

# Current Affairs MCQs March 2021



1. Which country has joined the International Solar Alliance (ISA) after signing the amended ISA Framework Agreement?

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

2. Who has authored the book titled "The Pain-Free Mindset: 7 Steps to Taking Control and Overcoming Chronic Pain"?

- A. Dr. Ravi Rajagopal
- B. Dr. Prathap C Reddy
- C. Dr. Randeep Guleria
- D. Dr. Deepak Ravindran

3. Which state government announced to launch Universal Health Scheme (UHS) called "Mukhya Mantri Chiranjeevi Yojana"?

- A. Punjab
- B. Chhattisgarh
- C. Rajasthan
- D. Madhya Pradesh

4. NITI Aayog has partnered with which cloud computing web service provider to train students on the fundamentals of cloud computing through Atal Tinkering Labs?

- A. Amazon Web Services
- B. Microsoft Azure
- C. Google Cloud
- D. IBM Cloud

5. Who has been appointed as the Chairman of the international body Stop TB Partnership Board?

- A. Dr. Rajesh Bhushan
- B. Dr. Harsh Vardhan
- C. Dr. Randeep Guleria
- D. Prathap C. Reddy

6. Prime minister Narendra Modi held a virtual summit with his counterpart Sana Marin, the prime minister of which country?

- A. Norway
- B. Sweden
- C. Finland

D. Denmark

7. Who has been appointed as the new Director General (DG) of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)?

- A. Kuldiep Singh
- B. M.A. Ganapathy
- C. Kumar Rajesh Chandra
- D. Surjeet Singh Deswal

8. Who has been appointed as the new Director General (DG) of the National Security Guard (NSG)?

- A. Kuldiep Singh
- B. M.A. Ganapathy
- C. Kumar Rajesh Chandra
- D. Surjeet Singh Deswal

9. Who has authored the book titled "My Life in Full: Work, Family and Our Future"?

- A. Kiran Majumdar Shaw
- B. Indra Nooyi
- C. Roshni Nadar
- D. Chanda Kochar

10. India's first centralised air-conditioned (AC) railway terminal has been built in which city?

- A. New Delhi
- B. Bengaluru
- C. Ahmedabad
- D. Jaipur

11. 4th Global Ayurveda Festival (GAF) was inaugurated by PM Narendra Modi in which city of India?

- A. Jaipur, Rajasthan
- B. Shimla, Himachal Pradesh
- C. Dehradun, Uttarakhand
- D. Kozhikode, Kerala

12. Which state government has launched "Maha Samruddhi Mahila Sashaktikaran scheme" to empower the women in rural areas?

- A. Gujarat
- B. Maharashtra
- C. Rajasthan
- D. Madhya Pradesh

13. Which country will host the climate and Development Summit to be held in March 2021?

- A. Germany



- B. France
- C. Greece
- D. United Kingdom

14. Who has been awarded the best allrounder in the ICC Test ranking 2021?

- A. Ben Stokes
- B. Ravindra Jadeja
- C. Jason Holder
- D. Shakib Al Hasan

15. International Conference on Multifunctional Electronic Materials & Processing (MEMP 2021) was held in which city of India?

- A. Bengaluru
- B. Pune
- C. Nagpur
- D. Kanpur

16. The International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) Shotgun World Cup 2021 was held in \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. Doha, Qatar
- B. Cairo, Egypt
- C. Dubai, UAE
- D. Moscow, Russia

17. Uttarakhand Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) signed an MoU with which technology giant to improve the education standards among the female children of the state?

- A. Google
- B. IBM
- C. Microsoft
- D. Intel

18. Which country has developed world's most powerful supercomputer 'Fugaku'?

- A. China
- B. South Korea
- C. Japan
- D. Philippines

19. Who will be conferred with the International Federation of Film Archives (FIAF) Award 2021?

- A. Anupam Kher
- B. Paresh Rawal
- C. Amitabh Bachchan

D. Amir Khan

20. What is India's rank Globally in the latest Economic Freedom Index 2021 published by US conservative think-tank, The Heritage Foundation?

- A. 14<sup>th</sup>
- B. 119<sup>th</sup>
- C. 121<sup>st</sup>
- D. 123<sup>rd</sup>

21. The second edition of the joint military exercise 'Dustlik' was convened between India and Uzbekistan in which state of India?

- A. Punjab
- B. Rajasthan
- C. Himachal Pradesh
- D. Uttarakhand

22. Which country ranked at top among developing countries in the new country-readiness index 2021 released by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) in its 'Technology and Innovation Report 2021'?

- A. Indonesia
- B. India
- C. Philippines
- D. Ukraine

23. Who has been appointed as the Brand Ambassador of Glenmark Pharmaceuticals Limited?

- A. Rohit Sharma
- B. Sachin Tendulkar
- C. Rahul Dravid
- D. Virat Kohli

24. Which country hosted the multinational Exercise Desert Flag-VI for the first time?

- A. France
- B. Saudi Arabia
- C. UAE
- D. Bahrain



25. Which entity has organized 'India Telecom 2021' – an Exclusive International Business Expo under Market Access Initiative Scheme (MAI)?

- A. Telecom Equipment & Services Export Promotion Council (TEPC)
- B. Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI)
- C. Department of Telecommunication
- D. Association of Competitive Telecom Operators (ACTO)

26. The International Business Machines (IBM) India partnered with which state government to provide free online courses to students, Job seekers & Entrepreneurs of the state?

- A. Maharashtra
- B. Uttar Pradesh
- C. Chhattisgarh
- D. Goa

27. Which country India described as the "Priority One" partner in the defence sphere?

- A. Saudi Arabia
- B. Iran
- C. Nepal
- D. Sri Lanka

28. Who inaugurated the second edition of 'Maritime India Summit 2021'?

- A. Narendra Modi
- B. Nitin Gadkari
- C. Vijay Rupani
- D. Mansukh Mandaviya

29. Veteran parliamentarian Nand Kumar Singh Chauhan passed away recently, he was Lok Sabha MP from which party?

- A. Congress
- B. BJP
- C. Shiva Sena
- D. BSP

30. Who has authored the book titled "Joe Biden: American Dreamer" a biography of American President, Joe Biden?

- A. Pete Buttigieg
- B. Hunter Biden
- C. Evan Osnos

D. Cory Booker

31. Who received the Best Woman Boxer of the Tournament Award at the 30th Youth International Boxing Tournament 'Adriatic Pearl'?

- A. Vinka
- B. Alfiya Pathan
- C. Gitika
- D. Lucky Rana

32. Who is the chairman of the reconstituted governing council of the National Institution for Transforming India or NITI Aayog?

- A. Narendra Modi
- B. Nirmala Sitharaman
- C. Amitabh Kant
- D. VK Saraswat

33. Which state will host the Indian Women's League (IWL)?

- A. Madhya Pradesh
- B. Haryana
- C. Karnataka
- D. Odisha

34. Who has been chosen for CERAWEEK Global Energy and Environment Leadership Award 2021 for in recognition of his commitment to sustainability in the energy and the environment?

- A. Dharmendra Pradhan
- B. Narendra Modi
- C. Prakash Javadekar
- D. Nirmala Sitharaman

35. Which country successfully test fired anti-tank guided missile "Helena" and "Dhruvastra" recently?

- A. India
- B. Pakistan
- C. Nepal
- D. Japan

36. India's first Forest Healing centre was inaugurated in which state?

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



37. Which country is going to set up a Center of Excellence for the dairy sector in Rajasthan?

- A. Belgium
- B. Denmark
- C. Australia
- D. New Zealand

38. Who has been appointed as Chairman of Asia Pacific Rural and Agricultural Credit Association (APRACA)?

- A. Tarun Bajaj
- B. Naureen Hassan
- C. G R Chintala
- D. Srikant Datar

39. What was the theme for the 76th Annual Conference of Association of Physicians of India (API)?

- A. 'Contribution of Physicians to Atma Nirbhar Bharat'
- B. 'Engaging Minds: Empowering Medicine'
- C. 'Praising and Empowering the Physicians'
- D. 'Empowering Medicals, Empowering Nation'

40. Name the Indian shuttler who won silver medal in the BWF Swiss Open Super 300 in Basel?

- A. Saina Nehwal
- B. PV Sindhu
- C. Ashwini Ponnappa
- D. P.C Thulasi

41. Which state government has organized a 'Banana Festival' to make Prime Minister Narendra Modi's plan for a self-reliant India?

- A. Andhra Pradesh
- B. Bihar
- C. Madhya Pradesh
- D. Uttar Pradesh

42. Who has been appointed as the Chairman of the Airports Authority of India (AAI) under the Ministry of Civil Aviation?

- A. Kshatrapati Shivaji
- B. Sanjeev Kumar
- C. G P Samanta
- D. Pravin Srivastava

43. Who is present Principal Scientific Advisor (PSA) whose term has been extended by one year?

- A. Rajagopala Chidambaram
- B. Vijay Raghavan
- C. VK Atre
- D. W. Selvamurthy

44. Name the Indian shooter who has won the gold medal in the men's 50m Rifle 3 Positions event at the ISSF World Cup in New Delhi?

- A. Anish Bhanwala
- B. Arpit Goel
- C. Prithviraj Tondaiman
- D. Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar

45. What is India's rank in the among 53 global economies on the latest annual edition of the International Intellectual Property (IP) Index released by the US Chamber of Commerce Global Innovation Policy Centre (GIPC)?

- A. 34<sup>th</sup>
- B. 38<sup>th</sup>
- C. 40<sup>th</sup>
- D. 42<sup>nd</sup>

46. According to the report by 'India: Transforming to a net-zero emissions energy system' released by TERI and Shell, the Net Zero emissions in energy system in India is achievable by \_\_\_\_.

- A. 2025
- B. 2030
- C. 2035
- D. 2050

47. Which state has been emerged as the Champion State for Van Dhan Vikas Yojana?

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

48. With which country India signed a Memorandum of Cooperation (MoU) aimed at achieving water security, improved irrigation facility and sustainability in water resources development?



- A. France
- B. Japan
- C. Germany
- D. Australia

49. Name the e-Tendering Portal established by the Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID), a central PSU under Ministry of Power?

- A. PRINT
- B. PRANIT
- C. PRANITI
- D. PRAMPARA

50. India's Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) has signed an MoU with which country's Independent Administrative Reforms and Civil Services Commission (IARCSC) to share experience and expertise in the area of recruitment, books, manuals and other documents?

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

51. How many foreign satellites has been launched by Russia for 18 countries from the Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan?

- A. 24
- B. 28
- C. 30
- D. 38

52. Which country's branch of the Red Cross has sponsored and launched the world's first Catastrophe Bond (cat bond) for Volcano-related disasters with the support of several financial firms?

- A. Italy
- B. France
- C. Denmark
- D. Germany

53. What edition of National Film Award announced this year (2021)?

- A. 65<sup>th</sup>
- B. 66<sup>th</sup>
- C. 67<sup>th</sup>
- D. 68<sup>th</sup>

54. Which film has won the best feature film award at the 67<sup>th</sup> National Film Award ceremony?

- A. Panga
- B. Manikarnika: The Queen of Jhansi.
- C. Marakkar: Lion of the Arabian Sea
- D. Chhichhore

55. Who has been conferred with the Gandhi Peace Prize for the year 2019?

- A. Sultan Qaboos bin Said Al Said
- B. Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman
- C. Donald Trump
- D. Yohei Sasakawa

56. Who has been conferred with the Gandhi Peace Prize for the year 2020?

- A. Sultan Qaboos bin Said Al Said
- B. Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman
- C. Donald Trump
- D. Yohei Sasakawa

57. Under whose chairmanship the Reserve Bank of India has announced the setting up of a standing external advisory committee (SEAC) to evaluate applications for universal banks and small finance banks?

- A. B Mahapatra
- B. Shyamala Gopinath
- C. T.N. Manoharan
- D. Revathy Iyer

58. Under whose chairmanship the government of India has set up a high-level taskforce to lay a roadmap for enforcement of contracts?

- A. Rajiv Kumar
- B. Amitabh Kant
- C. VK Saraswat
- D. Rajiv Mahrishi

59. What is India's rank in the UN World Happiness Report 2021 released by the United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network?

- A. 128<sup>th</sup>
- B. 130<sup>th</sup>
- C. 139<sup>th</sup>
- D. 140<sup>th</sup>



60. Which state government has launched the 'Mission Gramodaya' under which housing facilities will be provided in rural areas along with basic and fundamental infrastructure?

- A. Jharkhand
- B. Uttar Pradesh
- C. Madhya Pradesh
- D. Rajasthan

61. Cricketer Gary Wilson announced retirement from International Cricket. He belongs to which country?

- A. New Zealand
- B. Ireland
- C. Australia
- D. The Netherlands

62. Renowned personality GV Ramakrishna passed away recently, he was former chairman/head of which institution?

- A. Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)
- B. Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)
- C. Food Safety and Standards Authority of India
- D. Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI)

63. According to a study released by the defence website 'Military Direct' which country has the strongest military force in the world?

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

64. India's military force comes at what position, as per the study report released by defence website 'Military Direct'?

- A. 1<sup>st</sup>
- B. 2<sup>nd</sup>
- C. 3<sup>rd</sup>
- D. 4<sup>th</sup>

65. Which state government has signed an Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with ITC to execute a Watershed Programme covering over one million acres in the southern state?

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

66. Which state government has launched India's first govt-run ambulance network for animals?

- A. Andhra Pradesh
- B. Himachal Pradesh
- C. Uttar Pradesh
- D. Madhya Pradesh

67. Who has been appointed as the Chairman and Managing Director, Food Corporation of India?

- A. Sanjeev Kumar
- B. Saurabh Garg
- C. Satyendra Garg
- D. Atish Chandra

68. Who has been appointed as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)?

- A. Sanjeev Kumar
- B. Saurabh Garg
- C. Satyendra Garg
- D. Rajat Datta

69. "Indo-Korean Bilateral Friendship Park" has been inaugurated in which city of India?

- A. New Delhi
- B. Chandigarh
- C. Jaipur
- D. Dehradun

70. Who will be conferred with the prestigious Vyas Samman - 2020?

- A. Sharad Pagare
- B. Mamta Kalla
- C. Leeladhar
- D. Sunita Jain

71. World's first ship tunnel, is being built in which country?

- A. Norway
- B. Sweden
- C. Denmark
- D. Germany

72. Who is the Director General UNESCO with whom Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank held a virtual meeting?

- A. Henrietta H. Fore
- B. Audrey Azoulay
- C. Alison Evans
- D. David R. Malpass



73. Which became the first Airport in South India to have a fully operational parallel runway?

- A. Chennai International Airport, Chennai
- B. Rajiv Gandhi International Airport, Hyderabad
- C. Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru
- D. Cochin International Airport, Cochin

74. What is the name of the huge cargo ship that was stuck near the southern end of the Suez Canal due to a mishap caused by bad weather?

- A. Ever Green
- B. Ever Given
- C. COSCO
- D. Madrid Maersk

75. Which state is set to become India's 1st State to have 2 Green Energy Efficient towns?

- A. Jharkhand
- B. Odisha
- C. Bihar
- D. Madhya Pradesh

### ANSWERS

1. Ans. A.

- Italy joined the International Solar Alliance (ISA) (also known as International Agency for Solar Policy and Application (IASPA)) after signing the amended ISA Framework Agreement. Vincenzo de Luca, Ambassador of Italy to India signed the Italian membership to the ISA.

- The new ISA Framework Agreement came into force on January 8, 2021.

- Under the new amended framework, the membership of ISA is open to all member states of the United Nations. Previously, it was open to countries that were partially or entirely located within the Tropics.

- The signed copies of the agreement were received by an additional secretary (ER) as representative of MEA. MEA is the depositary of the ISA Framework Agreement.

2. Ans. D.

- Dr. Deepak Ravindran, the lead of Pain therapy at Royal Berkshire Hospital, Reading, United Kingdom (UK) has authored a book titled "The Pain-Free Mindset: 7 Steps to Taking Control and Overcoming Chronic Pain".

- The book was published by Vermillion, an imprint of Penguin.

- This is the first book by a medical physician in the UK in the past 15 years to provide an overview that new scientific advances in understanding the nervous system will support us in overcoming pain.

- The book was commissioned by Vermillion in 2020

- The book describes MINDSET as an acronym for Medication, Intervention, Nervous system, Diet, Sleep, Exercise and Therapies.

- The book states that the general public and healthcare professional has to create the mindset that pain is an evolutionary mechanism of safety and not a sign of danger.

3. Ans. C.

- Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot announced to launch much anticipated Universal Health Scheme (UHS) "Mukhya Mantri Chiranjeevi Yojana".

- The scheme will be launched on May 1, 2021.

- In his budget speech Gehlot had announced UHS with Rs 3,500 crore in the upcoming financial year wherein cashless health services up to Rs 5 lakh will be provided to all families in the state.

4. Ans. A.

- IT major Amazon Web Services (AWS) and NITI Aayog announced a tie-up to train students on the fundamentals of cloud computing through Atal Tinkering Labs.

- A statement of intent (SoI) was signed between Niti Aayog and Amazon Internet Services Private Limited (AISPL), which undertakes the resale and marketing of AWS Cloud services in India, to roll out the project.

- The education and tools will establish a strong foundation in cloud computing for students of Atal Tinkering Labs (ATLs) across India, while the support of AWS EdStart for startups will accelerate their productisation and potential commercialization.

- Under the program, AWS will introduce the fundamentals of cloud computing such as cloud storage, virtual compute power, web hosting, artificial intelligence (AI), machine learning



(ML), and virtual reality (VR), to students at more than 7,000 ATIs in India.

5. Ans. B.

\* Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare Dr Harsh Vardhan has been appointed as the Chairman of the international body Stop TB Partnership Board.

\* He was appointed in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the movement to eradicate Tuberculosis from India by 2025.

\* Dr Harsh Vardhan will serve a three-year term, commencing from July this year.

\* The Stop TB Partnership is a unique international body with the power to align actors all over the world in the fight against TB.

\* The participation of a wide range of constituencies gives this global body the credibility and the broad range of medical, social and financial expertise needed to defeat TB.

\* The Partnership's vision is a TB-free world.

6. Ans. C.

\* India-Finland Virtual Summit 2021 was held between India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi & Finland's Prime Minister Sanna Marin.

\* India & Finland had announced a new partnership in the fields of ICT, Mobile Technology, Digital Education clean energy investment and evolution of 6G.

\* Both sides noted that Digital Domain was one of the promising sectors for an intensive India-Finland partnership.

7. Ans. A.

\* Senior IPS officer Kuldiep Singh has been appointed as the new Director General (DG) of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF).

\* Mr. Singh is currently Special DG of CRPF where the post of DG is vacant following superannuation of A.P. Maheshwari on February 28th.

\* Mr Singh is a 1986 batch officer of West Bengal cadre.

8. Ans. B.

\* Senior IPS officer M.A. Ganapathy of Uttarakhand cadre (1986) has been appointed as the Director General (DG) of National Security Guard (NSG).

\* His appointment is up to February 29, 2024.

\* The post of DG, NSG has been vacant since last October when the then DG A.K. Singh retired.

9. Ans. B.

\* Padma Bhushan awardee Indra Nooyi, the former CEO of PepsiCo is set to publish her memoir titled "My Life in Full: Work, Family and Our Future". The book is set to be published by Portfolio books on September 28. The book will feature both the personal and professional life of Indra Nooyi.

\* The book features the life of Indra Nooyi from her childhood in India to her life at Yale University as an immigrant to her life as a person of colour in the elite corporate world.

\* The book also features her work-life balance between being a mother of 2 and working at PepsiCo.

10. Ans. B.

\* India's first centralised air-conditioned (AC) railway terminal has been built at Baiyappanahalli in Bengaluru.

\* It is named after 'Bharat Ratna Sir M Visvesvaraya', one of the foremost civil engineers, and set to become operational soon.

\* It has been built at an estimated cost of Rs 314 crore.

\* Byappanahalli terminal is the 3rd coach terminal and is equipped with all the modern facilities and is aimed to offer an airport-like aura to the passengers.

11. Ans. D.

\* Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the fourth Global Ayurveda Festival (GAF) in Kozhikode, Kerala

\* It has been organized from 12 to 19 March 2021

\* GAF is the largest Ayurvedic event ever held anywhere across the world and witness the largest gathering of experts, stakeholders, and business explorers from Ayurveda.

\* Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industries (FICCI) is the festival and industry partner.

12. Ans. B.

• The Government of Maharashtra launched the "Maha Samruddhi Mahila Sashaktikaran scheme" to empower the women in rural areas.



- The scheme commenced on 8th March 2021, the International women's Day 2021.
  - The aim of the scheme is to promote the listing of wife's name along with husbands' names on the 7/12 extract and to promote the inclusion of wife's name on house property documents.
13. Ans. D.
- Countries that are most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change will be the focus of a UK summit next month, as part of the road to COP26 in Glasgow this year.
  - Many developing countries are experiencing the impacts of climate change – including flooding, drought and extreme temperatures. These countries are also facing challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting financial pressures.
  - The Climate and Development Ministerial will bring together countries and partners to focus on how we work together on these issues and prevent them from getting worse. This includes through mitigating the impacts of climate change, debt relief and access to finance.
  - The event, which will be hosted by the UK and co-chaired by the COP President, Alok Sharma and the Foreign Secretary, Dominic Raab, will be convened virtually on the 31st March. Anne-Marie Trevelyan, the UK International Champion on Adaptation and Resilience for COP26, will also attend.
14. Ans. C.
- In ICC Test All-rounders Ranking Jason Holder ranked at top followed by Ravindra Jadeja, Ben Stokes, Shakib Al Hasan and Ravichandran Ashwin
15. Ans. B.
- Centre for Materials for Electronics Technology (C-MET), Pune organized an International Conference on Multifunctional Electronic Materials & Processing (MEMP 2021) at Pune, India during 8-10 March 2021.
  - MEMP-2021 provided an opportunity to scientists, researchers, academicians and young students to interact with eminent scientists/technologists working in the field of multifunctional electronic materials for various applications & their processing for making devices.

- Materials required for energy storage, energy generation, Nanostructured materials, Quantum dots, Sensors, Neutrino Energy Conversion /storage.
  - Flexible devices, Photonic devices and processing techniques like Additive Manufacturing (3D printing) will be discussed.
  - Sanjay Dhotre, the Union Minister of State for Education, Communications, Electronics & Information Technology, Government of India, inaugurated the conference.
16. Ans. B.
- The International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) Shotgun World Cup 2021 was held in Cairo, Egypt from February 22-March 5,2021.
  - The Shotgun tournament took place for disciplines of Trap Shooting & Skeet Shooting.
  - The Indian Women's Trap Team trio of Kirti Gupta, Manisha Keer & Rajeshwari Kumari won the Silver medal in the event. They were defeated by Russia in the Final.
  - Men's Skeet Team Wins Bronze
  - The Indian Trio of Mairaj Ahmed Khan, Angad Vir Singh Bajwa & Gurjoat Khangura won the Bronze Medal in Men's skeet team event at the ISSF Shotgun World Cup in Cairo.
  - Russia won the Gold Medal while Czech Republic won the Silver medal.
17. Ans. B.
- The Uttarakhand unit of the Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) signed an MoU with IBM to improve the education standards among the female children of the state.
  - he collaboration, 'IBM STEM for Girls' program, will be introduced in 130 secondary and higher secondary schools across five districts in the state.
  - The five districts are Dehradun, Pauri, Haridwar, Almora and Udham Singh Nagar.
  - The program will advance the skills and careers of close to 25,600 students in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) fields.
  - The collaboration is part of a three-year program between IBM and Uttarakhand State Government with the American India Foundation as the implementation partner to



increase the participation of girls and women in STEM careers.

18. Ans. C.

- The world's most powerful supercomputer Fugaku is now fully developed in Japan, and the machine is available for research use.
- Japanese scientific research institute RIKEN and Fujitsu began development six years ago with an aim to make the device core of Japan's computing infrastructure.
- Now, as Fugaku is fully open and available for shared use, Japan's Research Organization for Information Science and Technology (RIST) has selected 74 projects that will use the supercomputer in FY2021.

19. Ans. C.

- Megastar Amitabh Bachchan will be honoured with an award by the International Federation of Film Archives (FIAF).
- The veteran actor will be the first Indian cinema personality to be bestowed with the FIAF Award for his dedication and contribution to the preservation of the world's film heritage.
- Hollywood filmmakers and previous recipients of the FIAF Award — Martin Scorsese and Christopher Nolan — will present the award to Bachchan during a virtual showcase scheduled to take place on March 19.
- The FIAF is a worldwide organisation, comprising of film archives and museums from across the world.

20. Ans. C.

- The Economic Freedom Index 2021 was published by US conservative think-tank, The Heritage Foundation.
- Globally, the Foundation rates India's economy as the 121st freest.
- Although its overall score is unchanged, improvements were made in business freedom.
- This was offset by declines in judicial effectiveness and other scores.
- In the index, Singapore has topped the global ranking for the second consecutive year.
- The index was prepared by covering 184 countries this time for the period of July 2019 to June 2020.

21. Ans. D.

- The armies of Indian and Uzbekistan took part in the joint military exercise 'Dustlik' recreating Kashmir-like counter-terror operations in Chaubatia near Ranikhet in Uttarakhand.
- The second edition of exercise Dustlik is aimed at carrying out joint counter-terror operations in a mountainous rural and urban scenario.
- Intelligence-based surgical operations, special forces tracking techniques, surveillance through a hi-tech command post, slithering operations from helicopters were some of the key elements of the exercise.
- The Indian Army was represented by 13 Kumaon known as the Rezang La battalion famous for its heroics in the battle of Rezang La in 1962 war with China.
- The first one took place in November 2019 near Tashkent in Uzbekistan.

22. Ans. B.

- In accordance with the new country-readiness index released by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) in its 'Technology and Innovation Report 2021', India is the biggest over performer in frontier technologies than it's per capita gross domestic products (GDP) among 158 countries.
- The index ranked India at 43 while the estimated one based on per capita income was 108. This meant that India over performed other countries by 65 ranking positions.
- India was followed by the Philippines, which over performed by 57 ranking positions.

23. Ans. A.

- Drug major Glenmark Pharma has signed cricketer Rohit Sharma as brand ambassador for its product Candid Powder.
- Sharma will be the official face of the brand as part of its 360 degree communication.
- Glenmark said Candid Powder brand is a market leader in its category, with a market share of 64 per cent in the medicated powder category.
- Glenmark's Candid Dusting Powder is used to treat four key skin problems of redness, irritation, sweat rash and fungal infections.

24. Ans. C.

- The Indian Air Force (IAF) will participate in the Exercise Desert Flag-VI along with the air



forces of the UAE, the US, France, Saudi Arabia, South Korea and Bahrain for the first time.

- The exercise was held from March 3 to 21 at the Al-Dhafra airbase in the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

- The Exercise Desert Flag is an annual multi-national large force employment warfare exercise hosted by the UAE Air Force.

- The aim of the exercise is to provide operational exposure to the participating forces, while training them to undertake simulated air combat operations in a controlled environment.

25. Ans. A.

- The Telecom Equipment & Services Export Promotion Council (TEPC) has organized 'India Telecom 2021' – an Exclusive International Business Expo under Market Access Initiative Scheme (MAI) of Department of Commerce, Government of India.

- The main objective of the event is to provide opportunities to Indian telecom exporters to meet qualified overseas buyers.

- TEPC has created this platform to bring potential buyers from across the globe and quality telecom equipment manufacturers and ICT services solution providers from India under one roof to interact and finalize business deals.

26. Ans. D.

- International Business Machines (IBM) India partnered with the state government of Goa to provide free online courses to students, Job seekers & Entrepreneurs of the state.

- This initiative is aimed at upskilling 10,000 youths across 10 institutions in 1 year through IBM SkillBuild Program.

- Personalised coaching and experimental learning module is provided on Information & Communication Technology (ITC).

- The program has over 1lakh beneficiaries in Indian in 2021 alone.

27. Ans. D.

- India described Sri Lanka as "Priority One" partner in the defence sphere and said the participation of its military aircraft in the 70th anniversary celebration of the Sri Lanka Air Force (SLAF) is indicative of the growing

cooperation, camaraderie and friendship between the two militaries.

- The SLAF is celebrating its 70th Anniversary on March 2 and to commemorate the historical event, a Fly Past and an Aerobatic Display is being organised for the first time in the country at a grand scale.

28. Ans. A.

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 'Maritime India Summit 2021'

- Prime Minister Modi inaugurated the second edition of the summit via video conferencing.

- Prime Minister also launched e-book of maritime vision 2030, which is aiming to make the Indian maritime industry at par with the top global benchmark in the next 10 years.

- The Summit will help in furthering growth of India's maritime economy.

- The summit will visualise a roadmap for India's Maritime sector for next decade and will work to propel India to the forefront of the Global Maritime Sector.

- Denmark is the partner country for the three-day summit.

29. Ans. B.

- The six-term MP Nand Kumar Singh Chauhan, the BJP Lok Sabha member from Khandwa in Madhya Pradesh, passed away at a hospital in Gurugram.

- He was suffering from COVID-19 and was airlifted to Medanta Hospital in Gurugram last month in a serious condition.

- The leader started his political career in 1978 from the Shahpur Municipal Council and was later elected as member of the Madhya Pradesh Assembly.

- He was an MLA from 1985 to 1996.

- He was elected as the Lok Sabha member for the first time in 1996 and got re-elected in 1998, 1999, 2004, 2014 and 2019.

30. Ans. C.

- National Book Award Winner Evan Osnos has authored a new Book "Joe Biden: American Dreamer" a biography of American President, Joe Biden that features both the personal and public life of Joe Biden. The book is published by Bloomsbury Publishing.



- The author portrays President Joseph R. Biden Jr. as a man who has sustained a 50-year political career and became the President and a man who is marked with deep personal losses.

- The book captures the characters and features of the presidential election.

31. Ans. A.

- Alfiya Pathan (+81kg), Vinka (60kg) and T Sanamacha Chanu (75kg) are the other Indian women boxers who secured gold medals in their respective categories earlier in the tournament.

- For her magnificent show, Vinka received the Best Woman Boxer of the Tournament award.

- With two medals in the men's category, the 19-member Indian team concluded its campaign with an overall second position (12 medals).

32. Ans. A.

- The Centre has reconstituted the governing council of the NITI Aayog with Prime Minister Narendra Modi as its chairperson.

- According to a notification of the Cabinet Secretariat, chief ministers of all states and those of the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir, Delhi and Puducherry are full time members of the council.

- The Lieutenant Governors of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Ladakh, and the administrators of Chandigarh, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu and Lakshadweep will be special invitees of governing council.

33. Ans. D.

- According to the All India Football Federation (AIFF), Odisha will host the Indian Womens League (IWL),

- The dates will be announced later.

- Since the Covid-19 pandemic, Indian football has been trying to restart on-field sporting action.

- It all started with the I-League qualifiers, followed by the Indian Super League (ISL) and the I-League. ISL and I-League are currently being played.

- Indian women's football has also had its fair exposure at the international stage in recent times with the senior India team assembling for a two-month long training camp on December 1 in Goa, followed by three matches in Turkey, against Serbia, Russia and Ukraine.

34. Ans. B.

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will receive the CERAWEEK global energy and environment leadership award next week in recognition of his commitment to sustainability in the energy and the environment.

- CERAWEEK by IHS Markit--the world's preeminent energy conference--will be held virtually March 1-5. 2021 marks the 39th edition of the conference and is the first time that it will be an all-virtual event.

- Prime Minister Modi will participate in a special plenary with Daniel Yergin, vice chairman of IHS Markit and conference chair on March 5.

- He will also receive the CERAWEEK Global Energy and Environment Leadership Award in recognition of his commitment to sustainability in the energy and the environment.

35. Ans. A.

- Defence Research and Development Organisation has successfully carried out joint user trials of indigenously developed Helina and Dhruvastra Anti-Tank Guided Missiles (ATGM) from the Advanced Light Helicopter at the Pokhran deserts in Rajasthan.

- Helena is the Army version and Dhruvastra is the Air Force version of the ALH.

- The missile systems have been designed and developed indigenously by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

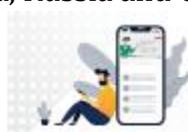
36. Ans. B.

- India's first Forest Healing centre was inaugurated by noted environmentalist Joginder Bisht in the pine dominated forest located at Ranikhet in Kalika Uttarakhand. It was developed by the Research Wing of Uttarakhand Forest Department in an area of around 13 acres.

- The centre is based on the concept of healing and revitalizing the overall health and well being of people by bringing them into direct contact with nature.

37. Ans. B.

- A centre of excellence for the dairy sector will be set up in Rajasthan in collaboration with Denmark.



- Denmark Ambassador Freddy Svane discussed the idea at a meeting with chief minister Ashok Gehlot

- The possibilities of Denmark's cooperation in the field of water conservation and purification were also discussed in the meeting.

38. Ans. C.

- National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) Chairman G R Chintala took over the chairmanship of the Asia Pacific Rural and Agricultural Credit Association (APRACA).

- Chintala is succeeding Bank of Ceylon CEO DPK Gunasekera in office.

- It is an international organisation, which does a lot of information exchange, takes capacity building initiatives, and creates new institutions.

- The last chairmanship India got was in 1999, which is almost 19 years back.

39. Ans. B.

- The 76th Annual Conference of the Association of Physicians of India (API) was held virtually.

- It was addressed by Union Minister of State (IC) Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER), MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh.

- While addressing he mentioned the contribution of Physicians to the Atma Nirbhar Bharat Campaign.

- He also appreciated the work performed by young physicians, particularly young Resident Doctors, who are lauded as 'Corona Warriors' during the pandemic period.

- The theme of the conference was: 'Engaging Minds: Empowering Medicine'.

40. Ans. B.

- India's ace shuttler PV Sindhu settled for a silver medal in the BWF Swiss Open Super 300 at Basel.

- She lost to World No. 3 Spaniard and reigning Olympic champion Carolina Marin in the final of the women's singles event.

- The World Champion shuttler who has faced a lot of criticism lately for lacklustre performances in the last year had entered the semifinal stage of a BWF tournament after 19 months.

- In her first semifinal after 13 tournaments, Sindhu had defeated Denmark's Mia Blichfeldt 22-20, 21-10.

41. Ans. D.

- The Uttar Pradesh (UP) government has organized a 'Banana Festival' at Buddha Park in Kushinagar from March 22 to 25, 2021.

- The main goal of organizing this festival is to make Prime Minister Narendra Modi's plan for a self-reliant India.

- Banana made products from Kushinagar are included in One District One Product (ODOP) scheme.

42. Ans. B.

- IAS Sanjeev Kumar has appointed as Chairman of the Airports Authority of India (AAI) under the Ministry of Civil Aviation.

- Kumar is a 1993-batch IAS officer of Maharashtra cadre. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved his appointment.

43. Ans. B.

- The government has extended the term of Principal Scientific Advisor (PSA) K. VijayRaghavan by a year.

- He was appointed PSA in 2018 after retiring as Secretary of, Department of Biotechnology. His contract ends on April 2 but has now been extended until April 2022.

44. Ans. D.

- India's Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar won gold in the men's 50m Rifle 3 Positions event at the ISSF World Cup in New Delhi.

- The 20-year-old became the youngest in history to win a shooting World Cup gold in the 3 Positions event.

- The two other Indian shooters in the final, Sanjeev Rajput finishing sixth and Niraj Kumar came at the last position.

45. Ans. C.

- India ranked 40 among 53 global economies on the latest annual edition of the International Intellectual Property (IP) Index 2021 released by the US Chamber of Commerce Global Innovation Policy Centre (GIPC).



- The Index evaluates Intellectual Property rights in 53 global economies from patent and copyright policies to commercialisation of IP assets and ratification of international treaties.

- The overall global IP environment improved in 2020, with positive score increasing in 32 of the 53 economies measured by the IP Index.

- This is the ninth IP index released by the GIPC.

46. Ans. D.

- According to the report by 'India: Transforming to a net-zero emissions energy system' released by TERI (The Energy & Resources Institute) & Shell (otherwise known as Royal Dutch Shell plc), the Net Zero emissions in energy system in India is achievable by 2050.

- The report is one of the first assessments of the challenges that India would face if India were to move towards Net-zero emissions energy system.

47. Ans. D.

- With active cooperation from the state government of Manipur, Van Dhan Vikas Yojana has been successfully implemented, turning Manipur into the Champion State for the scheme.

- Van Dhan Yojana was launched in October 2019 in Manipur, with the successful establishment of 100 Van Dhan Vikas Kendras in the state.

- This constitutes 1500 self-help groups for marketing & providing value-addition to the tribal, minor forest produces.

- Van Dhan Vikas Yojana is a programme for value addition, branding & marketing of Minor Forest Produces by establishing Van Dhan Kendras to facilitate the creation of sustainable livelihoods for the forest-based tribes.

48. Ans. B.

- The Union Cabinet apprised of a Memorandum of Cooperation signed between India and Japan, aimed at achieving water security, improved irrigation facility and sustainability in water resources development.

- The MoU was signed between Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India and Water and Disaster Management Bureau, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism of Japan in the field of Water Resources.

- This MoC was signed for development of a long-term cooperation in the field of water and delta management, and water technology in order to increase the exchange of information, knowledge, technology and scientific allied experience, as well as implementation of joint projects between the two countries.

49. Ans. B.

- Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID), a central PSU under Ministry of Power has established an e-Tendering Portal-PRANIT which will lead to less paperwork and ease of operation, making the tendering process more transparent.

- It has been certified by Standardisation, Testing and Quality Certification Directorate (STQC), Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Government of India.

- With this, POWERGRID is now the only organization in India to have an eProcurement solution on SAP Supplier Relationship Management (SRM), complying with all applicable requirements relating to security and transparency as stipulated by STQC.

- POWERGRID in pursuit of digitalisation has been undertaking a number of innovative enhancements within SAP SRM framework.

50. Ans. B.

- Union Cabinet has approved MoU between Union Public Service Commission (UPSC), India and Independent Administrative Reforms and Civil Services Commission (IARCSC), Afghanistan.

- It will strengthen the relationship between IARCSC and UPSC

- The MoU will facilitate sharing of experience and expertise in the area of recruitment, books, manuals and other documents which are not of a confidential nature and Information Technology (IT) for the preparation of written examinations and holding of Computer Based Recruitment Tests and Online Examinations.

51. Ans. D.

- Russia put 38 foreign satellites into orbit after a successful launch from the Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan following delays due to technical issues.



- The Soyuz-2.1a carrier rocket with the Fregat upper stage and 38 spacecraft from 18 countries took off from the Baikonur cosmodrome.
  - Soyuz rocket successfully placed into orbit the 38 satellites from more than a dozen countries, including South Korea, Japan, Canada, Saudi Arabia, Germany, Italy and Brazil.
  - Among them was the Challenge-1, the first satellite made completely in Tunisia, which was created by the Telnet telecommunications group.
52. Ans. C.

- The Danish Red Cross has launched first of its kind, a catastrophe bond for volcano-related disasters with the support of several financial firms.

- The \$3 million bond will enable the disaster relief agency to get aid quickly to those suffering following the eruption of 10 named volcanoes, in Cameroon, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Indonesia and Mexico.

- Catastrophe bonds offer investors high yields, but do not pay out if a named catastrophe occurs. They typically cover areas prone to hurricanes and typhoons.

53. Ans. C.

- The 67th National Film Awards were announced in New Delhi, with the honours for films from the year of 2019.

- The event is organised by the Directorate of Film Festivals, which comes under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

- Director Priyadarshan's Malayalam war epic Marakkar: Lion of the Arabian Sea, that is headlined by Mohanlal, won Best Feature Film.

- The best acting honours went to Manoj Bajapayee for Bhonsle, Dhanush for Tamil film Asuran, and Kangana Ranaut for two of her films: Panga and Manikarnika: The Queen of Jhansi.

- Vijay Sethupathi (Super Deluxe) and Pallavi Joshi (The Tashkent Files) won the supporting actor awards, while director Sanjay Puran Singh Chauhan was awarded for Bahattar Hoorain.

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55. Ans. A.

- Late Sultan Qaboos bin Said Al Said of Oman was awarded the prestigious prize for the year 2019 in recognition of his vision to strengthen relations with India, and his efforts to promote peace and non-violence in the Gulf region.

- The Gandhi Peace Prize is an annual award instituted by government of India since 1995, the 125th birth anniversary commemoration year of Mahatma Gandhi.

- The award is open to all people regardless of nationality, race, language, caste, creed or sex.

- The award carries an amount of Rs 1 crore, a citation, plaque and an exquisite traditional handicraft/handloom item.

- The jury for Gandhi Peace Prize is chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and comprises of two ex-officio members, namely the chief justice of India and leader of the single largest opposition party in the Lok Sabha.

56. Ans. B.

- The Gandhi Peace Prize for the year 2020 is being conferred on Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman

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57. Ans. B.

- The Reserve Bank of India announced the setting up of a standing external advisory committee (SEAC) to evaluate applications for universal banks and small finance banks.
- The five-member committee will be headed by former deputy governor Shyamala Gopinath.
- The SEAC which will have a tenure of three years, and will screen applications for universal and small finance banks after the regulator first vets the proposal.
- The SEAC will also include four other members, Revathy Iyer, Director on the RBI central board, B Mahapatra, former executive director, RBI and presently chairman of NPCI, TN Manoharan, former chairman of Canara Bank and Hemant Contractor, former MD of State Bank of India.

58. Ans. A.

- Government has set up a high-level task force under NITI Aayog vice chairman Rajiv Kumar to lay a roadmap for enforcement of contracts.
- The task force for enforcement of contracts will give its recommendation for a policy framework for enforcement of contracts and the task force on conciliation mechanism will give its recommendation for an effective conciliation mechanism.
- The other members of the task for enforcement of contracts force will include secretaries of stakeholder ministries including department for promotion of industry and internal trade and department of economic affairs, revenue and commerce besides chief secretaries of Maharashtra, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh besides NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant who will be the member secretary of the task force.

59. Ans. C.

- UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network released the World Happiness Report 2021.
- Finland was once again crowned as the world's happiest country.

- India has been ranked 139 out of 149 countries.
- In 2019, India was ranked 140th.
- Denmark ranked 2nd, followed by Switzerland, Iceland and the Netherlands.
- Afghanistan was classed as the world's unhappiest nation this year.
- The ranking is based on GDP per person, healthy life expectancy and the opinions of residents.

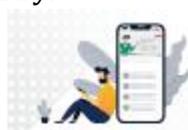
60. Ans. C.

- The Mission Gramodaya has been launched in Madhya Pradesh.
- The mission was launched by the Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar and Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan.
- Under the Gramodaya mission, besides providing housing facilities in rural areas, basic and fundamental infrastructure will also be expanded.
- Rural Development schemes, especially Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna and Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana are being effectively implemented in MP.

61. Ans. B.

- Gary Wilson, Former captain of Ireland Cricket Team announced retirement from International Cricket. He represented the Ireland squad in 2 Cricket World Cups (2011, 2015) and 5 T20 World Cups (2009, 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016).
- Currently, he is all set to take over the role of Head Coach and Pathway Manager for North West Warriors.
- Gary Wilson made his International Debut in 2005 for Ireland, and represented the side 292 times.
- He is the 2nd Highest wicket-taker for Ireland with 160 catches & 33 stumping's.
- In his 16 yearlong cricketing career, he scored 5,959 runs for Ireland, with 1 century and 30 fifties.
- His highest score 113 came against the Netherlands in 2010.
- He captained Ireland's T20 squad in 2018, leading the country to be qualified for 2020's T20 World Cup.

62. Ans. A.



- Former chairman of Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) GV Ramakrishna passed away in Chennai after a brief illness.
  - He was 91. He is survived by his wife, son and daughter.
  - Born in 1930 in Bengaluru, he started his career as a biochemist and then opted for civil services in 1952.
  - Known for his stellar administrative performance, Ramakrishna was appointed as the chairman Sebi in 1990 when it lacked legal status. Among his many works, he was known for strongly advocating to ban the badla stock trading system in 1994.
  - He headed SEBI till that year and then became the first chairman of the Disinvestment Commission in 1996.
63. Ans. A.
- China has the strongest military force in the world while India stands at number four, according to a study released by defence website Military Direct.
  - The USA, despite their enormous military budgets, comes in 2nd place with 74 points, followed by Russia with 69, India at 61 and then France with 58. The UK just about makes the Top 10, coming in 9th place with a score of 43.
  - China has the strongest military in the world, scoring 82 out of 100 points in the index.
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65. Ans. B.
- The government of Karnataka signed an Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with ITC to execute a Watershed Programme covering over one million acres in the southern state. The Programme will be in effect for 3 years.

- The MoU was signed under the ITC's Social Investments programme "Mission Sunehra Kal" & the Karnataka Watershed Development Department. With regard to this MoU, 100 Watershed had set up.
  - The agreement was a part of the Karnataka government's 'Watershed development for drought proofing' programme & it is a part of ITCs Sustainability 2.0 agenda.
  - It aims at covering 1.16 million acres of watershed area in 29 districts.
66. Ans. A.
- Andhra Pradesh state government has decided to set up "India's first government-run ambulance network" for animals.
  - The Animal Husbandry Department has been further directed to set up one Mobile Ambulance Veterinary Clinic at every assembly constituency.
  - These mobile ambulances shall provide veterinary first aid services along with spot diagnosis and attending to emergency cases.
  - One of the major facilities these ambulances will provide is the 'Hydraulic Lift' facility to lift animals and shift them to the nearest Government Veterinary Facility in case of emergency.
67. Ans. D.
- Atish Chandra will be Chairman and Managing Director, Food Corporation of India in the rank and pay of Additional Secretary, the order said.
  - Chandra, a 1994 batch IAS officer of Bihar cadre, is currently Joint Secretary, Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare.
68. Ans. B.
- Senior bureaucrat Saurbah Garg has been appointed as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) as part of a bureaucratic reshuffle effected by the Centre.
  - The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of Garg as the CEO, UIDAI in the rank and pay of Additional Secretary.
69. Ans. A.
- Indian Defence Minister, Rajnath Singh and South Korean Defence Minister, Suh Wook have



inaugurated “Indo-Korean Bilateral Friendship Park” in Delhi Cantt.

- Friendship Park has been built to commemorate contribution of Indian peacekeepers in the Korean War from 1950 to 1953.
- India-South Korea relations have strengthened in recent years with the convergence of Act East Policy (AEP) of India and New Southern Policy (NSP) of South Korea.
- Bilateral ties have grown multi-dimensional in the fields of Maritime security, nuclear disarmament, regional economic cooperation, counterterrorism and energy cooperation.

70. Ans. A.

- Well known Hindi writer Prof. Sharad Pagare will be conferred with the prestigious Vyas Samman - 2020 for his novel 'Patliputru Ki Samragi.'
- The Vyas Samman, started in 1991, is given by K K Birla Foundation for an outstanding literary work in Hindi authored by an Indian citizen published during the last 10 years.
- It carries an award of four lakh rupees along with a citation and plaque.

71. Ans. A.

- Norway has got the go-ahead to construct what's being billed as the world's first ship tunnel, designed to help vessels navigate the treacherous Stadshavet Sea.
- First announced a few years ago by the Norwegian Coastal Administration, this mile-long, 118-foot-wide tunnel will burrow through the mountainous Stadshavet peninsula in northwestern Norway.
- Building this engineering marvel will cost somewhere in the region of 2.8 billion Norwegian kroner (\$330 million) and take between three to four years, with construction due to commence in 2022.

72. Ans. B.

- Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank held a virtual meeting with Director General UNESCO, Ms Audrey Azoulay in New Delhi.
- They discussed key issues of mutual importance including National Education Policy, India's response to COVID Pandemic especially in the education sector.

73. Ans. C.

- Bengaluru's Kempegowda International Airport became the 1st Airport in South India to have a fully operational parallel runways. This comes as a result of the Airport's northern runway coming to operation which was closed for renovation and upgrades in June 2020.
- While the Southern runway is equipped with a CAT III B System that provides precision landing facility by improving runway visibility.
- Due to reduced passenger traffic caused by the pandemic, it was decided not to implement the CAT III B system in the Northern runway.

74. Ans. B.

- A large cargo ship named 'Ever Given' got stuck near the southern end of the Suez Canal due to a mishap caused by bad weather.
- This is causing a huge jam of vessels at either end of the vital international trade artery.
- The Suez Canal is an artificial sea-level waterway running north to south across the Isthmus of Suez in Egypt, to connect the Mediterranean Sea and the Red Sea.
- The canal separates the African continent from Asia.
- It provides the shortest maritime route between Europe and the lands lying around the Indian and western Pacific oceans.
- It is one of the world's most heavily used shipping lanes, carrying over 12% of world trade by volume.

75. Ans. C.

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

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



- To implement the project, the state government of Bihar will construct 500 MW solar energy plants at Lakhisarai & Bhagalpur.
- After Rajgir & BodhGaya, many important government offices in Patna like the Governor house, High Court, Museum & Vidhyut Bhawan would also run on green energy supplied by SECI.

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