Q. Who has been appointed as the new Chairman of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL)?

A) Manoj Jain  
B) M K Surana  
C) Soma Mondal  
D) Shashi Shanker

Answer : C

- Soma Mondal has taken over as the new Chairman of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) with effect from January 01, 2021
- She is the first-ever women-head of the body
- She replaces Anil Kumar Chaudhary

LATEST APPOINTMENT 2020

- Utpal Kumar Singh Appointed as Secretary-General of Lok Sabha
- AR Rahman roped in as ‘BAFTA Breakthrough’ India ambassador
- Varsha Joshi Appointed as Chairperson of National Dairy Development Board (NDDB)
- Sandeep Kataria becomes first Indian to be appointed as global CEO of Bata
- Rajeev Chaudhary takes charge as new Director General of BRO
- Kuldeep Handoo Appointed as “Fit India Movement” Ambassador
• Anil Soni appointed first CEO of The WHO Foundation
• Sheikh Sabah al-Khalid Re-appointed as PM of Kuwait
• Zena Wooldridge appointed as World Squash Federation President
• Annika Sorenstam elected President of International Golf Federation
• RBI re-appoints Uday Kotak as MD of Kotak Mahindra Bank
• Shekhar Vempati elected as Vice President of Asia Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU)
• Vineet Agarwal appointed as the new President of ASSOCHAM
• Kerala’s 21-yr-old Arya Rajendran becomes India’s youngest mayor from Thiruvananthapuram
• Dr Harsh Vardhan nominated to the Board of ‘GAVI’, The Vaccine Alliance
• YES Bank appoints Niranjan Banodkar as new CFO

Q. The DRDO observed its _____ Foundation Day on 01 January 2021

A) 61
B) 78
C) 58
D) 63

Answer : D

➢ Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) Celebrates 63rd Foundation Day on 1st January 2021

DRDO IN NEWS

• DRDO Celebrates 63rd Foundation Day on 1st January 2021
• Indian Navy & DRDO conduct maiden trial of first indigenous air-dropped container ‘SAHAYAK-NG’
Hemant Kumar Pandey Honored With DRDO's "Scientist Of The Year" Award

DRDO develops disinfection unit “Ultra Swachh” to disinfect a wide range of materials including electronic items, fabrics

DRDO successfully test fires high-speed expendable aerial target (HEAT)- ABHYAS

DRDO successfully test-fires anti-radiation missile “Rudram” (Range 250 kilometres)

Defence minister Rajnath Singh hands over 3 DRDO high-tech systems to chiefs of 3 armed forces

DRDO Developing new 200-km strike range Pranash ballistic missile

DRDO develops UV disinfectant tower

DRDO has successfully test-fired the indigenously-developed Laser-Guided Anti Tank Guided Missile (ATGM) from the Main Battle Tank (MBT) Arjun.

DRDO successfully flight tests “Supersonic Missile Assisted Release of Torpedo” (SMART) from Wheeler Island off the coast of Odisha

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)

- Formed: 1958
- Headquarters: New Delhi
- Motto: "Strength's Origin is in Knowledge"
- Chairman: G. Satheesh Reddy
- DRDO is India's largest and most diverse research organisation

Q. Who has been appointed as the new Chairman & CEO of Railway Board?

A) Sandeep Kataria

B) Niranjan Banodkar
C) Vineet Agarwal

D) Suneet Sharma

Answer : D

- Suneet Sharma takes over as new Chairman & CEO of Railway Board
- He took over in his new role with effect from January 01, 2021
- Prior to this, Suneet Sharma was working as General Manager in Eastern Railway

Q. Name the institution that has signed a loan agreement worth USD 231 million with Indian government to augment electricity generation capacity in the state of Assam?

A) World Bank (WB)
B) New Development Bank (NDB)
C) Asian Development Bank (ADB)
D) International Monetary Fund (IMF)

Answer : C

ADB IN NEWS

- ADB & India sign $231 million loan to enhance power generation capacity in Assam
- ADB announces Rs 2100 crore loan to Tripura for urban & tourism development
- ADB & India sign $300 million loan to upgrade power distribution network in Uttar Pradesh
- ADB launches $9 bn Asia Pacific Vaccine Access Facility (APVAX) for Developing Countries
- ADB Projects GDP of India at -8% in 2020, 8% in 2021
• ADB approves USD 2.5 million technical assistance to support advanced biofuel development in India
• ADB Approves $190 Million Loan to Upgrade Power Distribution System in Bengaluru
• ADB and India sign $50 million loan agreement for West Bengal
• ADB released a new book titled ‘Future of Regional Cooperation in Asia and the Pacific’.
• ADB sign $132.8 million loan agreement for Meghalaya’s Power supply
• ADB inks $500 Million Loan agreement with India for Delhi-Meerut RRTS Corridor
• ADB and India inks USD 177 million loan for state road improvements in Maharashtra
• India and ADB Sign $300 Million Loan to Develop Rajasthan’s Secondary Towns
• ADB approves USD 1 billion loan for Delhi-Meerut Regional Rapid Transit System
• ADB approves grant worth USD 3 million to India to combat COVID-19
• Sameer Kumar Khare appointed Executive Director at ADB
• ADB appoints Takeo Konishi as Country Director for India
• ADB Appoints Ashok Lavasa as New Vice-President

ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK (ADB)

❖ Founded : 19 December 1966
❖ HQ : Mandaluyong, Metro Manila, Philippines
❖ President : Masatsugu Asakawa
❖ Vice President : Ashok Lavasa
❖ Director of ADB for India : Takeo Konishi
❖ Executive Director : Sameer Kumar
❖ Member Countries : 68 (Nuie)
Q. PM Modi recently laid the foundation stone Light House projects (LHPs) in how many states?

A) 9  
B) 8  
C) 7  
D) 6  

Answer : D  

PM Modi lays foundation stone of Light House projects (LHPs) across six states  
1. Indore (Madhya Pradesh)  
2. Rajkot (Gujarat)  
3. Chennai (Tamil Nadu)  
4. Ranchi (Jharkhand)  
5. Agartala (Tripura)  
6. Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh)  

- The project is being constructed under Global Housing Technology Challenge (GHTC)-India  
- LHPs has been conceptualized by Housing and Urban Affairs

Q. Which institution has signed USD 10 million loan agreement with India to expand horticulture in Himachal Pradesh?
A) World Bank (WB)
B) Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)
C) New Development Bank (NDB)
C) Asian Development Bank (ADB)

Answer : D

ADB & India sign $10 million loan to support project preparation to expand horticulture in Himachal Pradesh

HIMACHAL PRADESH IN NEWS 2020

- Himachal Pradesh Launches ‘Him Suraksha Abhiyan’ to collect real-time data on the health profile of entire state
- Atal Tunnel: World’s Longest Highway Tunnel In Himachal Pradesh, 9.02 km-long-tunnel, built by the BRO
- “Panchvati Yojna” launched in Himachal Pradesh
- Mukhya Mantri Shahari Rojgar Guarantee Yojna
- Nadaun Police Station of Himachal Pradesh declared as one of the best in India
- Himachal Pradesh starts to use eSanjeevaniOPD
- World Bank to provide USD 80 million to an integrated project in Himachal Pradesh
- Fagli festival celebrated in Himachal Pradesh
- “Active Case Finding Campaign” begins in Himachal Pradesh
- Himachal Pradesh wins e-Panchayat Puraskar 2020
- HP govt to starts ‘Nigah’ to educate family members of migrant returnees
- Himachal Pradesh becomes first state of India where every household has LPG gas connections
- Himachal Pradesh, World Bank sign $82 mn loan deal for HP State Roads Transformation Project

**Q. The International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) has become an Associate Member of the International Organization of Securities Commissions (IOSCO). Where is the headquarter of IOSCO?**

A) Vienna  
B) Brussels  
C) Madrid  
D) Paris  

**Answer : C**

- International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) has become an Associate Member of the International Organization of Securities Commissions (IOSCO).
- International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) 
  Headquarters : Gandhinagar, Gujarat  
- Chairman : Injeti Srinivas  

**International Organization of Securities Commissions (IOSCO)**

- Founded : 1983  
- Headquarters : Madrid, Spain  
- Membership : 224  
- Secretary General : Paul P. Andrews

**Q. Which country has changed the second line of the anthem from "For we are young and free" to "For we are one and free"?**

A) France
B) Australia
C) Germany
D) USA

**Answer : B**

- Australia has changed one word in its national anthem to reflect “the spirit of unity” and the country’s Indigenous population
- The second line of the anthem, Advance Australia Fair, has been changed from "For we are young and free" to "For we are one and free."

**Q. Who among the following recently chaired the 34th PRAGATI interaction?**

A) Rajnath Singh
B) Ramnath Kovind
C) Narendra Modi
D) Amit Shah

**Answer : C**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired the 34th PRAGATI interaction.

**Q. The Chief of Army Staff General MM Naravane has received a Guard of Honour at ___.**

A) Oman
B) Republic of Korea
C) Japan
D) Vietnam

Answer : B

- Chief of Army Staff General MM Naravane has received a Guard of Honour at Republic of Korea Army
- MM Naravane conferred the honorary rank of General of Nepali Army by President Bhandari

Republic of Korea

- Capital : Pyongyang (North Korea) Seoul (South Korea)
- Currency : Won

Q. India began its tenure of ____ as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC)?

A) 6 months
B) 1 year
C) 1.5 years
D) 2 years

Answer : D

- India begins its two-year tenure as a Non-Permanent Member of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC)
- India will sit in the 15-nation United Nations Security Council (UNSC) for the 2021-22 term as a non-permanent member

Q. India conducted its Fourth Joint Working Group on Fisheries meeting with ____.
A) Sri Lanka  
B) Maldives  
C) Bangladesh  
D) Myanmar  

**Answer : A**

- Fourth Meeting of the India-Sri Lanka Joint Working Group on Fisheries was held through virtual mode.

**SRI LANKA IN NEWS 2020**

- Sri Lanka will host the Asia Cup in June 2021  
- RBI signs $400 mn currency swap with Sri Lanka  
- WHO Declares Sri Lanka & Maldives as Rubella and Measles-Free  
- Sri Lankan Bowler Sripali Weerakkody retires  
- Mahinda Rajapaksa takes oath as Sri Lankan PM for 4th time  
- Sri Lanka withdraws from UN Rights Resolution  
- 2 Indian banks Axis Bank and ICICI Bank to end their operations in Sri Lanka  
- Sri Lanka’s Shehan Madushanka suspended after heroin arrest  
- Sri Lankan cricketer Tharanga Paranavitana retires  

**SRI LANKA**

- Capital : Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte (legislative)  
- Colombo (executive and judicial)  
- Currency : Rupee  
- President : Gotabaya Rajapaksa
Q. Which airport has become the only airport in South India to have CAT IIIB compliant runway?

A) Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru
B) Rajiv Gandhi International Airport, Hyderabad
C) Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport, Kolkata
D) Veer Savarkar International Airport, Andaman and Nicobar

Answer: A

- Kempegowda International Airport in Bengaluru now has a CAT IIIB compliant South runway that can be used by aircraft even during inclement weather and foggy conditions.

Q. Uttar Pradesh Government has made it compulsory to have a COVID-19 negative report for all the devotees who want to attend Magh Mela. Magh Mela celebrations took place at ___.

A) Agra
B) Meerut
C) PrayagRaj
D) Varanasi

Answer: C
Uttar Pradesh Government has made it compulsory to have a COVID-19 negative report for all the devotees who want to attend Magh Mela in Prayagraj.

Q. Which state/UT has signed a historic MoU with National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd (NAFED) for the Horticulture sector?

A) Andaman and Nicobar
B) Punjab
C) Sikkim
D) Jammu and Kashmir

Answer : D

J"K UT Administration signs historic MoU with National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED)

J&K IN NEWS

- PM Modi to launch 'SEHAT', Health Insurance Scheme for UT of J&K
- Manoj Sinha appointed as Lt Governor of J&K
- J&K Launches E-Auction Portal for Kashmir Saffron
- Macadamisation Program
- "Puneja Bridge" & “Devika Bridge” in J&K
- ‘SUKOON’ COVID-19 Beat the Stress
- Samagra Shiksha programme
- Kashmir saffron gets GI tag
- Student Health Card scheme
- Historic city Chowk renamed as 'Bharat mata chowk' in J&K
- J&K LG Manoj Sinha launches ‘My Town My Pride’ Campaign to provide doorstep governance in urban areas
• 2020 Dronacharya Awardee Kuldeep Handoo from J&K, Appointed as “Fit India Movement” Ambassador
• J-K LG Manoj Sinha launches SPARROW system for its Administrative Service officers
• Govt increases scholarship amount under ‘Pragati and Saksham’ schemes for J&K students to Rs 50,000
• J&K L-G launches salary tracking app ”MeraVetan” for government employees
• Indian Army in J&K Celebrates 74th Infantry Day
• Union Cabinet approves J&K official languages Bill 2020 Kashmiri, Dogri and Hindi along with Urdu and English,

Q. In which state, PM will lay Foundation Stone of the permanent campus of IIM Sambalpur on 2 January?

A) Uttar Pradesh  
B) Bihar  
C) Gujarat  
D) Odisha  

Answer : D  

➢ Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will lay the foundation stone of the permanent campus of IIM Sambalpur on 2nd January 2021.

ODISHA IN NEWS 2020

• India’s largest hockey stadium to be set up in Rourkela Odisha  
• Odisha To Host FIH Men’s Hockey World Cup Of The Year 2023
• Ninth edition of International Sand Art Festival & 31st edition of the Konark Festival 2020 begins in Odisha
• Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik launches 'Mo Bidyut' portal
• Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik Launches 'Diligram' Portal
• Odisha CM launches ‘Sumangal’ & Student Scholarship web portals
• DRDO successfully test fires ABHYAS from Odisha
• Odisha Government Launched 'Garima' Scheme For Sanitation Workers

Q. Ministry of Defence has signed a contract with which of the following company to supply indigenously developed 10 Lynx U2 Fire Control systems for Indian Navy?

A) Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)
B) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)
C) Ordnance Factory Board (OFB)
D) Bharat Dynamics

Answer : A

➢ Defence Ministry signs contract with BEL for procurement of 10 Lynx U2 Fire Control systems

Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)

❖ Founded : 1954
❖ Headquarteres : Bengaluru Karnataka
❖ CMD : M V Gowtama
Q. Which Small Finance Bank has received permission from SEBI to float its initial public offering (IPO)?

A) Ujjivan Small Finance Bank
B) Suryoday Small Finance Bank
C) Utkarsh Small Finance Bank
D) Equitas Small Finance Bank

Answer : B

- Suryoday Small Finance Bank has received capital markets watchdog Sebi’s go ahead to float an initial share-sale.
- Suryoday Small Finance Bank Headquarters : Navi Mumbai

Q. Who is the author of the book “Vahana Masterclass”?

A) Alfredo Covelli
B) Vineet Bajpai
C) Francois Gautier
D) Tamal Bandyopadhyay

Answer : A

- Alfredo Covelli, an Italy based author has launched his new book Vahana Masterclass for children and Young Audience.
Q. The Headquarters of the International union for conservation of nature (IUCN) is situated at ____.

A) Gland, Switzerland
B) Jakarta, Indonesia
C) London, UK
D) Vienna, Austria

Answer: A

Q. The Mahabodhi Temple is located in which state of India?

A) Odisha
B) Rajasthan
C) Bihar
D) Sikkim

Answer: D

Q. In which state is the Durgapur Thermal Power Station located?

A) Chhattisgarh
B) Assam
C) Odisha
D) West Bengal

Answer: A

Q. Where in India is the Satish Dhawan Space Centre located?

A) Kerala
B) Andhra Pradesh
C) Uttar Pradesh
D) Gujarat

Answer: B

Q. In which field is the Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Award given?

A) Science & Technology

Answer: B
Q. G. D. Birla Trophy is related to which sport?
A) Badminton
B) Football
C) Hockey
D) Cricket
Answer: D

Q. Silver Fibre Revolution is related to the production of ______.
A) Oil Seeds Production
B) Jute Production
C) Milk Production
D) Cotton Production
Answer: D

Q. Sholayar Dam is located in which state?
A) Tamil Nadu
B) Maharashtra

Q. Nizamabad in Telangana is located on the banks of which river?
A) Pennar
B) Krishna
C) Shipra
D) Godavari
Answer: D

Q. Saint of the gutters is the nickname of which personality?
A) Sarojini Naidu
B) Mother Teresa
C) Jagjevan Ram
D) Vallabhbhai Patel
Answer: B