

# FEBRUARY 2021

## CURRENT AFFAIRS



## APPOINTMENTS

1. Who has been re-elected as president of Boxing Federation of India?

**Ajay Singh**

Explanation

Ajay Singh, also the chairman of Spice jet airlines, prevailed 37-27 in the elections held at a Gurugram hotel. He will have a new secretary general by his side in Assam's Hemanta Kumar Kalita

2. Who has been appointed acting CBI?

**Gujarat-cadre IPS Officer Praveen Sinha**

Explanation

CBI Additional Director Praveen Sinha, a 1988-batch Gujarat cadre IPS, has been appointed acting chief of the agency till a decision on a new director is taken to succeed Rishi Kumar Shukla who retired on Wednesday after a two-year fixed stint.

3. Who became the new Chairman of the National Safety Council?

**S N Subrahmanyam**

Explanation

The Ministry of labour and employment has appointed Larsen & Toubro's Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director SN Subrahmanyam as the chairman of the National Safety Council for a period of three years

4. Who has been appointed as the MD of Google cloud in India?

**Bikram Singh Bedi**

Explanation

Google Cloud on Thursday announced the appointment of Bikram Singh Bedi as the Managing Director for its India business. He succeeds Karan Bajwa, who was elevated as Vice President for Asia Pacific region last month

5. Who appointed as the new CFO of IndiGo?

**Jiten Chopra**

Explanation

Jiten Chopra, a former executive at BSR & Co (KPMG) Audit and risk team, will take over as the chief financial officer at InterGlobe Aviation Limited (IndiGo) from 21 February, the airline said in a statement on Tuesday

6. Who has been appointed as Assam DSP?

**Hima Das**

Explanation

Star sprinter Hima Das, who is currently looking to qualify for the Tokyo Olympics, has been appointed as a Deputy Superintendent of Police by the Assam government.

7. Who has been appointed as Kerala chief secretary?

**VP Joy**

### Explanation

The Kerala government has decided to appoint Additional Chief Secretary VP Joy as the next state Chief Secretary with incumbent Vishwas Mehta set to retire on February 28. A virtual meeting of the cabinet also decided to recommend to the Governor the appointment of General Education Department Secretary A Shahjahan as the State Election Commissioner from March 31

### 8. New Prime Minister of Italy?

**Mario Draghi**

### Explanation

The appointment of the 73-year-old known as "Super Mario" capped weeks of political instability for the country still in the grips of the health crisis that has killed more than 93,000 people.

### 9. Who is the new CEO of Tata motors?

**Marc Llistosella**

### Explanation

Tata Motors Ltd. has announced the appointment of Marc Llistosella as its chief executive officer and managing director. Mr Llistosella was most recently the president and CEO of Fuso Truck and Bus Corporation and head of Daimler Trucks in Asia. He was earlier the MD and CEO of Daimler India Commercial Vehicles Pvt. Ltd

### 10. Who has been elected as Director-General of International Solar Alliance?

**Ajay Mathur**

### Explanation

Ajay Mathur has been elected as the new Director General of International Solar Alliance (ISA) as announced at the first special assembly of ISA members. He will succeed Upendra Tripathy, who served as ISA's DG since inception. He is currently serving as the Director General of The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)

### 11. Chief Justice of Manipur HC?

**Justice Puligoru Venkata Sanjay Kumar**

### Explanation

Justice Puligoru Venkata Sanjay Kumar has been sworn-in as the Chief Justice of Manipur High Court at Raj Bhavan, Imphal. He was appointed as Chief Justice of the High Court of Manipur by the President of India. Prior to this, he served as a Judge in the Punjab and Haryana High Court.

### 12. Japan Olympics minister \_\_\_\_\_ appointed head of Games?

**Seiko Hashimoto**

### Explanation

The former Olympics Minister of Japan Seiko Hashimoto has been appointed as the next President of Tokyo Olympic 2020

### 13. Who takes charge as Chairman of National Commission for Scheduled Castes?

**Vijay Sampla**

### Explanation



Former Union Minister Vijay Sampla has assumed the charge of Chairman National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC). He has been the former Union Minister of State for Social Justice & Empowerment from 2014 to 2019. NCSC is an Indian constitutional body under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment that works for the socio-economic development of the scheduled castes and to prevent atrocities against them

**14.** Who has been appointed as the new CEO of country's flagship public health insurance scheme Ayushman Bharat, also called Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana

**RS Sharma**

Explanation

The National Health Authority (NHA) has appointed RS Sharma as the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of country's flagship public health insurance scheme Ayushman Bharat, also called Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana

**15.** Who has been appointed as the Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of SBI CARDS?

**Rama Mohan Rao Amara**

Explanation

Rao is a veteran banker, with a successful career spanning over 29 years at SBI. SBI Cards and Payment Services Ltd (SBI Card) on Saturday appointed Rama Mohan Rao Amara as its Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer for a period of two years. Rao took charge as the MD and CEO of the company on Saturday

**16.** Who has been appointed as the first-ever Chief Compliance Officer of social media platform Facebook Inc.?

**Henry Moniz**

Explanation

Facebook Inc. has appointed Henry Moniz as its first-ever Chief Compliance Officer. He will join Facebook on February 8 to lead the company's global compliance team, to enhance its global compliance and risk management and promote the highest standards of legal and ethical conduct at the company

**17.** Who has been appointed as the chairman of Telecom Equipment and Services Export Promotion Council?

**Sandeep Aggarwal**

Explanation

The Telecom Equipment and Services Export Promotion Council (TEPC) has appointed Sandeep Aggarwal as the new Chairman. Aggarwal, the Managing Director and Promoter of Delhi-based Paramount Communications, will take over from Shyamal Ghosh, ex-Telecom Secretary, TEPC said

**18.** Who has been appointed as the Chairman of the Somnath Temple Trust?

**Narendra Modi**

Explanation

Prime Minister Narendra Modi was appointed as the new chairman of the trust which manages the world famous Somnath Temple at Prabhas Patan town in Gujarat's Gir-Somnath district

**19.** Who has been re-elected as President of TTFI?

**Dushyant Chautala**

Explanation

Dushyant Chautala has been re-elected as the President of Table Tennis Federation of India (TTFI) for a period of four years. He was elected unanimously during the 84th annual meeting of the TTFI, on February 24, 2021. He is also the current Deputy Chief Minister of Haryana. The 32-year-old was first elected as President of the TTFI in January 2017, becoming the youngest President in the history of TTFI

## 20. New Prime Minister of Georgia?

**Irakli Garibashvili**

Explanation

The Parliament of Georgia confirmed Irakli Garibashvili as Prime Minister along with a vote of confidence in the cabinet Garibashvili put forward. Garibashvili pledged to create a long-term development strategy for Georgia in his first one hundred days in office

## 21. Fullerton India Credit Company appointed \_\_\_\_ as CEO and MD

**Shantanu Mitra**

Explanation

Fullerton India Credit Company has appointed Shantanu Mitra as the new CEO and Managing Director. He has over 40 years of experience in financial services, with over 20 years at Standard Chartered and Citibank, where he had stints in India, Singapore and Thailand. His last role in Standard Chartered was Senior Regional Risk Officer, India, Middle East and Africa. His previous experience with Fullerton included a stint from 2010 to 2017

## 22. OLXGroup appoints \_\_\_\_\_ as global CEO of OLX Autos

**Gautam Thakar**

Explanation

OLXGroup appoints Gautam Thakar as global CEO of OLX Autos. He will lead a worldwide organisation with a workforce of more than 4,000 employees across Asia, Africa, Latam, and the United States. OLXGroup announced the appointment of Gautam Thakar as global CEO of OLX Autos effective March 15, 2021.

## 23. Who has been appointed as the Under-Secretary-General and Associate Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)?

**Ms. Usha Rao Monari**

Explanation

Antonio Guterres, United Nations Secretary-General appointed Ms. Usha Rao-Monari of India as Under-Secretary-General and Associate Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

# BANKING AWARENESS

## 1. Which Bank launches 'FedFirst' savings account scheme for children

**Federal Bank**

Explanation

Federal Bank has announced the launch of "FedFirst", a special savings account scheme for children below 18 years of age. The account helps children develop healthy saving and spending habits, thereby giving them the freedom to save, spend and earn.

## 2. The six-member Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) headed by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das kept the repo rate unchanged at

4

<https://skilllens.com/current-affairs>

**4%**

Explanation

The key decisions taken in the Monetary Policy Committee meeting are:

Policy Repo Rate: 4.00%

Reverse Repo Rate: 3.35%

Marginal Standing Facility Rate: 4.25%

Bank Rate: 4.25%

CRR: 3%

SLR: 18.00%

**3. SBI revises India's GDP estimates to \_\_\_\_ percent for FY21**

**7%**

Explanation

The State Bank of India's (SBI) Economic Research Department has revised GDP estimates of India for FY21 to contract 7.0%. Earlier this was estimated GDP at -7.4%. The SBI Research Report has retained its GDP forecast for FY22 at 11 per cent.

**4. PhonePe partners with which Bank on UPI multi-bank model?**

**Axis Bank**

Explanation

Digital payments platform, PhonePe has announced that it has partnered with Axis Bank on a Unified Payments Interface (UPI) multi-bank model. The partnership will provide PhonePe users with the option to create and use multiple UPI IDs with Axis Bank's "@axl" handle

**5. Which bank ties up with LoanTap Credit for co-lending to MSMEs?**

**Bank of Maharashtra**

Explanation

State-owned Bank of Maharashtra said it has entered into a co-lending agreement with the Pune-based non-banking financial company LoanTap Credit Products, for MSME loans.

**6. Nomura Projects GDP of India to contract \_\_\_\_ in FY21?**

**6.70%**

Explanation

Japanese brokerage Nomura has projected GDP of India to grow at 13.5% in FY22 (2021-22).

**7. Kotak Mahindra Bank launches \_\_\_\_\_ on mobile to send money abroad directly from phone?**

**Kotak Remit**

Explanation

Kotak Mahindra Bank on Monday launched its outward forex remittance service, Kotak Remit, hence allowing its users to directly send money abroad from their phones. The feature is already live on the Kotak Mobile Banking App.

**8. Govt to amend two legislation to privatize 4 PSU banks**

**Bank of Maharashtra,**

**Bank of India,**



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### **Indian Overseas Bank, Central Bank of India**

#### Explanation

To facilitate privatisation of public sector banks, the government is likely to bring amendments to two legislations later this year. Amendments would be required in the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1970 and the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1980 for privatisation

**9.** ICICI Lombard partners with Flipkart to offer \_\_\_\_\_ insurance?

### **Hospicash**

#### Explanation

The e-commerce company Flipkart has partnered with ICICI Lombard to offer its customers the 'Group SafeGuard' insurance, a group health insurance policy. The 'Group Safeguard' comes with daily cash benefits starting from Rs 500, and 'Hospicash' benefit for Flipkart consumers

**10.** Who partners with Vayana Network to offer help MSMEs?

### **Bank of Maharashtra**

#### Explanation

Bank of Maharashtra has entered into a strategic partnership with Vayana Network to offer financial support to the MSMEs under the MoU, BoM will provide short term credit to meet funding requirements of dealers of corporates via "Mahabank Channel Financing Scheme"

**11.** HSBC Raises India's GDP Forecast for FY22 to

**11.20%**

#### Explanation

HSBC has raised its growth forecasts for India in the coming fiscal year 2021-22 (FY22), from 9 per cent to 11.2 per cent, following a pickup in business activity and a steady fall in COVID cases. The 2020-21 GDP forecast of India by HSBC remains -6.3 per cent, as projected earlier

**12.** RBI brings \_\_\_\_\_ under its regulatory purview?

### **State Bank of Sikkim**

#### Explanation

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has brought the State Bank of Sikkim under its regulation. Till now, RBI had the right and obligation to function as a banker to all the state government except for the state government of Sikkim. Now the bank will be regulated by the RBI on a par with other banks, however, the bank's ownership structure will not change.

**13.** \_\_\_\_\_ wins World HRD Congress Awards?

### **Union Bank of India**

#### Explanation

Union Bank of India was awarded "Best Service Provider" in Human Resources and also the best institution for "Excellence in Learning & Development" at the 29th Global HRD Congress awards. Kalyan Kumar, Chief General Manager, HR was named as "Chief Human Resources Officer of the Year

**14.** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has cancelled the licence of Shivam Sahakari Bank Ltd based in which state \_\_\_\_\_

### **Maharashtra**

#### Explanation

The RBI on Friday said the licence of Maharashtra-based Shivam Sahakari Bank has been cancelled as it does not have adequate capital and earning prospects

**15.** Which entity has set up an 'Innovation Sandbox' web portal, a workflow based platform that enables FinTech firms and individuals to do offline testing of their applications \_\_\_\_\_

**Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE)**

Explanation

The innovation sandbox is set up as per the guidelines of Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).

**16.** As per the 'Brand Finance Global 500 2021 Ranking, which Indian firm has emerged as the fifth strongest brand in the globe

**Reliance Jio**

Explanation

Indian telecom giant Jio has emerged as the fifth strongest brand in the globe. As per the 'Brand Finance Global 500 2021 Ranking,' the Reliance subsidiary had a Brand Strength Index (BSI) score of 91.7 out of 100

**17.** Which bank has decided to restrict its customers from withdrawing money from non-EMV ATMs with effect from 01 February 2021?

**Punjab National Bank**

Explanation

Punjab National Bank (PNB) has decided to restrict its customers from withdrawing money from non-EMV automated teller machines (ATMs) with effect from 01 February 2021, in an attempt to check frauds, related to money transactions

**18.** Which motor maker has partnered with Alphabet Inc.'s Google to cooperate in software, artificial intelligence and cloud computing, developing new consumer services?

**Ford Motor Co**

Explanation

Ford Motor Co will tap into software, artificial intelligence and cloud computing offered by Alphabet Inc.'s Google to develop new consumer services and modernize internal operations, the companies said on Monday.

**19.** Which bank has launched 'Wellness and Wellness Plus' credit card in partnership with Aditya Birla Wellness Private Limited?

**Yes Bank**

Explanation

Private sector lender YES Bank has teamed up with Aditya Birla Wellness Private Limited to launch 'YES BANK Wellness' and 'YES BANK Wellness Plus' credit cards, which aimed at the holistic health, self-care and wellness of consumers

**20.** Which FinTech company has launched the Digital Acceleration for Small Businesses microsite across most of its Asia Pacific websites?

**MasterCard**

Explanation

To help small and medium enterprises (SMEs) recover from the pandemic and prepare for the future, MasterCard has launched the Digital Acceleration for Small Businesses microsite across most of its Asia Pacific websites with information and resources on how to digitalize and run businesses more efficiently



**21. Which bank has launched 'InstaFX' App for Forex Partners to help customers of any bank to obtain Forex Prepaid Card?**

**ICICI Bank**

Explanation

ICICI Bank on January 20 launched a new mobile application 'InstaFX' for authorised money changers to help customers of any bank get 'ICICI Bank Forex Prepaid Card' swiftly. The bank is the first in the country to offer such facility to money changers

**22. Moody's projects India's GDP to contract \_\_\_\_\_ in FY21?**

**7%**

Explanation

The US-based rating agency Moody's has revised its growth projection for India, and now expects the economy to contract 7 per cent in fiscal 2020-21 (FY21). This is lower than its previous estimate of 10.6 per cent contraction. For the next financial year, FY22, beginning April 1, Moody's has projected the economy to grow to 13.7 per cent, as compared to 10.8 per cent estimated earlier

**23. ICRA expects Indian economy to contract \_\_\_\_ in FY21?**

**7%**

Explanation

India's rating agency, ICRA has projected the Indian economy to contract 7 percent in the current fiscal (FY21). For the next fiscal, i.e. FY22 (2021-22), ICRA expects a considerable rebound in India's economic growth to 10.5 per cent due to higher central government spending, and a pick-up in consumption

**24. Which bank launches 'Namma Chennai Smart Card'?**

**ICICI Bank**

Explanation

ICICI Bank has announced the launch of a Common Payment Card System (CPCS) in partnership with the Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC) and Chennai Smart City Limited (CSCL) to provide citizens with a one-stop solution for making various kind of payments. The prepaid card also facilitates retail payments within Chennai as well as in retail stores and e-commerce websites across the country. This will offer a common payment card platform to residents for making payments for various services within the city.

**25. NSO expects Indian economy to contract by \_\_\_\_ in 2020-21**

**8%**

Explanation

The GDP growth of India during 2020-21 is estimated to contract 8 per cent, as per the second advanced estimates projected by the National Statistical Office (NSO). This was 4.9 per cent in 2019-20. NSO had projected a GDP contraction of 7.7 percent in its first advance estimate

**26. AU Small Finance Bank has named \_\_\_\_\_ as its new President and CTO**

**Sharad Goklani**

Explanation

He was earlier associated with Equitas Small Finance Bank as its EVP & Chief Technology Officer

**27. Which payments banks has been granted the scheduled commercial bank status by Reserve Bank of India by including it to the Second Schedule to the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934?**

**Fino Payments Bank**

### Explanation

The Reserve Bank of India has announced through a notification issued dated February 22 that Fino Payments Bank has been included in the Second Schedule to the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934.

**28. Which housing finance company get the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) nod to acquire Dewan Housing Finance Corporation (DHFL)?**

**Piramal Capital and Housing Finance (PCHFL)**

### Explanation

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has given approval to the Dewan Housing Finance Corporation (DHFL) resolution plan from Piramal Capital and Housing Finance (PCHFL), a company of Piramal group that was submitted by the Committee of Creditors (CoC)

## Books and Authors

1. The Terrible, Horrible, Very Bad Good News' book was written by?

**Meghna Pant**

### Explanation

Award-winning writer, journalist and speaker Meghna Pant has come up with her new novel titled as 'The Terrible, Horrible, and Very Bad Good News'

2. Who has authored the novel titled Whereabouts?

**Jhumpa Lahiri**

### Explanation

The book is published by Penguin Random House India is about a woman protagonist and her journey through life. The book will be released in April

3. VP Venkaiah Naidu releases book titled

**Maverick Messiah**

### Explanation

Vice-President M Venkaiah Naidu has released a book titled as 'Maverick Messiah which is based on the political biography of 'N T Rama Rao'

## Defence News

1. Who enters into partnership with MiG for post-warranty support to Indian Navy fighter jets?

**Crown group**

### Explanation

Crown group, which specialises in defence aerospace maintenance, on Wednesday announced it has entered into a strategic partnership with Russian aircraft corporation MiG for providing post-warranty support to the Indian Navy's MiG-29K and MiG-29KUB fighter jets.

2. Who has been appointed as chief of Southern Air Command?

**Air Marshal Manavendra Singh**

### Explanation

Air Marshal Manavendra Singh has been appointed the Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the IAF's Southern Air Command. He takes over from Air Marshal Amit Tiwari who has been posted as chief of the Central Air Command.

## Important Days

1. World Cancer Day is observed on

**4th February**

Explanation

The theme for World Cancer Day 2021 is 'I Am and I Will.' This year is a reminder of the enduring power of cooperation and collective action. It is observed to raise awareness and reduce the stigma surrounding the disease that is the second leading cause of death globally.

2. Which country celebrates 73rd Independence Day on 4th February?

**Srilanka**

Explanation

Sri Lanka on Thursday marks its 73rd Independence Day, with the main celebration event scheduled to be held at the iconic Independence Square in Colombo. Sri Lanka on Thursday marks its 73rd Independence Day, with the main celebration event scheduled to be held at the iconic Independence Square in Colombo.

3. International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation is observed on?

**06-Feb**

Explanation

International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation is observed on 6 February to spread awareness and educate people about the consequences and problems that females faced due to genital mutilation.

4. World Pulses Day

**Feb-10**

Explanation

The UN General Assembly in 2019 decided to dedicate a day to Pulses to increase awareness and access to pulses globally known as World Pulses Day. The World Pulses Day falls on February 10 every year and recognised Pulses as a global food.

5. On which date the National Unani Day was celebrated in India?

**11th February**

Explanation

The National Unani Day (NUD) is celebrated every year on 11th February to mark the birth anniversary of great Unani researcher Haqim Ajmal Khan. He was an eminent Indian Unani physician who was versatile genius, freedom fighter, educationist and founder of scientific research in Unani Medicine.

6. International Day of Women and Girls in Science 2021

**11th February**

Explanation

International Day of Women and Girls in Science 2021: This year, we are observing the 6th year of this event with the theme "Women Scientists at the forefront of the fight against COVID-19"

**7. International Mother Language Day****21-Feb**Explanation

The International Mother Language Day (IMLD) is observed annually on 21 February to raise awareness regarding linguistic and cultural diversity and to promote multilingualism. The theme of the Day this year, "Fostering multilingualism for inclusion in education and society"

**8. World Thinking Day****22-Feb**Explanation

World Thinking Day (Thinking Day) is observed annually on 22 February by all Girl Scouts, Girl Guides and other girl groups worldwide.

**9. World Radio Day is observed every year on which date?****13th February**Explanation

This year, the day's theme is 'New World, New Radio. This

Was decided to keep in mind the services the medium provided during COVID-19

**10. National Women's Day of India is celebrated every year on which date****13th February**Explanation

To honor the contributions of Sarojini Naidu, February 13 is observed as National Women's Day of India. This year is the 142nd birth anniversary of Sarojini Naidu

**11. World NGO Day****27-Feb**Explanation

World NGO Day is celebrated every year on 27th February globally. World NGO Day aims to inspire people to become more actively involved within NGOs (Charities, NPOs, CSOs) and encourage a greater symbiosis between NGOs and both the public and private sector.

## International News

**1. Which 1<sup>st</sup> Asian country to approve Moderna's vaccine is?****Singapore**Explanation

Singapore has become the first country in Asia to grant approval for Moderna's COVID-19 vaccine and the city-state said it expects the first shipment to arrive around March.

**2. Who has been appointed as next High Commissioner of India to the Republic of Malta?****Sangeeta Bahadur****3. India position in Democracy Index?****53<sup>rd</sup>****4. Indian-American doctor appointed as Chief Medical Officer of Department of Homeland Security**

**Dr Pritesh Gandhi**Explanation

US President Joe Biden has appointed Indian-American doctor Dr Pritesh Gandhi as Chief Medical Officer in the Department of Homeland Security

5. Who is the new CEO of Amazon?

**Andy Jassy**Explanation

Amazon founder and CEO, Jeff Bezos has announced that he would step down as CEO of the company and become Executive Chairman in Q3 of 2021, i.e. with effect from July 01, 2021.

6. Which country topped in the Democracy Index 2020

**Norway**

7. What is the Rank of India in the global ranking of Democracy Index?

**53<sup>rd</sup>**

Explanation

India slipped two places to 53rd position in the 2020 Democracy Index's global ranking, according to The Economist Intelligence Unit, which said the "democratic backsliding" by authorities and "crackdowns" on civil liberties has led to a further decline in the country's ranking

8. Which company is going to shut domestic payments service in India from April 1?

**PayPal**Explanation

The California-based global digital payment platform PayPal has announced that the company has decided to wind down its domestic payment services in India with effect from April 01, 2021. The decision has been taken because the company wants to shift its focus on cross-border payments business

9. Which country pulled out of the Colombo terminal project?

**India**

10. World's first energy island to be built by?

**Denmark**Explanation

Denmark approved a plan on Thursday to build an artificial island for energy production. The North Sea Island will produce and store enough green energy to cover the electricity needs of three million European households

11. Which country plans to construct world's largest offshore wind farm?

**South Korea**Explanation

President Moon Jae-in-led, South Korea Government has approved a plan to build the world's largest wind power plant in the country by 2030. Currently, the world's largest offshore wind farm is Hornsea 1 in Britain, which has 1.12 GW capacity.

12. Which word is named as the Oxford Hindi word of 2020?

**Aatmanirbharta**Explanation

‘Aatmanirbharta’ implying self-reliance has been named by Oxford Languages as its Hindi word of the year 2020 as it “validated the day-to-day achievements of the countless Indians who dealt with and survived the perils of a pandemic”.

13. Wildlife Photographer of the Year

**Robert Irwin**

Explanation

A drone image of a bushfire sweeping through forest in Australia has won the Wildlife Photographer of the Year People's Choice Award.

14. Fifth country in the world to enter the Mars orbit?

**UAE**

Explanation

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has put a probe called Hope in the orbit around the MARS. UAE has become the fifth country to launch the spacecraft into the orbit of MARS after United States, Soviet Union, Europe and India. With the successful launch of spacecraft in orbit, UAE scientists can now study the planet's atmosphere.

15. Four young women awarded Women Excellence Award 2021 in Science and Tech by SERB

**Shobhna Kapoor**

**Antara Banerjee**

**Ritu Gupta**

**Sonu Gandhi**

Explanation

Four young women fellows of Indian National Science Academy have been awarded the Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB) Women Excellence Award 2021 in the national capital for excelling in science and engineering on the International Day of Women and Girls

17. Indian-origin \_\_\_\_\_ to lead United Nations Capital Development Fund

**Preeti Sinha**

Explanation

The UN Capital Development Fund has appointed Indian-origin investment and development banker Preeti Sinha as its Executive Secretary, the highest leadership rank in the institution. She succeeds Judith Karl. He will work with a focus on providing micro-finance assistance to women, youth, small and medium-sized enterprises in under-served communities.

18. Which country overtakes US as largest Trading Partner of European Union?

**China**

Explanation

China overtook United States (US) as the biggest trading partner of European Union (EU) in 2020, according to the data by European Union statistics agency, Eurostat. Britain was 3rd-largest trading partner, behind China and US, before leaving European Union in 2020

19. ‘Pahela Phagun’ spring festival celebrated in?

**Bangladesh**

Explanation

The first day of the spring called ‘Pahela Phagun’ was celebrated in Dhaka, Bangladesh despite the continued shadow of Corona pandemic in the country. Cultural organisations held programmes at different venues in the city to herald the beginning of the spring. Programmes were held at the Suhrawardy Udyan, Nandan Manch of Shilpakala Academy and several other locations.



20. Bangladesh Supreme Court has virtually launched Artificial Intelligence (AI) based translation software \_\_\_\_\_?

**Amar Vasha**

Explanation

Software will translate orders and judgements of Supreme Court from English to Bangla. It has been developed with 'EkStep' foundation of India. It is based 'Anuvaad' translation software used in India to translate from English to Indian languages

21. \_\_\_\_\_ launches 'green pass' for people with vaccination certificate?

**Israel**

Explanation

Israel has launched coronavirus 'green pass' system that allows people who have been vaccinated to access public facilities. Israelis who have taken both Pfizer vaccine shots and those who have recovered from the virus get 'Green Pass' certificate in the form of a QR code or printout for people

22. What is India's rank in the 'Asia-Pacific Personalised Health Index' released by the Economist Intelligence Unit?

**10<sup>th</sup>**

Explanation

Singapore ranked first in the index followed by Taiwan (2nd), Japan (3rd) and Australia (4th). Indonesia ranked 11th in the index

23. As per the data released by the Department of Science and Technology (DST), what is India's rank in scientific publications?

**3<sup>rd</sup>**

Explanation

Of the 13,045 patents in 2017-18, as many as 1,937 were by Indians. Out of 15,550 patents filed by Indians at Indian Patent Office during the period, 65 per cent were filed from Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Delhi.

24. Which country conducted military exercise Jidar-ul-Hadeed?

**Pakistan**

Explanation

The exercise, code-named 'Jidar-ul-Hadeed', began on January 28 and is scheduled to conclude on February 28

25. Who became the youngest woman to row solo across Atlantic?

**Jasmine Harrison**

Explanation

Jasmine Harrison (21 years) has become the youngest woman to row solo across an Ocean She hails from Thirsk, North Yorkshire in UK

26. Papua New Guinea's first Prime Minister \_\_\_\_\_ passes away

**Michael Somare**

Explanation

The first prime minister of Papua New Guinea, Michael Somare has passed away. He was known as the "father of the nation" because he led the Pacific archipelago to independence from Australia in 1975. He had served as the prime minister of the country four times, between 1975 to 2011, and has been the longest-serving prime minister

27. The Parliament of which country passed the landmark legislation called the “News Media and Digital Platforms Mandatory Bargaining Code” which mandates the global digital platforms to pay for publishing the Australian news content on their respective platforms?

**Australia**

Explanation

Australia's parliament adopted landmark legislation requiring global digital platforms to pay for showing Australian news content on their platforms

28. Who has been appointed as the US ambassador to the United Nations?

**Linda Thomas-Greenfield**

Explanation

The US Senate on February 23, 2021 confirmed Linda Thomas-Greenfield as US ambassador to the United Nations. Greenfield's name was nominated for the post by US President Joe Biden

29. Which became the first country to receive a batch of free anti-coronavirus vaccine doses through the COVAX initiative?

**Ghana**

Explanation

Ghana became the first country on Wednesday to receive a batch of free anti-coronavirus vaccine doses through the COVAX initiative, a shot-sharing scheme behind the inoculation drive in poorer countries.

30. Which country hosted the Meeting of BRICS Finance and Central Bank Deputies?

**India**

Explanation

India hosted a Meeting of BRICS Finance and Central Bank Deputies virtually here today and was co-Chaired by Shri.

31. With which country India has signed a landmark Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Partnership Agreement (CECPA)?

**Mauritius**

Explanation

India signed a landmark Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Partnership Agreement (CECPA) with Mauritius, the first of its kind with an African nation, making the strategically-located country a launch-pad for business expansion into the huge African continent.

32. For which state the Government of India and the World Bank signed a \$68 million project to enhance the governance of schools across state as well as to improve teaching practices and learning environments in select schools?

**Nagaland**

Explanation

The Government of India, Government of Nagaland and the World Bank today signed a \$68 million project to enhance the governance of schools across Nagaland as well as to improve teaching practices and learning environments in select schools

## National News

1. Which industry gets world's 1<sup>st</sup> "carbon-neutral" oil?

**Reliance industries**

Explanation

Billionaire Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Industries Ltd has sourced the world's first consignment of 'carbon-neutral oil' from the US as it looks to become a net zero-carbon company by 2035

2. How much amount does PM-CARES contributed for phase 1 of COVID-19 vaccination?

**Rs 2,200 crore**

Explanation

The cost of around Rs 2,200 crore will come from the corpus helmed by the Prime Minister and comprising ex-officio members like the defence minister, the home minister and the finance minister

3. Who has been appointed to the reconstituted National Security Advisory Board (NSAB)?

**Zoho's founder Sridhar Vembu**

4. Which state CM launches 'Har Ghar Pani, Har Ghar Safai' mission?

**Punjab**

Explanation

Punjab Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh has virtually launched the 'Har Ghar Pani, Har Ghar Safai' mission as part of the government's campaign to accomplish the goal of 100 per cent potable piped water supply in all rural households.

5. 25-Year-Old from Kashmir Becomes India's Youngest Female Pilot

**Ayesha Aziz**

Explanation

Ayesha Aziz, a 25-year-old from Kashmir is the youngest female pilot in the country. In the year 2011, Ayesha Aziz became the youngest student pilot to get a license at the age of 15 and underwent training to fly a MIG-29 jet at Russia's Sokol airbase the following year

6. Which state forest department started census for water birds for the first time?

**Odisha**

7. Which company is going to develop world's first high altitude pseudo satellite?

**HAL**

Explanation

The Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) on Wednesday said that it is developing a futuristic high altitude pseudo satellite with a start-up company, a first of its kind in the world

8. Delhi Government Launches 'Switch Delhi' Campaign To Promote?

**Electric Vehicles**

Explanation

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has announced waiving of road tax and registration charges, along with other subsidies for adopting electric vehicles.

9. ARAI ties up with AIM-NITI AAYOG, What is the full form of ARAI?

**Automotive Research Association of India**

Explanation

The Automotive Research Association of India (ARAI), a research, development, testing and certification body for the automotive sector in India, is stepping forward to boost the start-up ecosystem in the mobility sector. It has signed a statement of intent (SOI) with the Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)-NITI Aayog for this purpose.

10. Who joins hands with Zomato?

**MoHUA**

Explanation

MoHUA (Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs) Joins Hands with Zomato to Take Street Food Vendors Online Under PM

11. Which state announces Unicode to identify landholdings?

**Uttar Pradesh**

Explanation

The Uttar Pradesh government has introduced a system of issuing a unique 16-digit Unicode to mark all kinds of landholdings in the state

12. How much amount does Govt allocate for Fasal Bima Yojana?

**16000cr**

Explanation

Govt allocates Rs 16,000 cr for PM Fasal Bima Yojana to boost safety of farmers' crops. Government has allocated 16 thousand crore rupees for Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana for 2021-22 to boost the safety of farmers' crops

13. Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with which British automobile manufacturing company?

**Rolls Royce**

Explanation

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with British automobile manufacturing company Rolls Royce on Friday, the company said in a statement released to the media. They had announced their new partnership in the presence of the United Kingdom Deputy High Commissioner

14. Who launches Asom Mala in Assam's Sonitpur district?

**Prime Minister Modi**

Explanation

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched the 'Asom Mala' programme in Dhekiajuli of Sonitpur district, Assam. PM Modi also laid the foundation stones of medical colleges and hospitals in Biswanath and Charaideo with an aim to boost Assam's health infrastructure.

15. National Horticulture Fair 2021 begins at

**Bengaluru**

Explanation

The five-day National Horticulture Fair 2021 has started in Bengaluru on 8 February. The fair is organized by the Indian Institute of Horticulture Research (IIHR) at the Institute's Hessarghatta campus on the outskirts of Bengaluru city. The theme of the event is 'For Start-up and Stand-up India'.

16. Which state launched the 'SAANS' campaign to reduce infant mortality?

**Madhya Pradesh**

Explanation

The health department in Madhya Pradesh has launched the Social Awareness and Action to Neutralise Pneumonia Successfully ('SAANS') campaign with the aim of reducing infant mortality due to pneumonia.

17. Who has been declared as the winner of VLCC Miss India 2020?

**Manasa Varanasi**

Explanation

Manasa Varanasi, an engineer from Telangana, on Wednesday night emerged as the winner of VLCC Femina Miss India World 2020. While Haryana's Manika Sheokand was declared VLCC Femina Miss Grand India 2020, Uttar Pradesh's Manya Singh was crowned VLCC Femina Miss India 2020 - runner-up.

18. What is the 31st district of Karnataka?

**Vijayanagara**

Explanation

The State government on Monday issued a notification demarcating boundaries of the newly-formed Vijayanagara district. This is the 31st district of the State.

19. Which Airport Bags ACI World 'Voice of the Customer' Award?

**Bengaluru**

Explanation

The Bangalore International Airport Limited's (BIAL) or Kempegowda International Airport Bengaluru has bagged global recognition from the Airports Council International World's 'Voice of the Customer' award. The 'Voice of the Customer' recognises airports that continued to prioritise their customers and remained committed to ensuring that their voice was heard during the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020.

20. Which state is going to Provide Rs 5 Lakh As 'Preparation Money' To Olympic Qualifiers?

**Haryana**

Explanation

The Haryana Cabinet has decided to provide financial assistance of Rs 5 lakhs to the sportspersons as 'preparations money' who have qualified for Olympic Games, said State Minister Kanwar Pal Gujjar on Wednesday.

21. Covid Warrior Memorial to be established at?

**Bhubaneswar**

Explanation

The Health and Family Welfare Department of Odisha has announced recently to establish a COVID-19 Warrior Memorial in Bhubaneswar. Key Facts The memorial will be set to recognize and honour the sacrifice and services provided by the COVID-19 warriors.

22. Which government signs MoU with Flipkart to promote wooden toys?

**Maharashtra**

Explanation

This MoU will enable artisans, weavers, craftsmen & MSMEs from Maharashtra to showcase their products to millions of customers in India. Flipkart will provide free training for packaging and branding to all these manufacturers. Also, product photography will also be done by the company

23. India's Home-grown App MapMyIndia Ties Up With?

**ISRO**Explanation

India's home-grown app MapMyIndia ties up with ISRO to build an alternative to Google Maps. The agreement between ISRO and MapMyIndia is suggested to become an alternative to Google maps and similar platforms. The collaboration with MapMyIndia will turn out to be a benefit for users because it will use digital maps of MapMyIndia and satellite imagery and earth observation data of ISRO.

24. Indian astronomers detect huge optical flare in black hole

**BL Lacertae**Explanation

Indian astronomers have reported one of the strongest flares from a feeding supermassive black hole or blazar called BL Lacertae, analysis of which can help trace the mass of the black hole and the source of this emission, the Department of Science and Technology said.

25. UP Govt has started training programme for aspirants of various competitive examinations under?

**Abhyudaya Yojana**Explanation

Under this, free of cost training will be provided to the candidates who are preparing for various competitive examinations like UPSC, UPPCS, Subordinate Services, Banking Services, NEET, NDA, CDS TET exam, etc.

26. Rajnath Singh launches \_\_\_\_\_ portal for online civic services to Cantt Boards?

**e-Chhawani**Explanation

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh recently launched an online portal 'e-Chhawani' and mobile app, to facilitate 'ease of living' and 'ease of doing' for the residents of the Cantonment Boards across the country. The 'e-Chhawani' portal will provide online municipal services to more than 20 lakh citizens across all 62 Cantonment Boards of India while sitting at home

27. Who receives Best Marching Contingent Trophy-2021?

**Delhi Police**Explanation

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh presented the trophies of best marching contingents of the Republic Day Parade 2021 in New Delhi. Jat Regimental Centre bagged the trophy of best marching contingent among the Tri-Services while Delhi Police was adjudged as the best marching contingent among the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) and other auxiliary services.

28. Jharkhand CM Approves Proposal To Set Up HC Bench In?

**Dumka**Explanation

Apart from Principal Bench in Ranchi, no Bench of Jharkhand High Court is functioning in any district of the state, according to a release from the Chief Minister's Office. To establish the bench of the High Court in Dumka, the law department had earlier written to the Union Law Ministry and the Supreme Court to decide the jurisdiction of the Dumka bench of the High Court.

29. The National Informatics Centre has launched its own instant messaging platform called?

**Sandes**



**Explanation**

Currently, the Sandes platform is only available to authorised government employees. Like WhatsApp, the app offers features like groups, broadcast messages, message forwarding and emoji's.

30. Former Bihar-Jharkhand Governor & Jurist passes away

**M Rama Jois****Explanation**

Noted jurist and a former Governor of Bihar and Jharkhand, Justice (Retd.) M. Rama Jois(88 years) passed away, due to age-related ailments. He is former Rajya Sabha MP and had also served as the Chief Justice of Punjab and Haryana High Court

31. Who has been removed as Puducherry Lieutenant Governor?

**Kiran Bedi****Explanation**

Apart from this, Telangana Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan has been given additional charge as Lieutenant Governor of Puducherry during a press communiqué of Rashtrapati Bhawan

32. \_\_\_\_\_ conferred Skoch CM of the Year award?

**Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy****Explanation**

Andhra Pradesh CM, Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy has been conferred the Skoch Chief Minister of the Year award. This Award has been presented to the CM by Chairman of Skoch group, Sameer Kochhar personally at Tadepalli in Andhra Pradesh.

33. Prime Minister Modi to launch 'Mahabahu-Brahmaputra' initiative, lay foundation stone of two bridges in?

**Assam****Explanation**

PM Modi will launch 'Mahabahu-Brahmaputra' and will lay the foundation stone of the Dhubri Phulbari bridge via video conferencing. Prime Minister will also perform bhumi puja for the construction of Majuli Bridge.

34. Mamata Banerjee launches \_\_\_\_\_ scheme to provide meals at Rs 5?

**Maa****Explanation**

West Bengal government launched "Maa" canteens for providing subsidised cooked meals for the poor and the destitute at a nominal cost of ₹5. The govt will give a subsidy of ₹15 and people have to pay ₹5.

35. Kerala launches \_\_\_\_\_ app to help treat snake bites?

**Snakepedia****Explanation**

A team of scientists and photographers in Kerala have launched 'Snakepedia' mobile app to help treat snake bites. It will have all relevant information on snakes to help the public as well as doctors in treating snake bites. This information on snakes will be available in the form of pictures, info graphics and podcasts and will give relevant information

36. Hyundai develops ultimate mobility vehicle?

**TIGER X-1**

### Explanation

Hyundai Motors has launched Transformer-like robocar named as 'TIGER X-1', that can travel over the most challenging terrains on the Earth as well as on other planets

TIGER: Transforming Intelligent Ground Excursion Robot

Tiger is designed as a battery electric vehicle, that will be able to operate as either a 4-wheel-drive vehicle or 4-legged walking robot.

37. UNFAO recognizes Hyderabad as?

### **Tree City of the World**

### Explanation

United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (UNFAO) and Arbor Day Foundation have recognized Hyderabad as 2020 Tree City of World Hyderabad has been selected for its commitment to growing and maintaining urban forestry under Haritha Haram programme and its Urban Forest Parks plan

38. Asia Environmental Enforcement Award 2020 for combatting Tran's boundary environmental crime received by?

### **Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB)**

### Explanation

Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) has received Asia Environmental Enforcement Award 2020 for combatting Tran's boundary environmental crime It is the 5th edition of the awards.

39. India's first Carbon Watch app launched in?

### **Chandigarh**

### Explanation

Chandigarh became 1st state or Union Territory in India to launch Carbon Watch mobile app providing carbon footprint of an individual.

40. \_\_\_\_\_ CM lays foundation of first skill university of eastern India?

### **Assam**

### Explanation

The Chief Minister of Assam, Sarbananda Sonowal has laid the foundation of the first Skill University of Eastern India in Darrang district in Assam. The state-of-the-art skill university would be built with a financial outlay of Rs 1,000 crore. It will impart training to over 10,000 students in 12 disciplines. The university is expected to be completed by 2026. It will have "understandings" with countries like Germany, Taiwan, South Korea, Israel, Japan, and England.

41. How many states have completed the reforms in the 'Ease of Doing Business', as stipulated by the Ministry of Finance?

### **12**

### Explanation

These states have become eligible to mobilise additional financial resources to the tune of Rs 5,034 crore through open market borrowings

42. Which state ranks first in the second edition of the India Justice Report (IJR) 2020?

### **Maharashtra**

### Explanation

Tamil Nadu is in second place which improved its ranking from its previous third position in 2019 and Telangana ranked third

43. Puducherry Chief Minister \_\_\_\_\_ Resigns

**V Narayanasamy**

Explanation

The Chief Minister of the Union Territory of Puducherry, V Narayanasamy has submitted the letter of his resignation and his council of ministers on February 22, 2021, to Lieutenant Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan. The decision was taken as the Congress-led Government in the UT lost its majority in the House, which is 14

44. 'Rashtra Pratham – 82 varshon ki Swarnim Gatha' book released by

**Home Minister**

Explanation

Home Minister Amit Shah has released a book 'Rashtra Pratham – 82 varshon ki Swarnim Gatha' in New Delhi. The book chronicles the glorious history of CRPF since it's raising in 1939 and it has detailed and thoroughly researched accounts of CRPF's journey, challenges, successes, and sacrifices and said it will become a source of inspiration for personnel joining the force.

45. Madhya Pradesh CM renames Hoshangabad as \_\_\_\_\_?

**Narmadapuram**

Explanation

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has announced the renaming of Hoshangabad city as Narmadapuram. This was announced during Narmada Jayanti programme held in Hoshangabad. Hoshangabad was earlier named after an attacker Hoshang Shah, the first ruler of Malwa

46. Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival awards 2021 Best Actor (Female)?

**Deepika Padukone, Chhapaak**

Explanation

Best Actor (Male): Akshay Kumar, Laxmii  
Critic's Best Actress: Kiara Advani, Guilty  
Critic's Best Actor: Late Sushant Singh Rajput, Dil Bechara  
Best Film: Tanhaji: The Unsung Warrior  
Best International Feature Film: Parasite  
Best Web Series: Scam: 1992

47. Former TRAI Chairman \_\_\_\_\_ passes away?

**Rahul Khullar**

Explanation

Former chairman of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), Rahul Khullar (68 years) passed away following prolonged illness. He was appointed as TRAI chief in May 2012.

48. Biden admn names \_\_\_\_\_ for anti-corruption award

**Anjali Bharadwaj**

Explanation

Anjali Bharadwaj, an Indian social activist working on issues of transparency and accountability, is one of the 12 "courageous" individuals named by the Biden administration for the newly-instituted International Anti-Corruption Champions Award. The 48-year-old Bhardwaj has served as an active member of the Right to Information Movement in India for over two decades. She is the founder of the Satark Nagrik Sangathan (SNS), a citizens' group which promotes transparency and accountability in government and encourage the active participation of citizens

49. Which state is going to set up a Flower Processing Centre?

**Karnataka**Explanation

The Karnataka State Horticulture Department is setting up a “Flower Processing Centre”, in collaboration with the International Flower Auction Bangalore (IFAB), to convert unsold flowers into various useful products. The facility will provide support to the flower farmers who suffer huge losses whenever there is a glut or market disruption. Growers can learn the art of flower processing from the centre.

50. Which state Governor Inaugurates India’s First Digital University

**Kerala**Explanation

Governor of Kerala, Arif Mohammed Khan has inaugurated India’s first Digital University named Kerala University of Digital Sciences, Innovation and Technology. A Digital University has been set up in Kerala’s Technocity, Mangalapuram. Kerala University is established by upgrading the two-decade-old state government’s Indian Institute of Information Technology and Management Kerala (IIITM-K)

51. \_\_\_\_\_ Airport in UP gets International Airport Licence from DGCA?

**Kushinagar**Explanation

UP’s Kushinagar Airport to operate international flights! On Tuesday, Civil Aviation Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said the Kushinagar Airport in Uttar Pradesh has got the necessary clearances from aviation regulator Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) to operate international flight services from the facility. Last year, in the month of June, the Union Cabinet had approved the Kushinagar airport’s status as an international facility, saying the airport will offer better connectivity to the important Buddhist pilgrimage site. Once the Kushinagar Airport begins operating international flights, it will become the state’s third functional international facility, according to a PTI report.

52. The first indigenous metro racks manufactured by Bharat Earth Movers Limited (BEML) was unveiled for which metro corporation \_

**Mumbai Metro**Explanation

During the implementation of the first urban transit project by DMRC for its Phase-1, BEML and Rotem signed a Technical Collaboration Agreement during 2002 and BEML became the first to indigenously manufacture Metro Cars for DMRC RS1 contract and manufactured 220Nos

53. India’s first wetland conservation centre ‘Centre for Wetland Conservation and Management (CWCM)’ has been set up in which city of India

**Chennai**Explanation

India is home to 42 wetlands of international importance, also known as Ramsar sites. A dedicated Centre for Wetland Conservation and Management (CWCM) has been set up under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, at the National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management (NCSCM) in Chennai

54. Which state is going to open its first Human Milk Bank (HMB), a state-of-art facility with the support of the Rotary Club to ensure breast milk for newborn babies, who are not being breastfed by their own mothers?

## Kerala

### Explanation

The State's first human milk bank was inaugurated at the Ernakulam General Hospital by Health Minister K.K. Shylaja on Friday. The facility will ensure breast milk for newborns who cannot be breastfed by their own mothers, who might be deceased, unwell or unable to produce sufficient milk

55. Asia's biggest cattle park was inaugurated in which state of India?

## Tamil Nadu

### Explanation

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister (CM) Edappadi K Palaniswami inaugurated Asia's biggest cattle park, Advanced Institute for Integrated Research on Livestock and Animal Sciences (AIIRLAS) in Thalaivasal, Salem district.

56. With which bank the Union Government has signed a loan agreement for \$304 million Assam Intra-State Transmission System Enhancement Project to improve reliability, capacity and security of the power transmission network in the State of Assam?

## Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank

### Explanation

India and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) on Tuesday signed a \$304 million loan agreement for the Assam Intra-State Transmission System Enhancement Project to improve reliability, capacity and security of the power transmission network in the north-eastern state

57. Scientist from which IIT developed washable adhesive and related products?

## IIT Kanpur

### Explanation

Scientists at IIT Kanpur have developed a sticky mat which takes away dust from a contacting surface, ensuring a clean, hygienic, healthy, and refreshing atmosphere at our home, offices, hospitals, and laboratories as also smooth functioning of many expensive equipment's

## Sports News

1. Veteran India and Bengal pacer announces retirement from all forms of cricket

## Ashoke Dinda

### Explanation

The 36-year-old, who had featured in 13 ODIs and nine T20Is for India, had moved to Goa at the start of this season after facing disciplinary action after playing only one Ranji Trophy match in 2019-20

2. Who was the first player to score 200 in his 100th test?

## Joe Root

### Explanation

England captain Joe Root smashed his fifth double hundred on Day 2 of the first Test against India in Chennai. Following his knock on Saturday, Joe Root became the first batsman to score a double hundred in his 100th Test.

3. The International Cricket Council (ICC) has announced Indian edu-tech Company as its global partner from 2021 to 2023.

## BYJU'S

### Explanation

The three-year agreement will see BYJU'S partner all ICC events over the period, including the forthcoming ICC Men's T20 World Cup in India, and the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup in New Zealand. As a global partner, BYJU'S will have extensive in-venue, broadcast, and digital rights across all ICC events.

#### 4. ICC Player of the Month January 2021

**Rishabh Pant**

Explanation

India's flamboyant wicketkeeper-batsman Rishabh Pant on Monday won the ICC's inaugural Player of the Month award for his superlative performances in the two Tests against Australia in January

#### 5. Former India wicketkeeper-batsman \_\_\_\_\_ has announced his retirement, from all formats of cricket?

**Naman Ojha**

Explanation

Former India wicketkeeper-batsman Naman Ojha has announced his retirement, from all formats of cricket. He made his first-class debut for Madhya Pradesh in 2000-01. The 37-year-old from Madhya Pradesh holds the record for the most dismissals by a wicketkeeper in the Ranji Trophy. He has also represented India in all three formats, featuring in one Test, one ODI and two T20 Internationals.

#### 6. Kings XI Punjab officially renamed as

**Punjab Kings**

Explanation

Kings XI Punjab (Established in 2008) were renamed as 'Punjab Kings'. Punjab Kings have played in all 13 seasons of the IPL thus far, but they are yet to win a title. The next IPL (Indian Premier League) is set to start in the second week of April 2021

#### 7. Who wins Australian Open 2021 Tennis Championship?

**Novak Djokovic**

Explanation

Novak Djokovic (Serbia) won his 18th grand slam after defeating Daniil Medvedev

#### 8. Who Wins Singles Title at 82nd National Table Tennis Championship?

**Manika Batra**

Explanation

India's top-ranked table tennis player Manika Batra beat Reeth Rishya, 4-2, in the women's singles final, to win the 82nd Senior National Table Tennis Championship, at the Tau Devi Lal Sports Complex in Panchkula, Haryana. It was Manika's second Nationals title. She won her maiden national title in 2015 in Hyderabad.

#### 9. Who beats Jennifer Brady to win Australian Open title?

**Naomi Osaka**

Explanation

Japan's Naomi Osaka has won the women's singles title in the Australian Open 2021

#### 10. Who became the sixth Indian bowler to take 300 wickets in Test cricket in his 98th test against England at Chennai?

**Ishant Sharma**

Explanation

Indian fast bowler Ishant Sharma became the sixth Indian bowler to take 300 wickets in Test cricket in his 98th test against England at Chennai



11. Motera Stadium renamed as \_\_\_\_\_ in Ahmedabad?

**Narendra Modi Stadium**

Explanation

Newly-constructed Motera Stadium, Ahmedabad has been renamed as Narendra Modi Stadium after India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi

12. Former India all-rounder \_\_\_\_\_ has announced his retirement from all formats of cricket.

**Yusuf Pathan**

Explanation

Former India all-rounder, Yusuf Pathan has announced his retirement from all formats of cricket. He played 57 ODIs and 22 T20Is for India since making his international debut in 2007. He was part of the Indian team that won the ICC T20 World Cup 2007 and ICC Cricket World Cup 2011. He scored 810 ODI runs and 236 T20I runs for India. He also picked up 46 wickets in limited-overs international cricket

13. Which state will host the 2nd Edition of Khelo India University Games (KIUG) in 2021?

**Karnataka**

Explanation

Karnataka is set to host the 2nd Edition of Khelo India University Games (KIUG) in 2021. The games will be hosted in Jain University, Bengaluru and other venues in Karnataka in collaboration with Association of Indian Universities (AIU). KIUG is the largest University level sports competition in India.



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