

85+ Most Important September Month Current Affairs Questions



85+ Most Important September Month Current Affairs Questions

1. Consider the following statements regarding the 21st Meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO):

- i. The meeting was chaired by the President of Russia.
- ii. Sri Lanka became a full member of SCO.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. i only
- B. ii only
- C. Both i and ii
- D. Neither i nor ii

Answer : D

Solution :

Prime Minister Narendra Modi participated virtually in the 21st Meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the SCO (Shanghai Cooperation Organisation) and through video-message in the Joint SCO-CSTO Outreach Session on Afghanistan.

It was held on 17 September 2021 in Dushanbe, Tajikistan.

It was chaired by Emomali Rahmon, the President of Tajikistan.

Note: Iran became a full member of SCO during the summit. So far Iran was an observer member of the SCO.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's address:

The Prime Minister highlighted the problems caused by growing radicalisation and extremism in the broader SCO region, which runs counter to the history of the region as a bastion of moderate and progressive cultures and values.

He noted that recent developments in Afghanistan could further exacerbate this trend towards extremism.

He suggested that SCO could work on an agenda to promote moderation and scientific and rational thought, which would be especially relevant for the youth of the region.

Joint SCO-CSTO Outreach Session on Afghanistan:

The SCO Summit was followed by an Outreach session on Afghanistan between SCO and the Collective Security Treaty Organisation (CSTO).

Prime Minister suggested that SCO could develop a code of conduct on 'zero tolerance' towards terrorism in the region, and highlighted the risks of drugs, arms and human trafficking from Afghanistan.

2. Which country hosted the 15th East Asia Summit Energy Ministers Meeting 2021?

- A. Vietnam
- B. Brunei
- C. Malaysia
- D. Indonesia
- E. None of the above/ More than one of the above

Answer : B

Solution :

Recently, Krishan Pal Gurjar, Union Minister of State for Power attended the 15th East Asia Summit Energy Ministers Meeting (15th EAS EMM) 2021.

It was hosted by Brunei Darussalam.

The theme of the meeting “We Care, We Prepare, We Prosper”, aimed at coordinating efforts of ASEAN countries in pursuing the goal of energy security and energy transition.

India confirmed that ASEAN is a region of great importance for us. Engagement with ASEAN has been, and will remain, a critical element of India’s ‘Act East’ policy and strategy; Acting East is now a central element in India's Indo-Pacific vision.

The Minister provided a brief status of the Indian energy transition plans, policies, challenges and efforts towards decarbonisation.

About East Asia Summit (EAS):

The EAS process was initiated in 2005 with the convening of the 1st East Asia Summit in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

At its inception, the EAS comprised 16 participating countries, namely ASEAN Member States, Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand, and the Republic of Korea.

The US and Russia joined at the 6th EAS in Bali, Indonesia on 19 November 2011.

3. Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan presented Kaushalacharya Awards 2021 to how many skill trainers?

- A. 51
- B. 21
- C. 41
- D. 31

Answer : C

Solution :

Union Education Minister and Skill Development Minister Dharmendra Pradhan presented Kaushalacharya Awards 2021 to 41 skill trainers for their exemplary contribution to the skill ecosystem.

These 41 trainers are from several initiatives and training programmes of Skill India— Directorate General of Training (DGT), Apprenticeship, Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY), Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS) and Entrepreneurship.

4. How many Indian Projects have been selected to get the first ever Earthshot Prize 2021?

- A. 2
- B. 4
- C. 3
- D. 5

Answer : A

Solution :

Two Indian Projects have been selected to get the first ever Earthshot Prize 2021.

Vinisha Umashankar, a 14-year-old Tamil Nadu schoolgirl’s solar-powered ironing cart project and Vidyut Mohan (Co-founder of Takachar), a Delhi entrepreneur’s agricultural waste recycling concept were named among 15 finalists for the first-ever Earthshot Prize 2021.

About Earthshot Prize:

It is a prize awarded annually from 2021 to 2030, to five winners each year whose solutions substantially help the environment.

The Prize is given by the Royal Foundation, headquartered in London, England.

The Earthshot Prize was launched in 2020 by Prince William, Duke of Cambridge and David Attenborough, with the support of a broad range of individuals and organizations dedicated to climate action.

5. Consider the following statements regarding the 15th Edition of Joint Military Training Exercise 'Surya Kiran'.

- i. It was held between India and Nepal.
- ii. It was held at Pithoragarh in Uttarakhand.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A. i only
- B. ii only
- C. Both i and ii
- D. Neither i nor ii

Answer : C

Solution :

15th Edition of Indo - Nepal Joint Military Training Exercise 'Surya Kiran' between Indian Army and Nepali Army commenced from 20 September 2021 at Pithoragarh in Uttarakhand. It will continue till 03 October 2021.

During this exercise, an Infantry Battalion from Indian Army and an equivalent strength from Nepali Army would be sharing their experiences gained during the conduct of various counter-insurgency operations over a prolonged period in their respective countries.

Also, there would be a series of Expert Academic Discussions on various subjects such as Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief, High Altitude Warfare, Jungle Warfare etc.

The exercise is part of an initiative to develop inter-operability and sharing expertise between the two nations.

Note: Last edition of Exercise Surya Kiran was conducted in Nepal in 2019.

6. In September 2021, the World Bank has decided to discontinue which report?

- A. Ease of Doing Business Report
- B. Global Economic Prospect Report
- C. Global Financial Stability Report
- D. World Development Report

Answer : A

Solution :

The World Bank Group has decided to discontinue the 'Ease of Doing Business' report.

The World Bank has now said that a new approach will be worked out to assess countries' business and investment climates.

In August 2020, World Bank paused the publication of the Doing Business report following a number of irregularities were reported regarding changes to the data.

The international financial institution later confirmed that the changes were inconsistent with the Doing Business methodology.

About Ease of Doing Business Report:

The Ease of Doing Business Report was introduced in 2003 to provide an assessment of objective measures of business regulations and their enforcement across 190 economies.

India's Performance:

In 2014, India was at 142nd position on the Ease of Doing Business Index and made significant improvements after the government launched an ambitious program of regulatory reforms.

India moved to 63rd position on World Bank's Ease of Doing Business Ranking 2020.

7. With which countries, the United States has recently announced a new trilateral security partnership for the Indo-Pacific region?

- A. United Kingdom and India
- B. United Kingdom and Japan
- C. United Kingdom and Australia
- D. United Kingdom and France
- E. None of the above/ More than one of the above

Answer : C

Solution :

The US, UK and Australia have announced the formation of AUKUS – a new trilateral security partnership for the Indo-Pacific region.

It was announced in a joint address by British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, his Australian counterpart Scott Morrison and US President Joe Biden with a vision for a safer and more secure Indo-Pacific.

Under the AUKUS alliance, the 3 nations have agreed to enhance the development of joint capabilities and technology sharing, foster deeper integration of security and defence-related science, technology, industrial bases and supply chains.

Under the first major initiative of AUKUS, Australia would build a fleet of nuclear-powered submarines with the help of the US and the UK, a capability aimed at promoting stability in the Indo-Pacific region.

Other Groups:

ANZUS (Australia, New Zealand and the US)

Quad (The US, India, Japan and Australia)

Five Eyes (US, UK, Australia, Canada and New Zealand)

8. When is International Day of Peace observed?

- A. September 11
- B. September 21
- C. September 19
- D. September 17

Answer : B

Solution :

Each year the International Day of Peace is observed around the world on 21 September.

The 2021 theme for the International Day of Peace is “Recovering better for an equitable and sustainable world”.

Background:

The International Day of Peace was established in 1981 by the United Nations General Assembly.

Two decades later, in 2001, the General Assembly unanimously voted to designate the Day as a period of non-violence and cease-fire.

9. Who took oath as the 16th Chief Minister of Punjab?

- A. Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa
- B. Navjot Singh Sidhu
- C. Om Prakash Soni
- D. Charanjit Singh Channi
- E. None of the above/ More than one of the above

Answer : D

Solution :

Congress leader Charanjit Singh Channi took oath as 16th Chief Minister of Punjab.

Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa and Om Prakash Soni took oath as Deputy Chief Ministers.

Punjab Governor Banwarilal Purohit administered the oath of office and secrecy at the Raj Bhawan in Chandigarh.

Channi a three-time MLA from Rupnagar's Chamkaur Sahib - is the first Dalit to hold this post in the state.

Note: Captain Amarinder Singh resigned from the post of Chief Minister of Punjab on 18 September 2021.

10. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding the Global Innovation Index 2021?

- i. The index was released by the World Bank.
 - ii. India has climbed 2 spots and has been ranked 46th.
 - iii. Sweden has been ranked first.
- A. ii only
 - B. i and ii only
 - C. ii and iii only
 - D. i, ii and iii

Answer : A

Solution :

India has climbed 2 spots and has been ranked 46th in the Global Innovation Index (GII) 2021 rankings.

India has been on a rising trajectory, over the past several years in the Global Innovation Index, from a **rank of 81 in 2015 to 46 in 2021.**

Global Performance:

Rank 1: Switzerland

Rank 2: Sweden

Rank 3: U.S.

Rank 46: India

India's Performance:

The consistent improvement in the GII ranking is owing to the immense knowledge capital, the vibrant start-up ecosystem, and the amazing work done by the public and the private research organizations.

The Scientific Departments like the Department of Atomic Energy; the Department of Science and Technology; the Department of Biotechnology and the Department of Space have played a pivotal role in enriching the National Innovation Ecosystem.

India ranks 2nd among the 34 lower middle-income group economies.

India ranks 1st among the 10 economies in Central and Southern Asia.

About Global Innovation Index (GII) 2021:

The GII report is published by World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) in partnership with the Portulans Institute, with support of corporate network partners, such as the Confederation of Indian Industry, Brazilian National Confederation of Industry, Ecopetrol Group (Colombia), and the Turkish Exporters Assembly.

The 2021 edition of the GII presents the latest global innovation ranking of 132 economies, relying on 81 different indicators.

11. Consider the following statements regarding the 3rd State Food Safety Index.

i. The index was developed by NITI Aayog.

ii. Among the larger states, Gujarat was the top ranking state.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

A. i only

B. ii only

C. Both i and ii

D. Neither i nor ii

Answer : B

Solution :

Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare Mansukh Mandaviya released the 3rd State Food Safety Index (SFSI).

He also flagged off 19 Mobile Food Testing Vans (*Food Safety on Wheels*) to supplement the food safety ecosystem across the country taking the total number of such mobile testing vans to 109.

Rankings of States:

The Union Minister felicitated 9 leading States/UTs based on the ranking for the year 2020-21 for their impressive performance.

Among the larger states, Gujarat was the top ranking state, followed by Kerala and Tamil Nadu.

Among the smaller states, Goa stood first followed by Meghalaya and Manipur.

Among UTs, Jammu & Kashmir, Andaman & Nicobar Islands and New Delhi secured top ranks.

About State Food Safety Index:

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has developed the State Food Safety Index to measure the performance of states on 5 significant parameters of Food Safety.

Parameters: Human Resources and Institutional Data, Compliance, Food Testing – Infrastructure and Surveillance, Training & Capacity Building and Consumer Empowerment

The Index is a dynamic quantitative and qualitative benchmarking model that provides an objective framework for evaluating food safety across all States/UTs.

The first State Food Safety Index (for 2018-19) was announced on the first-ever World Food Safety Day on 7th June 2019.

12. Who is the head of the committee constituted by the Ministry of Defence for a comprehensive review of the National Cadet Corps (NCC)?

- A. Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore
- B. Anand Mahindra
- C. MS Dhoni
- D. Baijayant Panda
- E. None of the above/ More than one of the above

Answer : D

Solution :

The Ministry of Defence has constituted a 15-member High Level Expert Committee for a comprehensive review of the National Cadet Corps (NCC).

The committee will be chaired by former **Member of Parliament (MP)** Baijayant Panda and will include former Indian cricket team captain MS Dhoni, industrialist Anand Mahindra and former sports minister Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore.

Objective:

Committee to suggest measures to empower NCC cadets to contribute more effectively towards nation building

To propose ways for gainful engagement of NCC Alumni for betterment of the organisation

To recommend best practices of similar international youth organisations for inclusion in NCC curriculum

About National Cadet Corps (NCC):

The NCC is the largest uniformed organisation which aims at developing character, discipline, a secular outlook and ideals of selfless service amongst young citizens.

The NCC is the youth wing of the Indian Armed Forces.

Headquarters: New Delhi

Founded: 16 April 1948

13. Which country participated with India in the 3rd edition of Bilateral Maritime Exercise 'Samudra Shakti'?

- A. Indonesia
- B. Vietnam
- C. Thailand
- D. Sri Lanka
- E. None of the above/ More than one of the above

Answer : A

Solution :

Indian Navy and Indonesian Navy participated in the 3rd edition of Bilateral Maritime Exercise 'Samudra Shakti' at Sunda Strait, Indonesia from September 20 to 22, 2021.

Indian Naval Ships Shivalik and Kadmatt participated in the Exercise.

The aim of the exercise is to strengthen the bilateral relationship, enhance mutual understanding and interoperability in maritime operations.

Note: In pursuance of India's Act East Policy, Exercise 'Samudra Shakti' was conceived in 2018 as a bilateral IN-IDN exercise.

Other Exercises with Indonesia:

Military Exercise: Garuda Shakti

Maritime Exercise: IND-INDO CORPAT, IND-INDO BILAT

14. Who was/were selected for the Sahitya Akademi Fellowship 2021?

- A. Vinod Kumar Shukla
- B. Ruskin Bond
- C. Sirshendu Mukhopadhyay
- D. Srilal Shukla
- E. None of the above/ More than one of the above

Answer : E

Solution :

The Sahitya Akademi announced Sahitya Akademi Fellowship 2021 for eight writers, including eminent English author Ruskin Bond and Hindi writer Vinod Kumar Shukla.

The others who received the Fellowship are Sirshendu Mukhopadhyay (Bengali), M Leelavathy (Malayalam), Dr. Bhalchandra Nemade (Marathi), Dr Tejwant Singh Gill (Punjabi), Swami Rambhadracharya (Sanskrit), Indira Parthasarthy (Tamil).

The general council of Sahitya Akademi had met under the chairmanship of President Dr. Chandrashekhar Kambar to announce the winners of the literary honour- Sahitya Akademi fellowship.

The Sahitya Akademi Fellowship is a literary honour in India bestowed by the Sahitya Akademi, India's National Academy of Letters.

15. Narendra Giri who has passed away recently, was the president of which organisation?

- A. Gorakhnath Math
- B. Juna Akhara
- C. Akhil Bharatiya Akhara Parishad
- D. Anand Akhara Parishad

Answer : C

Solution :

Mahant Narendra Giri, president of the Akhil Bharatiya Akhara Parishad, passed away.

Narendra Giri was elected president of the all-powerful Akhil Bharatiya Akhara Parishad, the apex decision-making body of the 13 recognised Hindu monastic orders of the country in 2014 for five years.

He was re-elected to the post at a meeting of the Akhara Parishad held in Haridwar in October 2019.

16. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding the Blue Flag certification in India?

- i. In September 2021, Kovalam beach in Tamil Nadu and Eden beach in Puducherry were awarded the Blue Flag certification.
- ii. India now has 14 Blue Flag beaches.
- iii. The certification is awarded by the Denmark-based non-profit Foundation for Environmental Education.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- A. ii only
- B. i and ii only
- C. i and iii only
- D. i, ii and iii

Answer : C

Solution :

The Kovalam beach in Tamil Nadu and Eden beach in Puducherry has been awarded the prestigious Blue Flag certification, an international eco-level tag.

India now has 10 Blue Flag beaches.

Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE) in Denmark which accords the globally recognized eco-label - Blue Flag certification, has also given re-certification for 8 nominated beaches Shivrajpur-Gujarat, Kappad-Kerala, Ghoghla-Diu, Kasarkod and Padubidri-Karnataka, Rushikonda- Andhra Pradesh, Golden-Odisha and Radhanagar- Andaman and Nicobar, which were awarded the Blue Flag certificate in 2020.

India started its journey of sustainable development of coastal regions on World Environment Day in June 2018 by launching its beach cleaning campaign I-AM- SAVING-MY-BEACH simultaneously at 13 coastal states and thereafter implementing the ministry's coveted program BEAMS (Beach Environment & Aesthetics Management Services).

The Ministry is further committed to develop and deliver 100 more beaches under its Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) initiative in the ensuing 5 years of the Ministry's vision agenda.

About Blue Flag certification:

It is a globally recognised eco-label accorded on the basis of 33 stringent criteria in four major heads which are environmental education and information, bathing water quality, environmental management and conservation and safety and services in the beaches.

The Blue Flag label is accorded by the international jury composed of eminent members - United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO), Denmark-based NGO Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE), UNESCO and International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

17. Who is the head of the National Steering Committee constituted by the Ministry of Education for the development of National Curriculum Frameworks?

- A. K Kasturirangan
- B. Anil D Sahasrabudhe
- C. S C Sharma
- D. D P Singh
- E. None of the above/ More than one of the above

Answer : A

Solution :

The Ministry of Education has formed the 12 member National Steering Committee for the development of National Curriculum Frameworks in line with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

The committee will be chaired by former ISRO Chairman Dr K Kasturirangan. He was also Chairman of the Drafting Committee of NEP, 2020.

Terms of Reference of the Committee:

As per the perspectives of the NEP 2020, the Committee will develop four National Curriculum Frameworks- i.e., the National Curriculum Framework for School Education, National Curriculum for Early Childhood Care and Education, National Curriculum Framework for Teacher Education and National Curriculum Framework for Adult Education.

Tenure of the National Steering Committee will be three years from the date of its notification.

18. When is International Day of Sign Languages observed?

- A. September 13
- B. September 23
- C. September 29
- D. September 19

Answer : B

Solution :

The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) has proclaimed 23 September as the International Day of Sign Languages (IDSL) in order to raise awareness of the importance of sign language.

The 2021 theme, declared by the World Federation of the Deaf, is “We Sign For Human Rights”.

Background:

The proposal for the Day came from the World Federation of the Deaf (WFD), a federation of 135 national associations of deaf people.

The International Day of Sign Languages was first celebrated in 2018 as part of the International Week of the Deaf.

The International Week of the Deaf was first celebrated in September 1958.

Note:

According to the World Federation of the Deaf, there are more than 70 million deaf people worldwide.

More than 80% of them live in developing countries. Collectively, they use more than 300 different sign languages.

19. Who has been appointed as the next Chief of the Air Staff?

- A. Harjinder Singh
- B. V R Chaudhari
- C. Pratap Chandra Lal
- D. S K Sinha
- E. None of the above/ More than one of the above

Answer : B

Solution :

Government has decided to appoint Air Marshal V R Chaudhari, presently Vice Chief of Air Staff, as the next Chief of the Air Staff after the retirement of Air Chief Marshal RKS Bhadauria on 30th September, 2021.

V R Chaudhari was commissioned into the Fighter stream of Indian Air Force on 29th December 1982 and has held various Command, Staff and Instructional Appointments at various levels including the present one as Vice Chief of Air Staff.

Chaudhari is a recipient of the Param Vishisht Seva Medal, Ati Vishisht Seva Medal and the Vayu Sena Medals.

20. Which State/UT will organise the first edition of 'The Himalayan Film Festival-2021' (THFF)?

- A. Ladakh
- B. Uttarakhand
- C. Himachal Pradesh
- D. Jammu & Kashmir
- E. None of the above/ More than one of the above

Answer : A

Solution :

The first edition of 'The Himalayan Film Festival-2021' (THFF) will begin from 24 to 28 September at Leh.

Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur will inaugurate it.

The film festival is being organised by the Administration of Union Territory of Ladakh in collaboration with the Directorate of Film Festivals, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India.

The festival also aims to create an interactive and exposure platform to promote aspiring local filmmakers and to showcase Ladakh as an attractive film destination.

21. Name the Prime Minister of Canada who has won a third term after winning the general election 2021.

- A. Andrew Scheer
- B. Naftali Bennett
- C. Justin Trudeau
- D. Boris Johnson

Answer : C

Solution :

Justin Trudeau has won a third term as Canada's Prime Minister after his party won the 2021 election.

Justin Trudeau is a Canadian politician who is the 23rd and current Prime Minister of Canada since November 2015 and the leader of the Liberal Party since 2013.

Trudeau is the second-youngest prime minister in Canadian history after Joe Clark.

22. Who has been conferred with the SDG Progress Award by the UN sponsored Sustainable Development Solutions Network?

- A. Prime Minister Narendra Modi
- B. Prime Minister Boris Johnson
- C. Prime Minister Naftali Bennett
- D. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina
- E. None of the above/ More than one of the above

Answer : D

Solution :

Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has been conferred with SDG Progress award for Bangladesh's steady progress in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

About SDG Progress Award:

It was conferred by the UN sponsored Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN).

The SDSN was set up in 2012 under the auspices of the UN Secretary General.

About SDG (Sustainable Development Goals):

The SDGs are a collection of 17 interlinked global goals designed to be a "blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all".

The SDGs were set up in 2015 by the United Nations General Assembly and are intended to be achieved by the year 2030.

23. Which of the following was conferred with the National Florence Nightingale Award 2020?

- A. Brig Vibha Dutta
- B. Brig Deepshikha
- C. Brig S V Saraswati
- D. Brig Madhuri Kanitkar

Answer : C

Solution :

Deputy Director General of Military Nursing Service (MNS) Brig S V Saraswati has been bestowed with the National Florence Nightingale Award 2020.

President Ram Nath Kovind conferred the award for her immense contribution to the MNS as nurse administrator.

Brig Saraswati hails from Chittoor district of Andhra Pradesh and was commissioned into the MNS on December 28, 1983.

The National Florence Nightingale Award is the highest national distinction a nurse can achieve for selfless devotion and exceptional professionalism.

24. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding the BRICS Summit 2021?

- i. It was the 13th BRICS Summit.
- ii. Russian President Vladimir Putin chaired it.
- iii. The summit adopted the BRICS Counter-Terrorism Action Plan.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- A. ii only
- B. i and iii only
- C. ii and iii only
- D. i, ii and iii

Answer : B

Solution :

Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired the 13th BRICS Summit on 9 September 2021, virtually. The Summit's theme was BRICS@15: Intra-BRICS Cooperation for Continuity, Consolidation and Consensus.

The Summit saw the participation of all other BRICS Leaders - President Jair Bolsonaro of Brazil, President Xi Jinping of China, President Vladimir Putin of Russia and President Cyril Ramaphosa of South Africa.

Prime Minister's Address:

The Prime Minister expressed his appreciation for the cooperation received from BRICS partners during India's Chairship this year (2021), which allowed the achievement of several new initiatives.

These included the first BRICS Digital Health Summit; the first BRICS Ministerial Joint Statement on multilateral reforms; a BRICS Counter-Terrorism Action Plan; an Agreement on cooperation in the field of remote-sensing satellites; a virtual BRICS vaccine Research & Development Centre; BRICS Alliance on Green Tourism, etc.

Highlighting the leading role that BRICS countries can play in the post-COVID global recovery, Prime Minister called for enhanced BRICS cooperation under the motto of 'Build-back Resiliently, Innovatively, Credibly and Sustainably'.

The leaders also adopted the 'New Delhi Declaration'.

About 'New Delhi Declaration': The declaration called for reforms of the principal organs of the United Nations including that of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC).

Note: It is the third time India has hosted the BRICS Summit after 2012 and 2016.

Facts about BRICS:

Formation: 2009

Countries: Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa

It is an important grouping bringing together the major emerging economies from the world, comprising:

41% of the world population

The total combined area of 29.3% of the total land surface of the world

24% of global GDP

16% of world trade

Note: The above data is based on World Bank data (2019).

25. Consider the following statements regarding the India Rankings 2021 instituted by the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF):

- i. Indian Institute of Technology, Madras has got 1st Position in Overall Category.
- ii. Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru has topped the University Category.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. i only
- B. ii only
- C. Both i and ii
- D. Neither i nor ii

Answer : C

Solution :

Dharmendra Pradhan, Union Education Minister released the India Rankings 2021 instituted by the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF).

About National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF):

NIRF, launched in November 2015 by the Ministry of Education, was used for this edition as well as for the past 5 editions of India Rankings released for the years 2016 to 2021.

This is the sixth consecutive edition of the India Rankings of HEIs in India.

During its maiden year in 2016, rankings were announced for the University category as well as for three domain-specific rankings, namely Engineering, Management and Pharmacy institutions.

Over the period of six years, three new categories and five new subject domains were added to bring the total tally to 4 four categories, namely Overall, University, College and Research Institutions and 7 subjects, namely Engineering, Management, Architecture, Medical, Pharmacy, Law and Dental in 2021.

Research institutions have been ranked for the first time in India Rankings 2021.

Parameter: These are Teaching, Learning & Resources, Research and Professional Practice, Graduation Outcomes, Outreach and Inclusivity, Perception.

Number of Participants: In all, 6272 applications for ranking were made by these 4030 unique applicant institutions under various categories/domains.

Key Highlights of India Rankings 2021:

Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras retains 1st Position in Overall Category as well as in Engineering for the third consecutive year.

Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru tops the University as well as Research Institution category introduced for the first time in India Rankings 2021.

IIM Ahmedabad tops in Management subject and All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi occupies the top slot in Medical for the fourth consecutive year.

Jamia Hamdard tops the list in Pharmacy subject for the third consecutive year.

Miranda College retains 1st position amongst colleges for the fifth consecutive year.

IIT Roorkee takes the top slot for the first time in the Architecture subject displacing IIT Kharagpur.

National Law School of India University, Bangalore retains its first position in Law for the fourth consecutive year.

Manipal College of Dental Sciences, Manipal, secures 1st position in the “Dental” category.

26. With reference to the recent appointment of new governors in states, which pair is not correctly matched?

- A. R N Ravi: Tamil Nadu
- B. Banwarilal Purohit: Punjab
- C. Jagdish Mukhi: Nagaland
- D. Lt. Gen. Gurmit Singh: Uttar Pradesh

Answer : D

Solution :

President Ram Nath Kovind has appointed new governors in four states, namely, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Nagaland & Tamil Nadu.

Uttarakhand:

Lt. Gen. Gurmit Singh (retd), former deputy chief of Army, has been appointed Governor of Uttarakhand.

Note: Recently, the President of India had accepted the resignation of Baby Rani Maurya as Governor of Uttarakhand.

Punjab:

Banwarilal Purohit, Governor of Tamil Nadu holding additional charge of the Governor of Punjab is appointed as regular Governor of Punjab.

Nagaland:

Jagdish Mukhi, who is presently the governor of Assam, has been appointed to discharge the functions of the governor of Nagaland in addition to his charge till a fresh appointment is made.

Tamil Nadu:

The incumbent Governor of Nagaland, R N Ravi is shifted to Tamil Nadu.

27. Where has been India's first Indigenously Designed High Ash Coal Gasification Based Methanol Production Plant set up?

- A. BHEL Hyderabad
- B. BHEL Bhopal
- C. BHEL Jhansi
- D. BHEL Haridwar

Answer : A

Solution :

BHEL, Hyderabad demonstrated India's first Indigenously Designed High Ash Coal Gasification Based Methanol Production Plant.

Methanol:

It is utilized as a motor fuel, to power ship engines, and to generate clean power all over the world.

Methanol is also used to generate di-methyl ether (DME), a liquid fuel that is very similar to diesel — existing diesel engines simply need to be minimally changed to use DME instead of diesel.

Reason:

The majority of worldwide methanol production is derived from natural gas.

Since India doesn't have much of the natural gas reserves, producing methanol from imported natural gas leads to outflow of foreign exchange and sometimes uneconomical due to excessive prices of natural gas.

The next best option is to utilise India's abundant coal.

To address this issue, BHEL R&D centre at Hyderabad began working on Indian high ash coal gasification in 2016 with support from the NITI Aayog to produce 0.25 ton per day methanol.

With 4 years of hard work BHEL demonstrated a facility to create 0.25 TPD Methanol from high ash Indian coal using a 1.2 TPD Fluidized bed gasifier.

The methanol purity of the crude methanol produced is between 98 and 99.5 percent.

Note: This is part of NITI Aayog's 'Methanol Economy' programme.

28. Who took charge as the Chairman of the National Commission for Minorities?

- A. Vijay Sampla
- B. Jagdish Mukhi
- C. Sardar Iqbal Singh Lalpura

D. Bhagwan Lal Sahni

Answer : C

Solution :

Sardar Iqbal Singh Lalpura took charge as the Chairman of the National Commission for Minorities (NCM).

Sardar Iqbal Singh Lalpura was the former IPS officer from Punjab.

About National Commission for Minorities (NCM):

The Union Government had set up the NCM under the National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992.

Initially five religious communities, namely, Muslims, Sikhs, Christians, Buddhists and Zoroastrians (Parsis) were notified as minority communities by the Union Government. Further, on January 27, 2014, Jains were also notified as another minority community.

29. Consider the following statements regarding the Swachh Survekshan Grameen 2021.

i. The Ministry of Rural Development launched it.

ii. It was launched under the Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) Phase –II.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

A. i only

B. ii only

C. Both i and ii

D. Neither i nor ii

Answer : B

Solution :

The Minister of State, Jal Shakti Ministry, Prahlad Singh Patel launched Swachh Survekshan Grameen (SSG) 2021 under Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) Phase –II.

He also released the SSG 2021 Protocol document; SSG 2021 Dashboard and the mobile App for Citizens feedback.

The Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS) will undertake Swachh Survekshan Grameen 2021.

DDWS had commissioned Swachh Survekshan Grameen on two occasions earlier in 2018 and 2019.

One of the country's largest such survey with around 17,475 villages, it not only gives huge publicity to the programme and ODF Plus goals, but at the same time engages districts and states in enhancing their reputation in sanitation, overall cleanliness and waste management.

About Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) Phase –II:

SBM (G) Phase-II will focus on Open Defecation Free Plus (ODF Plus), which includes ODF sustainability and Solid and Liquid Waste Management (SLWM).

It will be implemented from 2020-21 to 2024-25 with a total outlay of Rs. 1,40,881 crores.

30. India's first Emergency Landing Facility for the Indian Air Force on National Highway has been inaugurated in which state?

A. Rajasthan

B. Bihar

C. Punjab

D. Uttar Pradesh

Answer : A

Solution :

Rajnath Singh, Defence Minister and Nitin Gadkari, Minister for Road Transport and Highways jointly inaugurated Emergency Landing Facility (ELF) for the Indian Air Force at Satta-Gandhav stretch on NH-925A near Barmer, Rajasthan.

This is the first time that a National Highway has been used for emergency landing of aircraft of the Indian Air Force (IAF).

The NHAI has developed the 3 kilometre section as an ELF for the Indian Air Force.

It is part of the newly-developed two-lane paved shoulder of Gagariya-Bakhasar & Satta-Gandhav Section having total length of 196.97 kilometres and costing Rs 765.52 crore under Bharatmala Pariyojana.

The work commenced in July 2019 and was completed in January 2021.

31. When is Hindi Diwas observed?

- A. September 14
- B. September 11
- C. September 24
- D. September 5

Answer : A

Solution :

Hindi Diwas or National Hindi Day is celebrated every year on the 14th of September, to commemorate the adoption of Hindi in Devanagari script as one of the official languages in different Hindi speaking states of India.

History:

On 14 September 1949, Hindi was adopted as the official language in India.

Under Article 343 of the Indian Constitution, Hindi written in Devanagari script was adopted as one of the official languages. In all, there are 22 Scheduled languages of India.

Related Awards:

Rajbhasha Kirti Puraskar and Rajbhasha Gaurav Puraskar

Note: World Hindi Day (Vishwa Hindi Divas)- January 10

32. In September 2021, Mullah Mohammad Hasan Akhund was appointed as the acting Prime Minister of which country?

- A. Bangladesh
- B. Afghanistan
- C. Kuwait
- D. Iran

Answer : B

Solution :

The Taliban named Mullah Mohammad Hasan Akhund as acting Prime Minister of Afghanistan. Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar and Molavi Abdul Salam Hanafi have been appointed as the deputy Prime Ministers of Afghanistan.

Mullah Mohammad Hasan Akhund has been the head of the Taliban's Rehbari Shura or Leadership council, for more than 20 years. He had also served as foreign minister and deputy prime minister during the Taliban's previous government in Afghanistan from 1996 to 2001.

33. Who has been sworn in as the new Chief Minister of Gujarat?

- A. Jagdish Mukhi
- B. Bhupendra Patel
- C. Nitinbhai Patel
- D. Banwarilal Purohit

Answer : B

Solution :

Bhupendra Patel has been sworn-in as the 17th chief minister of Gujarat. Governor Acharya Devvrat administered the oath of office to him at Rajbhavan. Bhupendra Patel is a MLA from the Ghatlodia constituency in Ahmedabad. Bhupendra Patel replaced Vijay Rupani, who unexpectedly stepped down from the chief minister of Gujarat.

34. Consider the following statements regarding the US Open Tennis Championships 2021

- i. Daniil Medvedev defeated Rafael Nadal to win the Men's Singles trophy.
- ii. Emma Raducanu has won the Women's Singles trophy.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. i only
- B. ii only
- C. Both i and ii
- D. Neither i nor ii

Answer : B

Solution :

The 2021 US Open was the 141st edition of the tournament and took place in New York City, New York, United States.

It was the fourth and final Grand Slam event of the year (2021).

List of winners:

Men's singles	Women's singles	Men's doubles	Women's doubles	Mixed doubles
Winner- Daniil Medvedev (Russia)	Winner- Emma Raducanu (Britain)	Winner- Rajeev Ram (America), Joe Salisbury (Britain)	Winner- Samantha Stosur (Australia), Zhang Shuai (China)	Winner- Desirae Krawczyk (America), Joe Salisbury (Britain)
Runner-up- Novak Djokovic (Serbia)	Runner-up- Leylah Fernandez (Canada)	Runner-up- Bruno Soares (Brazil), Jamie Murray (Britain)	Runner-up- Coco Gauff (America), Caty McNally (America)	Runner-up- Giuliana Olmos (Mexico), Marcelo Arevalo (El Salvador)

35. In September 2021, India's largest open-air fernery was inaugurated in which state?

- A. Arunachal Pradesh
- B. Uttarakhand
- C. Sikkim
- D. Himachal Pradesh

Answer : B

Solution :

India's largest open-air fernery was inaugurated in Uttarakhand's Ranikhet.

About the Ranikhet fernery:

The fernery has the largest collection of fern species, second to only Jawaharlal Nehru Tropical Botanical Garden and Research Institute (TBGRI), Thiruvananthapuram.

However, it is the country's first open-air fernery in natural surroundings which is not under any poly-house/ shade house.

The fernery spreads over 4 acres of land at an altitude of 1,800 metres.

It has been developed by the Research Wing of Uttarakhand Forest Department over a period of three years, under Central Government's CAMPA scheme.

About CAMPA (Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority): The CAMPA by the Ministry of Environment and Forests was introduced in 2004 to accelerate activities for the preservation of natural forests, management of wildlife, infrastructure development in forests, and other allied works.

The Ranikhet fernery has 120 different types of fern.

The fernery has a mix of species from the western Himalayan region, the eastern Himalayan region, and the Western Ghats.

It houses several rare species, including Tree Fern, a threatened species by the State Biodiversity Board of Uttarakhand.

About Ferns:

Ferns are non-flowering pteridophytes.

They have medicinal and edible purposes. Ferns clean the ecosystem and are good nitrogen fixating agents.

Note: Recently, India's first cryptogamic garden was inaugurated in July 2021 in Uttarakhand's Dehradun district

36. Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently inaugurated Sardardham Bhavan in which state?

- A. Uttar Pradesh
- B. Punjab
- C. Gujarat
- D. Madhya Pradesh

Answer : C

Solution :

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated Sardardham Bhavan at Ahmedabad in Gujarat.

He has also laid the foundation stone of Sardardham Phase-II Kanya Chhatralay (Girls' Hostel).

Sardardham Bhavan has been developed by Patidar Samaj.

Sardardham has been working towards educational & social transformation, upliftment of weaker sections of society and providing employment opportunities to the youth.

37. Which ministry has launched the 'Bujurgon ki Baat–Desh Ke Saath' program?

- A. Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare
- B. Ministry of Jal Shakti
- C. Ministry of Culture
- D. Ministry of Women and Child Development

Answer : C

Solution :

Union Minister of Culture Gangapuram Kishan Reddy launched the book “Gita Govinda: Jaydeva’s Divine Odyssey” written by Padma Shri Dr. Utpal K. Banerjee and program 'Bujurgon ki Baat–Desh Ke Saath' in New Delhi.

About 'Bujurgon ki Baat–Desh Ke Saath' Programme:

The programme aims at enhancing the interaction between the youth and the elder persons who are 95 years and above and thus have spent around 18 years in India before independence.

About “Gita Govinda: Jaydeva’s Divine Odyssey” Book:

Gita Govinda was originally written by 12th century poet Jayadeya.

It describes the relationship between Krishna and Radha.

38. Consider the following statements regarding the INS Dhruv.

- i. It is India’s first satellite and nuclear missile tracking ship.
- ii. It was built by the Hindustan Shipyard Ltd.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A. i only
- B. ii only
- C. Both i and ii
- D. Neither i nor ii

Answer : C

Solution :

India has launched its first satellite and nuclear missile tracking ship INS Dhruv in Visakhapatnam.

About INS Dhruv:

INS Dhruv, with its anti-ballistic missile capabilities, will act as an early warning system for enemy missiles headed towards Indian cities and military establishments.

It is India's first naval vessel that is capable of tracking nuclear missiles at a long range, which assumes a special significance with an increasing threat of nuclear ballistic warfare in the Indo-Pacific region.

It was built by the Hindustan Shipyard Ltd. in collaboration with the National Technical Research Organisation (NTRO) and the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

Note: India now joins an elite list of countries that presently consists of only France, the US, the UK, Russia, and China, who possess and operate such vessels.

39. When is the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer observed?

- A. September 16
- B. September 18

- C. September 11
- D. September 26

Answer : A

Solution :

September 16 was designated by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) as the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer.

The theme for 2021 is 'Montreal Protocol – keeping us, our food and vaccines cool'.

The ozone layer, a fragile shield of gas, protects the Earth from the harmful portion of the rays of the sun, thus helping preserve life on the planet.

Background:

On 19 December 1994, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 16 September the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer, commemorating the date, in 1987, on which the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer was signed.

40. Which organisation has been awarded the Africa Food Prize 2021?

- A. Indian Institute of Sugarcane Research, Lucknow
- B. International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics, Hyderabad
- C. National Centre for Agricultural Economics and Policy Research, New Delhi
- D. Central Island Agricultural Research Institute , Port Blair

Answer : B

Solution :

Hyderabad-based International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) has been awarded the Africa Food Prize 2021 for improving food security in sub-Saharan Africa. Africa Food Prize 2021 was awarded at the Africa Forum for Green Revolution 2021 Summit in Nairobi, Kenya.

ICRISAT got the award for the Tropical Legumes Project that has improved food security across 13 countries in sub-Saharan Africa.

About ICRISAT: It is a non-profit, non-political public international research organization that conducts agricultural research for development in Asia and sub-Saharan Africa with a wide array of partners throughout the world.

41. Who is the author of the book 'Human Rights and Terrorism in India'?

- A. Piyush Goyal
- B. Bipin Rawat
- C. Subramanian Swamy
- D. Ajit Doval
- E. None of the above/ More than one of the above

Answer : C

Solution :

A book titled 'Human Rights and Terrorism in India' authored by Rajya Sabha member Subramanian Swamy, has been released.

The book traces how the combating of terrorism can be harmonised with human and fundamental rights within reasonable restrictions that is permitted by the Constitution and upheld by the Supreme Court.

42. India has launched the “Climate Action and Finance Mobilization Dialogue (CAFMD)” with which country?

- A. United Kingdom
- B. France
- C. Australia
- D. United States

Answer : D

Solution :

India and the United States (USA) launched the “Climate Action and Finance Mobilization Dialogue (CAFMD)”.

The CAFMD is one of the two tracks of the India-U.S. Climate and Clean Energy Agenda 2030 partnership launched at the Leaders' Summit on Climate in April 2021, by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Joe Biden.

Earlier, the revamped U.S.-India Strategic Clean Energy Partnership (SCEP) (first track) was launched.

The dialogue was launched by Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Bhupender Yadav and John Kerry, U.S. Special Presidential Envoy for Climate in New Delhi.

The dialogue will help to demonstrate how the world can align swift climate action with inclusive and resilient economic development, taking into account national circumstances and sustainable development priorities.

Note:

The launch was preceded by a bilateral meet where both sides discussed at length a wide range of climate issues relating to COP26, Climate Ambition, Climate Finance, Global Climate Initiatives including International Solar Alliance, Agriculture Innovation Mission for Climate (AIM4C).

Currently India's installed power capacity is projected to be 476 GW by 2021-22 and is expected to rise to at least 817 GW by 2030.

43. Which country hosted the 6th edition of SCO Peaceful Mission Exercise 2021?

- A. Russia
- B. India
- C. China
- D. Kazakhstan

Answer : A

Solution :

The Indian military contingent comprising of an all arms combined force of 200 personnel to include 38 personnel from the Indian Air Force is participating in the 6th edition of SCO Peaceful Mission Exercise 2021.

The Exercise is being hosted by Russia in the Orenburg Region of South-West Russia from 13 to 25 September 2021.

About SCO Peaceful Mission Exercise:

Joint Counter Terrorism Exercise Peaceful Mission is a Multilateral Exercise, which is conducted biennially as part of military diplomacy between Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) member states.

The aim is to foster close relations between SCO member states and to enhance abilities of the military leaders to command multi-national military contingents.

Facts about Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO):

SCO or Shanghai Pact is a Eurasian political, economic and security alliance.

Formed: 15 June 2001

Members: China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, India & Pakistan.

Headquarter: Beijing, China

44. Who has been appointed as the mentor of the Indian national team for the T20 World Cup 2021?

- A. Sachin Tendulkar
- B. MS Dhoni
- C. Kapil Dev
- D. Saurav Ganguly
- E. None of the above/ More than one of the above

Answer : B

Solution :

BCCI has appointed MS Dhoni as the mentor of the Indian national team for the T20 World Cup 2021.

T20 World Cup is scheduled to be played in Oman and the UAE from October 17 to November 14.

Notably, India last won an ICC trophy back in 2013 when they defeated England in the final of the Champions Trophy, under the leadership of Dhoni.

Dhoni remains the only captain to win all three major ICC tournaments – the Champions Trophy, T20 World Cup and 50-over World Cup.

45. Lasith Malinga has announced his retirement from all forms of cricket. He played for which country?

- A. Pakistan
- B. Bangladesh
- C. Sri Lanka
- D. South Africa

Answer : C

Solution :

Sri Lanka fast bowler Lasith Malinga announced his retirement from all forms of cricket, ending a decorated 16-year international career that began in 2004.

Malinga had already ended his Test and ODI career, and by announcing his decision to step away from T20 cricket, He marked his retirement from all forms.

Malinga played 30 Tests, 226 ODIs and 84 T20Is for Sri Lanka in which he picked 546 wickets (101 in Tests, 338 in ODIs and 107 in T20Is) across formats.

46. Consider the following statements regarding the SIMBEX 2021

- i. It was a maritime bilateral exercise between Sri Lanka and India.
- ii. It was held in the southern fringes of the South China Sea.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A. i only
- B. ii only
- C. Both i and ii
- D. Neither i nor ii

Answer : B

Solution :

The 28th edition of Singapore-India Maritime Bilateral Exercise (SIMBEX) was conducted from 02 to 04 Sep 2021.

Owing to the ongoing pandemic-related constraints, this year's SIMBEX was planned without any physical interactions as an 'at-sea only' exercise hosted by the Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN) in the southern fringes of the South China Sea.

The Indian Navy was represented by Guided Missile Destroyer INS Ranvijay with a ship borne helicopter, ASW Corvette INS Kiltan and Guided Missile Corvette INS Kora and one P8I Long Range Maritime Patrol Aircraft.

About Singapore-India Maritime Bilateral Exercise (SIMBEX):

SIMBEX is an annual bilateral naval exercise conducted by the Indian Navy and the Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN).

The exercise has been held annually since 1994.

Both navies have a representation in each other's Maritime Information Fusion Centres and have also recently signed an agreement on mutual submarine rescue support and coordination.

47. Which has released the 'Atlas of Mortality and Economic Losses from Weather, Climate and Water Extremes (1970 – 2019)' report?

- A. United Nations Environment Programme
- B. International Maritime Organization
- C. World Meteorological Organization
- D. World Economic Forum

Answer : C

Solution :

According to the WMO 'Atlas of Mortality and Economic Losses from Weather, Climate and Water Extremes (1970 – 2019)' report, weather disasters killed 2 million in the last 50 years.

WMO (World Meteorological Organization) is a specialized agency of the United Nations responsible for promoting international cooperation on atmospheric science, climatology, hydrology and geophysics.

Findings of the Report:

The number of disasters has increased by a factor of five over the 50 year period, driven by climate change, more extreme weather and improved reporting.

Due to improved early warnings and disaster management, the number of deaths decreased almost three-fold from 1970 to 2019.

From 1970 to 2019, weather, climate and water hazards accounted for 50% of all disasters, 45% of all reported deaths and 74% of all reported economic losses.

More than 91% of these deaths occurred in developing countries.

During the 50 year period, US\$ 202 million dollars in damage occurred on average every day.

Economic losses have increased sevenfold from the 1970s to the 2010s.

Storms were the most prevalent cause of damage, resulting in the largest economic losses around the globe.

Failure of Sendai Framework:

The failure to reduce disaster losses as set out in the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction adopted by UN Member States in 2015 is putting at risk the ability of developing countries to eradicate poverty and to achieve other important SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals).

48. Which state has recently launched the e-ILP platform to regulate entry, exit and tracking of visitors?

- A. Uttar Pradesh
- B. Meghalaya
- C. Karnataka
- D. Manipur

Answer : D

Solution :

Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh launched the e-ILP platform for effective regulation of the Inner Line Permit (ILP) system in the state.

The ILP system came into effect in Manipur on January 1, 2020.

Manipur issues 4 different categories of permissions: temporary, regular, special, and labour permits.

About Inner Line Permit (ILP):

ILP is a document that Indian citizens from other states are required to possess in order to enter states like Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Nagaland and Manipur.

e-ILP platform will play a vital role in regulating the entry, exit and tracking of visitors.

e-ILP platform has a comprehensive dashboard system that actively shows varied information such as number of people entering the state on a particular day and time and a graphical break-up-based presentation of people visiting through different entry gates.

An Inner Line Permit Monitoring Cell with DIG (Intelligence) as its chairman had been set up to ensure proper reading of entry and exit and to track over stay.

49. Which one is not the recipient of the Ramon Magsaysay Award 2021?

- A. Firdausi Qadri
- B. Roberto Ballon
- C. Shuggie Bain
- D. Muhammad Amjad Saqib

Answer : C

Solution :

Recently, the 63rd Ramon Magsaysay Award 2021 was announced.

List of Ramon Magsaysay Award 2021 Awardees:

Dr. Firdausi Qadri, Bangladesh (Affordable Vaccine Champion)
Roberto Ballon, Philippines (Fisherman, Community Environmentalist)
Steven Muncy, Southeast Asia (Humanitarian, Peace Builder)
Muhammad Amjad Saqib, Pakistan (Poverty Alleviation Visionary)
Watchdoc, Indonesia (Media Truth Crusaders)

About Ramon Magsaysay Award:

It was established in April 1957 and is regarded as the Asian version of the Nobel Prize.

The award is named after Ramon Magsaysay, the third president of the Republic of the Philippines after World War II.

The Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation gives the prize to Asian individuals achieving excellence in their respective fields.

The Award is presented in a formal ceremony in Manila, Philippines on August 31st each year.

50. Which of the following countries are the first new members of the New Development Bank (NDB)?

- i. United Arab Emirates
- ii. Uruguay
- iii. Bhutan
- iv. Bangladesh

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- A. i and iv only
- B. i, ii and iv only
- C. i, ii and iii only
- D. ii, iii and iv only

Answer : B

Solution :

The New Development Bank (NDB) has admitted the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Uruguay and Bangladesh as the first batch of new members as part of its expansion drive.

New Development Bank has initiated its membership expansion and started formal negotiations with prospective members in late 2020.

After a round of successful negotiations, NDB approved the admission of the UAE, Uruguay and Bangladesh as its first new member countries.

New members will have in NDB a platform to foster their cooperation in infrastructure and sustainable development.

About New Development Bank (NDB):

It is a multilateral development bank established by the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) countries.

It is headquartered in Shanghai, China.

On 15 July 2014, the first day of the 6th BRICS summit held in Fortaleza, Brazil, the BRICS states signed the Agreement on the New Development Bank.

Authorized Capital: NDB has an authorized capital of US\$ 100 billion, which is open for subscription by members of the United Nations.

Since the beginning of its operations, the bank approved about 80 projects in all of its members, totalling a portfolio of USD 30 billion.

Projects: Projects in areas such as transport, water and sanitation, clean energy, digital infrastructure, social infrastructure and urban development are within the scope of the bank.

51. Consider the following statements regarding the Rajiv Gandhi Orang National Park.

i. The Assam Cabinet has recently decided to drop former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's name from the Orang National Park.

ii. It was upgraded to a national park in 1999.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

A. i only

B. ii only

C. Both i and ii

D. Neither i nor ii

Answer : C

Solution :

The Assam Cabinet has decided to drop former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's name from the Orang National Park.

Now the Rajiv Gandhi Orang National Park will be known as the Orang National Park.

The decision to restore the original name of Orang National Park was taken following requests from the Adivasi groups in the State.

About Orang National Park:

Situated about 120 km north-east of Guwahati, the 79.28 sq. km Orang is one of Assam's seven national parks and among the top three rhino habitats.

It also has one of the highest density of tigers in the country.

Orang was declared a wildlife sanctuary in 1985 and was upgraded to a national park in 1999.

It became the Rajiv Gandhi Orang National Park during the Congress government headed by Tarun Gogoi.

The national park was declared a Tiger Reserve by the National Tiger Conservation Authority in March 2016.

Note: Assam currently has seven national parks: Kaziranga, Manas, Orang, Nameri, Dibru-Saikhowa and more recently, Raimona and Dehing Patkai.

52. Which has released the 'State of the World's Trees Report 2021'?

A. World Meteorological Organization

B. World Wide Fund for Nature

C. Botanic Gardens Conservation International

D. United Nations Environment Programme

Answer : C

Solution :

Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI) launched the State of the World's Trees Report 2021.

Almost a third of the world's tree species are at risk of extinction, while hundreds are on the brink of being wiped out.

According to the State of the World's Trees report 17,500 tree species – some 30% of the total – are at risk of extinction, while 440 species have fewer than 50 individuals left in the wild.

Among the most at-risk trees are species including magnolias and dipterocarps – which are commonly found in Southeast Asian rainforests. Oak trees, maple trees and ebonies also face threats.

Thousands of varieties of trees in the world's top 6 countries for tree-species diversity are at risk of extinction. The greatest single number is in Brazil. The other 5 countries are Indonesia, Malaysia, China, Colombia and Venezuela.

The top three threats facing tree species are crop production, timber logging and livestock farming, while climate change and extreme weather are emerging threats.

Need of saving Trees:

Trees help support the natural ecosystem and are considered vital for combating global warming and climate change.

They store 50% of the world's terrestrial carbon and provide a buffer from extreme weather, such hurricanes and tsunamis.

53. Who has been appointed as the chairman of the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)?

- A. Dinesh Kumar Khara
- B. J B Mohapatra
- C. Swati Bansal
- D. G R Chintala

Answer : B

Solution :

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the appointment of J B Mohapatra, as chairman, Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT).

He has been holding the additional charge of CBDT chairman since May 31, 2021 after the extended tenure of incumbent P C Mody had ended.

Mohapatra, a 1985-batch Indian Revenue Service (Income Tax) officer, is currently the member in the board that frames the policy for the Income Tax department.

54. Who has become the first Indian woman to win a Gold medal at the Paralympics Games?

- A. Deepa Malik
- B. Bhavinaben Patel
- C. Avani Lekhara
- D. Swati Narang

Answer : C

Solution :

Tokyo 2020 Paralympics Games

Place: Tokyo, Japan (24 August- 5 September 2021)

16th Paralympics Mascot: Someity

India at Tokyo Paralympics:

India's flag bearers in the opening ceremony- Tek Chand (Shot-putter)

India's flag bearers in the closing ceremony- Avani Lekhara (Shooter)

Rank	Countries	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	China	96	60	51	207
2	Britain	41	38	45	124
3	United States	37	36	31	104
4	India	5	8	6	19

India's performance:

Avani Lekhara won the Gold Medal in Shooting. She became the first Indian woman to win a Gold medal at the Paralympics Games. She is only the Indian to win multiple medals in a single edition of the Games (1 Gold, 1 Bronze in Shooting in Tokyo 2020 Paralympics Games).

Sumit Antil won the Gold medal in Javelin throw.

Pramod Bhagat won the Gold Medal in Badminton.

Manish Narwal won the Gold Medal in Shooting.

Krishna Nagar won the Gold Medal in Badminton.

55. Indian para-athlete Sumit Antil has won Gold medal in which event at the Tokyo 2020 Paralympics Games?

- A. Javelin throw
- B. Long Jump
- C. Shot put
- D. Discuss throw

Answer : A

Solution :

Tokyo 2020 Paralympics Games

Place: Tokyo, Japan (24 August- 5 September 2021)

16th Paralympics Mascot: Someity

India at Tokyo Paralympics:

India's flag bearers in the opening ceremony- Tek Chand (Shot-putter)

India's flag bearers in the closing ceremony- Avani Lekhara (Shooter)

Rank	Countries	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	China	96	60	51	207
2	Britain	41	38	45	124
3	United States	37	36	31	104
4	India	5	8	6	19

India's performance:

Avani Lekhara won the Gold Medal in Shooting. She became the first Indian woman to win a Gold medal at the Paralympics Games. She is only the Indian to win multiple medals in a single edition of the Games (1 Gold, 1 Bronze in Shooting in Tokyo 2020 Paralympics Games).

Sumit Antil won the Gold medal in Javelin throw.

Pramod Bhagat won the Gold Medal in Badminton.

Manish Narwal won the Gold Medal in Shooting.

Krishna Nagar won the Gold Medal in Badminton.

56. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding the Karbi Anglong Agreement?

- i. It is a tripartite agreement among five insurgent groups of Arunachal Pradesh, the Centre and the State government.
 - ii. Rs. 1000 crores over five years will be given by the government to undertake specific projects for the development of Karbi areas.
 - iii. Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council is constituted under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution of India.
- A. ii only
B. i and ii only
C. ii and iii only
D. i, ii and iii

Answer : C

Solution :

A tripartite agreement 'Karbi Anglong Agreement' among five insurgent groups of Assam, the Centre and the State government was signed to end years of violence in the Karbi Anglong region.

It was signed in the presence of Union Home Minister, Amit Shah.

The Karbi Agreement is another milestone in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of "Insurgency free prosperous North East".

Highlights of the Karbi-Anglong Agreement:

The insurgent groups which signed the peace accord include Karbi Longri North Cachar Hills Liberation Front (KLNLF), People's Democratic Council of Karbi Longri (PDCK), United People's Liberation Army (UPLA), Karbi People's Liberation Tigers (KPLT) and the Kuki Liberation Front (KLF).

With this historic agreement, over 1000 armed cadres have abjured violence and joined the mainstream of society.

A Special Development Package of Rs. 1000 crores over five years will be given by the Union Government and Assam Government to undertake specific projects for the development of Karbi areas.

This Memorandum of Settlement will ensure greater devolution of autonomy to the Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council (KAAC), protection of identity, language, culture, etc. of Karbi people and focused development of the Council area, without affecting the territorial and administrative integrity of Assam.

The Assam government shall set up a Karbi Welfare Council for focused development of Karbi people living outside the KAAC area.

About Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council (KAAC):

It is an autonomous district council in the state of Assam for development and protection of tribals living in areas namely Karbi Anglong and West Karbi Anglong district.

The council is constituted under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution of India and administratively functions under the Government of Assam.

57. The INSPIRE Awards – MANAK is constituted / given by which Ministry?

- A. Ministry of Education
B. Ministry of Commerce and Industry
C. Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports
D. Ministry of Science and Technology

E. None of the above/ More than one of the above

Answer : D

Solution :

The 8th National Level Exhibition and Project Competition (NLEPC) for the INSPIRE Awards – MANAK (Million Minds Augmenting National Aspiration and Knowledge), has commenced. It is showcasing the innovative ideas from 581 students representing various States and UTs of the country.

About The INSPIRE Awards - MANAK scheme:

The INSPIRE Awards - MANAK scheme is aligned with the 'Start-up India'.

It aims to motivate students in the age group of 10-15 years and studying in classes 6 to 10 to become future innovators and critical thinkers.

About INSPIRE scheme:

Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research (INSPIRE) was approved by the Government of India for implementation through the Department of Science & Technology to promote science and attract talents for pursuing career in research.

It was launched by the Prime Minister on 31st December, 2008.

The INSPIRE Scheme has included three programs and five components.

Three programs:

i) Scheme for Early Attraction of Talents for Science (SEATS)

ii) Scholarship for Higher Education (SHE)

iii) Assured Opportunity for Research Careers (AORC)

Five components:

i) INSPIRE Awards - MANAK

ii) INSPIRE Internship

iii) INSPIRE Scholarship

iv) INSPIRE Fellowship

v) INSPIRE Faculty

58. Which country has recently declared an economic emergency?

A. Pakistan

B. Sudan

C. Bangladesh

D. Sri Lanka

Answer : D

Solution :

The President of Sri Lanka Gotabaya Rajapaksa had declared an economic emergency due to rapidly depleting forex reserves, depreciating currency, and rising food prices in the country.

The emergency was declared under the Public Security Ordinance to prevent the hoarding of essential items, including sugar and rice.

Reasons for Sri Lankan Economic Crisis:

Sri Lanka during the COVID-19 pandemic suffered a severe setback in its tourism industry which contributes to over 10 percent of the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and brings in foreign exchange.

Due to the depletion in the forex reserves, the country had to increase the amount of money to purchase the foreign exchange to import goods. This increase has led to the depreciation of the Sri Lankan rupee by approximately 8 percent so far in 2021.

Since Sri Lanka heavily relies on imports to fulfill the basic food supplies in the country, the depreciating currency has further led to a rise in the price of food items.

The ban on the use of chemical fertilizers in farming by the government has led to a reduction in the agricultural production sector.

Measures Taken Under Economic Emergency Crisis:

The Sri Lankan government has ascertained that the rise in food prices is due to speculators hoarding essential supplies.

The government has appointed a former Army General as Commissioner of essential services who is authorized to seize food stocks held by traders and retailers and regulate their prices.

The army has also been given powers to ensure that forex reserves be used only for the purchase of essential goods.

59. The 12th edition of DefExpo will be held in which state?

- A. Uttar Pradesh
- B. Gujarat
- C. Karnataka
- D. Rajasthan

Answer : B

Solution :

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani jointly reviewed the preparations of DefExpo-2022, at Kevadia, Gujarat.

A memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed between the Ministry of Defence and Gujarat Government for organising DefExpo-2022.

The 12th edition of DefExpo will be held in Gandhinagar, Gujarat between March 10 and 13, 2022.

About DefExpo-2022:

DefExpo is India's flagship event showcasing the land, naval, air as well as homeland security systems.

The aim is to build upon the vision to achieve 'Aatmanirbharta' in defence and reach USD 5 billion defence exports target by 2024.

Note: The previous edition (11th) of DefExpo was held at Uttar Pradesh capital Lucknow in February 2020.

60. When is International Literacy Day observed?

- A. September 5
- B. September 18
- C. September 8
- D. September 14

Answer : C

Solution :

International Literacy Day (ILD) 2021 is an international observance, celebrated each year on 8 September.

The theme of ILD 2021 is “Literacy for a human-centred recovery: Narrowing the digital divide”.

History:

8th September was proclaimed International Literacy Day by UNESCO in 1966 to remind the international community of the importance of literacy for individuals, communities and societies. The issue of literacy is a key component of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals and the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The UN's Sustainable Development Agenda, adopted by world leaders in September 2015, promotes universal access to quality education and learning opportunities throughout people's lives.

Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4 has as one of its targets ensuring all young people achieve literacy and numeracy and that adults, who lack these skills are given the opportunity to acquire them.

Recent Facts:

773 million adults and young people lack basic literacy skills.

617 million children and adolescents are not achieving minimum proficiency levels in reading and mathematics.

61. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding the ‘Shikshak Parv 2021’?

- i. The Ministry of Education is celebrating ‘Shikshak Parv 2021’ from September 5-14
- ii. Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the inaugural conclave of ‘Shikshak Parv 2021’
- iii. He also launched the 9 initiatives in the Education Sector on the occasion.

- A. ii only
- B. i and ii only
- C. ii and iii only
- D. i, ii and iii

Answer : A

Solution :

Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the inaugural conclave of Shikshak Parv 2021.

He also launched multiple key initiatives in the Education Sector on the occasion.

The Ministry of Education is celebrating Shikshak Parv, 2021 from September 5-17 in recognition of the valuable contributions of teachers and to take National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 a step forward.

The theme of ‘Shikshak Parv-2021’ is “Quality and Sustainable Schools: Learnings from Schools in India”.

Five Initiatives launched by Prime Minister:

- i. Indian Sign Language dictionary of 10,000 words (audio and text embedded sign language video for the hearing impaired, in conformity with Universal Design of Learning)
- ii. Talking Books (audio books for visually impaired)
- iii. School Quality Assurance and Assessment Framework (S.Q.A.A.F.) of CBSE
- iv. NISHTHA teachers' training programme for NIPUN Bharat

NISHTHA (National Initiative for School Heads' and Teachers' Holistic Advancement) is a capacity building programme for "Improving Quality of School Education through Integrated Teacher Training".

NIPUN (National Initiative for Proficiency in Reading with Understanding and Numeracy) Bharat was launched to ensure that every child in the country necessarily attains foundational literacy and numeracy by the end of Grade 3, by 2026-27.

v. Vidyanjali 2.0 portal (For facilitating education volunteers/ donors/ CSR contributors for school development)

Note:

National Teachers' Day: 05th September

President Ram Nath Kovind on National Teachers' Day (05th September 2021) conferred the National Teachers' Awards on 44 teachers.

World Teachers' day: 05th October

62. In September 2021, Royal Australian Navy and Indian Navy conducted which edition of the bilateral exercise – 'AUSINDEX'?

- A. 4th
- B. 7th
- C. 3rd
- D. 6th

Answer : A

Solution :

The Royal Australian Navy (RAN) and Indian Navy (IN) conduct the 4th edition of bilateral exercise – 'AUSINDEX' in Australia from 06 to 10 September, 2021.

Indian Navy Task Group comprising *IN Ships Shivalik* and *Kadmatt* participated in the exercise. From Australia, Royal Australian Navy Anzac Class Frigate, *HMAS Warramunga* participated. The exercise will provide an opportunity for both Navies to further bolster inter-operability, gain from best practices and develop a common understanding of procedures for Maritime Security Operations.

The exercise is a true representation of Joint Guidance signed by the Chief of the Naval Staff, IN and Chief of Navy, RAN on 18 Aug 2021.

This important document is aligned to the '2020 Comprehensive Strategic Partnership' between the two nations and aims to further consolidate shared commitment to regional and global security challenges promoting peace, security and stability in the Indo-Pacific region.

Note: Commenced in 2015 as a bilateral IN-RAN maritime exercise, AUSINDEX has grown in complexity over the years and the 3rd edition of the exercise, held in 2019 in the Bay of Bengal.

63. In September 2021, the President of India presented the President's Colour to which of the following?

- A. INS Tabar
- B. DRDO
- C. Naval Aviation
- D. Naval Science & Technological Laboratory

Answer : C

Solution :

Shri Ram Nath Kovind, President of India and the Supreme Commander of Indian Armed Forces, presented the President's Colour to Indian Naval Aviation at INS Hansa, Goa.

Award of the President's Colour to Indian Naval Aviation, is in recognition of the yeoman service rendered both during peace and combat.

The Naval Aviation arm came into being with acquisition of the first *Sealand* aircraft on 13 Jan 1951 and commissioning of INS Garuda, at Kochi on 11 May 1953.

Today, Naval Aviation boasts of nine Air Stations and three Naval Air Enclaves, along the Indian coastline and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Over the past seven decades, it has transformed into a modern, technologically advanced and highly potent force, with more than 250 aircraft.

About President's Colour:

It is bestowed on a military unit, in recognition of exceptional service rendered to the Nation, both in peace and in war.

The Indian Navy was the first Indian Armed Force, to receive the President's Colour, from Dr Rajendra Prasad, the then President of India on 27 May 1951.

64. Which State/UTs has got its first pollen calendar?

- A. Uttar Pradesh
- B. Chandigarh
- C. Kerala
- D. Delhi

Answer : B

Solution :

Chandigarh now has its first pollen calendar, which can identify potential allergy triggers and provide a clear understanding for clinicians as well as allergy sufferers about their causes to help limit their exposure during high pollen loads.

PGIMER, Chandigarh developed the first Pollen Calendar for Chandigarh city.

About Pollen calendars:

Pollen calendars represent the time dynamics of airborne pollen present in a particular geographical area.

They yield readily accessible visual details about various airborne pollen taxa present throughout the year, with their seasonality in a single picture.

Pollen calendars are location-specific, with concentrations closely related to locally distributed flora.

Note: Europe, UK and the US are using regional pollen calendars in a big way to prevent and diagnose allergic rhinitis/hay fever and predict the timing and severity of the pollen season.

About Pollen:

Pollen grains are male biological structures with the primary role of fertilisation, but when inhaled by humans, they may strain the respiratory system and cause allergies.

About 20-30% of the population suffers from allergic rhinitis/hay fever in India, and approximately 15% develop asthma.

Pollen is considered major outdoor airborne allergens responsible for allergic rhinitis, asthma, and atopic dermatitis in humans.

65. Which state government has announced to set up India's first Dugong Conservation Reserve?

- A. Maharashtra
- B. Tamil Nadu
- C. Kerala
- D. Gujarat
- E. None of the above/ More than one of the above

Answer : B

Solution :

The Tamil Nadu government announced to set up India's first Dugong Conservation Reserve in the Palk Bay in Tamil Nadu.

About Dugong:

Dugong, also called the sea cow, is a marine mammal.

They can grow up to three meters long, weigh about 300 kilograms, and live for about 65 to 70 years.

Dugong is listed as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.

They are found in over 30 countries and in India are seen in the Gulf of Mannar, Gulf of Kutch, Palk Bay, and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Note: Marine Conservation Reserve will be established over an area of 500km in Palk Bay.

66. In which city, Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Bhupender Yadav has inaugurated the first functional smog tower?

- A. Lucknow
- B. Jaipur
- C. Delhi
- D. Kanpur

Answer : C

Solution :

Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Bhupender Yadav launched the "PRANA" – Portal for Regulation of Air-pollution in Non-Attainment cities under the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) on the occasion of the International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies (September 7).

He also inaugurated the first functional smog tower in India at Anand Vihar, Delhi. The tower has been built by Tata Projects Limited with NBCC (India) Ltd. as the project management consultant.

Earlier, India's Tallest Air Purifier was inaugurated in Chandigarh and a Smog Tower was also installed in Delhi's Connaught Place.

67. On whose 125th Birth Anniversary, Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently released a special commemorative coin?

- A. Swami Dayananda Saraswati
- B. Sri Sri Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada
- C. Uppuluri Ganapathi Sastry
- D. Swami Vidya Prakashananda Giri

Answer : B

Solution :

Prime Minister Narendra Modi released a special commemorative coin on the occasion of the 125th Birth Anniversary of ISKCON founder Srila Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada.

Srila Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada founded the ISKCON (International Society for Krishna Consciousness) commonly known as the “Hare Krishna movement”.

He also established over a hundred temples and wrote several books, teaching the path of Bhakti Yoga to the world.

ISKCON has translated Shrimad Bhagvad Geeta and other Vedic literature in 89 languages, playing a stellar role in the dissemination of Vedic literature across the world.

68. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding the First edition of North Eastern Region (NER) District SDG Index 2021–22?

i. NITI Aayog released it.

ii. It measures the performance of the districts of the 6 States.

iii. East Sikkim ranks first in the region.

A. i only

B. i and iii only

C. ii and iii only

D. i, ii and iii

Answer : B

Solution :

NITI Aayog released the first edition of the North Eastern Region (NER) District SDG Index Report and Dashboard 2021–22.

It is designed and developed by the NITI Aayog in collaboration with the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) with technical support from United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

About NER District SDG Index:

The Index measures the performance of the districts of the 8 States of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and their corresponding targets and ranks the districts based on the same.

It is based on NITI Aayog’s SDG India Index – the principal and official tool for monitoring progress on SDGs at the national, State, and Union Territory level.

It offers insights into the social, economic, and environmental status of the region and its districts in their march towards achieving the SDGs.

Overall Results and Findings:

Out of the 103 districts considered for ranking, 64 districts belonged to the Front Runner category while 39 districts were in the Performer category in the composite score and ranking of districts.

All districts in Sikkim and Tripura fall in the Front Runner category and there are no districts in the Aspirant or Achiever categories.

East Sikkim (Score 75.87) ranks first in the region followed by districts Gomati and North Tripura (Score 75.73) in the second position.

The score for the 103 districts ranges from 53.00 in Kiphire to 75.87 in East Sikkim.

69. Name the exercise that was held in August 2021 among the Navies of India, the United States, Japan, and Australia off the coast of Guam in the Pacific Ocean.

- A. JIMEX
- B. SANGAM
- C. Yudha Abhyas
- D. Malabar

Answer : D

Solution :

Navies of the 4 member nations of the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad) — India, the United States, Japan, and Australia participated in the ‘Malabar Exercise 2021’ (August 26-29, 2021), which began off the coast of Guam in the Pacific Ocean.

This year marks the 25th edition of Exercise Malabar, hosted by the US Navy.

Navies are: Indian Navy (IN), US Navy (USN), Japanese Maritime Self Defence Force (JMSDF) and the Royal Australian Navy (RAN).

About Exercise Malabar:

Malabar is a multilateral war-gaming naval exercise that was started in 1992 as a bilateral exercise between the navies of India and the United States.

Japan and Australia first participated in 2007, and since 2014, India, the US and Japan have participated in the exercise every year.

The 2020 edition witnessed participation of the Royal Australian Navy.

Malabar 2020:

Last year, the exercise was conducted in two phases — the first off the coast of Visakhapatnam in the Bay of Bengal, and then in the Arabian Sea.

70. The 7th meeting of the BRICS Environment Ministerial was held under the chair of which country?

- A. Brazil
- B. China
- C. India
- D. Russia
- E. None of the above/More than one of the above

Answer : C

Solution :

The 7th meeting of the BRICS Environment Ministerial was held under the chair of India.

BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) brings together the major emerging economies of the world, hosting 41% of the world population, contributing 24% of the world GDP and over 16% share in world trade.

About the meeting:

Chairing the Meeting, Bhupender Yadav, Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change stated that 2021 is a very crucial year not only for the BRICS but for the whole world as well, as we have UN Biodiversity COP 15 in October 2021 and UNFCCC COP 26 in November 2021.

BRICS Countries can play a very significant role in addressing the contemporary global challenges of climate change, biodiversity loss, air pollution, marine plastic litter, etc.

Referring to the recent findings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Working Group 1 contribution to the Sixth Assessment Report “Climate Change 2021: The Physical Science”, the report has given enough, may be the last signal, for taking concrete collective global actions against Global environmental and climate challenges.

New Delhi Statement on Environment:

In the Meeting, the Environment Ministers adopted the New Delhi Statement on Environment, which is also aimed at furthering the spirit of Cooperation for Continuity, Consolidation and Consensus in Environment among the BRICS Nations.

71. When is National Sports Day observed?

- A. August 29
- B. August 9
- C. August 27
- D. August 6

Answer : A

Solution :

The National Sports Day in India is celebrated on August 29.

National Sports Day is celebrated since 2012 to commemorate the birth anniversary of hockey legend Dhyan Chand, who won gold medals in Olympics for India in 1928, 1932 and 1936.

Fit India Mobile Application:

The Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports, Anurag Singh Thakur launched the Fit India Mobile Application to celebrate the second anniversary of Fit India Movement and as part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav.

The Fit India Movement was launched on 29th August 2019 by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi with the vision of making India a Fit and Healthy Nation.

72. Which country has hosted the 25th edition of Exercise Malabar?

- A. United States
- B. India
- C. Japan
- D. Australia

Answer : A

Solution :

Navies of the 4 member nations of the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad) — India, the United States, Japan, and Australia participated in the ‘Malabar Exercise 2021’ (August 26-29, 2021), which began off the coast of Guam in the Pacific Ocean.

This year marks the 25th edition of Exercise Malabar, hosted by the US Navy.

Navies are: Indian Navy (IN), US Navy (USN), Japanese Maritime Self Defence Force (JMSDF) and the Royal Australian Navy (RAN).

About Exercise Malabar:

Malabar is a multilateral war-gaming naval exercise that was started in 1992 as a bilateral exercise between the navies of India and the United States.

Japan and Australia first participated in 2007, and since 2014, India, the US and Japan have participated in the exercise every year.

The 2020 edition witnessed participation of the Royal Australian Navy.

Malabar 2020:

Last year, the exercise was conducted in two phases — the first off the coast of Visakhapatnam in the Bay of Bengal, and then in the Arabian Sea.

73. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding the “KAZIND-21”?

i. It was the 9th edition of the Indo- Kazakhstan Joint Training Exercise.

ii. It was conducted in India.

iii. It was between the Armies of India and Kazakhstan.

A. iii only

B. i and iii only

C. ii and iii only

D. i, ii and iii

Answer : A

Solution :

The 5th edition of Indo- Kazakhstan Joint Training Exercise “KAZIND-21” began at Training Node, Aisha Bibi, Kazakhstan.

It is being conducted from 30 August to 11 September 2021.

The exercise is a joint training between both the Armies, which will boost the bilateral relations between India and Kazakhstan.

The Exercise will provide an opportunity to the Armed Forces of India & Kazakhstan to train for Counter Insurgency/ Counter Terrorism operation in mountainous, rural scenario under UN mandate.

Exercise KAZIND is an annual event which is conducted alternatively in Kazakhstan and India. 4th edition of the Exercise KAZIND was held in Uttarakhand in 2019.

74. When Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) was launched by the Government of India?

A. August 2013

B. August 2015

C. August 2017

D. August 2014

Answer : D

Solution :

Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) - National Mission for Financial Inclusion, has completed 7 years of successful implementation.

About Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana (PMJDY):

PMJDY was announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 15th August 2014 and the scheme was launched on 28th August 2014.

Background:

PMJDY is National Mission for Financial Inclusion to ensure access to financial services, namely, Banking/ Savings & Deposit Accounts, Remittance, Credit, Insurance, Pension in an affordable manner.

Objectives:

Ensure access of financial products & services at an affordable cost

Use of technology to lower cost & widen reach

Achievements under PMJDY- As on 18th August'21:

Accounts: As on 18th August '21 number of total PMJDY Accounts: 43.04 Crore; 55.47% (23.87 crore) Jan-Dhan account holders are women and 66.69% (28.70 crore) Jan Dhan accounts are in rural and semi-urban areas.

Deposits: Total deposit balances under PMJDY Accounts stand at Rs. 1,46,230 crore

Rupay Card: Total RuPay cards issued to PMJDY account holders: 31.23 Crore

Jan Dhan Darshak App:

A mobile application was launched to provide a citizen centric platform for locating banking touch points such as bank branches, ATMs, Bank Mitras, Post Offices, etc. in the country.

This app is also being used for identifying villages which are not served by banking touchpoints within 5 km.

Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package for PMJDY women beneficiaries:

A total of Rs. 30,945 crore has been credited in accounts of women PMJDY account holders during COVID lockdown.

75. Who hosted the inaugural meeting of IBSA (India-Brazil-South Africa) National Security Advisers?

- A. Ajit Doval
- B. Amit Shah
- C. M.M. Naravane
- D. Rajnath Singh

Answer : A

Solution :

Recently, National Security Adviser (NSA) of India, Ajit Doval hosted the inaugural meeting of IBSA (India-Brazil-South Africa) National Security Advisers.

This was the first such meeting of National Security Advisers of IBSA countries, reflecting the importance of closer cooperation among the three countries to meet growing political and security challenges in the world.

India, Brazil and South Africa are three large developing countries located in three different continents bound by common values of democracy and pluralism. They are also all maritime nations.

During the meeting, discussions were held on maritime security, fight against terrorism and transnational organized crime, and cyber security.

Participants agreed that terrorism, in particular, cross-border terrorism undertaken through state sponsorship, continues to be the most potent threat to global peace and security and must be fought through united efforts.

The meeting was convened as part of the preparatory process for the next IBSA Summit of Leaders which is scheduled to take place on 5th September 2021 during India's Chairship of IBSA.

The theme for India's Chairship is "Democracy for Demography and Development".

76. Who has been awarded Sahitya Akademi Awards 2020 in Odia Language?

- A. Omcherry N.N. Pillai
- B. Swapnil Shah
- C. Yashodhara Mishra
- D. Sukanti Mohapatra

Answer : C

Solution :

The Sahitya Akademi named authors Yashodhara Mishra and Omcherry N.N. Pillai as the winner of the 2020 awards for their works in Odia and Malayalam, respectively.

Ms. Yashodhara Mishra has been selected for her work 'Samudrakula Ghara' and Mr. Omcherry N.N. Pillai for his work 'Akasmikam Ormmakurippukal'.

About Sahitya Akademi:

Sahitya Akademi presents the award to literary works in 24 languages including English.

It was established in 1954 and the award comprises a copper-plaque, a shawl and a cash prize of ₹ 1,00,000.

The Sahitya Akademi Awards for 2020 were announced in March 2021 for literary works in 20 languages.

77. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding the e-Shram Portal?

i. The Ministry of Labour and Employment launched it.

ii. It aims to register 38 crore Organised Workers.

A. i only

B. ii only

C. Both i and ii

D. Neither i nor ii

Answer : A

Solution :

Minister for Labour and Employment, Bhupender Yadav launched e-Shram portal.

Portal will help build a comprehensive National Database of Unorganized Workers (NDUW) in India.

For the first time in India, a system is being made to register 38 crore Unorganised Workers.

About e-Shram Portal:

The registration under the e-Shram portal is totally free and workers do not have to pay anything for his or her registration at Common Service Centres (CSCs) or anywhere.

It will not only register them but would also be helpful in delivering various social security schemes being implemented by the Central and State Governments.

After registration, the workers shall be issued an e-Shram card with a unique Universal Account Number (UAN) and will be able to access the benefits of the various social security schemes through this Card anywhere anytime.

Insurance Coverage:

If a worker is registered on the e-Shram portal and meets with an accident, he will be eligible for Rs 2.0 Lakh on death or permanent disability and Rs 1.0 lakh on partial disability.

78. The web version of e-GOPALA application has been developed by which of the following?

- A. Department of Science and Technology
- B. National Dairy Development Board
- C. National Institute of Animal Health
- D. National Informatics Centre

Answer : B

Solution :

Parshottam Rupala, Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying launched the National Dairy Development Board's web version of e-GOPALA application and IMAP web portal.

It is a digital platform for dairy farmers to provide real-time information on animal health, nutrition and breed development.

About e-GOPALA:

The web version of e-GOPALA application has been developed by National Dairy Development Board (NDDB).

The e-GOPALA platform helps farmers manage their livestock including buying and selling of disease-free germplasm in all forms; informs about availability of quality breeding services and guides farmers for animal nutrition, treatment of animals using appropriate Ayurvedic ethno veterinary medicine.

Note: The e-GOPALA app was launched in September 2020 as a breed improvement marketplace for the direct use of farmers.

IMAP web portal will facilitate real time checking of coverage and progress of various projects and government schemes.

79. Which country hosted the 8th Meeting of Agriculture Experts of BIMSTEC Countries?

- A. Sri Lanka
- B. Thailand
- C. Bangladesh
- D. India

Answer : D

Solution :

India hosted the 8th Meeting of Agriculture Experts of Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) Countries.

Objective: To enhance the engagement and deepen the cooperation in agriculture and allied sectors amongst the BIMSTEC Member States by encouraging the exchange of knowledge, germplasm, students and experts.

About Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC):

The BIMSTEC provides a unique link between South and South-East Asia with 5 countries - Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal and Sri Lanka from South Asia and 2 countries - Myanmar and Thailand from South-East Asia.

The BIMSTEC was founded in 1997 with an ambition to pursue mutual trade, connectivity and cultural, technical and economic development in the region.

Initially, six sectors- trade, technology, energy, transport, tourism and fisheries were included for sectoral cooperation which was later expanded to 14 areas of cooperation.

Agriculture is one of the 14 sectors. As about 1.7 billion+ people i.e., 22 percent of the global population live in BIMSTEC countries, agriculture & allied activities are central to the economic and social development of the region.

80. Which has launched the Climate Crisis is a Child Rights Crisis: Introducing the Children's Climate Risk Index?

- A. ILO
- B. UNDP
- C. UNICEF
- D. UNESCO

Answer : C

Solution :

UNICEF in collaboration with Fridays for Future (FFF) has launched the report named 'The Climate Crisis is a Child Rights Crisis: Introducing the Children's Climate Risk Index' 2021. The report is the first comprehensive analysis of climate risk from a child's perspective.

About Children's Climate Risk Index (CCRI):

It ranks countries based on children's exposure to climate and environmental shocks, such as cyclones and heat waves, as well as their vulnerability to those shocks, based on their access to essential services.

The report finds approximately 1 billion children – nearly half the world's 2.2 billion children – live in one of the 33 countries classified as "extremely high-risk".

These children face a deadly combination of exposure to multiple climate and environmental shocks with a high vulnerability due to inadequate essential services, such as water and sanitation, healthcare and education.

CCRI Rank:

Rank 1: Central African Republic

Rank 2: Chad, Nigeria

Rank 26: India

81. Which stadium has been named as 'Neeraj Chopra Stadium'?

- A. TT Nagar Stadium, Bhopal
- B. Army Sports Institute Stadium, Pune
- C. Indian Army Stadium, Saharanpur
- D. GMC Athletic Stadium, Bambolim

Answer : B

Solution :

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh renamed the Army Sports Institute Stadium of Army Sports Institute (ASI), Pune after Tokyo Olympics gold medalist Neeraj Chopra.

About Neeraj Chopra:

Neeraj Chopra is an Indian track and field athlete who competes in the javelin throw.

As of August 2021, he is ranked second internationally by World Athletics.

Chopra is the first track and field athlete to win a gold medal for India at the Tokyo Olympics 2020.

About Army Sports Institute (ASI), Pune:

Established in 2001 under the Indian Army's Mission Olympic programme, ASI is a multi-disciplinary sports training institute.

The institute imparts training in seven fields: Archery, Athletics, Boxing, Diving, Wrestling, Fencing and Weightlifting.

82. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding the POSHAN Abhiyaan?

i. It is Government of India's flagship programme to improve nutritional outcomes for children, adolescent Girls, pregnant women and lactating mothers.

ii. It was launched on the occasion of International Women's Day on 8 March, 2018.

iii. Every year, the month of August is celebrated as POSHAN Maah across the country.

A. ii only

B. i and ii only

C. ii and iii only

D. i, ii and iii

Answer : B

Solution :

The Ministry of Women and Child Development has decided to celebrate the POSHAN Maah across the nation throughout the month of September starting from September 1, 2021.

About POSHAN Abhiyaan:

POSHAN (Prime Minister's Overarching Scheme for Holistic Nutrition) Abhiyaan is Government of India's flagship programme to improve nutritional outcomes for children, adolescent Girls, pregnant women and lactating mothers.

It was launched by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the occasion of International Women's Day on 8 March, 2018 from Jhunjhunu in Rajasthan.

Focusing on the aims of POSHAN Abhiyaan, Mission Poshan 2.0 (Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0) has been announced in the Budget 2021-2022 as an integrated nutrition support programme.

Every year, the month of September is celebrated as POSHAN Maah across the country.

About Mission Poshan 2.0:

The Ministry of Women and Child Development has planned a series of activities throughout the month (September) in tandem with the States and Union Territories.

The weekly themes are Plantation Activity as PoshanVatika, Yoga and AYUSH for Nutrition, Distribution of 'Regional Nutrition Kit' to Anganwadi beneficiaries of High Burdened Districts and Identification of severe acute malnourished children and distribution of nutritious food.

83. Which company has launched India's first green hydrogen electrolyzer gigafactory at Bengaluru?

A. Saudi Aramco

B. Essar Oil Limited

C. Ohmium International

D. Indian Oil Corporation Limited

Answer : C

Solution :

USA-based renewable energy start-up, Ohmium International, has launched India's first green hydrogen electrolyzer gigafactory at Bengaluru through its India subsidiary.

About Green Hydrogen:

Green Hydrogen is the pollution-free fuel of the future.

With zero carbon footprint, the green hydrogen can be utilized for fertilizer production, refinery processing, steel production, conventional vehicle transportation with methanol blending, and direct hydrogen transportation in fuel-cell-based vehicles.

Green Hydrogen can also be stored and transported.

Green hydrogen is made from non-fossil sources, while blue hydrogen is made from fossil sources.

To produce green hydrogen through any process, electrolysis is required.

About Gigafactory:

It will manufacture India-made PEM (Proton Exchange Membrane) hydrogen electrolyzers with an initial manufacturing capacity of about 500 MW per year and will scale it up to 2 GW per year.

The PEM hydrogen electrolyzer is the main equipment for the production of green hydrogen as it uses power generated from renewable resources to break water into hydrogen and oxygen.

Note:

India has already set a target of achieving 450 GW renewable energy by 2030.

According to industry data, the world is currently producing around 70 million metric tonnes of hydrogen (blue), out of which 6 MT is coming from India.

84.INS Tabar took part in a Maritime Partnership Exercise with which country's Navy ship 'Ezzadjer'?

- A. Singapore
- B. Thailand
- C. Japan
- D. Algeria

Answer : D

Solution :

As part of her ongoing goodwill visit to Europe and Africa, INS Tabar took part in a Maritime Partnership Exercise with Algerian Navy ship 'Ezzadjer' on 29 Aug 21.

This naval exercise was conducted off the Algerian coast.

As part of the exercise, diverse activities including co-ordinated manoeuvring, communication procedures and steam past were undertaken between the Indian and Algerian warships.

The exercise enabled the two navies to understand the concept of operations followed by each other, enhanced interoperability and opened the possibility of increasing interaction and collaboration between them in future.

85. Who has been appointed as the new director general of Border Security Force (BSF)?

- A. Balaji Srivastav
- B. Pankaj Kumar Singh
- C. Manoj Kumar Rai
- D. Sanjay Arora

Answer : B

Solution :

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the proposal of the Ministry of Home Affairs to appoint Pankaj Kumar Singh as director general (DG) of Border Security Force (BSF).

About Pankaj Kumar Singh:

He is a 1988-batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer from Rajasthan cadre.

Note: Singh's father and retired IPS officer Prakash Singh also headed the Border Security Force as its DG in the past.

Other Appointments:

The government also appointed 1988-batch IPS Officers Sanjay Arora (Tamil Nadu cadre) and Balaji Srivastav (AGMUT cadre) as the new heads (director general) of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) and the Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPRD).

86. Who has been appointed as the new director general of Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)?

- A. Pankaj Kumar Singh
- B. Balaji Srivastav
- C. Sanjay Arora
- D. Dinesh Maurya

Answer : C

Solution :

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the proposal of the Ministry of Home Affairs to appoint Pankaj Kumar Singh as director general (DG) of Border Security Force (BSF).

He is a 1988-batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer from Rajasthan cadre.

Other Appointments:

The government also appointed 1988-batch IPS Officers Sanjay Arora (Tamil Nadu cadre) and Balaji Srivastav (AGMUT cadre) as the new heads (director general) of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) and the Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPRD).

87. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding the Exercise ZAPAD 2021?

- i. A 200 personnel contingent of the Indian Army participated in Exercise ZAPAD 2021.
- ii. It is a multi-nation exercise being held at Nizhniy, Russia from 03 to 16 September 2021.

- A. i only
- B. ii only
- C. Both i and ii
- D. Neither i nor ii

Answer : C

Solution :

A 200 personnel contingent of the Indian Army will participate in ZAPAD 2021, a multi-nation military exercise being held at **Nizhniy, Russia** from 3rd to 16th September 2021.

ZAPAD 2021 is one of the theatre level exercises of the Russian Armed Forces and will focus primarily on operations against terrorists.

The exercise aims to enhance military and strategic ties amongst the participating nations while they plan & execute this exercise.

Over a dozen countries from Eurasian and South Asian Region will participate in this signature event.

Participating countries:

In all, 17 countries have been invited by Russia for the exercise.

Of these 9 are Participating countries which include Mongolia, Armenia, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Serbia, Russia, India and Belarus.

The other 8 countries are Observers which include Pakistan, China, Vietnam, Malaysia, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Uzbekistan and Sri Lanka, the source added.

The NAGA Battalion group (India), participating in the exercise will feature an all Arms combined task force.

Exercise between India and Russia:

Indra: Joint Exercise (Army, Navy, Air Force)

88. Consider the following statements regarding the Union Territory (UT) of Ladakh.

i. Ladakh declared the Black-Necked Crane and Snow Leopard as its state bird and animal, respectively.

ii. The Black-Necked Crane was chosen as the state bird since it is only found in the eastern region of Ladakh.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A. i only
- B. ii only
- C. Both i and ii
- D. Neither i nor ii

Answer : C

Solution :

The Union Territory (UT) of Ladakh declared the Black-Necked Crane (*Grus nigricollis*) and Snow Leopard (*Panthera uncia*) as its state bird and animal, respectively.

Black-necked crane was previously the State bird of the former state of J&K, along with Hangul as the state animal.

About Black-necked crane:

Black-necked crane was chosen as the state bird since it is only found in the eastern region of Ladakh.

Crane is listed in Schedule I of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972 and as Near Threatened on the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List.

About Snow leopard:

Snow leopards are mainly found in the western and eastern regions of the Himalayas, including Ladakh, J&K, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand.

Leopard is listed in Schedule I of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972 and as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List.

Note: The Centre on August 5, 2019 abrogated Article 370 of Constitution to end J&K's special status and pave the way for notification of UTs of Ladakh and J&K in October that year.

89. The United Nations Security Council (UNSC), under India's Presidency, adopted a resolution on Afghanistan. Name the resolution.

- A. Resolution 2597
- B. Resolution 2593
- C. Resolution 2498
- D. Resolution 2699

Answer : B

Solution :

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC), under India's Presidency, adopted a strong resolution 2593 (2021) on Afghanistan.

The resolution, sponsored by the United Kingdom, France and United States, was adopted with 13 members, including India.

But permanent and veto-wielding members Russia and China abstained.

This was the first resolution adopted by the powerful 15-nation Council on the situation in Afghanistan following the takeover of Kabul by the Taliban and came on the penultimate day of India's Presidency of the Security Council for the month of August, 2021.

The resolution- The territory of Afghanistan is not to be used to threaten any country or shelter terrorists, and that the international community expects the Taliban to adhere to the commitments they made regarding the safe and orderly departure of Afghans and all foreign nationals from the country.

India's steps:

India has directed a high-level group composed of EAM (External Affairs Minister) S. Jaishankar, NSA (National Security Adviser) Ajit Doval and Other Senior officials to monitor the ground situation in Afghanistan with a focus on the immediate priorities of India.

90. Which of the following railway stations has been recently awarded 5-star 'Eat Right Station' certification?

- A. Jaipur Railway Station
- B. Chandigarh Railway Station
- C. Howrah Railway Station
- D. Charbagh, Lucknow Railway Station

Answer : B

Solution :

Chandigarh Railway Station has been awarded a 5- star 'Eat Right Station' certification by FSSAI for providing high-quality, nutritious food to passengers.

Chandigarh Railway Station becomes the fifth station in India to get this recognition.

The other railway stations with this certification include Anand Vihar Terminal Railway Station; (Delhi), Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus; (Mumbai), Mumbai Central Railway Station; (Mumbai) and Vadodara Railway Station.

About 'Eat Right Station' certification:

This certification is granted by FSSAI (Food Safety and Standards Authority of India) to railway stations adhering to standard food storage and hygiene practices.

The certification is part of the 'Eat Right India' movement of FSSAI to transform the country's food system to ensure safe, healthy food for all Indians.