
- 3) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development
- 4) Indian Council of Agricultural Research
- 5) Asia Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutes

Answer- 4) Indian Council of Agricultural Research

Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) received the King Bhumibol World Soil Day 2020 award for its contribution towards creating awareness on the importance of healthy soils in line with the theme of World Soil Day 2019 – Stop Soil Erosion, Save our Future. The award was announced by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations (UN) in Rome on 4th December 2020, the eve of World Soil Day 2020.

73. PM Modi participated in the 1st-ever Leader-Level Summit of QUAD countries that was held virtually. Which of the following decisions were taken during the summit?

- i. Provide 1bn doses of COVID-19 vaccine to Asia by 2022
 - ii. Organizing a Climate working group
 - iii. Creating a Travel bubble among the Quad Countries
 - iv. Co-operation towards an 'open' & 'free' Indo-Pacific region
- 1) Only i & iii
 - 2) Only ii & iv
 - 3) Only i, ii & iii
 - 4) Only i, ii & iv
 - 5) All i, ii, iii & iv

Answer- 4) Only i, ii & iv

On March 12 2021, The 1st-ever Leader-Level Summit of 4 QUAD (Quadrilateral Security Dialogue) countries – India, Japan, USA & Australia took place virtually.

· The 4 Countries agreed to work towards an 'open' & 'free' Indo-Pacific region.

· Organizing a Climate working group for technology, capacity building & climate finance.

· The leaders plan to send 1 Billion doses of COVID-19 vaccines across Asia by 2022.

74. In March 2021, India's ISRO & its Japanese counterpart JAXA reviewed the progress of the Joint Lunar Polar Exploration (LUPEX) mission. When is LUPEX targeted to land on the Moon's south pole?

- 1) 2025
- 2) 2028

- 3) 2023
- 4) 2030
- 5) 2024

Answer- 5) 2024

The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) & Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) virtually reviewed the progress made under the Joint Lunar Polar Exploration (LUPEX) mission. LUPEX is a robotic Lunar mission that aims to send a lander and rover to the Moon's south pole in the year 2024. Under the LUPEX mission, JAXA will provide an under-development H3 Launch Vehicle; ISRO will be responsible for providing the lander system.

75. As per RBI's data, India's Foreign exchange (Forex) reserves overtook Russia to become the ___ largest Forex reserve in the World (as of Mar'21).

- 1) 7th
- 2) 6th
- 3) 5th
- 4) 4th
- 5) 3rd

Answer- 4) 4th

As per RBI's data, India's Foreign exchange (Forex) reserves become the world's fourth-largest by surpassing Russia. India's foreign currency holdings fell by \$4.3 billion to \$580.3 billion and Russia's forex holdings were \$580.1 billion. As of the March 2021, International Monetary Fund (IMF) table, China has the largest reserves, followed by Japan, Switzerland, India, and Russia. India's Forex reserves can cover roughly 18 months of imports.

76. Who is the 1st Indian Fencer to qualify for an Olympics?

- 1) Rajeev Mehta
- 2) Bhavani Devi
- 3) Gisho Nidhi Kumaresan Padma
- 4) Kabita Devi
- 5) Laishram Sarita Devi

Answer- 2) Bhavani Devi

Fencer, Bhavani Devi, who hails from Tamil Nadu became the 1st ever Indian Fencer to qualify for an Olympics. She was assured of qualification for the 2021 Tokyo Olympics through the Adjusted Official Ranking (AOR) Method. She is ranked 45th & occupies one of the two available slots for Asia-Oceania region based on World Rankings.

· Headquarters of International Fencing Federation (FIE) - Lausanne, Switzerland

77. Which Payment bank recently (in Feb'21) got the status of Scheduled Commercial bank, after getting included in the 2nd schedule under the RBI Act, 1934?

- 1) NSDL Payments Bank
- 2) Fino Payments Bank
- 3) Paytm Payments Bank

- 4) India Post Payments Bank
- 5) Airtel Payments Bank

Answer- 2) Fino Payments Bank

On February 22, 2021 Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced that Fino Payments Bank Limited has been included in the Second Schedule to the RBI Act, 1934. With this inclusion, Fino Payments bank gets the status of scheduled commercial bank. Now, Fino payment bank can improve its banking position in the treasury and participation in the Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF) window.

The RBI introduced the LAF as a result of the Narasimham Committee on Banking Sector Reforms (1998).

78. Liberty Steel Group signed MoU with Paul Wurth & Stahl-Holding-Saar to establish the 1st

Hydrogen-based steel making plant of _____.

- 1) United Kingdom
- 2) India
- 3) France
- 4) Bangladesh
- 5) Sri Lanka

Answer- 3) France

United Kingdom based Liberty Steel Group which is owned by Indian-origin metals tycoon Sanjeev Gupta has signed MoUs with 2 European companies namely Luxembourg based 'Paul Wurth' & Germany based 'SHS' (Stahl-Holding-Saar) to set up France's 1st Hydrogen-based steel making plant. Liberty Steel Group is part of the diversified GFG Alliance, which has a presence in India.

79. Who authored the book, "Advantage India: The Story of Indian Tennis"?

- 1) Sania Mirza
- 2) Vijay Amritraj
- 3) Sushil Doshi
- 4) Kadambari Murali
- 5) Anindya Dutta

Answer- 5) Anindya Dutta

Anindya Dutta, a banker turned author, penned a new book titled "Advantage India: The Story of Indian Tennis", a chronicle of Indian Tennis. Advantage India is a well-researched account of the journey of Indian tennis, with a special section on the Doubles game and on women's tennis in India. Famous Books by Anindya Dutta:

- "A Gentleman's Game: Reflections on Cricket History Foreword by Kersi Meher-Homji"
- "Spell-binding Spells: Cricket's most magnificent bowling spells"
- "The Greatest Year: The 1971 Tours of West Indies and England (2020)"

80. What is India's Rank globally in Sustainable Development as per the State of India's Environment 2021 (SoE 2021) Annual report?

- 1) 76
- 2) 117
- 3) 102
- 4) 53
- 5) 88

Answer- 2) 117

According to the State of India's Environment 2021 (SoE 2021) Annual report. India was ranked 117 out of 192 nations in terms of sustainable development behind all South Asian countries except Pakistan. It also noted that, in 2019, 67 Million Indians lost their lives due to air pollution and the economic cost of this was USD 36, 000 million which is equivalent to 36% of India's GDP.

81. Recently (in Mar'21) RBI's "Report on Currency and Finance (RCF) for the year 2020-21? on the theme "Reviewing the Monetary Policy Framework" was released, while India is set to review its inflation target before March 31, 2021. What is India's present mid-term inflation target?

- 1) 2%
- 2) 4%
- 3) 6%
- 4) 5%
- 5) 3%

Answer- 2) 4%

In accordance with the internal report from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) namely 'Report on Currency and Finance (RCF) for the year 2020-21? on the theme "Reviewing the Monetary Policy Framework", India's medium-term inflation target of 4% with a +/-2 % tolerance band is appropriate for the country. India adopted the flexible inflation targeting framework in 2016 and the government is due to review the same before March 31, 2021.

82. Recently (in Feb'21), ISRO successfully launched Brazil's 'Amazonia-1' & 18 co-passenger satellites. Which of the following co-passenger satellite was developed by Space Kidz India?

- 1) UNITYsat
- 2) Sindhu Netra
- 3) SpaceBEEs
- 4) Satish Dhawan SAT
- 5) SAI-1 NanoConnect-2

Answer- 4) Satish Dhawan SAT

On February 28, 2021, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully launched 1 primary satellite 'Amazonia-1' & 18 co-passenger satellites from India (5) & USA (13).

Satellite	Country
Amazonia-1	Brazil(Developed by INPE, Brazil)
Satish Dhawan SAT – (SDSAT)	India(Developed by Space Kidz India (SKI))

UNITYsat (Combination of 3 satellites JITSat, GHRCEsat & Sri Shakthi Sat)	Developed by 3 Indian Colleges.
Sindhu Netra	Developed by DRDO, India
'SAI-1 NanoConnect-2'	USA
SpaceBEEs	USA

83. On the World Hearing Day (March 3), the World Health Organisation (WHO) released its 1st World Report on Hearing, that stated 1 in 4 people will suffer from hearing problems by ____.

- 1) 2030
- 2) 2100
- 3) 2075
- 4) 2040
- 5) 2050

Answer- 5) 2050

On March 2, 2021, the World Health Organization's (WHO) released its first World Report on Hearing stating that nearly 2.5 billion people worldwide or 1 in 4 people will suffer from hearing problems by 2050. At present one in five people worldwide have hearing problems. It should be noted that World hearing day is observed annually on March 3.

84. Which mutual fund company has launched its 'International Access-US Equity FoF' an open ended overseas Fund to Fund (FoF) scheme in March 2021?

- 1) SBI Mutual Funds
- 2) Franklin Templeton Mutual Fund
- 3) L&T Mutual Fund
- 4) HDFC Mutual Fund
- 5) ICICI Prudential Mutual Fund

Answer- 1) SBI Mutual Funds

On March 1, 2021, The State Bank of India (SBI) Mutual Funds has launched its first overseas offering namely "SBI International Access-US Equity FoF" which is an open-ended Fund of Fund (FoF) scheme that would invest in mutual fund schemes/ETFs (exchange-traded fund) that invest in the United States (US) markets. The offering will close on March 15, 2021. The scheme will invest 95-100% of its net assets in Amundi Funds – US Pioneer Fund which invests predominantly in the US markets.

85. Which International Bank is planning (as of Mar'21) to launch a \$100 mn Credit Guarantee scheme for India's rooftop solar programme?

- 1) New Development Bank
- 2) European Investment Bank
- 3) Asian Development Bank
- 4) International Monetary Fund
- 5) World Bank

Answer- 5) World Bank

In order to boost India's rooftop solar programme, the World Bank (WB) is planning to launch a \$100million (\$1 billion) credit guarantee scheme along with the State

Bank of India (SBI) and the MSME ministry. Already WB made an investment of Rs 4.7 trillion in India's renewable energy space in the last 6 years, with an expected Rs 1 trillion investment opportunity annually till 2030.

86. Which is India's 1st Regional Rural Bank (RRB) to facilitate Video-Know Your Customer (KYC) for opening a Digital Savings Account?

- 1) Telangana Grameena Bank (TGB)
- 2) Puduvai Bharathiar Grama Bank (PBGB)
- 3) Andhra Pradesh Grameena Vikas Bank (APGVB)
- 4) Only 1 & 2
- 5) Only 1 & 3

Answer- 5) Only 1 & 3

Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) – Telangana Grameena Bank (TGB) & Andhra Pradesh Grameena Vikas Bank (APGVB) became India's 1st RRBs to launch Digital Savings Account opening facility through Video-Know

Your Customer (KYC) facility. Both RRBs are sponsored by the SBI. The Digital Insta Savings Account mobile app of APGVB & TGB was launched in Feb'21. Regional Rural Banks are created with share split up of Central Govt. – 50%, State Govt. – 15%, and Sponsor Banks – 35%(Any commercial bank).

87. Where is India's first toy cluster to be set up?

- 1) Koppal, Karnataka
- 2) Ahmedabad, Gujarat
- 3) Rourkela, Odisha
- 4) Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh
- 5) Mumbai, Maharashtra

Answer- 1) Koppal, Karnataka

The Aequs Private Limited, contract manufacturer, is developing a 400-acre toy manufacturing cluster, said to be India's first Toy sector at Koppal in Karnataka at an investment of USD 500 million.

88. Which is/are the site(s) selected for Marine Spatial Planning (MSP), that will be jointly developed by India & Norway in the next 5 years?

- 1) Lakshadweep
- 2) Puducherry
- 3) Andaman & Nicobar
- 4) Only 1 & 2
- 5) All 1, 2 & 3

Answer- 4) Only 1 & 2

Explanation:

India & Norway agreed to collaborate in the area of Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) in the Oceanic space for the next 5 years. Lakshadweep & Puducherry have been identified as Pilot sites for the Project. The 2 places have been chosen due to their potential to Flourish in multiple sectors such as Industries, Fisheries & Tourism. MSP is

part of India's (draft) Blue Economic Policy being developed by the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES). National Centre for Coastal Research (NCCR), Chennai will be preparing the MSP framework.

89. Which bank became the 1st in India to join 'Liink', a blockchain based payment network of the Investment banking company JPMorgan?

- 1) ICICI Bank
- 2) State Bank of India
- 3) HDFC Bank
- 4) Kotak Mahindra Bank
- 5) Yes Bank

Answer- 2) State Bank of India

Explanation:

State Bank of India (SBI) joined 'Liink', a peer-to-peer Blockchain-based data network of US based Investment Banking Company JPMorgan chase. The partnership will help SBI to reduce transaction costs, speed up Consumer transactions (including International transactions). SBI became the 1st bank in India to go live on the blockchain-based payment network of JPMorgan.

90. Which mobile app was launched by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment to cater the needs of Persons with Disabilities?

- 1) e-Sampada App
- 2) Sugamya Bharat App
- 3) Secha Samadhan App
- 4) Abhayam App
- 5) Visitassam App

Answer- 2) Sugamya Bharat App

Explanation:

Thaawarchand Gehlot, Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment (MoSJE) virtually launched 'Sugamya Bharat App' and a handbook entitled 'Access – The Photo Digest' through video conference. Both of the new launches are developed by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD), MoSJE.

Sugamya Bharat app is a Crowdsourcing Mobile Application launched under the Accessible India CampaignAIC (Sugamya Bharat Abhiyaan) to cater the accessibility needs of Differently abled persons.

91. Where is Asia's 1st National Dolphin Research Centre (NDRC) set to come up?

- 1) Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh
- 2) Kolkata, West Bengal
- 3) Patna, Bihar
- 4) Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh
- 5) Haridwar, Uttarakhand

Answer- 3) Patna, Bihar

India's and Asia's first National Dolphin Research Centre (NDRC) will come up on the bank of the Ganges in the premises of Patna University in Bihar. 50% of the

world's river dolphin population, a highly endangered species, are in Bihar.

92. Which country recently (in Mar'21), signed 'procurement of defence material and equipment' with India, to procure India's BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles?

- 1) Bahamas
- 2) Philippines
- 3) Bangladesh
- 4) Chile
- 5) Ecuador

Answer- 2) Philippines

Philippines signed an implementing arrangement for 'procurement of defence material and equipment' with India during a pact's signing ceremony at the Camp Aguinaldo in Manila, headquarters of the Armed Forces of the Philippines. Under this pact, there is a possible sale of the Indo-Russian BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles to the Philippines. It is the only supersonic cruise missile in the world that flies at three times the speed of sound (2.8 Mach).

93. Which year was adopted as the 'International Year of Millets' by the UN General Assembly (UNGA) based on the resolution initiated by India?

- 1) 2025
- 2) 2021
- 3) 2024
- 4) 2022
- 5) 2023

Answer- 5) 2023

On March 3, 2021, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted a resolution sponsored by India to mark 2023 as 'International Year of Millets'. The resolution was initiated by India along with Bangladesh, Kenya, Nepal, Nigeria, Russia & Senegal. The resolution 'International Year of Millets 2023' was supported by over 70 nations. The resolution called for the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the UN to implement the International Year of Millets in 2023. Previously, India celebrated 2018 as the National Year of Millets.

94. Where was the Multinational Air exercise 'Desert Flag VI' held (in Mar'21), that saw the participation of Indian Air Force for the 1st time?

- 1) Russia
- 2) United Arab Emirates
- 3) Saudi Arabia
- 4) Turkey
- 5) Bahrain

Answer- 2) United Arab Emirates

For the 1st Time, Indian Air Force (IAF) is participating in the Annual Multinational Large force employment warfare exercise 'Desert Flag VI' held at the Al-Dhafra Air Base, United Arab Emirates.

Participating Countries – Bahrain, France, Saudi Arabia, South Korea and USA.

IAF is participating in such a multilateral exercise for the 4th time in the last 5 years. Other Multilateral exercises are:

- American 'Reg Flag' – 2016
- Israeli 'Blue Flag' – 2017
- Australian 'Pitch Black' wargames – 2018

95. Which state topped in the 2nd edition of NCAER Land Record and Services Index (N-LRSI) 2021 for its maximized digitization of Land Records?

- 1) West Bengal
- 2) Madhya Pradesh
- 3) Odisha
- 4) Maharashtra
- 5) Tamil Nadu

Answer- 2) Madhya Pradesh

In accordance with the 2nd edition of NCAER Land Record and Services Index (N-LRSI) 2021, almost 32 States and Union Territories (UTs) have shown an improvement in their effort to digitize land records.

Their mean has shown an increase of 16.6% in 2020-21 from 38.7 in 2019-20 to 45.1 in 2020-21 (out of 100 points). Notably, Madhya Pradesh topped the list for the second year in a row followed by West Bengal (2nd), Odisha (3rd), Maharashtra (4th) and Tamil Nadu (5th).

96. Which city with a million plus population has topped the 2020's Ease of Living Index that was released by the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs?

- 1) Pune
- 2) Ahmedabad
- 3) Bengaluru
- 4) Chennai
- 5) Bhubaneswar

Answer- 3) Bengaluru

Explanation:

Hardeep Singh Puri, Minister of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA) released the Final Rankings of Ease of

97. What is India's Ranking in the 'Freedom in the World 2021: Democracy under Siege' report released by Freedom House?

- 1) 83
- 2) 88
- 3) 95
- 4) 72
- 5) 67

Answer- 2) 88

According to the 'Freedom in the World 2021: Democracy under Siege' released by US based Think Tank Freedom House, India has scored 67 and its position has been downgraded to 'Partly Free' from 'Free' in 2020. India's ranking has also fallen to 88 (from 83) out of 211 countries. This is the 1st time since 1997 that India has been downgraded to 'partly free'. India's score has

decreased from 71 (in 2020). The 'most free countries' with a score of 100 are Finland, Norway & Sweden.

98. When was the 1st ever Chabahar day observed, to showcase India's strategical importance towards the Iranian port?

- 1) March 8
- 2) March 6
- 3) March 7
- 4) March 5
- 5) March 4

Answer- 5) March 4

Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually inaugurated the 2nd Edition of Maritime India Summit-2021 (MIS2021).

On the sidelines of the MIS-2021, Chabahar day was commemorated on March 4, 2021. It is a strategically important port as it is located at Iran and is only 72 km away from the Gwadar Port in Pakistan, which is being developed by China.

99. Which organisation partnered with National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) to launch 'RuPay SoftPoS', a smart phone enabled Point of Sale (PoS) system?

- 1) Paytm
- 2) Federal Bank
- 3) SBI Payments
- 4) HDFC Bank

- 5) PhonePe

Answer- 3) SBI Payments

On March 05, 2021, National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) partnered with SBI Payments to launch 'RuPay SoftPoS' to transform NFC enabled smartphones into Point of Sale (POS) terminals for the merchants and retailers. It will convert the merchants and retailers NFC enabled smartphones into Point of Sale terminals with maximum transaction limit of Rs. 5,000.

100. Which organisation successfully test fired (in Mar'21) a subsystem made of Solid Fuel Ducted Ramjet (SFDR) technology?

- 1) ISRO
- 2) Indian Air Force
- 3) DRDO
- 4) Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd
- 5) Indian Navy

Answer- 3) DRDO

On March 5, 2021, the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully flight demonstrated Solid Fuel Ducted Ramjet (SFDR) technology from Integrated Test Range (ITR) Chandipur in Balasore, Odisha. With this test, DRDO achieved a technological advantage of developing long range air-to-air missiles (AAMs) with SFDR.

DRDO was established in 1958.