

APRIL 2021

CURRENT AFFAIRS



APPOINTMENTS

1. Who takes over as Director General of ESIC?

Mukhmeet S. Bhatia

Explanation

Senior IAS officer, Mukhmeet S. Bhatia took over the charge of Director General of Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) on April 04, 2021. He is a 1990 IAS Officer of the Jharkhand cadre. Earlier, he has worked as the Additional Secretary in the Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance. ESIC is a Statutory and an Autonomous Body under the Ministry of Labour and Employment.

2. Who takes additional charge as CMD of ONGC?

Subhash Kumar

Explanation

Subhash Kumar has assumed the additional charge as Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) on April 01, 2021. He is serving as Director (Finance) at ONGC. Kumar succeeds incumbent CMD, Shashi Shanker, who superannuated on March 31, 2021.

3. Who appointed as chairperson of PESB?

Mallika Srinivasan

Explanation

Chairman and Managing Director of Tractors and Farm Equipment (TAFE) Limited, Mallika Srinivasan has been appointed as the chairperson of the Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB), an order issued by the personnel ministry. This is for the first time that a private sector specialist has been appointed as the head of the PESB, responsible for the appointment of top management posts in the Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs).

4. Who appointed chairman of Capacity Building Commission?

Adil Zainulbhai

Explanation

Former Quality Council of India (QCI) chief Adil Zainulbhai has appointed chairman of Capacity Building Commission. The government has approved a commission under National Programme for Civil Services Capacity Building (NPCSCB), also known as 'Mission Karmayogi', to train civil servants at all levels.

5. Who appointed as new BCCI ACU chief?

Shabir Khandwawala

Explanation

Shabir Hussein Shekhadam Khandwawala, who has served as the Gujarat Director General of Police (DGP) before, is the new BCCI Anti-Corruption Unit chief. The 70-year-old, a 1973 batch IPS officer, takes over from Ajit Singh whose tenure ended on March 31.

6. Who appointed as Mission Director of Atal Innovation Mission?

Chintan Vaishnav

Explanation

Noted socio-technologist, Dr Chintan Vaishnav has been appointed the mission director of Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), the government's flagship initiative under NITI Aayog. Vaishnav will take over from Ramanathan Ramanan later this month.

7. Who appointed as WHO special envoy for ACT-Accelerator?

Carl Bildt

Explanation

Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, the director-general of the World Health Organization (WHO), appointed Carl Bildt as WHO Special Envoy for the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator (ACT-Accelerator).

8. Who appointed as Chairman and Managing Director of Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI).

S Ramann

Explanation

The government has appointed S Ramann as Chairman and Managing Director of Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI). Ramann, a 1991-batch Indian Audit & Accounts Service officer, is currently the CEO of National E-Governance Services Ltd, India's first Information Utility.

9. Punjab appoints _____ as state's covid vaccination ambassador

Sonu Sood

Explanation

Bollywood actor Sonu Sood has been made the brand ambassador for Punjab's anti-coronavirus vaccination programme. During the coronavirus-induced lockdown last year, the actor had helped migrants reach their home states.

10. Chief Election Commissioner

Sushil Chandra

Explanation

He will succeed Sunil Arora, who demitted ofce on 12 April 2021

11. Who appointed as new NADA DG?

Siddharth Singh Longjam

Explanation

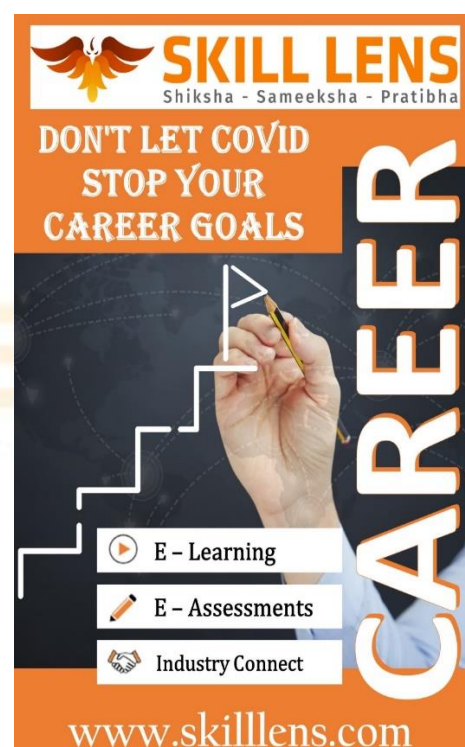
IAS officer, Siddharth Singh Longjam will take over as the National Anti-Doping Agency's Director-General. Longjam is currently serving as joint secretary in the sports ministry and is also the CEO of the currently suspended National Dope Testing Laboratory (NDTL). He will replace Navin Agarwal who listed the creation of Athletes Biological Passport (ABP) for around 60 elite Indian sportspersons as one of the highlights of his tenure.

12. First woman chairperson of Nasscom

Rekha Menon

Explanation

Accenture India's chairperson, Rekha M Menon has been appointed as chairperson of the National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM), becoming the first woman to take the



top role in the software lobby group's 30-year history. She succeeds U B Pravin Rao, chief operating officer of Infosys as Nasscom's chairperson. TCS President Krishnan Ramanujam will be the vice-chairperson.

13. 48th Chief Justice of India

Nuthalapati Venkata Ramana

Explanation

Justice Nuthalapati Venkata Ramana was sworn in as the 48th Chief Justice of India (CJI) on April 24, 2021. Justice Ramana was administered the oath of office by President Ram Nath Kovind at a brief ceremony held at the Rashtrapati Bhavan. He succeeds Justice Sharad Arvind Bobde who demitted office on April 23, 2021. Justice Ramana will serve as the Chief Justice till 26 August 2022.

14. MD & CEO of NCDEX for 5 years

Arun Raste

Explanation

Arun Raste has been named as the next Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (MD & CEO) of National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange (NCDEX) for 5 years.

15. Who appointed as additional director of Britannia?

Urjit Patel

Explanation

Former Reserve Bank of India Governor Dr Urjit Patel has been appointed as Additional Director of Britannia Industries with effect from 31st March 2021 for the tenure of 5 years. The company has announced that its board of directors has approved the appointment.

Banking Awareness

1. ICICI Bank, PhonePe Tie Up For Issuance of

FASTags

Explanation

ICICI Bank and PhonePe announced their partnership for the issuance of FASTag using UPI on the PhonePe App. This integration allows over 280 million registered PhonePe users to order and track the ICICI Bank FASTag conveniently on the app.

2. First player to cross billion-transaction mark on UPI

PhonePe

Explanation

Digital payments and nancial services company, PhonePe has become 1st company to cross one billion transactions on Unied Payments Interface (UPI) infrastructure.

3. IMF revises GDP growth forecast of India to ____% for FY22

12.50%

Explanation

International Monetary Fund (IMF) has raised its growth forecast for the Indian economy by 100 basis points to 12.5 per cent for the fiscal year 2021-22. GDP growth for FY23 is pegged at 6.9 per cent.

4. RBI Monetary Policy

Explanation

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%

5. 'Punjab National Bank (PNB) has launched digital initiative titled

PNB@Ease

Explanation

Punjab National Bank (PNB) has launched digital initiative titled PNB@Ease under which every transaction by a bank branch will be initiated and authorized by customers themselves.

6. RBI approves re-appointment of DCB Bank MD and CEO

Murali Natarajan

Explanation

Private sector lender, DCB Bank has received approval from the Reserve Bank of India for the re-appointment of Murali M. Natarajan as the Managing Director & CEO, for a further period of one year from April 29, 2021.

7. Care Ratings Projects India's GDP growth forecast for FY22

10.20%

Explanation

Care Ratings has revised downwards the GDP growth forecast of India to 10.2 per cent in 2021-22 (FY22). Earlier this was estimated between 10.7-10.9 per cent. This cut in the GDP is based on the fact that economic activities are getting affected across the country due to curbs imposed by states amid a surge in COVID-19 cases.

8. S&P Projects India's GDP Growth Forecast at ____ in FY22

11%

Explanation

The S&P Global Ratings has estimated the Indian economy to grow at 11 per cent in the current fiscal, i.e. 2021-22 (FY22). In terms of the sovereign rating, S&P currently has a 'BBB-' rating on India with a stable outlook. Earlier, for 2020-21, the S&P estimated the Indian economy to contract 8 per cent.

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9. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to Cancel Licence of _____**Sambandh Finserve**Explanation

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued a show-cause notice prior to cancelling the licence of fraud-hit Sambandh Finserve Pvt Ltd. after its networth eroded below the regulatory minimum and financial situation worsened beyond redemption over the recent months. Sambandh is registered as an NBFC-MFI.

10. SBI Research Projects India's GDP Growth Rate at**10.40%**Explanation

The State Bank of India (SBI) Research has revised India's GDP growth rate for FY22 (2021-22) to 10.4%. Earlier it estimated this at 11%. The downward projection has been taken in view of the increasing COVID-19 related curbs across states.

11. HDFC Bank's part-time chairman**Atanu Chakraborty**Explanation

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the appointment of former Economic Affairs Secretary, Atanu Chakraborty, as the part-time chairman and additional independent director of the private sector lender HDFC Bank. He retired as Secretary of the Department of Economic Affairs in April 2020. Prior to that, he served as Secretary of the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM).

12. RBI cancels licence of _____ Co-operative Bank**Bhagyodaya Friends Urban**Explanation

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has cancelled the licence of Maharashtra-based Bhagyodaya Friends Urban Co-operative Bank Limited due to inadequate capital. On liquidation, every depositor is entitled to receive deposit insurance claim amount of his/her deposits up to a monetary ceiling of Rs 5 lakhs from the DICGC subject to the provisions of the DICGC Act, 1961.

13. ADB Projects India's GDP in FY22**11%**Explanation

The Manila-based Asian Development Bank (ADB) has projected the growth rate of India's economy, in its latest flagship Asian Development Outlook (ADO) 2021

14. ICICI Bank launches Digital banking Platform**Merchant Stack**Explanation

The ICICI Bank has announced the launch of a digital and contactless banking platform, especially for retail merchants. The service, called 'Merchant Stack', is targeted at the over 2 crore retail merchants in the country, covering grocers, supermarkets, large retail store chains, online businesses and large e-commerce firms.

Defence News

1. Light weight Bullet Proof Jacket developed by

DRDO lab

Explanation

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has congratulated DRDO and DMSRDE Kanpur for developing a LightWeight Bullet Proof Jacket. India needs more such innovative product design and development to realize the dream of Atma Nirbhar Bharat.

2. Indian Army to participate in SHANTIR OGROSHENA 2021 in

Bangladesh

Explanation

Indian Army to participate in Multinational Military Exercise titled as 'SHANTIR OGROSHENA' 2021 (Front Runner of the Peace) scheduled to be held in Bangladesh.

Theme: Robust Peace Keeping Operations

Important Days

1. International Children's Book Day

02-April

Explanation

International Children's Book Day (ICBD) is organised annually on 2nd April since 1967, by the International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY), an international non-profit organization, to inspire a love of reading and to call attention to children's books. Theme 2021: "The Music of Words."

2. International Day of Conscience

05 April

Explanation

International Day of Conscience is observed every year on April 5 to commemorate the importance of the human conscience

3. National Maritime Day

05 April

Explanation

National Maritime Day is observed every year on 5th April to spread awareness about intercontinental commerce and the economy

4. International Day of Sport for Development and Peace

06-April

Explanation

International Day of Sport for Development and Peace is observed every year on April 6 Aim: to celebrate the positive contribution of sports towards sustainable development and advancement of human rights

5. World Health Day observed globally on

07-April

Explanation

The World Health Day is a global health awareness day celebrated on 7 April every year. On April 7th every year, governmental as well as non-governmental health organizations organize events that focus on promoting healthier habits of living.

The Theme of World Health Day 2021: "Building a fairer, healthier world for everyone".

6. CRPF Valour Day

09-April

Explanation

Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) Valour Day (Shaurya Diwas) is observed on 9 April every year, as a tribute to the brave men of the Force. 2021 marks the 56th CRPF Valour Day.

7. World Homeopathy Day

10th April

Explanation

World Homeopathy Day is celebrated every year on April 10 to spread awareness about homeopathy and its contribution to the world of medicine. The day marks the birth anniversary of German physician Dr Christian Friedrich Samuel Hahnemann, who is considered the founder of the system of alternative medicine called Homeopathy. The year 2021 marks the 266th birthday of Hahnemann.

8. Global Recycling Day

18th March

Explanation

Global Recycling Day is observed every year on March 18 to create awareness among the masses about the rapid pace at which our natural resources are being used. The day also promotes the concept and practice of recycling. Every year, events are organised by environmentalist and activists to promote the cause

9. Ambedkar Jayanti

14-April

Explanation

Ambedkar Jayanti (also known as Bhim Jayanti) is an annual festival observed on 14 April to commemorate the birth anniversary of Babasaheb Dr Bhim Rao Ambedkar who was born on 14 April 1891. The Day has been observed as an official public holiday throughout India since 2015. In 2021, we are marking the 130th birth anniversary of Babasaheb.

10. National Safe Motherhood Day

11-April

Explanation

National Safe Motherhood Day is observed on April 11 every year. National Safe Motherhood Day is an initiative of the White Ribbon Alliance India (WRAI), to enforce that women must have availability

and adequate access to care during pregnancy childbirth and postnatal services. The day also marks the birth anniversary of Kasturba Gandhi, the wife of the father of Nation Mohan Das Karam Chand Gandhi.

11. World Art Day

15-April

Explanation

World Art Day is observed on 15 April every year to celebrate fine arts and promote awareness of creative activity around the world

12. World Voice Day

16-April

Explanation

The World Voice Day (WVD) is celebrated globally on April 16 every year to demonstrate the enormous importance of the voice in the daily lives of all people. The Day is a global annual event dedicated to recognizing the boundless limits of the human voice. The mission is to share the excitement of the voice phenomenon with people, scientists, and other funding bodies. The theme of 2021 is ONE WORLD|MANY VOICES.

13. World Hemophilia Day

17-April

Explanation

World Hemophilia Day observed globally on 17 April every year. This day is observed to raise awareness for hemophilia and other bleeding disorders. The date was chosen in honour of the World Federation of Hemophilia founder Frank Schnabel birthday. This year is the 30th edition of World Haemophilia Day.

14. World Liver Day

19-April

Explanation

World Liver day is observed on the 19 April every year to spread awareness about the second largest organ in the body. The liver is the second largest and the most complex organ in the body, with the exception of the brain.

15. World Heritage Day

18-April

Explanation

World Heritage Day observed globally on 18 April every year. The day is observed to raise awareness about the cultural heritage that we see around us.

16. National Civil Services Day

21-April

Explanation

In India, 'Civil Services Day is celebrated on April 21 every year. It is a day to appreciate the tremendous work done by officers engaged in public administration, in various departments of the central and state governments.

17. International Mother Earth Day

22-April

Earth Day or International Mother Earth Day is observed globally on 22 April every year. The Day will be celebrated all over the world to spread awareness for Earth's wellbeing and to encourage people to support environmental protection.

The theme of 2021 International Mother Earth Day is Restore Our Earth.

18. International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace

24-April

The International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace observed globally on 24 April. 'International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace' was first observed by the United Nations (UN) on April 24, 2019. The day aims to spread knowledge about the advantages of multilateralism and diplomacy for peace, including through educational and public awareness-raising activities.

19. World Veterinary Day 2021

24-April

The World Veterinary Day is observed on the Fourth Saturday of April every year. In 2021, the day falls on April 24, 2021. The theme of the 2021 World Veterinary Day is 'Veterinarian response to the COVID-19 crisis.' The day was created by the World Veterinary Association (WVA) in 2000 to celebrate the contributions of veterinarians to the health of animals and society.

20. World Malaria Day

25-April

The World Malaria Day (WMD) is observed globally on 25 April each year to recognize the efforts of the people worldwide to control malaria. The Day was established in May 2007 at the 60th session of the World Health Assembly, WHO's the decision-making body. The theme of World Malaria Day 2021 is 'Reaching the zero malaria target'.

21. Worker's Memorial Day

28-April

The Workers' Memorial Day, also known as International Commemoration Day for Dead and Injured Workers occurs every year on 28 April. The day has been organized worldwide by the International Trade Union Confederation since 1996.

22. International Dance Day

29-April

The International Dance Day is observed globally on 29 April every year. The day celebrates the value and importance of the dance and encourages participation and education in this art form through events and festivals. The day 29 April has been chosen as it marks the birth anniversary of Jean-Georges Noverre (1727–1810), who is known as the creator of modern ballet.

Theme: Purpose of dance

23. International Jazz Day

30-April

The International Jazz Day is celebrated on 30 April every year to highlight the importance of jazz and its diplomatic role in uniting people in all corners of the globe. The 2021 celebration marks the 10th Anniversary of International Jazz Day. The day was created on the idea of jazz pianist and UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador Herbie Hancock.

International News

1. World's 1st Covid vaccine Carnivac-Cov for animals was developed by

Russia

Explanation

The world's first animal vaccine against the novel coronavirus has been registered in Russia, the country's agriculture safety watchdog Rosselkhoz nadzor. The vaccine for animals, developed by a unit of Rosselkhoz nadzor (Federal Service for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance), was named Carnivac-Cov.

2. Kosovo's parliament elects as president

Vjosa Osmani

Explanation

Kosovo's parliament elected Vjosa Osmani as the country's new president. Osmani received 71 votes from the lawmakers at the third round of voting in the Assembly of Kosovo. While 82 deputies participated in the vote in the 120-member parliament, 11 votes were declared invalid. The 38-year-old politician studied law at the University of Pristina in Kosovo and earned a doctorate from Pittsburgh University in the US.

3. President of Ecuador

Guillermo Lasso

Explanation

Ecuadorian businessman and politician Guillermo Alberto Santiago Lasso Mendoza (65 years) has been elected as the President of Ecuador.

4. Best Foreign Language Film at Moscow Film Festival

Puglya

Explanation

Marathi film 'Puglya' has bagged Best Foreign Language Feature award at Moscow International Film Festival, 2021.

5. India ranks in Inclusive Internet Index 2021

49th

Explanation

The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU), in partnership with Facebook, has released the Inclusive Internet Index 2021. India has been ranked at 49th spot globally. It shares its rank with Thailand. This index measures the extent to which the internet is available and affordable by region, and highlights additional insight into how people around the world are using the web

6. Adobe co-founder and PDF developer passes away?

Charles Geschke

Explanation

American computer scientist Charles Geschke, best known as the co-founder of graphics and publishing software company Adobe Inc, has passed away. Geschke co-founded Adobe Company in 1982 with fellow mate John Warnock. Geschke, who was widely known as Chuck, also helped in developing the popular Portable Document Format (PDF).

7. India ranks on Henley Passport Index**84**Explanation

India stands at number 84 on the list, as the Indian citizens can visit Visa-Free or Visa-on-Arrival in over 58 places. Japan, Singapore and Germany, South Korea stand in Top 3 respectively.

8. World's 1st Climate Change Law for Financial Firms?**New Zealand**Explanation

New Zealand is about to become the world's first country to bring a law into force that demands environmental accountability from financial firms by asking them to report on how their businesses affect climate change. The aim is to bring the financial sector on board with the efforts being made towards achieving the country's target of becoming carbon neutral by 2050.

9. India's Rank in World Press Freedom Index 2021**142**Explanation

India has been placed at 142nd position among 180 countries in the latest World Press Freedom Index 2021, released on April 20, 2021. India was at 142nd position in 2020 as well. Norway has retained its top spot for the fifth year running, followed by Finland and Denmark at second and third place respectively. Eritrea is at the bottom of the index at 180th place.

10. India Ranks in WEF Global Energy Transition Index 2021**87th**Explanation

India is placed at the 87th position among 115 countries in the 2021 Energy Transition Index (ETI). The report is published by the World Economic Forum (WEF), prepared in collaboration with Accenture to track nations on the current performance of their energy systems across various aspects.

11. China's first Mars rover named as**Zhurong**Explanation

China's first Mars rover will be named Zhurong after a traditional god

National News

1. India ranks in WEF's gender gap index 2021**140th**Explanation

India has slipped 28 places to rank 140 among 156 countries in the Global Gender Gap Report 2021, by World Economic Forum. In 2020, India ranked 112th among 153 countries. Iceland has topped the index as the most gender-equal country in the world for the 12th time. Afghanistan is the worst-performing country in the report.

2. First fully electrified Indian Railways zone

West Central Railway

Explanation

Indian Railways' West Central Railway zone gets fully electrified!, after CCRS Inspection and Commissioning of electrification of Kota – Chittaurgarh railway section (Srinagar – Jalindri) in the state of Rajasthan. West Central Railways has become the first fully electrified railway zone in the country. The zonal railway now boasts a 3012 Route Km electrified network

3. The central government has declared April 14, Dr BR Ambedkar's birthday as

Public holiday

Explanation

The central government has declared April 14, Dr BR Ambedkar's birthday a public holiday. Dr B R Ambedkar was the sculptor of the Indian Constitution and the country already celebrates his birthday as Ambedkar Jayanti every year. The government has announced that from this year 14th April will be declared as a public holiday. It will be Ambedkar's 130th birth anniversary on April 14, 2021.

4. Biswa Bhusan Harichandan conferred with _____ award 2021?

'Kalinga Ratna'

Explanation

Andhra Pradesh Governor Biswa Bhusan Harichandan has been conferred with 'Kalinga Ratna' award 2021 by Sarala Sahitya Sansad

5. India's biggest floating solar power plant to be set up at?

Ramagundam

Explanation

India's biggest floating solar power plant will be set up at Ramagundam in Telangana with a capacity of 100 MW and 4.5 lakh photovoltaic panels.

6. Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' launched _____ platform of NCTE Web Portal

"MyNEP2020"

Explanation

Union Education Minister, Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' has launched the "MyNEP2020" Platform of National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) Web Portal which will be operational from April 1 to May 15, 2021. The platform seeks to invite suggestions/inputs/membership from the stakeholders for preparing a draft for the development of National Professional Standards for Teachers (NPST) and National Mission for Mentoring Program membership (NMM).

7. Touch-sensitive watch for the visually impaired was developed by

IIT Kanpur

Explanation

A professor and a research associate at the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur, (IIT-K) have developed a novel touch-sensitive watch for the use of visually impaired people to sense time accurately. The watch was developed by Prof Siddhartha Panda and Vishwaraj Srivastava of IIT Kanpur.

8. Next Chief Justice of India**Justice N V Ramana**Explanation

President Ram Nath Kovind named Justice N V Ramana as the next Chief Justice of India. He will supersede CJI Sharad Arvind Bobde as the top most judge of the Supreme Court.

9. RBI deputy governor retires**BP Kanungo**Explanation

BP Kanungo has stepped down from the post of the deputy governor of the Reserve Bank of India after his term ended on 2 April, cutting short all expectations of an extension of his tenure. He was appointed deputy governor in 2017 for three years. His term was extended by one more year in 2020. The other deputy governors of the RBI are Rajeshwar Rao, M.K. Jain and Michael Patra.

10. 30th GD Birla Award for Scientific Research**Suman Chakraborty**Explanation

Professor Suman Chakraborty has been selected for the 30th GD Birla Award for Scientific Research for his outstanding contribution to engineering science and its applications in developing technologies for affordable healthcare.

11. India completes arch of world's highest railway bridge in**Jammu and Kashmir**Explanation

The construction of the arch of the world's highest railway bridge that soars 359 metres above the bed of the Chenab River in Jammu and Kashmir was completed. The 1.3-kilometre-long bridge aims to boost connectivity to the Kashmir Valley and it is being constructed at a cost of ₹ 1,486 crores as part of the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Railway Link (USBRL) project.

12. India's first female cricket commentator passes away**Chandra Naidu**Explanation

India's first female cricket commentator Chandra Naidu passed away. She was the daughter of the country's first Test captain CK Naidu. She had done her first commentary during a match between national champions Bombay (now Mumbai) and MCC in Indore in 1977. She had also penned a book titled 'CK Nayudu: A Daughter Remembers' on her late father, who was a distinguished cricketer.

13. CJI launches top court's AI-driven research portal**SUPACE**Explanation

The Supreme Court of India has launched its Artificial Intelligence portal "SUPACE" (Supreme Court Portal for Assistance in Courts Efficiency). Through this portal, the SC intends to leverage machine learning to deal with the vast amounts of data received at the time of filing of cases.

14. A book titled exam warriors updated version released by**PM Modi**

Explanation

The updated version of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's book named 'Exam Warriors' was launched. The book gives out various suggestions to both students and parents to deal with the examination pressure and stress. The book raises the awareness on topics like mental health, the role of technology and time management. The book has new Mantras and a range of interesting activities. The book reaffirms the need to remain stress-free before an exam.

15. Devishankar Awasthi Award 2020 awarded to

Ashutosh Bhardwaj

Explanation

Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has launched a 14-day "Mask Abhiyan" as part of efforts to prevent the spread of coronavirus in view of rising cases and urged people to strictly follow the safety guidelines. Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik sought their cooperation in turning the use of mask into a habit to tackle the current resurgence of the virus. Bringing an amendment to the Odisha Covid-19 Regulations under the Epidemic Diseases Act-1897.

16. New Prime Minister of Niger

Mahamadou

Explanation

Niger President Mohamed Bazoum appointed Ouhoumoudou Mahamadou to head his new cabinet as the country's new prime minister. He was previously served as a minister in charge of the finance and mining portfolios. He was the chief of staff to former President Mahamadou Issoufou between 2015 and 2021. He was sworn as Niger's first democratic transition of power since independence in 1960.

17. New director-general of the policy think tank National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER)

Poonam Gupta

Explanation

Poonam Gupta will be the new director-general of the policy think tank National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER). Gupta will succeed the current head of the think tank, Shekhar Shah, to become the first woman to hold the post. Currently, Gupta is the lead economist at the World Bank in Washington DC.

18. A Sanskrit learning app _____ has launched in Bangladesh by the Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre (IGCC)

'Little Guru'

Explanation

A Sanskrit learning app 'Little Guru' has launched in Bangladesh by the Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre (IGCC) of the High Commission of India. The Sanskrit learning app is part of the campaign being run by the Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR) to promote the Sanskrit language among students, religious scholars, Indologists and historians across the world.

19. India's first floating LNG storage and regasification unit

Maharashtra

Explanation

India's first Floating Storage and Regasification Unit (FSRU) has arrived at H-Energy's Jaigarh Terminal in the Ratnagiri district of Maharashtra, on the west coast of India. FSRU based LNG

Terminals aim at providing the ability to enhance the pace of natural gas import capability in an environment-friendly and efficient manner”.

20. Govt launches community mental-health digital platform

"MANAS"

Explanation

Principal Scientific Adviser to Govt of India, K Vijay Raghavan has launched a mobile app titled as 'MANAS' to cater mental well-being of citizens on scalable, secure and digital platforms. MANAS: Mental Health and Normalcy Augmentation System.

21. Former election commissioner passes away

G.V.G. Krishnamurthy

Explanation

Former election commissioner, GVG Krishnamurthy passed away due to age-related ailments. An Indian Legal Service officer, Krishnamurthy became the election commissioner in October 1993 to September 1996.

22. Union Health Minister, Dr Harsh Vardhan has launched a mission dedicated to spreading awareness about nutrition

Aahaar Kranti

Explanation

Union Health Minister, Dr Harsh Vardhan has launched Aahaar Kranti, a mission dedicated to spreading awareness about nutrition. It is designed to address the peculiar problem of hunger and diseases in abundance, being faced by India and the world. Studies show that India produces as much as two times the amount of calories it consumes.

23. Famous Tamil Im actor and Padma Sri Awardee passed away

Vivek

Explanation

An incredible comedian, Vivek had entertained people of Tamil Nadu for over three decades through his 200 plus lms

24. Jan Anushasan Pakhwara announced by

Rajasthan

Explanation

Rajasthan govt announced Jan Anushasan Pakhwara (JAP) or Public Discipline Fortnight

25. Startup India Seed Fund Scheme was launched by

Piyush Goyal

Explanation

Union Minister Piyush Goyal launched the Startup India Seed Fund Scheme (SISFS). The Fund aims to provide financial assistance to startups for proof of concept, prototype development, product trials, market-entry, and commercialization.

26. Which state govt launched Jagananna Vidya Deevena Scheme?

Andhra Pradesh

Explanation

The Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, YS Jagan Mohan Reddy recently released the first tranche of Rs 672 crores under the Jagananna Vidya Deevena Scheme for the year 2021-22. This reimbursed the fees for 10.88 lakh students. So far, a total of Rs 4, 879 crores have been disbursed under the Jagananna Vidya Deevena Scheme.

27. First Indian woman to scale Mt Annapurna

Priyanka Mohite

Priyanka Mohite from Satara in western Maharashtra has scaled Mt Annapurna, the 10th highest mountain peak in the world, becoming the first Indian woman climber to achieve the feat. Mount Annapurna is a massif in the Himalayas located in Nepal that includes one peak over 8,000 metres and is considered to be one of the toughest mountains to climb.

28. 'The Living Mountain: A Fable for Our Times' authored by

Amitav Ghosh

Jnanpith winner and renowned author Amitav Ghosh authored a new book titled 'The Living Mountain: A Fable for Our Times'

29. Former Maruti Suzuki passes away

MD Jagdish Khattar

Former Managing Director of Maruti Suzuki, Jagdish Khattar (79 years) passed away, following a cardiac arrest

30. e-panchayat award won by

Uttar Pradesh

The Uttar Pradesh government won the "E-Panchayat Puraskar 2021", ranking first in Category I. It was followed by Assam and Chhattisgarh at the second position, while Odisha and Tamil Nadu stood third

31. MD & CEO of NCDEX

Arun Raste

Market regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has given approval to the appointment of Arun Raste as MD and CEO of National Commodity & Derivatives Exchange Limited (NCDEX) for a period of 5 years.

32. India Ranks in Chandler Good Government Index 2021

49

India has been placed at 49th position among 104 nations in the Chandler Good Government Index (CGGI) 2021. Finland has topped the CGGI Index 2021 and Venezuela is the last ranked country at 104.

33. First Indian woman to get 'Wild Innovator Award'

Krithi Karanth

Dr. Krithi K Karanth, Chief Conservation Scientist at Bengaluru-based Centre for Wildlife Studies (CWS), has been chosen as the first Indian and Asian woman for the 2021 'WILD Innovator Award'. This award given by the "WILD ELEMENTS Foundation" brings together a coalition of innovators, advocates and partners to "disrupt the status quo and identify solutions to global sustainability and conservation".

Sports News

1. 2023 Men's Boxing World Championships to be held in?

Tashkent, Uzbekistan

Explanation

Tashkent is awarded the 2023 AIBA Men's boxing World Boxing Championships after the successful bid presentation by the Boxing Federation of Uzbekistan

2. Indian sprinter has been chosen for the inaugural edition of the Chhattisgarh Veerini Award

Dutee Chand

Explanation

Indian sprinter, Dutee Chand has been chosen for the inaugural edition of the Chhattisgarh Veerini Award, by the Chhattisgarh state government. The award, which recognises the contribution of Indian women in different fields, including sports, will be given virtually on April 14, 2021.

3. ICC Players of the Month

Bhuvneshwar Kumar

Explanation

India seamer Bhuvneshwar Kumar has won the ICC Player of the Month award for his superlative show in the recent limited over series against England in March. Bhuvneshwar became the third successive Indian recipient of the award since its inception early this year.

4. Who received Sir Richard Hadlee medal

Kane Williamson

Explanation

New Zealand star cricketer Kane Williamson was recently awarded the Sir Richard Hadlee medal. It was his 4th Sir Richard Hadlee award in 6 years. He had a great test season. He scored 251 against West Indies followed by a century on the Boxing Day.

5. Host city for Laureus World Sports Awards 2021

Seville

Explanation

Seville (Spain) will virtually host 22nd Laureus World Sports Awards on May 6 due to COVID-19

6. Emilia Romagna F1 Grand Prix 2021 won by

Max Verstappen

Explanation

Max Verstappen (Red Bull – Netherlands) won the Emilia Romagna F1 Grand Prix 2021, in Imola, Italy. This win is his first victory of the season. The race was the second round of the 2021 Formula One World Championship.

7. 12th Barcelona Open Tennis Title won by
Rafael Nadal

Explanation

Rafael Nadal has won 12th Barcelona Open Title in Longest ATP Match of 2021 after beating Stefanos Tsitsipas by 6-4, 6-7 (6/8), 7-5.

A promotional graphic for Skill Lens. It features a dark blue background with faint gear patterns. On the left, a man in an orange suit is running upwards. A green line graph with a dashed white line below it trends upwards from left to right. A hand in a blue sleeve holds a black pen, pointing at the end of the green line. In the top right corner is the Skill Lens logo with the tagline 'Shiksha - Sameeksha - Pratibha'. Below the graph, there are three white boxes with icons and text: a play button icon for 'E - Learning', a pencil icon for 'E - Assessments', and a handshake icon for 'Industry Connect'. At the bottom, an orange banner contains the website address 'www.skilllens.com'. The text 'Good News for Job aspirants Skill building made easy..!' is written in yellow on the left side.

Good News for Job aspirants
Skill building made easy..!

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