

Current Affairs MCQs January 2021



1. Who has been appointed as the Prime Minister of Ivory Coast?
A. Hamed Bakayoko
B. Amadou Gon
C. Alassane Ouattara
D. Daniel Kablan Duncan
2. Palle Pragathi program has been launched in which state?
A. Andhra Pradesh
B. Telangana
C. Karnataka
D. Kerala
3. Which country ranks immediately below India in the Global Hunger Index 2020?
A. Nepal
B. Pakistan
C. Ethiopia
D. Sudan
4. Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) has proposed to acquire defence hardware worth _____ from Indian industry.
A. Rs 27,000 crore
B. Rs 57,000 crore
C. Rs 67,000 crore
D. Rs 77,000 crore
5. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi launched a new Central Sector Scheme of financing facility under the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund of 1 Lakh. The program will run from 2020 to ____?
A. 2022
B. 2024
C. 2025
D. 2029
6. Kaja Kallas has been appointed as the first female Prime Minister which country?
A. Bulgaria
B. Estonia
C. Romania
D. Ukraine
7. Who has authored the book titled "The Law of Emergency Powers: Comparative Common Law Perspectives"?
A. Justice Surya Kant
B. Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul

- C. Dr. Abhishek Singhvi
D. Both C and D
8. Which state government has launched a 1st of its kind initiative in India where, beneficiaries of old-age pensions will be automatically selected using the Navodaya app and their pension amount will be paid through the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mode?
A. Rajasthan
B. Tamil Nadu
C. Kerala
D. Karnataka
9. Which country will host the AFC Women's Asian Cup in 2022?
A. Sri Lanka
B. Japan
C. India
D. China
10. The Textiles Committee of the Ministry of Textiles has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Nissenken Quality Evaluation Centre of which country to boost export of Textile and Apparel in that country?
A. Germany
B. USA
C. Japan
D. South Korea
11. For the first time, a 122-member tri-service contingent of which country participated in Republic Day Parade 2021?
A. Myanmar
B. Bangladesh
C. Sri Lanka
D. Bhutan
12. Who inaugurated the 'Bharat Parv 2021', a virtual national festival showcasing the country's diverse culture, cuisines and handicrafts?
A. Ramnath Kovind
B. M Venkaiah Naidu
C. Om Birla
D. Prahlad Singh Patel



13. Who has launched the mobile action game Fearless and United Guards (FAU-G) on the occasion of the 72nd Republic Day?

- A. Amir Khan
- B. Ajay Devagan
- C. Akshay Kumar
- D. Salman Khan

14. Who has been sworn in as the new U.S. Secretary of State?

- A. Janet Yellen
- B. Neera Tanden
- C. Kumud Srinivasan
- D. Antony Blinken

15. Who has authored the book titled "India 2030: The Rise of a Rajasic Nation"?

- A. Fareed Zakaria
- B. Gautam Chikermane
- C. Mohamed Zeeshan
- D. K S Vijayanath

16. Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa has been re-elected as the president of which country?

- A. Spain
- B. Belgium
- C. Italy
- D. Portugal

17. Who has been appointed as the first chairperson of Air-Quality Commission setup for detection of air pollution sources across Delhi-NCR that has begun the process of setting up Decision Support System (DSS) for air quality in the region?

- A. Prakash Javadekar
- B. M M Kutty
- C. Rameshwar Prasad Gupta
- D. Babul Supriyo

18. Renowned personality Narendra Luther passed away recently, he was a veteran _____.

- A. Journalist
- B. Author
- C. Politician
- D. Nuclear Scientist

19. Madhya Pradesh Industrial Development Corporation (MPIDC) signed an MoU with which IIM to build a roadmap to achieve the state's 'Atmanirbhar' goal?

- A. IIM Kolkata
- B. IIM Indore
- C. IIM Lucknow
- D. IIM Ahmedabad

20. Which corporate group is set to act as the knowledge partner of the Government of Madhya Pradesh (MP) in the context of the new education policy at the implementation level?

- A. Reliance Industries
- B. Mahindra Group
- C. Tata Industries
- D. Wipro Group

21. Who has been conferred with 'Indian Personality of the Year' at International Film Festival of India (IFFI)?

- A. Anurag Kashyap
- B. Biswajit Chatterjee
- C. Dharmendra
- D. Rajnikanth



22. Which state launched 'One School One IAS' Scheme?

- A. Bihar
- B. Maharashtra
- C. Kerala
- D. Uttar Pradesh

23. Who has authored the book titled "Ten Lessons for a Post-Pandemic World"?

- A. Fareed Zakaria
- B. Nandan Nilekani
- C. Mohamed Zeeshan
- D. K S Vijayanath

24. Name the newly appointed President of the UN Human Rights Council for 2021?

- A. Catarina Vaz Pinto
- B. Filippo Grandi
- C. Sadruddin Aga Khan
- D. Nazhat Shameem Khan

25. Which Indian Armed Force has signed a \$20-million contract with ideaForge to procure high-altitude variant of SWITCH UAV, drone?

- A. Indian Army
- B. Indian Airforce
- C. Indian Navy
- D. Indian Coast Guard

26. Name the veteran leader and former governor of Arunachal Pradesh who passed away recently?

- A. Mata Prasad
- B. Satya Paul
- C. Madhavsingh Solanki
- D. Sunil Kothari

27. Which state/Union Territories has launched state's first online youth radio station "Radio Hills-Youngistan Ka Dil"?

- A. Jammu and Kashmir
- B. Himachal Pradesh
- C. Ladakh
- D. Uttarakhand

28. What is 'RAKSHIT' that was launched by the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) recently?

- A. Motorbike Ambulance
- B. Air Ambulance
- C. Unmanned Aerial Vehicle
- D. Water Ambulance

29. What is the theme of India Digital Summit 2021?

- A. Digital India Mission - New Pillars of Aatmanirbhar Bharat
- B. Aatmanirbhar Bharat - Start of New Decade
- C. Aatmanirbhar Bharat - Enabling the New Normal
- D. Digital India- Make for the World Digital

30. Which Union Territories occupied the first position among Union Territories and small States category in the 2nd edition of India Innovation Index-2020 released by the NITI Aayog?

- A. Delhi
- B. Chandigarh
- C. Goa
- D. Puducherry

31. Vishwavir Ahuja has been re-appointed as the Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of which bank?

- A. Bandhan Bank
- B. RBL Bank
- C. Federal Bank
- D. DCB Bank

32. Who has won the men's singles title at the Thailand Open Super 1000 badminton tournament held in Bangkok?

- A. Lin Dan
- B. Viktor Axelsen
- C. Lee Chong Wei
- D. Taufik Hidayat

33. Who has authored the book titled "The Making of Aadhaar: World's Largest Identity Platform"?

- A. Nandan Nilekani
- B. AK Sikri
- C. Ram Sewak Sharma
- D. Pankaj Kumar

34. The Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (MoRTH) signed a Memorandum of



Understanding (MoU) with which organization to boost collaboration in the field of technical exchange & cooperation on sustainable Geo-hazard management?

- A. Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)
- B. Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)
- C. National Disaster Response Force (NDRF)
- D. Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)

35.The 1st India-EU IPR dialogue 2021 was held virtually between European Union (EU) Commission and which department of government of India to discuss key Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) issues affecting businesses?

- A. Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)
- B. National Informatics Centre
- C. Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
- D. Copyright Office, India

36.Name the Co-founder of Precision Automation and Robotics India (PARI) who passed away recently?

- A. Mangesh Kale
- B. V Shanta
- C. Shashi Kumar Madhusudan
- D. Turlapati Kutumba Rao

37.The Maharashtra government has renamed Gorewada International Zoo in Nagpur after who among the following?

- A. Atal Bihari Vajpayee
- B. Balasaheb Thackeray
- C. Shivajirao Patil Nilangekar
- D. Shivraj Patil

38.With reference to STARStreak Air Defence system India's Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) has signed a 'Teaming Agreement' with which company?

- A. Dassault
- B. Boeing
- C. General Electric
- D. Thales

39.The Union Government has decided to export which missile to friendly foreign countries?

- A. Brahmos
- B. Agni
- C. Akash
- D. Helina

40.The NASSCOM has partnered with which state's Artificial Intelligence Mission to launch an Innovation Factory to identify and promote innovative artificial intelligence solutions to address challenges in agricultural sector?

- A. Andhra Pradesh
- B. Telangana
- C. Karnataka
- D. Tamil Nadu

41.Which organization releases the India Innovation Index on the line Global Innovation Index?

- A. Department of Science and Technology
- B. NITI Aayog
- C. Confederation of Indian Industry
- D. Ministry of Finance

42.Which state government has announced to increase the number of days under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) from 100 to 150?

- A. Uttar Pradesh
- B. Odisha
- C. Uttarakhand
- D. Jharkhand

43.Who has been assigned the additional charge of the Ministry of AYUSH during the hospitalization and treatment of AYUSH Minister Shripad Naik following a road accident?

- A. Smriti Irani
- B. Prakash Javadekar
- C. Piyush Goyal
- D. Kiren Rijiju

44.Who has been chosen for 'Press Club Person of the Year' given by the Press Club of Bangalore?

- A. Azim Premji
- B. Shiva Nadar



C. Narayan Murthy
D. Nandan Nilekani

45. Who was the chairman of the 10-member task force set up by the Union Govt to evaluate the marriageable age of girls which has submitted its recommendations to the Prime Minister's Office and the Women and Child Development Ministry?

A. Menka Gandhi
B. Jaya Jaitley
C. Jaya Bachchan
D. Rekha Chinoy

46. In collaboration with which company the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) will establish a Quantum Computing Applications Lab in the country?

A. Amazon Web Services (AWS)
B. Facebook
C. Google
D. Microsoft

47. Joint military exercise 'Ex-Desert Knight 21' is to be conducted between India and which country?

A. USA
B. Israel
C. France
D. Russia

48. The Indian Farm Forestry Development Co-operative Ltd (IFFDC) entered into an MoU with which entity to work together for tribal livelihood generation?

A. NITI Aayog
B. SIDBI
C. TRIFED
D. NABARD

49. Who has been conferred with Quaide Milleth Awards 2021?

A. N Ram
B. Bilkis dadi
C. Javed Akhtar
D. Nasiruddin Shah

50. Which country unveiled new laws to protect England's cultural and historic heritage in the form of statues and monuments?

A. France
B. Germany
C. Russia
D. United Kingdom

51. Who has authored the book titled 'Manohar Parrikar - Off the Record'?

A. Pramod Sawant
B. Prakash Javadekar
C. Waman Subha Prabhu
D. Bhagat Singh Koshyari

52. The Madhya Pradesh state government has signed a memorandum of understanding with which state to for replicating the latter's pioneering Responsible Tourism (RT) initiative?

A. Karnataka
B. Kerala
C. Tamil Nadu
D. Andhra Pradesh

53. Which state government has inaugurated India's 1st air taxi service under Regional Connectivity Scheme - Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik (RCS-UDAN) of Govt of India?

A. Rajasthan
B. Himachal Pradesh
C. Punjab
D. Haryana

54. Nazhat Shameem Khan has been elected as president of UN Human Rights Council in an unprecedented secret ballot, she is an ambassador of which country to the UN body?

A. Pakistan
B. Maldives
C. Afghanistan
D. Fiji

55. Which was the inaugural film of Kolkata International Film Festival 2021?

A. Pather Panchali
B. Aparajito
C. Apur Sansar
D. Charulata



56. What is India's rank in the list of 500 most valuable companies across the world?

- A. 8th
- B. 10th
- C. 15th
- D. 18th

57. India's first 'Fire Park' was inaugurated in which state and also a virtual platform 'Agnishama Seva' has been launched?

- A. Telangana
- B. Andhra Pradesh
- C. Odisha
- D. Karnataka

58. CSIR- National Institute of Oceanography and National Geophysical Research Institute virtually signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with which country in the field of Marine Sciences and Technology?

- A. USA
- B. Japan
- C. Russia
- D. Israel

59. Which defence manufacturing company of India has signed an agreement with European defence company Thales to manufacture STARStreak Air Defence System in India?

- A. Hindustan Aeronautics Limited
- B. Bharat Dynamics Limited
- C. Bharat Earthmovers Limited
- D. Bharat Electronics Limited

60. John Fulton Reid passed away recently, he was former cricketer of which country?

- A. New Zealand
- B. Australia
- C. South Africa
- D. Zimbabwe

61. Who has launched the Global Pravasi Rishta Portal and Mobile application to connect with 3.12 Crore Indian Diaspora across the world?

- A. Amit Shah
- B. S Jaishankar
- C. Ravishankar Prasad

D. V. Muraleedharan

62. Which state government has launched a mobile application 'DigiNest' that will enable people to have digital access to the directory of state govt?

- A. Punjab
- B. Haryana
- C. Gujarat
- D. Himachal Pradesh

63. Which state government has launched state's own crop relief scheme 'Kisan Fasal Rahat Yojana' which will replace Government of India's crop insurance scheme Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)?

- A. Bihar
- B. Odisha
- C. Jharkhand
- D. Chhattisgarh

64. Which state government and Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan have signed an agreement with Oakridge Energy to solarise schools in the state?

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

65. Japarov Sadyr Nurgojoevich was elected as the president of which country?

- A. Tajikistan
- B. Kyrgyzstan
- C. Uzbekistan
- D. Kazakhstan

66. Who has authored the book titled 'Unscripted: Conversations on Life and Cinema'?

- A. Karan Johar
- B. Subhash Ghai
- C. Vidhu Vinod Chopra
- D. Yash Chopra

67. Which state government has approved the 'One Time Settlement (OTS) Scheme for Recovery of Outstanding Dues - 2021' for Traders to clear their Pending Arrears?

- A. Punjab



- B. Rajasthan
- C. Haryana
- D. Uttarakhand

68. Which e-commerce platform has collaborated with NITI Aayog to launch the updated Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP)?

- A. Amazon
- B. Myntra
- C. Flipkart
- D. IndiaMart

69. Renowned personality Sheldon Adelson passed away recently, he was associated with which profession?

- A. Retail Chain
- B. Software Technology
- C. Casino
- D. Investment Banking

70. Who becomes the world's richest person according to Bloomberg Billionaires Index surpassing Amazon's Jeff Bezos?

- A. Bill Gates
- B. Elon Musk
- C. Zhong Shanshan
- D. Bernard Arnault

71. What was the theme of the 16th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention organized on 9th January 2021?

- A. Cooperating to Aatmanirbhar Bharat
- B. Contributing to Aatmanirbhar Bharat
- C. Supporting to Aatmanirbhar Bharat
- D. Understanding the Aatmanirbhar Bharat

72. The government of India has formulated a New Industrial Development Scheme for which Union Territories?

- A. Ladakh
- B. Jammu and Kashmir
- C. Puducherry
- D. Andaman and Nicobar

73. Under whose chairmanship the Union Government has decided to form a committee to find a solution to issues associated with the

preservation of Ladakh's land, culture and language?

- A. G Kishan Reddy
- B. Thiksay Rinpoche
- C. Thupstan Chhewang
- D. Chering Dorjay



74. Who has been appointed as the first Chief Information Officer of the US Army, after the Pentagon created the position in July 2020?

- A. Neera Tonden
- B. Rohini Kosoglu
- C. Ali Zaidi
- D. Raj Iyer

75. Which country has successfully test launched Fatah-1, the indigenously developed guided multi-launch rocket system?

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

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ANSWERS

1. Ans. A.

- Ivory Coast's Defence Minister, Hamed Bakayoko has been named as the Prime Minister of the country. He was presently serving as the as interim PM of the country since the sudden death of former Prime Minister Amadou Gon Coulibaly.

2. Ans. B.

- The second phase of Telangana Palle Pragathi was launched across the district by conducting grama sabhas on Thursday. Senior IAS officer and member of State-level Flying Squad of Telangana Palle Pragathi Neethu Prasad participated in the programme at Gorukondla village of Chinthapally mandal.

3. Ans. D.

- The GHI 2020 report has placed India 94th position among 107 countries, much behind Bangladesh, Pakistan and Nepal. The situation is grim and the country is battling widespread hunger.

- The GHI score is determined on a 100-point scale based on these four parameters. Countries with score within the range 20-34.9 are considered to be grappling with acute hunger. High-income countries and those with very low populations were excluded from evaluation.

- At the time of the release of GHI 2019 report, the country had a food stock of more than 68 million tonnes (excluding un-milled paddy) in the central pool stored at different warehouses of Food Corporation of India.

- Till September 2020, the food stock went up to 70 million tonnes (excluding un-milled paddy), which is enough to ensure that no one went hungry.

4. Ans. A.

- The defence ministry has given its nod for the acquisition of weapon systems worth Rs 28,000 crore, including an indigenous programme to develop a large Airborne Early Warning and Control System (AWACS) and next generation offshore patrol vessels.

- The go ahead was given by the Rajnath Singh-led Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), with Rs 27,000 crore worth of systems to be developed indigenously.

5. Ans. D.

- The Agriculture Infrastructure Fund is a medium - long term debt financing facility for investment in viable projects for post-harvest management infrastructure and community farming assets through interest subvention and credit guarantee.

- The duration of the scheme shall be from FY2020 to FY2029 (10 years). Under the scheme, Rs. 1 Lakh Crore will be provided by banks and financial institutions as loans with interest subvention of 3% per annum and credit guarantee coverage under CGTMSE scheme for loans up to Rs. 2 Crore.

- The beneficiaries will include farmers, PACS, Marketing Cooperative Societies, FPOs, SHGs, Joint Liability Groups (JLG), Multipurpose Cooperative Societies, Agri-entrepreneurs, Startups, and Central/State agency or Local Body sponsored Public-Private Partnership Projects.

6. Ans. B.

- Estonia President Kersti Kaljulaid appointed Kaja Kallas as the Prime Minister (PM) of the country. With this appointment she becomes the 1st female PM of the country since the nation regained independence in 1991.

- She succeeds Jüri Ratas. She is the leader of the Reform party.

- The 15-member Cabinet of Prime Minister Kaja Kallas is a coalition of 2 parties namely, Reform Party & Centre Party.

- Kaja Kallas, a lawyer was a member of the 12th & 14th Riigikogu (All important state-related questions pass through the Riigikogu)

- She was a member of the European Parliament from 2014-2018, representing the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe.

- She served as the Chairman of the Economic Affairs Committee.

7. Ans. D.

- The book titled "The Law of Emergency Powers: Comparative Common Law Perspectives" was jointly authored by Dr. Abhishek Singhvi and Prof. Khagesh Gautam.

- It presents a detailed study on legal and constitutional provisions of Emergency powers under Article 356.



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- It also includes detailed discussions on Martial law, wartime & peacetime invocations, Constitutional & statutory law.

- The book also compares the emergency powers of India, USA & UK.

- In Depth analysis on S.R, Bommai Case that turned India's Emergency powers.

- The book was launched by one of the Senior Judges of the Supreme Court of India, Justice N. V. Ramanna, along with 3 other supreme court judges, Surya Kant, Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul and Justice D. Y. Chandrachud.

8. Ans. D.

- During the statewide campaign, Karnataka CM B S Yediyurappa Launched a 1st of its kind initiative in India where, beneficiaries of old-age pensions will be automatically selected using the Navodaya app and their pension amount will be paid through the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mode.

- This model was piloted in Udupi and Ballari districts of the state.

- Navodaya app is developed in accordance with the National Education Policy guidelines.

- The aim of the initiative is to enable beneficiaries to get the pension without the need of middlemen.

9. Ans. C.

- As per the announcement made by the Asian Football Confederation the 2022 Women's Asian Cup, to be hosted by India, will be held from January 20 to February 6.

- The tournament will feature 12 teams, expanded from eight in the previous edition, comprising three groups of four with a minimum of 25 matches being played over 18 days. Eight teams will qualify for the newly-introduced quarterfinals.

- The event will also serve as a qualification tournament for the 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup, which will see a record five Asian teams seal their spots to join co-host Australia for the newly-expanded 32-team global showpiece.

10. Ans. C.

- The Textiles Committee of the Ministry of Textiles has signed a Memorandum of Understanding- MoU with Nissenken Quality

Evaluation Centre, Japan to boost export of Textile and Apparel to Japanese market.

- The MoU signing ceremony was held through video conferencing which was presided over by Minister of Textiles Smriti Irani and State Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan Yasumasa Nagasaka.

- The main objective of the MoU is to provide required support to textile's trade and industry for ensuring quality as per the requirement of Japanese buyers.

- It is expected that the MoU will strengthen the bilateral trade by enhancing India's export of Textile and Apparels to Japan, which is the third largest export destination of the world.

11. Ans. B.

- * For the first time, a marching contingent and band of Bangladesh tri-services participated in the Republic Day Parade to commemorate 50 years of its historic liberation.

- * The 122-member contingent of the Bangladesh Armed Forces comprising soldiers of the Bangladesh Army, sailors of the Bangladesh Navy, and air warriors of the Bangladesh Air Force was led by the contingent Commander Lieutenant Colonel Abu Mohammed Shahnour Shawon and his deputies, Lieutenant Farhan Ishraq and Flight Lieutenant Sibat Rahman.

- * All the three services of the Bangladesh Armed Forces had played a key role in securing independence for their country in the Bangladesh Liberation War of 1971.

12. Ans. C.

Lok Sabha Speaker Shri Om Birla inaugurated today the 'Bharat Parv 2021', a virtual national festival showcasing the country's diverse culture, cuisines and handicrafts. Minister of State (Independent charge) for Tourism and Culture Shri Prahlad Singh Patel was also present on this occasion. The Ministry of Tourism in collaboration with other central Ministries is organizing this year a virtual 'Bharat Parv' event from 26th to 31st January 2021, showcasing the spirit of 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat'.

13. Ans. C.

- * Bollywood actor Akshay Kumar announce the launch of the mobile action game Fearless and



United Guards (FAU-G) on the occasion of the 72nd Republic Day.

* Akshay unveiled the game with an animated trailer. He wrote, "FAU-G : Fearless And United Guards. Face the enemy. Fight for your country. Protect our Flag. India's most anticipated action game, Fearless and United Guards: FAU-G takes you to the frontlines and beyond!"

* The game has been developed by Bangalore based studio nCore Games, with a concept by Akshay himself.

14. Ans. D.

* The US Senate overwhelmingly confirmed Antony Blinken to be the nation's 71st secretary of state as lawmakers scrambled to approve President Joe Biden's Cabinet nominees before impeachment proceedings begin against his predecessor.

* Blinken will become America's top diplomat as the world confronts a confluence of threats: the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change and a great-power competition that increasingly pits the United States against China on trade, technology and other issues.

* Blinken will be charged with unraveling much of President Donald Trump's foreign policy, which made even some of his most ardent Republican supporters squeamish. Trump alienated U.S. allies, from Canada to Germany, and he embraced some of the world's most brutal dictators, including North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and Russian President Vladimir Putin. Trump withdrew from international agreements on arms control, climate change and trade, among other nettlesome global problems.

15. Ans. B.

* Gautam Chikermane, Vice President of Observer Research Foundation authored and edited the book titled "India 2030: The Rise of a Rajasic Nation", a Collection of Essay which describes about the likes of 20 forecasts by 20 thought leaders from India based on 20 themes. The book was published by Penguin eBury Press.

* The book features 20 themes on various fields ranging from education to healthcare, science, energy, politics and foreign policy, that predicts the evolution of India in this decade.

* The book showcases the numerous aspects of the future that will result in India becoming the world's 3rd largest economy and regional power.

* This book will act as a roadmap for policymakers and guide for scholars.

16. Ans. D.

* Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa has been re-elected as the president of Portugal for the 2nd term after securing over 60% of the votes in the election held on January 24, 2021.

* He belongs to Social Democratic Party (Partido Social Democrata-PSD)

* He was elected as the president for 1st term in 2016.

* He was one of the founders of the People's Democratic Party, later the Social Democratic Party, and was party leader from 31 March 1996 to 27 May 1999.

* He was the co-founder, Director and Administrator of the Expresso newspaper, owned by Pinto Balsemão.

17. Ans. B.

• Former Delhi Chief Secretary M. M. Kutty has been appointed first chairperson of Air Quality Commission. The Centre has notified the Commission for Air Quality Management for the National Capital Region (NCR) to set up the new agency with sweeping powers to monitor and act against sources of air pollution across five north Indian states (Delhi, Haryana, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan).

• Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) has begun the process of setting up Decision Support System (DSS) for air quality for Delhi-NCR

• It will have Geographical Information System (GIS) and multi-model based operational and planning decision support tool.

• It will help immensely in capturing the static and dynamic features of the emissions from various sources.

• It will have an integrated framework to handle both primary and secondary pollutants using AI tools.

18. Ans. B.

• Renowned author Narendra Luther (89 years) passed away in Hyderabad, Telangana.



- He was a writer, civil servant, author and columnist and 1955 batch IAS officer.
- He served in various positions before retiring as the chief secretary of the undivided Andhra Pradesh in 1991.
- He worked on the history and culture of erstwhile Hyderabad state and its rulers since the city's birth in 1591.
- He was President of the Society to Save Rocks, Hyderabad, India.

19. Ans. B.

- Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Indore & Madhya Pradesh Industrial Development Corporation (MPIDC) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to build a roadmap to achieve MP's goal of 'Atmanirbhar Madhya Pradesh', the agreement will be valid for a period of three years.
- IIM Indore will help MP to frame New Industrial Policy & help in Improving the Ease of Doing Business in MP
- IIM Indore will devise Strategic campaigns for 'Brand Madhya Pradesh' as 'Atmanirbhar Evam Samriddh'.
- IIM Indore will also provide advisory support & management consultancy for Global & national summits which will be conducted by the Government of MP.

20. Ans. D.

- Wipro group is set to act as the knowledge partner of the Government of Madhya Pradesh (MP) in the context of the new education policy at the implementation level.
- WIPRO has taken an initiative to establish a University in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh and the state government will provide all the required support to the Azim Premji Foundation to establish a university in the MP.
- The Azim Premji Foundation has been allotted 50 acres of land for the proposed university in Bhopal.
- The university in Bhopal is expected to start in the next 18 months.
- WIPRO will also establish a Software Development Centre in Bhopal, which will

provide more opportunities to the youth in the field of Information Technology (IT).

21. Ans. B.

- The 51st edition of the International Film Festival of India, Goa has conferred Biswajit Chatterjee, veteran actor, producer, director and singer of Hindi and Bengali cinema, with the Indian Personality of the Year Award.
- The Award has been announced at the opening ceremony of the festival, by Union Minister for Information & Broadcasting, Shri Prakash Javadekar.
- Biswajit Chatterjee is known for his roles of Kumar Vijay Singh in Bees Saal Baad, Raja Amit Kumar Singh in Kohra, Ashok in April Fool, Ramesh Kumar in Mere Sanam, Jeevan in Night In London, Shekhar in Do Kaliyaan and Vicky in Kismat.
- He was usually paired with notable actresses such as Asha Parekh, Waheeda Rehman, Mumtaz, Mala Sinha and Rajshree.

22. Ans. C.

- Kerala's Governor Arif Mohammad Khan launched 'One School One IAS' Scheme.
- The scheme is launched under the Vedhik Erudite Foundation Scholarship Programme.
- The scheme aims to provide free coaching classes for civil services and other competitive examinations to 10,000 meritorious who are not financially stable across the state.

23. Ans. A.

- The book titled "Ten Lessons for a Post-Pandemic World" has been authored by Indian American journalist Fareed Zakaria.
- He is a CNN host and one of the "top 10 global thinkers of the last decade" (Foreign Policy)
- The book published by Penguin book speaks about the nature of the post pandemic world and the social, political, technological and economical effects that may take years to develop.
- The book with 10 lessons includes the acceleration of natural and biological risk, datedness of the political categories, the rise of digital life, globalization and the developing world order split between US and China.

24. Ans. D.



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- Nazhat Shameem Khan, the Permanent Representative of Fiji to the United Nations Office at Geneva, has been elected by the UN Human Rights Council as its President for 2021.

25. Ans. A.

- The Indian Army has signed a \$20-million contract with ideaForge, a player in unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) technology, to procure undisclosed quantities of a high-altitude variant of SWITCH UAV, an indigenous system used in surveillance operations.

- SWITCH UAV is an indigenous system built to cater to the most demanding surveillance operations of the Indian forces.

- This fixed-wing vertical take-off and landing UAV can be deployed at high altitudes and under harsh environments for day and night surveillance.

26. Ans. A.

- Former Arunachal Pradesh Governor and senior Congress leader Mata Prasad passed away at Sanjay Gandhi Post Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences.

- Mata Prasad served as minister in the Congress government in Uttar Pradesh in 1988- 89 and appointed as Governor of Arunachal Pradesh in 1993.

27. Ans. B.

- Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur launched Himachal Pradesh's first online youth radio station 'Radio Hills-Youngistan Ka Dil'.

- The Chief Minister appreciated the efforts of young entrepreneurs and said that the online radio would go a long way in promoting the culture and traditions of the state, besides providing an opportunity to the youth to exhibit their talents.

- The founders of the online radio, Deepika and Saurabh, told the Chief Minister that the platform would also be available on Apple i-phones, besides Android.

28. Ans. A.

- The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) on Monday launched a specially developed "RAKSHITA" - a bike ambulance to attend urgent evacuation needs of the security force personnel in event of a medical

emergency or battle injury in Maoist affected areas.

- These bikes will give assistance to CRPF jawans and paramedics in case of any injuries during encounters.

- These bikes will be more useful in areas like Bijapur, Sukma, Dantewada etc., as it is tough for the force to take big vehicles or ambulances inside the jungle.

29. Ans. B.

- Industry body Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI) organised its flagship two-day annual summit — the India Digital Summit 2021 — virtually on January 19-20 with Atmanirbhar Bharat — Start of a New Decade as its central theme.

- The summit will have panel discussions around investment, advertising, policies, business, e-commerce, startups, online sports and more involving some of the country's most prominent faces in the internet and mobile ecosystem.

30. Ans. A.

- NITI Aayog today released the second edition of the India Innovation Index-2020.

- The index demonstrates the government's continued commitment towards transforming the country into an innovation-driven economy.

- In the India Innovation Index-2020, the States and Union Territories have been divided into 17 Major States, 10 North-East and Hill States and nine Union Territories and Small States for effectively comparing their performance.

- In the 2020 ranking, Karnataka retained its first position in the Major States category.

- Maharashtra moved one position higher and stood at 2nd spot while Tamil Nadu slid to 3rd position.

- In the North East and Hill States category, Himachal Pradesh stands at first position followed by Uttarakhand and Manipur.

- Delhi stands at the first position while Chandigarh retained its second spot in the Union Territories and small States category.

31. Ans. B.

- Private sector lender, RBL Bank Board of Directors has approved the re-appointment of Vishwavir Ahuja as the Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the bank for



a period of three years, with effect from June 30, 2021 to June 29, 2024.

- This is based on the recommendation of the nomination and remuneration committee.
- Subsequently, the bank has recommended the re-appointment of Ahuja to the Reserve Bank of India for the regulator's approval.
- Ahuja has been the Managing Director and CEO of RBL Bank since June 30, 2010.

32. Ans. B.

- Denmark's Viktor Axelsen won the men's singles title at the Thailand Open Super 1000 badminton tournament in Bangkok.
- Axelsen, meanwhile, recorded his second consecutive tournament win with a 21-14, 21-14 win over Hong Kong's Angus Ng Ka Long. Axelsen had earlier won the All England Open Championship in March.
- Indonesia's Greysia Polii and Apriyani Rahayu beat Thailand's Jongkolphan Kititharakul and Rawinda Prajongjai 21-15, 21-12 to win the women's doubles final.
- Taiwan's Lee Yang and Wang Chi-Lin beat Malaysia's Goh V Shem and Tan Wee Kiong 16-21, 23-21, 19-21 to win the men's doubles title.

33. Ans. C.

- Ram Sewak Sharma, the first director general of the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) writes an insider's account in The Making of Aadhaar: World's Largest Identity Platform.
- Sharma begins by summing up his experiences during various bureaucratic postings in Jharkhand, ranging from streamlining personnel records and digitising public grievances to managing election logistics — all using innovative digital means.
- The learnings from these episodes proved to be the building blocks of the Aadhaar project.

34. Ans. B.

- Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (MoRTH) and Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), Ministry of Defence signed a framework Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen collaboration in the field of technical exchange and co-operation on sustainable geo-hazard management.

- It has been agreed that MoRTH and DRDO will co-operate in the areas of mutual benefit including, conceptual planning of integrated avalanche/landslide protection schemes for all weather connectivity in snow bound areas of our country including pre-feasibility of tunnels and viaducts, planning and designing of various avalanche/landslide control structures, association in preparation of proposals/DPRs for tunnels including geological/geotechnical/terrain modeling and other related aspects of tunnels etc.
- This initiative will ensure safety of road users on NHs in the country against the adverse effects of landslides and other natural calamities.

35. Ans. A.

- The 1st India-EU IPR dialogue 2021 was held virtually between European Union (EU) Commission and Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) to discuss key Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) issues affecting businesses.
- The dialogue saw the exchange of information in specific areas of IP.
- Indian side gave a general review on the IPR developments inclined with National IPR policy 2016 which resulted in legislative reforms to stimulate innovation and creativity among start-ups and MSMEs (Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises).

36. Ans. A.

- Mangesh Kale, co-founder of Precision Automation and Robotics India (PARI) passed away in Pune.
- Kale had set up the company along with Ranjit Date in 1990.
- PARI, which is a leading provider of turnkey solutions in industrial and robotic automation was sold to Wipro Infrastructure for an undisclosed sum in December 2020.
- Anand Deshpande, founder of Persistent Systems, another Pune-headquartered firm tweeted saying this was a great personal loss.

37. Ans. B.

- The Maharashtra government has renamed Gorewada International Zoo in Nagpur as 'Balasaheb Thackeray Gorewada International Zoological Park.



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- The zoological park will come up on nearly 2,000 hectares forest land.
- Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray will inaugurate the Indian safari at the zoo on January 26.
- Three special 40-seat capacity vehicles and an online ticket booking facility will be made available to the people as soon after the Indian safari is inaugurated.

38. Ans. D.

- City-based Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) under the Ministry of Defence and Thales have signed a 'Teaming Agreement' to work in partnership on the 'STARStreak Air Defence system' with the support of both the governments of India and the United Kingdom. The system is to be developed under the 'Make in India' programmes.
- The system is to be developed under the 'Make in India' programmes.
- The 'STARStreak Missile System' is in service in the British Army and has been procured by defence forces worldwide.
- It is touted to be the fastest missile in its category and the missile system is unique due to its three laser-guided darts, which cannot be jammed by any known countermeasure. The system also has the capability to defeat any air target – even armoured helicopters – as the last line of defence.

39. Ans. C.

- In a major move to boost domestic defence manufacturing, the government on Wednesday approved the export of indigenously-developed surface-to-air Akash missile system and set up a high-level committee to authorise the sale of major platforms to various countries.
- The decision to export the missile systems was taken at a Cabinet meeting presided by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- The Akash missile systems have over 96 per cent indigenous components and the weapon can hit targets at a range of 25km.

40. Ans. B.

- The National Association of Software and Services Companies (Nasscom) has tied up with Telangana Artificial Intelligence Mission (T-AIM) to launch an Innovation Factory to identify and

promote innovative artificial intelligence solutions to address challenges in agricultural sector.

- They have announced an 'innovation challenge' for start-ups, inviting ideas that can make the lives of farmers easier by helping them increase incomes.
- The winner will get a chance to win a prize money of ₹1 lakh, while the runner-up will get ₹50,000.

41. Ans. B.

- NITI Aayog releases the India Innovation Index, the second edition will be released on 20th January, 2021 by NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Dr Rajiv Kumar in the presence of NITI Aayog Member Dr V.K. Saraswat and Chief Executive Officer Amitabh Kant.
 - The India Innovation Index-2020 seeks to rank the States and Union Territories based on their relative performance of supporting innovation and to empower them to improve their innovation policies by highlighting their strengths and weaknesses.
 - The ranking methodology is designed in a way that states can draw lessons from the national leaders in innovation.
 - The States and Union Territories have been divided into 17 Major States, 10 North-East and Hill States, and nine City States and Union Territories, for effectively comparing their performance.
 - The States and Union Territories have been ranked on two broad categories: outcome and governance.
42. Ans. C.
- In a move to encourage employment opportunities, Uttarakhand Government has announced that the number of working days under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) will be increased from 100 to 150.
 - government will increase the number of working days from 100 to 150 under MGNREGA and the entire cost will be borne by the state government.
 - This decision was taken during a meeting of the State Employment Guarantee Council.



- NREGA was first proposed in 1991 by former Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao. Passed in Parliament in 2008, it aims to provide 100 days of wage employment to enhance livelihood security in rural areas. (ANI)

43. Ans. D.

- Union Minister Kiren Rijiju has been assigned the additional charge of the Ministry of AYUSH during the hospitalization and treatment of AYUSH Minister Shripad Naik following a road accident.

- The move was necessitated as Shripad Yesso Naik, the Minister of State (Independent Charge) for the Ministry of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, and Homeopathy (AYUSH) was undergoing treatment at a hospital in Goa.

- Mr Naik, 68, was admitted to the hospital on January 12 after he met with an accident while on his way back to Goa from Karnataka.

44. Ans. A.

- The chairman of Wipro Limited Azim Premji has been chosen for 'Press Club Person of the Year' award given by the Press Club of Bangalore.

- The founder chairman of Narayana Health Dr Devi Prasad Shetty and actor-Director Sudeep Sanjeev have been selected for the 'Press Club Special Award.'

- Besides them 25 senior journalists have been selected for the 'Press Club Annual Awards'.

- Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa will facilitate the awardees at a function scheduled for the third week of February.

45. Ans. B.

- The union government early last year, set a panel under the chairmanship of Jaya Jaitley to evaluate the marriageable age of girls.

- The Committee has sent its recommendations to the Prime Minister's Office and the Women and Child Development Ministry.

- The committee was tasked with examining the correlation of age of marriage and motherhood with health, medical well-being and nutritional status of mother and neonate/infant/child, during pregnancy, birth and thereafter, key parameters like Infant Mortality Rate (IMR), Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR), Total Fertility

Rate (TFR), Sex Ratio at Birth (SRB), Child Sex Ratio (CSR) etc.

- and any other relevant points pertaining to health and nutrition in this context.

46. Ans. A.

- The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) in collaboration with Amazon Web Services (AWS) will establish a Quantum Computing Applications Lab in the country, to accelerate quantum computing-led research and development (R&D) and enable new scientific discoveries.

- The MeitY Quantum Computing Applications Lab will provide quantum computing as a service to government ministries and departments, researchers, scientists, academia, and developers, to enable advances in areas such as manufacturing, healthcare, agriculture, and aerospace engineering.

47. Ans. C.

- India and France will carry out a five-day Mega Air Ex- Desert Knight 21 near Jodhpur.

- It is expected to see Rafale jets of the two countries engaging in complex maneuvers to enhance operational coordination.

- The aim of the exercise is to provide operational exposure and share best practices towards enhancing combat capability.

- Both the air forces will deploy frontline fighter jets as well as transport, and tanker aircraft in the exercise.

48. Ans. C.

- TRIFED and Indian Farm Forestry Development Co-operative Ltd (IFFDC) entered into an MoU to work together for tribal livelihood generation.

- the two organizations have agreed to partner with each other to organise training programmes for tribal artisans in the area of entrepreneurship skill and business development.

- They will also collaborate further to identify and implement Corporate Social Responsibility initiatives and tribal development efforts.

- TRIFED has been actively exploring convergences with various like-minded organizations to continue the mission towards tribal empowerment.



49. Ans. B.

- Bilkis dadi and social activist and writer Harsh Mander of Karwan-e-Mohabbat were presented the Quaide Milleth Award.
- Dadi was the face of the Shaheen Bagh anti-CAA protests.
- Both were awarded for Probity in Political and Public Life at the India Islamic Cultural Centre, New Delhi.
- The award consists of a shawl, citation and cash of ₹2.5 lakh.
- Both recipients had made a mark in public life with their determination and zeal to protect the secular fabric of the country.

50. Ans. D.

- UK unveiled new laws to protect England's cultural and historic heritage in the form of statues and monuments.
- This was done to ensure that they are not removed at a whim.
- The move comes in the wake of Black Lives Matter protests in the country last year targeting several historic monuments, including with graffiti on Mahatma Gandhi's statue in Parliament Square in London.
- Under the new regulations, if the council intends to grant permission for removal of a particular statue and Historic England objects, the Communities Secretary will be notified so he or she can make the final decision about the application in question.

51. Ans. C.

- Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant released a book 'Manohar Parrikar- Off the Record' at a function organized at Institute Menezes Braganza hall in the city.
- The book has been written by senior journalist Waman Subha Prabhu.
- The book 'Manohar Parrikar- Off the Record' is a collection of memories of Mr Prabhu who happened to be with late Parrikar during the journey of his life.
- In the book the author has endeavored to narrate multi-faceted personality of late Manohar Parrikar.

52. Ans. B.

- Madhya Pradesh signed a memorandum of understanding with Kerala for replicating the

latter's pioneering Responsible Tourism (RT) initiative.

- The States signed a joint declaration under which Kerala will extend a series of services under a 16-point programme.
- The MoU was exchanged by Tourism Minister Kadakampally Surendran and his Madhya Pradesh counterpart Usha Thakur.
- As part of the agreement, Kerala will provide a series of services under a 16-point programme.

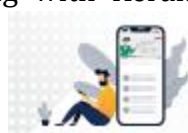
53. Ans. D.

- Haryana Chief Minister(CM) Manohar Lal Khattar inaugurated India's 1st air taxi service from Chandigarh to the newly constructed Hisar airport in Haryana under Regional Connectivity Scheme – Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik (RCS-UDAN) of Govt of India.
- As part of the inauguration, Haryana CM flagged off the 1st flight from Chandigarh under the scheme.
- It is the 1st time in India a small aircraft is being used for services in form of an air taxi
- The airline Aviation Connectivity & Infrastructure Developers Pvt. Ltd (Air Taxi) will operate the air taxi services and has become the 1st startup airline of India to assist India with this service.
- This service uses Tecnam P2006T VT aircraft, a twin-engine four-seat plane.

54. Ans. D.

- The United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHCR) elected Fiji's ambassador as its 2021 president in an unprecedented secret ballot after a diplomatic standoff blocked the usual consensus decision.
- The island nation's ambassador in Geneva, Nazhat Shameem Khan, beat off competition from Bahrain and Uzbekistan to lead the only intergovernmental global body to promote and protect human rights worldwide.
- Khan, who served as the council's vice president in 2020 and is considered a rights champion, won with 29 out of 47 votes.
- Bahrain's ambassador and his Uzbek counterpart received 14 and four votes, respectively.

55. Ans. C.



- Mamata Banerjee Chief Minister of West Bengal inaugurated the 7 day 26th edition of the Kolkata International Film Festival (KIFF) 2021 (From 8th to 15th January 2021).

- Bollywood actor Shah Rukh Khan, the brand ambassador of West Bengal virtually attended the inaugural ceremony from Mumbai.

- As a part of the 26th KIFF, 81 full length movies and 50 short films and documentaries from more than 45 countries will be screened at 8 venues which include the state run halls, Nandan, Rabindra Sadan, Calcutta Information centre, Sisir Mancha and others.

- “Apur Sansar” by Satyajit Ray was screened as the inaugural film.

56. Ans. B.

- Total 11 private Indian firms have made it to the list of 500 most valuable companies across the world, and the country is ranked 10th on the chart.

- The total value of these 11 companies grew 14 per cent and has been pegged at \$805 billion or nearly a third of the Indian GDP.

- All these companies in the list of non-state enterprises have gained in value during 2020, which was hit by the pandemic, barring tobacco major ITC and second largest private sector lender ICICI Bank, as per the Hurun Global 500 report.

- Mukesh Ambani-led Reliance Industries leads among the local enterprises with a 20.5 per cent jump in valuation to \$168.8 billion as of December 1 and is ranked 54th globally, as per the list.

57. Ans. C.

- Chief Minister of Odisha, Naveen Patnaik virtually inaugurated India’s first ‘Fire Park’ at Bhubaneswar, Odisha.

- On that occasion CM Patnaik also launched the virtual platform ‘Agnishama Seva’ to provide through which 16 fire related services can be availed.

- The Fire Park is a first of its kind initiative to provide awareness on fire safety measures, mainly focusing on School and College students.

- It is located under the premises of the Odisha Fire and Disaster Academy in Bhubaneswar.

- The Fire Park will be open to the public on every Saturday from 3.30 pm to 5.30 pm.

58. Ans. C.

- V.I. Il’ichev Pacific Oceanological Institute (POI), Russia along with CSIR- National Institute of Oceanography (CSIR-NIO), Goa & CSIR-National Geophysical Research Institute (CSIR-NGRI), Hyderabad have signed a Memorandum of Understanding in the field of Marine Sciences and Technology.

- The POI is the largest research institution in the Far Eastern Branch of Russian Academy of Sciences comprising 31 research units equipped with modern scale devices.

- Whereas, CSIR-NIO and CSIR-NGRI, the constituent research laboratories of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) are world renowned Institutes in the fields of Oceanography and Earth Sciences respectively.

59. Ans. B.

- Bharat Dynamics and Thales have signed a Teaming Agreement to work in partnership on the STARStreak Air Defence system with the support of both the Governments of India and the United Kingdom.

- The Teaming Agreement was signed at a virtual ceremony held on 13 January 2021.

- BDL will become a part of the STARStreak global supply chain, providing the opportunity for export of the system to existing and future STARStreak Air Defence customers, including the UK Armed Forces through this agreement.

- BDL, as a part of its Global Outreach, is endeavouring to forge alliance with foreign companies to take the "Make in India" mission further.

- Earlier, Thales and BDL have signed a "Memorandum of Understanding" to assess the opportunity for the transfer of technology for STARStreak.

60. Ans. A.

- John Fulton(F) Reid, former New Zealand cricketer passed away at the age of 64 after a long illness at Christchurch, City in the South Island, New Zealand.

- The Left-handed batsman was born on March 3, 1956 in Auckland, City in the North Island, New Zealand.



- He served as the New Zealand Test captain.
- He played 25 ODIs, 19 tests from 1979 to 1986, where he scored 633 runs in ODIs and 1296 runs in Tests. The test runs of him came at an average of 46.28, along with 6 centuries and 2 half centuries.

- He holds the New Zealand record of scoring over 1,000 test runs in the fewest innings.

61. Ans. D.

- Minister of State for External Affairs, V. Muraleedharan launched the Global Pravasi Rishta Portal & Mobile application to connect with 3.12 Crore Indian Diaspora across the world.

- The portal web interface will be used by Indian Missions whereas the mobile app will be used by diaspora & Indian nationals.

- The portal will be used by MEA for sharing information on Visa, Passport & other activities like consular services, conducting surveys and news about events organised by missions.

- It will also connect the Indian diaspora community to connect them to new & existing Government schemes.

62. Ans. A.

- Punjab CM, Captain Amarinder Singh virtually launched a mobile application 'DigiNest' that will enable people to have digital access to the directory of state govt.

- In addition to this, he also launched an online Punjab Advertisement Release Order System.

- This will bring transparency and efficiency in the entire process of releasing State Government's advertisements and payments to media houses.

63. Ans. C.

- Jharkhand state government has launched the state's own crop relief scheme 'Kisan Fasal Rahat Yojana' which will replace Government of India's crop insurance scheme Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY).

- The new scheme is a compensation scheme which will provide security cover to farmers of Jharkhand in cases of crop damage due to natural hazards.

- Department of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry & Co-operative, Jharkhand will be the implementing agency of the scheme.

- The main objectives of the scheme are – Food Safety, Crop Diversification, rapid development in Agriculture & paving way for competition.

64. Ans. D.

- Solar Energy firm, Oakridge Energy has signed agreements with Delhi Government and Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan to solarise schools in Delhi.

- The project will be developed by Oakridge and subsidised under the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy's (MNRE) capital subsidy scheme for Government Buildings.

- The installation of solar plants will help in making institutions energy independent, reduce their electricity bills and generate additional income through sale of surplus power.

- Oakridge has set a target to solarise 1, 000 schools & educational institutions by 2022.

65. Ans. B.

- Japarov Sadyr Nurgojoevich was elected as the president of Kyrgyzstan after securing nearly 80% votes. He belongs to the 'Patriotic' Political Party.

- About Japarov Sadyr Nurgojoevich:

- He served as the Prime Minister of Kyrgyzstan till 14th November 2020 after which his official powers in office are suspended due to the pending results of the January 2021 presidential election.

- He served as the acting president of the country after the resignation of Sooronbay Jeenbekov.

- After his resignation, Talant Mamytov, speaker of Kyrgyzstan's Parliament became the acting president of the country.

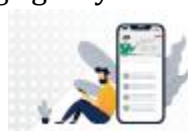
66. Ans. C.

- The book titled 'Unscripted: Conversations on Life and Cinema' is authored by Vidhu Vinod Chopra, Indian film director, screenwriter and producer and Abhijat Joshi, Indian screenwriter. 'Penguin eBury Press' is the publisher of the book.

- The book is scheduled to be released on January 25.

- Essence of the Book

- The book gives a glance into the mind, method and madness of Vidhu Vinod Chopra, one of contemporary Hindi cinema's best filmmakers.



• In this book, Vidhu Vinod Chopra speaks to his long-time collaborator and scriptwriter Abhijat Joshi about his journey.

67. Ans. A.

• Punjab Cabinet led by Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh approved the 'One Time Settlement (OTS) Scheme for Recovery of Outstanding Dues – 2021' for Traders to clear their Pending Arrears.

• The OTS will help Traders to settle their Pending arrears under the Punjab Value Added Tax Act, 2005 & Central Sales Tax Act, 1956.

• It will cost around INR 121.06 Crore to the Punjab Government.

• Will benefit Small & Medium Business Dealers/Traders who suffered due to COVID-19.

• Dealers who have filed assessments upto December 31, 2020 can apply under the scheme till April 30, 2021.

68. Ans. C.

• As part of the efforts to enhance community experience for women entrepreneurs in India, Flipkart & NITI Aayog have collaborated to launch the updated Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP). WEP is a first of its kind, unified access portal launched by NITI Aayog in 2017 to support Women Entrepreneurs.

• The revamped platform has multiple regional language support, allows interaction with women, fellow women entrepreneurs and mentors to communicate and also has a Question and Answer Portal.

• The community on WEP platform will connect women entrepreneurs who seek clarification on GST, funding, effects of the pandemic & progression of already established businesses.

• Through the platform, mentorship is also being offered to women mentees through a dedicated online mechanism.

69. Ans. C.

• Sheldon Adelson, the multibillionaire casino mogul and Republican Party megadonor, died from complications related to cancer treatment, according to Las Vegas Sands.

• Adelson, whose net worth was estimated by Forbes to be around \$33 billion, had been among the most-watched donors supporting President Trump's 2020 reelection effort.

• He was a staunch supporter of Israel.

70. Ans. B.

• According to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index, Tesla CEO Elon Musk overtakes Amazon's Bezos to become the world's richest person

• Musk had a net worth of more than \$188.5 billion, \$1.5 billion more than Bezos \$1.5 billion more than Bezos.

• Mukesh Ambani is now 13th richest in the world.

• Zhong Shanshan, chairman of Chinese bottled-water company Nongfu Spring, become Asia's richest person and 6th richest person in the world.

71. Ans. B.

* Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) Convention is the flagship event of the Ministry of External Affairs and provides an important platform to engage and connect with the overseas Indians.

* In view of the sentiments of our vibrant diaspora community, the 16th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention, is being organized on 9th January 2021, despite the ongoing Covid pandemic.

* The Convention will be held in virtual format, as were the PBD Conferences held recently in the run up to the Convention.

* The theme of 16th PBD Convention 2021 is "Contributing to Aatmanirbhar Bharat".

72. Ans. B.

* The government of India has formulated a New Industrial Development Scheme for Jammu & Kashmir (J&K IDS, 2021) as the Central Sector Scheme for the Development of Industries in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.

* The main purpose of the scheme is to generate employment which directly leads to the socio-economic development of the area.

73. Ans. A.

* The Centre has decided to form a committee under Minister of State for Home G Kishan Reddy to find a solution to issues associated with preservation of Ladakh's land, culture and language apart from demands from the region to be included under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution.



* A 10-member delegation from Ladakh met Home Minister Amit Shah Wednesday. The delegation is learnt to have expressed concern over threat to the region's unique culture, language and demography due to recent changes brought about by the Centre to the status of the region.

* The delegation included former MPs Thiksay Rinpoche and Thupstan Chhewang, former BJP minister Chering Dorjay, Leh chief executive councillor Tashi Gyalsen and sitting BJP MP Jamyang Tsering Namgyal.

74. Ans. D.

* Indian-American Dr Raj Iyer has taken over as the first Chief Information Officer of the US Army, after the Pentagon created the position in July 2020.

* One of the highest-ranking Indian-American civilians in the US Department of Defense, Raj Iyer, who holds a Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering, serves as the principal advisor to the Secretary of the Army and directs representation of the secretary in matters relating to information management/information technology (IT).

* Equivalent in rank to a three-star General, Raj Iyer will supervise an annual budget of USD 16 billion for the US Army's IT operations.

* Over 15,000 civilians and military personnel posted across 100 countries work under him.

75. Ans. B.

* Pakistan successfully test launched Fatah-1, the indigenously developed guided multi-launch rocket system.

* The rocket system is capable of delivering a conventional warhead up to a range of 140 kilometres.

* The weapon system will give Pakistan Army the capability of precision target engagement deep in enemy territory.



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