

SOLUTIONS

1. Ans. D.

- At present, interest rates on loans are linked to a bank's marginal cost of fund-based interest rate, known as the Marginal Cost of Lending Rate (MCLR).
- Existing loans and credit limits linked to the MCLR, base rate or Benchmark Prime Lending Rate, would continue till repayment or renewal.
- Those customers wanting to switch to the repo-linked rate can do so on mutually acceptable terms.

2. Ans. E.

There is **no limit – either minimum or maximum** – on the amount of funds that could be transferred using **NEFT**. However, the maximum amount per transaction is limited to **Rs.50,000/-** for cash-based remittances within India and also for remittances to **Nepal under the Indo-Nepal Remittance Facility Scheme**.

3. Ans. B.

- India's central bank the 'The Reserve Bank of India' is going to set up a Central Payment Fraud Registry.
- This Registry will monitor digital payments related frauds on a real-time basis and provide customers with periodic aggregated data of risks associated with individual payments operators
- This will improve customer confidence in these channels.
- A detailed framework on the proposed registry would be released by the regulators in October.
- Currently, RBI has a mechanism in place for banks to report all banking frauds to the Central Fraud Monitoring Cell of the Reserve Bank.

4. Ans. B.

As per the relaxed ECB end-use provisions, the RBI has permitted ECBs with a minimum average maturity period of 10 years for working capital purposes and general corporate purposes. Borrowing by NBFCs for this maturity for on-lending for the above purposes is also permitted.

ECBs, with a minimum average maturity period of seven years, can be availed by eligible borrowers for repayment of rupee loans availed domestically for capital expenditure, as also by NBFCs for on-lending for the same purpose. For repayment of rupee loans availed domestically for purposes other than capital expenditure and for on-lending by NBFCs for the same, the minimum average maturity period of the ECB is required to be 10 years.

The RBI said eligible corporate borrowers will be allowed to avail ECB for repayment of rupee loans availed domestically for capital expenditure in the manufacturing and infrastructure sector if classified as SMA-2, or NPA, under any one-time settlement with lenders.

5. Ans. D.

- The RBI has announced a task force headed by its former deputy governor **Usha Thorat** to examine issues to address concerns related to offshore rupee markets and recommend policy measures to ensure the stability of the external value of the domestic currency.
- The task force with eight-member will assess the causes behind the development of the offshore rupee market and study its effects of the off-shore markets on the rupee exchange rate and market liquidity in the domestic market.
- The task force will submit its report by June- end.

6. Ans. C.

- Maharashtra state-reported around 233 cases of ATM fraud in 2018-19. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) data revealed a data showed that Delhi grabbed the second spot with 179 cases. This is followed by Tamil Nadu with 147 cases. In Maharashtra, people lost Rs 4.8 crore to bank fraud and in Delhi, people lost around Rs 2.9 crore in bank fraud.

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• Assam, Arunachal Pradesh and Tripura are the only three states that didn't report a single incident.

7. Ans. C.

* RBI board has finalized a three- year roadmap named **Utarsh 2022** to improve regulation and supervision, among other functions of the central bank.

* It is in line with the global central banks' plan to strengthen the regulatory and supervisory mechanism.

* It is a three-year road map for medium-term objectives to be achieved for improving regulation, supervision of the central bank.

8. Ans. B.

The Asset Reconstruction Companies have been allowed to acquire financial assets from other ARCs, in the view of amendment to the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Securities Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002.

* The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has permitted Asset Reconstruction Companies (ARCs) to acquire financial assets from peers i.e. other such entities. However, RBI, the apex banking regulator cleared that all such transactions have to be settled in cash.

* This decision by RBI will help improve liquidity in Asset Reconstruction Companies' market.

9. Ans. B.

• Leverage ratio: It is a kind of financial ratio that tells the level of debt incurred by an organization. This ratio gives an indication that how company assets and business operations are financed.

• RBI has relaxed the Leverage ratio to 3.5% for banks and 4% for DSIB's banks.

• Currently, there are 3 banks that are categorized as DSIB namely SBI, ICICI, AND HDFC.

10. Ans. B.

The Reserve Bank Friday set an average base rate of 9.18 percent for non-banking financial companies and micro institutions to be charged from their customers for the quarter beginning July 1.

• The applicable average base rate to be charged by non-banking financial companies and microfinance institutions (NBFC-MFIs) to their borrowers for the quarter beginning July 1, 2019, will be 9.18 percent.

• RBI sets the average base rate for NBFC-MFIs on the basis of the average of the base rate of the five largest commercial banks. The central bank in a circular in 2014 had communicated to NBFCs and MFIs regarding pricing of credit on the last working day of every quarter.

11. Ans. D.

RBI Deputy Governor Viral V Acharya has resigned from his post, six months before the scheduled end of his term.

Mr. Acharya joined the Reserve Bank in January 2017 and was RBI's youngest deputy governor, post-economic liberalization.

Acharya will be returning to New York University as CV Starr Professor of Economics.

12. Ans. C.

The theme this year Financial Literacy Week is - 'Farmers and how they benefit by being a part of the formal banking system'.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) observed 'Financial Literacy Week' across the country from 3rd to 9th of June.

Financial Literacy Week is an initiative of RBI to promote awareness on key topics every year through a focused campaign.

13. Ans. B.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced an extension of timings for customer transactions through Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS) by one and half hours from 4:30 PM to 6:00 PM.

According to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) notification, the new timing will be effective from 1st June.

The RTGS is an online fund transfer system, supported by the RBI, which enables money transaction on a real-time basis.

The minimum amount for the transaction under this system is Rs 2 lakh.

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There is no upper limit on the value of funds that can be transferred via the RTGS system.

14. Ans. E.

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has constituted a six-member committee headed by TN Manoharan (Chairman, Canara Bank) on the Development of Secondary Market for Corporate Loans to come up with recommendations to increase the efficiencies of the debt market and aid in the resolution of stressed assets.

The committee will make recommendations on required policy/regulatory interventions for facilitating the development of the secondary market in corporate loans, including loan transaction platform for stressed assets.

15. Ans. C.

Housing loans are given by RRBs and SFBs to individuals up to INR 35 lakh in metropolitan centers (with a population of 10 lakh and above) and INR 25 lakh in other centers.

- The Reserve Bank of India has decided to enhance the housing loan limits for Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) and Small Finance Banks (SFBs) for eligibility under priority sector lending, in a bid to give them a level playing field with other Scheduled Commercial Banks.

16. Ans. D.

- Economic Intelligence Unit released the Safe Cities Index (SCI) 2019 which ranks 60 countries worldwide across five continents.

- It measures the multi-faceted nature of urban safety, with indicators categorized as digital, infrastructure, health and personal security.

- Tokyo ranks first for the third time while Singapore and Osaka came second and third in the list

- Mumbai was at 45th position while Delhi stood at the 52nd position.

- Cities in the Asia-Pacific region made up six of the top-10 safest cities.

17. Ans. A.

- Power Minister R K Singh launched the State Rooftop Solar Attractiveness Index -SARAL in New Delhi.

- As per the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy survey, Karnataka has emerged as the best state for setting up a rooftop solar project according to the State Rooftop Solar Attractiveness Index-SARAL.

- The state rooftop solar attractiveness index (SARAL) released by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.

- Four states (Karnataka, Telangana, Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh) have been graded A++.

- The state of Jammu and Kashmir has been ranked last

18. Ans. C.

India is ranked at the 86th position in the Henley Passport Index 2019 with a mobility score of 58. India shares the position with Mauritania and Sao Tome and Principe.

In 2018, India was ranked at the 79th position.

Note:

Henley Passport Index 2019 has recently published on its website that shows

Japan and Singapore holds first position collectively as most powerful passports in the world.

19. Ans. B.

Australian think tank Institute for Economics & Peace has released the Global Peace Index (GPI) 2019. The report revealed that since 2008 global peacefulness has deteriorated by 3.78 per cent. India's ranking in the index has slipped five places to 141 among 163 countries.

Iceland remains the most peaceful country in the world, a position it has held since 2008. It is joined by New Zealand, Austria, Portugal, and Denmark.

Afghanistan is now the least peaceful country in the world, replacing Syria, which is now the second least peaceful. South Sudan, Yemen, and Iraq comprise the remaining five least peaceful countries.

In South Asia, Bhutan topped the index with 15th rank, followed by Sri Lanka 72, Nepal 76 and Bangladesh 101. Pakistan has been ranked 153rd in the index.

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Countries with the highest risk of multiple climate hazards - China, Japan, India, Philippines, Myanmar, Vietnam, Indonesia, Pakistan and Bangladesh (total 9 countries)

Countries with the largest total military expenditure – US, China, India, Russia and Saudi Arabia.

20. Ans. B.

- Kerala took the top spot among larger states for overall performance on health indicators in a NITI Aayog report, followed by Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra.
- The Kerala government takes health concerns very seriously, according to the second edition of the Healthy States, Progressive India report released by NITI Aayog.
- Haryana, Rajasthan and Jharkhand emerged as the top three ranking States in terms of annual incremental performance.

Smaller States on incremental performance and overall performance

- In terms of overall performance, Mizoram was ranked first followed by Manipur.
- Tripura followed by Manipur were the top ranked States in terms of annual incremental performance.

Note:

- On June 25, 2019, The National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog released the Second Edition of "Healthy States, Progressive India" Report.
- It ranked States and Union territories (UTs) innovatively on their year-on-year incremental change in health outcomes and their overall performance.
- It was developed by NITI Aayog with technical assistance from the **World Bank** in consultation with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW).

21. Ans. D.

- India has ranked 74th place in terms of money parked by its citizens with Swiss banks by the end of 2018.
- While with maximum holdings, UK (United Kingdom) has remained top in the list.
- The report is compiled by the Swiss

National Bank (SNB).

- India was ranked 73rd in 2018.
- The US remains on the second with CHF 144 billion accounts 10.3% of foreign funds.
- India was also the lowest-ranked among the BRICS nations, Russia is ranked the highest (20th) followed by China (22nd), South Africa (60th) Brazil (65th).
- India's neighboring nations are ranked lower, with Pakistan(82nd), Bangladesh (89th), Nepal (109th), Sri Lanka (141st), Myanmar (187th) and Bhutan (193rd).
- In the last four years, this is the first time that the funds of Pakistan in Swiss banks have slipped below that of Indians.

About Swiss National Bank:

- It is the central bank of Switzerland, and is therefore responsible for the monetary policy of the nation of Switzerland and also for the issuing of Swiss franc banknotes
- Headquarters: Bern and Zurich
- Chairman: Thomas Jordan

22. Ans. B.

- The annual global index named **Kids Right Index** has ranked countries on the basis of how much they are involved and equipped to improve child rights. India ranked **117th out of 181 countries**.

- **Iceland** topped in this ranking.
- Kids Rights Index is an initiative started by **Kids Right Foundation** with Erasmus University, Rotterdam.

23. Ans. B.

- India's rank in the **World Press Freedom Index 2019** dropped down to **140th from 138th** in 2018, two points below the previous year (2017).
- The Reporters Without Borders (RSF) on **April 18th, 2019** released the World Press Freedom Index 2019, reflecting growing animosity towards journalists.
- This year, the index has been topped by Norway again for the third year, followed by Finland and Sweden at second and third positions, respectively.

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24. Ans. D.

- India has moved up two places to **rank 76th** on a global energy transition index, compiled by **Geneva-based World Economic Forum (WEF)**.
- **Sweden** remains on the top and is followed by Switzerland and Norway in the top three.
- This annual list has **ranked 115 economies** on how well they are able to balance energy security and access with environmental sustainability and affordability.
- In this annual list 115 economies have been given space.

25. Ans. B.

India ranked 47th in the overall "Inclusive Internet Index 2019" (3i). The index has been prepared by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) for Facebook.

Sweden topped the index which was followed by Singapore and the US.

The index was expanded to include 100 countries which will represent 94% of the world's population and 96% of global GDP.

26. Ans. A.

A new slogan was coined in Economic Survey as BADLAV (Beti Apki Dhan Lakshmi Aur Vijay Lakshmi). It further empowers the concept of **Gender Equality** to *inter alia* enhance the contribution of women in the workforce and the economy. BADLAV has been inspired by the program Beti Bachao Beti Padhao. It is based on the concept of **Behavioural economics**.

27. Ans. D.

Industry and Infrastructure

* Overall Index of Eight Core Industries registered a growth rate of 4.3 percent in 2018-19.

* India's ranking improved by 23 to 77th position in 2018 among 190 countries assessed by the World Bank Doing Business (DB) Report, 2019.

* Economic Survey is compiled by the Chief Economic Advisor (Current-Krishnamurthy Subramanian) under the Ministry of Finance.

* It is published by the Department of Economic Affairs under the Ministry of Finance.

28. Ans. C.

• India ranked at 80th positions on the Global Talent Competitive Index (GTCI) 2019.

• The index is released by INSEAD business school in partnership with Tata Communications and Adecco Group.

• China emerged as the best performer among the BRICS countries, with an overall position of 45th.

• Switzerland topped the index which is followed by Singapore and the US.

• Last year in 2018, India was ranked at 81st position.

• The report measures levels of Global Talent Competitiveness by looking at 68 variables such as ease of hiring, gender earnings gap, and prevalence of training in firms.

29. Ans. E.

Bloomberg Innovation Index 2019

• It is a global index measuring the level of innovation by analyzing each country in a range of areas including education, research and development, and manufacturing come up with list of 60 countries.

• The index is topped by South Korea for the sixth time in a row with a total score of 87.38.

• Then followed by Germany, Finland, Switzerland, Israel, Singapore, Sweden, U.S.A, Japan and France in the top 10.

• India's rank is 54th in the Bloomberg Innovation Index with a score of 47.93 out of 100.

Bloomberg Innovation Index 2019 published top 60 economies out of 95 economies analyzed for the ranking process for the year 2019 based on a score from 0-100 on the basis of seven equal weighted metrics.

30. Ans. C.

• The list was topped by **Denmark** followed by Finland and Sweden.

• India ranked 95th out of 129 countries in a new index that measures global gender equality looking at aspects such as poverty, health, education, literacy,

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political representation and equality at the workplace.

- Chad was placed at bottom most position (129th).
- The Index is developed by Equal Measures 2030, a partnership effort of regional and global organisations.
- Indicators: It includes 51 indicators across 14 of 17 official Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).

31. Ans. E.

London has been named as the world's best city for students as per the 'QS Best Student Cities Ranking'. Tokyo is ranked second followed by Melbourne in Australia at 3rd.

32. Ans. C.

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has released a vision document for ensuring a safe, secure, convenient, quick and affordable e-payment system. The move comes as the apex bank expects the number of digital transactions to increase more than four times to 8,707 crores (in December 2021).

The 'Payment and Settlement Systems in India: Vision 2019 - 2021', with its core theme of 'Empowering Exceptional E-payment Experience', envisages achieving "a highly digital and cash-lite society" through the goal posts of competition, cost-effectiveness, convenience and confidence (4Cs).

33. Ans. D.

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has promoted Rabi N. Mishra as executive director (ED).
- He was earlier holding the position of the Principal Chief General Manager at the central bank's Risk Management Department.
- He would be looking after the newly-created specialized supervisory and regulatory cadre within the central bank.

34. Ans. A.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has released the Financial Benchmark Administrators (Reserve Bank) Directions, 2019 for a regulatory framework for financial benchmarks, to improve the governance of the

benchmark processes in markets regulated by it.

35. Ans. B.

- * Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced its third Bi-Monthly Monetary Policy Rates for 2019-20 in Mumbai.
- * The RBI reduced the policy repo rate under the liquidity adjustment facility (LAF) by 35 basis points (bps) from 5.75 per cent to 5.40 per cent with immediate effect.

* Repo rate is the rate at which the Reserve Bank of India lends money to commercial banks in event of any shortfall of funds. Repo rate is used by the RBI in order to control the inflation in the economy.

36. Ans. B.

- * The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the transfer of record Rs 1.76 lakh crore dividend and surplus reserves to the government,

* This fund will comprise Rs 1,23,414 crore of surplus for the year 2018-19 and Rs 52,637 crore of excess provisions identified as per the revised Economic Capital Framework (ECF).

* The excess reserve transfer is in line with the recommendation of former RBI governor Bimal Jalan-led panel constituted to decide size of capital reserves that the central bank should hold.

* Urjit Patel committee is related with Monetary policy

* C Rangrajan Committee to review the Methodology for Measurement of Poverty

* HR Khan Committee is to suggest measures for revitalizing and streamlining FPIs.

37. Ans. B.

• Oleksiy Honcharuk (35-years) has been appointed as the youngest-ever Prime Minister of Ukraine.

• He replaces Volodymyr Groysman, who offered his resignation after Zelensky's inauguration.

• Ukraine's new president Volodymyr Zelensky (41-year) nominated Honcharuk after weeks of consultations.

• The Prime Minister is appointed by the president with the consent of the Verkhovna Rada.

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- The Prime Minister of Ukraine is Ukraine's head of government, presiding over the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, which is the highest body of the executive branch of the Ukrainian government.

38. Ans. C.

- President Donald Trump has nominated Indian American Shireen Mathews as a judge of the US District Court for the Southern District of California.

- Currently, Mathews is a partner at Jones Day, the fifth-largest law firm in the country, in San Diego.

- Mathews earned her BA, magna cum laude, from Georgetown University and her law degree, cum laude, from Duke University School of Law.

- Mathews will be the first Asian Pacific American woman and first Indian-American to serve as an Article III federal judge in the Southern District.

39. Ans. C.

- Mahakaleshwar Jyotirlinga is a Hindu temple dedicated to Lord Shiva and one of the twelve Jyotirlingams, shrines which are said to be the most sacred abodes of Lord Shiva.

- Mahakaleshwar is located at the ancient city of Ujjain in the state of Madhya Pradesh, India.

- Mahakaleshwar temple in Ujjain will be developed on the lines of the ongoing development works at Kashi Vishwanath Temple in Varanasi.

- A plan of Rs 300 crore has been prepared for this proposed development of Mahakal temple.

- A high-level committee of three ministers has also been formed to plan the development.

40. Ans. D.

- India has announced a contribution of USD 22 million to the Global Fund for AIDS, TB and Malaria (GFTAM) for the 6th replenishment cycle (2020-22).

- This is an increase of 10% over the amount contributed by the US in the 5th cycle.

- The Global Fund is a partnership designed to accelerate the end of AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria.

- As an international organization, the Global Fund mobilizes and invests more than USD 4 billion a year to support programs run by local experts in more than 100 countries.

41. Ans. C.

- 'Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) 2017-18', conducted by the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO), found that 33% of India's skilled youth are jobless.

- As per the survey nearly one third of trained young men and more than a third of trained young women were unemployed.

42. Ans. E.

- Akhilesh Ranjan is the head of the committee constituted to replace the 6-decades-old Income Tax Act 1961.

- The much-awaited report on the new direct tax code (DTC), which will replace the existing income tax act of 1961, will be submitted to finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman, said one person privy to the development, requesting anonymity.

- The finance ministry-appointed task force, headed by central board of direct taxes (CBDT) member Akhilesh Ranjan, was expected to submit the report on 31 July but was given a 15-day extension to incorporate the views of new members. Now, it plans to hand over the report on 19 August.

43. Ans. A.

- Used car buying and selling platform Cars24 has procured an NBFC License from RBI and will be venturing into the consumer lending business.

- It will do so through the formation of a separate entity - Cars24 Financial Services Pvt. Ltd under the Cars24 group.

- The company will be launching its services in Delhi, Mumbai and Bangalore in August 2019 and will scale up to the other cities gradually.

44. Ans. D.

- * India is set to be the first recipient of local currency financing by the Asian Infrastructure and Investment Bank (AIIB).

- * AIIB president Jin Lique announced the bank's intention to roll out local

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currency financing to provide more options to borrowers.

* India, which is the second largest shareholder of Beijing-based AIIB with a 7.5% stake, has received about \$2-billion funding for various projects so far. China holds 20.06% in the over-three-year-old bank.

45. Ans. C.

* Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI), has introduced a web-based application system for contribution from Fund of Funds for Startups (FFS).

* Aim - to improve the turnaround time and increase transparency.

* SIDBI is the implementing agency for FFS with a corpus of Rs 10,000 crore on behalf of the Government of India.

* Mohammad Mustafa is a current Chairman and Managing Director of SIDBI.

About SIDBI

* The headquarters of Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) is located in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.

* It is an independent financial institution.

* Its main objective is to aid the growth and development of micro, small and medium-scale enterprises (MSMEs).

* It was established on 2nd April 1990, through an Act of Parliament.

46. Ans. C.

Within three years of starting its commercial operations, Reliance Jio has become the country's largest telecom operator surpassing Vodafone Idea

47. Ans. D.

* The Inter-Ministerial Committee on Virtual Currency constituted under the Chairmanship of Subhash Chandra Garg who served as Economic Affairs Secretary and Finance Secretary.

* The committee has submitted its report along with Draft Bill 'Banning of Cryptocurrency & Regulation of Official Digital Currency Bill, 2019'.

* The proposed law criminalises carrying on any activity connected with cryptocurrencies in India, including mining, buying, selling or storing cryptocurrency, and the use of

cryptocurrency as a means of raising funds or for investments.

48. Ans. C.

• Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Harsh Vardhan stated that the Government sets target is to raise health services expenditure to 2.5 percent of the country's GDP (Gross domestic product) by 2025 due to the increment of expenditure over the last 10 years.

• The government's objective is in line with National Health Policy 2017 which envisages increasing public health expenditure to 2.5% of GDP by 2025.

• The policy also recommends that State governments should spend more than 8% of their budget on health sector by 2020.

49. Ans. B.

The Defence Budget will be crossing Rs. 3,00,000 crore for the first time in 2019-20. For securing our borders and to maintain preparedness of the highest order, if necessary, additional funds would be provided.

50. Ans. C.

• The National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog, think tank of the government, has proposed that only Electric Vehicles (EVs) should be sold after 2030.

• This is proposed in order to expand the scope of the clean fuel technology beyond two and three-wheelers.

• The panel headed by NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant had suggested earlier that only EV (three-wheelers and two-wheelers) with an engine capacity of up to 150 cc should be sold from 2025 onwards.

• According to the joint study by NITI Aayog and Rocky Mountain Institute, USA, India can save 64% of anticipated road-based mobility-related energy demand and 37% of carbon emissions in 2030 by pursuing a shared, electric, and connected mobility future.

• It will reduce 156 Mtoe (Megatone) Diesel and Petrol consumption for that year and will result in a net saving of roughly Rs. 3.9 Lakh Crore in 2030 at present oil prices.

• Ministry of Road Transport And

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Highways (MoRTH) has been asked to work on a new framework to phase out the sale of diesel and petrol vehicles by 2030.

51. Ans. C.

- According to the Fisheries Department, India is the second largest fish producing country in the world as it accounts for 6.3 per cent of the global fish production.

- China is the largest producer of fish in the world.

- According to the Rajni Sekhri Sibal, Secretary, Department of Fisheries, fisheries is a sunrise sector in India, considering the commercially viable global tuna market which stood at USD 11.38 billion in 2017 and is projected to reach USD 13.75 billion by 2023, the release said.

- The 23rd session of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC), being held in Hyderabad, India from 17 to 21 June 2019.

52. Ans. C.

- The 20th meeting on Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) was held under the chairmanship of Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in New Delhi.

- The meeting reviewed the current global and domestic economic situation and financial stability issues including, inter-alia.

- Sitharaman will present the first budget of the new government on July 5.

Note:

- The Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) was constituted in December 2010.

- The FSDC was set up to strengthen and institutionalise the mechanism for maintaining financial stability, enhancing inter-regulatory coordination and promoting financial sector development.

Composition:

- The Council is chaired by the Union Finance Minister and its members are Governor, Reserve Bank of India; Finance Secretary and/or Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs; Secretary, Department of Financial Services; Chief Economic Adviser,

Ministry of Finance; Chairman, Securities and Exchange Board of India; Chairman, Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority and Chairman, Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority.

- It also includes the chairman of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board (IBBI).

53. Ans. E.

Electoral bonds can be purchased for any value in multiples of Rs 1,000, Rs 10,000, Rs 10 lakh, and Rs 1 crore from any of the specified branches of the State Bank of India. The life of the bond will be for **15 days**.

- The central government had on January 29, 2018, notified the electoral bond scheme.

- An Indian citizen or body incorporated in India will be eligible to purchase the bond.

- Electoral bonds can be used for making a donation only to the political parties registered under section 29A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 (43 of 1951) and which secured not less than one per cent of the votes polled in the last general election to the House of the People or a Legislative Assembly.

- These bonds will not carry the name of the payee.

- **Authorised centre** - It can be purchased only from specified branches of **State Bank of India**.

- **Denomination** - Electoral bonds can be bought for any value, in multiples of Rs 1,000, Rs 10,000, Rs 1 lakh, Rs 10 lakh or Rs 1 crore.

- **Validity** - Electoral bonds will be **valid for 15 days** from the date of purchase.

54. Ans. B.

- For the first time in Bangladesh, iron ore mine has been discovered at Isabpur village in Dinajpur.

- The announcement was made by the Geological Survey of Bangladesh following extensive drilling over two months in the area.

- For the first time in Bangladesh, iron ore mine has been discovered at Isabpur village in Dinajpur.

- According to the Geological Survey, a 400-foot thick iron layer was found

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1,750 feet beneath the surface stretched over an area of 6-10 square kilometre.

- The percentage of iron in the mine was 65 which indicates the high quality of the ore. In most other countries like Canada, China, Brazil Sweden and Australia the percentage is below 50.
- Other minerals such as gold, there were copper, nickel and chromium were also found at various levels of the mining. The discovery of the iron mine has opened up economic prospects for the country.
- The discovery of high-quality iron ore mine in Dinajpur district of Bangladesh is a significant achievement. Since the iron concentration in the magnetite ore is 65 percent, mining would be economically feasible.

55. Ans. D.

- The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) is the regulator for overseeing insolvency proceedings and entities like Insolvency Professional Agencies (IPA), Insolvency Professionals (IP) and Information Utilities (IU) in India.
- It covers Individuals, Companies, Limited Liability Partnerships and Partnership firms.
- It handles the cases using two tribunals like NCLT (National company law tribunal) and Debt recovery tribunal.

56. Ans. D.

* Wirecard, a German payments company announced that it would work with India to simplify the process of issuing tax identity cards (PAN Cards) which are required for opening bank accounts, transfer money and complete business transactions.

Details

* The deal between Wirecard and state company UTI Infrastructure Technology and Financial Services seeks to widen the distribution of Permanent Account Number (PAN) card.

* Currently, Wirecard has a network of 15,000 retail agents in 350 cities of India which would help in collecting and scanning of documents that people need to apply for a PAN card.

57. Ans. D.

- The high-level panel constituted by Commerce and Industry Ministry has recommended a host of measures for doubling India's exports of goods and services to over USD 1,000 billion by 2025. The panel was headed by economist Surjit Bhalla.
- The panel has suggested issuance of 'Elephant Bonds' wherein people declaring undisclosed income will have to mandatorily invest half of that amount in these securities.
- Tax rates: Lowering effective corporate tax rate, bringing down cost of capital and simplifying regulatory and tax framework for foreign investment funds.
- Increasing capital base of EXIM Bank by another Rs 20,000 crore by 2022.
- Free trade agreements: Seeking inputs from industry and MSMEs before signing free trade agreements (FTAs) and sensitising them of its benefits.

58. Ans. C.

* The State Bank of India (SBI) has announced a strategic partnership with the FMCG arm of The Art of Living — Sri Sri Tattva.

* Under this partnership, YONO users can avail a discount of 15 per cent on the entire range of products offered by Sri Sri Tattva such as food, personal care, healthcare, homecare, BYOGI apparels and Shankara skincare products.

* Sri Sri Tattva will make YONO's online marketplace richer with product portfolio in the organic, wellness and Ayurvedic domains, giving SBI customers formidable shopping experience."

59. Ans. B.

7th Economic Census begins from

Tripura –The Government of India begins the 7th Economic Census from Tripura. **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)** will conduct the census. It will be conducted after a gap of 5 years.

* The fieldwork is expected to be completed by December and the results at the national level is expected to be available by March 2020

Previous Economic Censuses

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* Six Economic Censuses, (EC) have been conducted by the Union Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation. till date.

* The first Economic Census was undertaken in 1977.

* The Second EC was carried out in 1980 followed by the Third EC in 1990.

* The fourth edition took place in 1998 while the fifth EC was held in 2005.

* The Sixth edition of Economic Census was conducted in 2013.

60. Ans. D.

• The Ongole cattle are a beautiful breed of cattle from India. They are most widely distributed and are bred in the largest numbers in many other countries throughout the world.

• The breed is indigenous to the Andhra region in the **Prakasam district** in the state of Andhra Pradesh in India.

61. Ans. C.

Former bureaucrat and ex-Member of Parliament NK Singh will chair the 15th Finance Commission which will make recommendations for the five years commencing 1st April 2020. The Commission will recommend devolution of shareable central taxes to states, also review several important aspects of federal fiscal finance.

62. Ans. D.

• IDBI Bank will introduce two Repo Linked Products

• Suvidha Plus Home Loan and Suvidha plus Auto Loan from September 10.

• The new loans will be available to only those customers who have monthly income equal to and above 6 lakhs per annum.

• Suvidha plus home loan up to 75 lakhs and tenor of up to 35 yrs.

• Suvidha plus auto loan up to 25 lakhs and tenor of up to 7 yrs.

63. Ans. D.

ECL Finance Ltd, a subsidiary of Edelweiss Financial Services, and Central Bank of India (CBI) have signed an agreement for priority sector lending to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise (MSME) customers.

The partnership comes after the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced

progressive Co-Origination Policy in September 2018, allowing banks and NBFCs to co-lend to a wider set of enterprise owners.

64. Ans. A.

* Standard Chartered Bank' has launched a DigiSmart credit card.

* It is a British multinational banking & financial services company.

* The credit card will offer instant discounts and benefits across key e-commerce categories of travel, entertainment, fashion, groceries, and food delivery around the year.

* The new credit card is available for a nominal monthly fee of only Rs 49.

65. Ans. C.

• Public sector Bank, Canara Bank has launched India's first OTP facility for ATM withdrawals.

• This additional factor of authentication protects from unauthorized ATM cash withdrawals for cardholders.

• Now Canara Bank ATMs get safer and more secured with OTP facility on cash withdrawals above ₹10,000 in a day.

66. Ans. B.

• The Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) has constituted Advisory Board for Banking Frauds (ABBF) headed by former Vigilance Commissioner T M Bhasin to examine bank fraud of over 50 crore rupees and recommend action.

• The panel in its previous avatar called the Advisory Board on Bank, Commercial and Financial Frauds.

• It will function as the first level of examination of all large fraud cases before recommendations or references are made to the investigative agencies by the respective Public Sector Banks.

67. Ans. C.

• Bandhan Bank has launched a co-branded credit card in association with Standard Chartered bank to offer a complete suite of services to its existing customers.

• The credit card would be offered to 40 lakh savings bank account holders across the 1,000 branches of Bandhan Bank.

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- As part of the tie-up, Bandhan Bank will be responsible for identifying and issuing cards to its customers.

- While Standard Chartered bank will take the credit risk.

68. Ans. D.

- * The Freedom Card aims to grow exponentially while assisting SME's and startups with increased credit lines and efficiencies to manage their businesses better.

- * 'Freedom Card' was launched by **EnKash**.

- * It was launched on **5th August 2019**.

- * Freedom Card' is to enhance credit and increase efficiencies for businesses in all sectors.

69. Ans. B.

- According to National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), Aadhaar enabled Payment System (AePS) has crossed the milestone of over 220 million (22 crores) transactions during July 2019. (transaction value Rs 9,685 crore).

- Top five services provided by AePS model are cash withdrawal, cash deposit, Aadhaar to Aadhaar funds transfer, balance enquiry, gateway authentication service.

- AePS is a bank-led model which allows basic banking transactions at point of sale.

- AePS empowers a bank customer to use Aadhaar as identity to access respective Aadhaar enabled bank account and perform basic banking transactions like cash withdrawal, intrabank or interbank fund transfer and balance enquiry.

70. Ans. B.

- Global payment and technology company, Mastercard launched an Identity Check Express solution.

- It is a next-generation, mobile-first authentication solution to secure online transactions.

- The solution will help eliminate unnecessary friction and enhance the security of online transactions.

- Mastercard Identity Check Express combines the latest technology, including device intelligence and

behavioural biometrics, with the latest EMV 3-D Secure and FIDO authentication standards.

71. Ans. D.

The Postal Department has decided to convert the India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) into a small finance bank (SFB), enabling it to offer small loans to customers.

Besides, the department also looks to open one crore accounts for IPPB in 100 days.

According to the Postal Department statement, the decisions were taken at the annual Heads of Circles Conference held at Srinagar.

72. Ans. D.

- **IIT Kharagpur has collaborated with Amazon Web Services (AWS) to develop a resource portal to promote learning and development in the artificial intelligence (AI).**

- **Ministry of HRD will fund this project as a part of its National Digital Library of India (NDLI) project.**

- **AWS Machine Learning and Engines Vice President: Bratin Saha.**

73. Ans. B.

* Gujarat Government and Delaware State of America have signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for sister state in Gandhinagar.

* MoU was signed in Gandhinagar, when a delegation of Delaware State of America called on Gujarat Chief Minister Delaware's Vijay Rupani.

* According to official sources, cooperation in the field of services and investment opportunities in GIFT IFSC have also been discussed during the meeting.

* This is the first sister state MoU signed by Gujarat with any state of America.

74. Ans. B.

Reserve Bank of India constituted a Committee to Review the ATM Interchange Fee Structure with a view to give a fillip to the ATM deployment in the unbanked areas.

The committee will be headed by V.G. Kannan.

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The committee will review existing structure & pattern of costs, charges and interchange fee for ATM transaction.

75. Ans. C.

- The Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) and the State Bank of India (SBI) have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to provide electronic payment services for beneficiaries of ESIC.

- As per an agreement, SBI will provide e-payment services directly to bank accounts of all ESIC beneficiaries and payees without any manual intervention as an integrated and automated process.

- Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) works under the Ministry of Labour and Employment

- Presently, Santosh Kumar Gangwar is Minister of Labor and Employment.

76. Ans. A.

Corporation Bank has launched 'SMESuvidha' scheme to provide loans to the GST-registered MSMEs at affordable interest rates.

The product is designed as a part of the lender's efforts to improve service and provide the best products to the MSME sector.

This is a unique product for GST-registered Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).

77. Ans. C.

The Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) has launched a new service named 'Bank on Wheels' in its 16 lead districts in the state of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Kerala.

78. Ans. D.

In less than 18 months after its commencement, Aditya Birla Payments Bank announced that it will shut down operations. Started as a joint venture by Aditya Birla Nuvo Ltd and Idea Cellular, the firm announced that it will discontinue operation due to unanticipated developments in the business landscape that have made the economic model unviable.

The bank's customers have been informed that they can transfer the balance in their accounts to any other bank account and that the bank would

restrict any further credits (add money) from July 26, 2019.

In a message sent to its customers, Aditya Birla Payments Bank said that the bank has made full and complete arrangements for the return of deposits. Notably, Aditya Birla Payments Bank will continue to work with limited operations as guided by RBI to enable customers to withdraw deposits.

The board approved winding down of operations for the payment bank in its meeting on July 19 after being in the discussion for a few months.

79. Ans. D.

India has signed a loan agreement worth 400 million dollars with the World Bank to help treat and eliminate Tuberculosis (TB) from the country.

The World Bank supported program will cover nine States and it will support the government's National Strategic Plan to end TB in India by 2025.

The Program will provide financial incentives to private sector care providers for reporting cases of TB and ensuring that their patients complete the treatment regimen.

The Program will also strengthen the detection, treatment and monitoring of Drug-Resistant Tuberculosis and will track progress in the detection of additional drug resistance.

80. Ans. D.

Airbnb has invested \$100 million in hospitality chain Oyo Hotels & Homes, making it the third successive strategic investor to buy a stake in the Gurgaon-based company.

As part of the deal, Oyo is also likely to list its properties on the San Francisco-headquartered company's platform.

The funding valued the Indian company at a little over \$5 billion, according to people aware of the details of the transaction. Oyo has mopped up nearly \$1.2 billion in fresh capital in this round.

Airbnb, Inc., is an American online marketplace and hospitality service brokerage company based in San Francisco, California, United States.

Members can use the service to arrange

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or offer lodging, primarily homestays, or tourism experiences.

81. Ans. B.

- According to the survey conducted by the Randstad Employer Brand Research (REBR) 2019, Amazon India is the country's most attractive employer brand.
- Microsoft India emerged as the runner-up, followed by Sony India.
- According to the REBR 2019 report, Amazon scored high on financial health, utilisation of the latest technologies and a strong reputation.
- Others in the top 10 are Mercedes-Benz (4th), IBM (5th), Larsen & Toubro (6th), Nestlé (7th), Infosys (8th), Samsung (9th), and Dell (10th).
- Google India had been inducted into the REBR's Hall of Fame category last year for winning the coveted title of the most-attractive employer brand for three consecutive years.

82. Ans. C.

- For the first time, India will host the 14th session of the Conference of Parties (COP-14) of United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) in September 2019.
- It will be held between September 2 and 13, 2019 at the India Expo Center and Mart, New Delhi.
- COP-14 will review the reports submitted by COP to convention and look into the details like how they carry out their commitments.

Key Points:

- The conference will be hosted by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change of India.
- 5,000 delegates from nearly 197 countries will be participating in the event.
- India will take over the COP presidency from China for the next two years till 2021 until the next COP. Last Conference was held from 6-16 September 2017 in Ordos in the People's Republic of China.
- The 3 major Conventions of the United Nations (UN) are UN Framework Convention on Climate Change

(UNFCCC), UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and UNCCD.

83. Ans. C.

- Country's first ever helicopter summit at Sahastradhara helidrome in Dehradun, capital of Uttarakhand.
- The first-of-its-kind conclave, a **Helicopter Summit- 2019** was organised jointly by *Civil Aviation Ministry, Uttarakhand government and Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industries (FICCI)*.
- The summit was based on **theme of expanding connectivity through helicopters**.

84. Ans. D.

* **"Apki Beti"** Scheme is an initiative of **Rajasthan** state government.

* Under the "Aapki Beti" scheme, girls living under the Below Poverty Line (BPL) and whose mother or father or both have died get annual financial assistance in the state.

85. Ans. D.

Governemnt of Odisha launched a Rs 10,000-crore scheme for the overall development of farmers in the state. This is known as the Krushak Assistance for Livelihood and Income Augmentation (KALIA) scheme. Through this scheme Over 30 lakh small and marginal farmers of the state are covered. An amount of Rs 10,000 per family at the rate of Rs 5,000 each for Kharif and Rabi seasons are provided as financial assistance for taking up cultivation. The KALIA scheme also has a component for livelihood support for landless households. Ten lakh landless households are targeted for support with a unit cost of Rs 12,500 to take up activities like goat rearing units, mini layer units, duckery units, fishery kits for fishermen and women, beekeeping, mushroom cultivation etc.

86. Ans. A.

The Uttar Pradesh government has launched a massive door to door campaign named "DASTAK" to eradicate the deadly Acute Encephellitis Syndrome (AES) and Japanese Encephallitis(JE). The campaign has been launched in association with UNICEF.

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The Slogan of DASTAK is 'Darwaja khatkhatao, AES aur JE ko Bhagao'.

87. Ans. D.

West Bengal government has announced a crop insurance scheme 'Bangla Shashya Bima (BSB)' in collaboration with the Agriculture Insurance Company of India (AIC) for the 2019 kharif season.

The scheme 'BSB' is applicable for farmers in 15 districts - Darjeeling, Kalimpong, Purba Bardhaman, Paschim Bardhaman, Purba Medinipur, Malda, Hooghly, Nadia, Murshidabad, Cooch Behar, Birbhum, Purulia, Dakshin Dinajpur, North 24 Parganas and South 24 Parganas.

88. Ans. D.

The University Grants Commission (UGC) has approved a 'Scheme for Trans-disciplinary Research for India's Developing Economy' (STRIDE) to boost research culture in India.

The scheme will strengthen research culture and innovation in colleges & Universities.

It will provide support to research projects that are socially relevant, locally need-based, nationally important and globally significant.

STRIDE will support research capacity building as well as basic, applied and transformational action research that can contribute to national priorities with a focus on inclusive human development.

89. Ans. D.

Under the Swadhar Greh scheme, The Krishna Kutir is a special home for 1000 widows set up by the Ministry of Women & Child Development.

The construction of the home has been funded by Central Government and managed by Uttar Pradesh Government.

90. Ans. A.

To receive land and crop-related benefits of state government schemes, the **Haryana Government** has launched a portal named 'Meri Fasal Mera Byora' for the farmers. They will also get a financial incentive of Rs 10 per acre when they register on the portal.

91. Ans. C.

YouTube will be launching 'Learning Playlists', a new education feature that will have dedicated landing pages for educational videos on topics such as science, math, music and language.

- The playlists will include organizational features such as chapters on key concepts and the lessons will be available in proper order, from beginner to advanced level. Further, the educational videos would not have autoplay at the end of the playlist. The measure aims to keep the user's focus targeted at the lesson in front of them, enabling them to study without being distracted.

92. Ans. C.

The Human Resource Development (HRD) Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank has released the UGC Guide 'Deeksharambh' for Student Induction Programme (SIP) in New Delhi.

The guide will help new students to build bonds with fellow students and faculty members in the new environment.

'Deeksharambh' is a guide to Student Induction Programme to help new students adjust and feel comfortable in the new environment, inculcate in them the ethos and culture of the institution.

93. Ans. C.

The Union Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh launched the Platform for Effective Enforcement for No Child Labour (PENCIL) Portal at the National Conference on Child Labour organised by the Ministry of Labour and Employment.

94. Ans. B.

Considering that half of the GDP comes from the unorganised sector, Finance Minister announced the launch of the mega pension scheme 'Pradhan Mantri Shram-Yogi Maandhan' for the unorganised sector workers with income of less than Rs 15,000. Under the scheme, the workers will be able to earn Rs 3000 after attaining the age of 60 years.

95. Ans. C.

- Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, and Madhya Pradesh were the top three performing states under the maternity

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benefit programme 'Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana' (PMMVY).

- In Andhra Pradesh, a target of 3.61 lakh beneficiaries was set and a total of 4.57 lakh were enrolled.
- In Himachal Pradesh, a target of 58,620 beneficiaries was set and a total of 73,846 were enrolled.
- In Madhya Pradesh, a target of 6.20 lakh beneficiaries was set and a total of 7.69 lakh were enrolled.
- PMMVY is implemented by the Ministry of Women & Child Development.

96. Ans. B.

- The Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of (Hybrid &) Electric Vehicles (FAME-India) scheme was launched in 2015 under National Electric Mobility Mission (NEMM).
- The aim is to promote eco-friendly vehicles in the country. The scheme is being administered by the Heavy Industries Ministry.
- In the Union Budget 2019-20, outlay of **Rs. 10,000 crore** for 3 years approved for Phase-II of FAME Scheme.
- Only advanced-battery-operated and registered e-vehicles to be incentivized under FAME Scheme.
- National Highway Programme to be restructured to ensure a National Highway Grid, using a financeable model.

On 5th July, The Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman made her maiden Budget Speech and presented the Union Budget 2019-20 before the Parliament.

10-point Vision for the decade

- Building Team India with *Jan Bhagidari*: Minimum Government Maximum Governance.
- Achieving *green Mother Earth* and *Blue Skies* through a pollution-free India.
- Making Digital India reach every sector of the economy.
- Launching *Gaganyaan*, *Chandrayan*, other Space and Satellite programmes.
- Building physical and social infrastructure.
- Water, water management, clean rivers.
- Blue Economy.

- Self-sufficiency and export of food-grains, pulses, oilseeds, fruits and vegetables.

- Achieving a healthy society via **Ayushman Bharat**, well-nourished women & children, safety of citizens.

- Emphasis on MSMEs, Start-ups, defence manufacturing, automobiles, electronics, fabs and batteries, and medical devices under Make in India.

97. Ans. A.

The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) distributed more than one lakh bee-boxes among farmers and unemployed youths across India in less than two years under its 'Honey Mission' initiative.

- It was launched in August 2017 in line with PM Narendra Modi's call for 'Sweet Revolution' (revolution in production of honey to increase its production) in 2016 while introducing Banas Honey project at Deesa in Gujarat.

98. Ans. A.

- * Google India and Tata Trusts aim at expanding their 'Internet Saathi' digital literacy program for rural women in villages of Punjab and Odisha.

- * Currently, the program has been expanded to 2.6 lakh villages across 18 states.

- * In Punjab, the program will cover 5,000 villages. In Odisha, the program will cover over 16,000 villages.

- * Launched in July 2015, the Internet Saathi programme has so far, trained 70,000 'Internet Saathis', who have in turn impacted 2.6 crore million women in the country.

99. Ans. D.

Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)

- Target of connecting the eligible and feasible habitations advanced from 2022 to 2019 with 97% of such habitations already being provided with all weather connectivity.

- 30,000 kilometers of PMGSY roads have been built using Green Technology, Waste Plastic and Cold Mix Technology, thereby reducing carbon footprint.

- **1,25,000 kilometers** of road length to be upgraded over the next five years

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under PMGSY III with an estimated cost of **Rs. 80,250 crore**.

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 - Self-sufficiency and export of food-grains, pulses, oilseeds, fruits and vegetables.
 - Achieving a healthy society via **Ayushman Bharat**, well-nourished women & children, safety of citizens.
 - Emphasis on MSMEs, Start-ups, defence manufacturing, automobiles, electronics, fabs and batteries, and medical devices under Make in India.
100. Ans. C.
- As per the Interim Budget 2019-20, A new scheme called 'Pradhan Mantri Shram-Yogi Maandhan' is announced. The pension scheme will provide an assured monthly pension of Rs 3,000 to workers in the unorganised sector who earn up to Rs 15,000 per month.
101. Ans. A.
- NCMC can be used to make payments across public transport anywhere in India for metro, buses, railways, toll, parking and also retail like credit or debit card.
 - NCMC is a part of National Urban Transport Policy (NUTP) in 2006 by Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
 - This is referred as 'One Nation One Card' it runs on RuPay card and automates the fare collection

- This card will be issued by all public and private banks similar to credit and debit card issuance

102. Ans. D.

- Union HRD Minister Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' has launched 'Samagra Shiksha-Jal Suraksha' drive to create awareness about Water Conservation among all school Children in the country.

- Inspired by Prime Minister's impetus to Jal Sanchay, Government of India has launched the Jal Shakti Abhiyan (JSA).

- This concept of water conservation is essential for students so that they can understand the importance of water and how it is shaping their lives meaningfully, thereby enabling them to participate in water conservation activities in their day to day lives.

103. Ans. E.

- * Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu has launched the Jharkhand government's 'Mukhya Mantri Krishi Ashirwad Yojana'.

- * The objective of the 'Chief Minister Krishi Aashirwad Yojana' is to provide financial assistance to the farmers of Jharkhand and to help the farmers facing problems in agriculture due to loans.

- * The target of providing financial assistance of Rs. 3 thousand crores to 35 lakh farmers of the state are set.

- * In the first phase of this scheme, 15 lakh farmers of the state will be given the benefit of the scheme.

104. Ans. D.

Government will launch a Jal Jeevan Mission to bring piped water to households. Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation is the concerned authority for Jal Jeevan.

- Half of country's households do not have access to piped water. Therefore, there is a need to quadruple water conservation efforts in next 5 years as to what was done in the last 70 years.

- Both centre and states will work towards achieving Jal Jeevan Mission's objective. The expenditure on scheme would cost around more than Rs.3.5 lakh crore in coming years.

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- It seeks to converge with other Central and State Government Schemes to achieve its objectives of sustainable water supply management across India.

105. Ans. C.

- Chief Minister of Punjab Amarinder Singh has launched a flagship universal health insurance scheme Sarbat Sehat Bima Yojana to mark the 75th birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.

- The mega health insurance scheme combines Centre's Ayushman Bharat plan to provide annual cashless treatment up to Rs 5 lakh per family per year, including pre-existing diseases.

- The scheme with 1,396 treatment packages will be implemented through over 450 empanelled hospitals, including 200 government hospitals.

- With this, Punjab has become 1st state to offer medical insurance for such a large proportion of its population.

- It will benefit around 46 lakh families, covering 76% of the state's population.

106. Ans. B.

Global Report on Food Crises 2019 report was released by the World Food Programme (WFP), the European Union (EU) and the Food & Agriculture Organization (FAO). The report said that more than 113 million people across 53 countries experienced acute hunger requiring urgent food, nutrition and livelihoods assistance. Climate and natural disasters pushed another 29 million people into acute food insecurity in 2018.

FAO Headquarters- Rome, Italy

Director-General of FAO- Jose Graziano da Silva.

107. Ans. C.

India will overtake China as the most populous country by 2027 and will have almost 1.64 billion inhabitants by 2050 as per UN's "World Population Prospects Report 2019".

- India is still among the countries where the working-age population (25-64 years) is growing faster than other groups.

- India is expected to add 273 million people by 2050, which will be the largest

national increase in the world. China, on the other hand, is expected to become smaller, dropping from its current 1.43 billion people to approximately 1.4 billion by 2050.

- The rate of population growth is the highest in sub-Saharan Africa, where the fertility rate stand at 4.6 births per woman over a lifetime.

108. Ans. C.

- The report on Food & Nutrition Security (FNS) Analysis of India developed by UN (United Nations) World Food Programme in partnership with Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) stated that 31.4% of Indian children under five years will still be stunted by 2022.

Key Highlights:

- Reduction: Stunting in children in India under the age of five has reduced at a rate of about 1% per year in the last decade.

- India must double its rate of progress to reach the target of 25% by 2022 set by the National Nutrition Mission.

- Poor Vs High: Poorest wealth quintile has high rates of stunting (51.4%), among Children against highest wealth quintile having (22.2%).

- Foodgrain yield: Over the last two decades, Food grain yields have risen 33% but are still only half of 2030 target yields. Despite having sufficient production of rice, wheat, and other cereals, the per capita availability of these grains has not increased due to inequality, population growth, and food wastage.

- The stunting in children under 5 years of age is the highest in Bihar (48%), Uttar Pradesh (46%), Jharkhand (45%), and Meghalaya (44%).

- Only one in five children in Kerala and Goa (20% each) are stunted.

About Stunting:

- Stunting is the impaired growth and development that children experience from poor nutrition, repeated infection, and inadequate psychosocial stimulation.

109. Ans. B.

Hyderabad along with Pune are the best cities to live in India as per the Mercer's

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21st annual Quality of Living. The two cities are followed by Bengaluru, Mumbai and New Delhi. Vienna, the capital of Austria retained the top rank in the world for the 10th consecutive year followed by Zurich, Switzerland at the second spot.

Hyderabad and Pune stand at the 143rd spot in the world.

Luxembourg was declared as the safest city in the world while Chennai ranked as the Asia-Pacific region's safest city.

110. Ans. B.

* Tech Mahindra announced its biggest defence order worth over Rs 300 crore with the Indian Navy.

* As part of the 'Armed Forces Secure Access Card' (AFSAC) Project, Tech Mahindra will implement RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) based Access Control System across all naval bases and ships.

* The new AFSAC Card will replace the existing paper-based Identity Card for all Navy personnel including dependents and ex-servicemen.

* Using the CMMI (Capability Maturity Model Integration) level 5 processes, Tech Mahindra will develop a secure application to manage the access control devices, network devices and the AFSAC Card through a data centre.

111. Ans. E.

• Sri Lanka has signed a tripartite agreement with **India and Japan** for development of eastern terminal of Colombo port.

• As per the agreement, Sri Lanka Port Authority (SLPA) will hold 51 per cent majority stake in the port development while Japan and India will have combined stake of 49 per cent.

• The three governments have decided to work out details at joint working group meetings and advance their cooperation towards early commencement of work and operation of the terminal.

112. Ans. B.

The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Guwahati has signed a Memorandum of Understanding MoU with The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) to

set up an IITG-ISRO Space Technology Cell (STC).

• The Space Technology Cell (STC) would be a first of its kind in the North-East region that would augment research and capacity building processes in the field of space technology.

• STC will be established at the new academic complex and research and development building that was recently inaugurated by Assam Governor Jagdish Mukhi at IIT Guwahati campus.

113. Ans. A.

The Indian Railway Station Development Corporation (IRSDC) entered into a Tripartite Agreement with French National Railways (SNCF) & AFD, a French development agency in order to support Railway Station Development Program in India.

• Under the Tripartite Agreement, AFD will provide in-kind grant financing up to €700,000 to French Railways (SNCF), to provide technical know-how to Indian Railway Station Development Corporation (IRSDC), which is the station development arm of Indian Railways.

114. Ans. A.

CLCSS aims at facilitating technology upgradation of Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs) by providing 15% capital subsidy (limited to maximum Rs.15 lakhs) for purchase of Plant & Machinery.

115. Ans. A.

* In its first decision of its second tenure, Narendra Modi government has enhanced the amount to be paid as part of 'Prime Ministers Scholarship Scheme' under the National Defence Fund.

* The rates of scholarship have been increased from Rs 2,000 per month to Rs 2,500 per month for boys and from Rs 2,250 per month to Rs 3,000 per month for girls.

* The ambit of the scholarship Scheme has also been extended to the wards of state police personnel who "were martyred during terror/naxal attacks".

* The quota of new scholarships for wards of state police personnel will be 500 in a year.

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Note:

* The National Defence Fund (NDF) was set up in 1962 to take charge of the voluntary donations in cash and kind received for promotion of the national defence effort, and to decide on their utilisation.

* The Prime Minister's Scholarship Scheme (PMSS) is being implemented to encourage technical and post-graduate education for widows and wards of the deceased or ex-service personnel of armed forces and paramilitary forces and Railway Protection Force.

116. Ans. C.

Telangana government has announced to increase the assistance under its flagship 'Rythu Bandhu scheme' for 2019-20 from Rs 4000 to Rs 5000.

The scheme is an Initial Investment support programme of the state government to provide income support for agriculture and horticulture crops to farmer in each season to be used to purchase inputs like seeds, fertilisers, pesticides, labour and other field operations.

The amount Rs 5000 (per acre per farmer per season) would be paid through electronic transfer using the RBI payment platform, e-Kuber.

117. Ans. E.

• 4th General Assembly of Association of World Election Bodies (A-WEB) was hosted by Election Commission of India at Bengaluru.

• It was presided by Chief election commissioner Sunil Arora.

• Its deliberations includes discussions on challenges and furthering partnership among election management bodies (EMB) and programmes to be undertaken by A-WEB in 2019-20.

• It is the largest and first global association of Election Management Bodies (EMBs) worldwide. It was established in 2013 in Song-do, South Korea.. Its permanent secretariat is located at Seoul, South Korea.

118. Ans. C.

Go Tribal campaign, was launched by Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs and TRIFED (Tribal Cooperative Marketing

Development Federation of India) in association with Amazon Global.

* It will create awareness and promote tribal arts and crafts as well as help in socio-economic welfare of more than 700 Indian tribes, by promoting and making available tribal handcrafted textiles, jewellery, and other accessories via global online market spaces. The 'Go Tribal' camp was organized by TRIFED.

* Under the campaign, Tribes India and Amazon Global Marketing will launch TRIBES India products globally through website (Amazon.com) which will showcase an array of product range.

119. Ans. B.

• Union Minister of Health, Harsh Vardhan inaugurated the week-long 72nd session of World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Committee for South-East Asia (SEA) in New Delhi.

• This is the 2nd occasion that India is hosting Regional Committee meeting. Last meeting was also hosted by India in New Delhi.

• Harsh Vardhan was unanimously elected as chair of 72nd session.

• The week-long meeting of WHO Regional Committee of South-East Asia, was attended by Health Minister's and experts from member nations.

• WHO Regional Committee of South-East Asia is the highest decision making and governing body of WHO in the region.

120. Ans. A.

• Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited France to participate in the G7 summit (24-26th August 2019).

• The countries which are part of the G7 include the **UK, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the US as well as the European Union (EU)**.

• The theme of this year summit is '**Fighting Inequality**'.

121. Ans. C.

• The Fourth edition of Internet of Things India Congress 2019 was held in Bengaluru, Karnataka.

• It was held on 22-23 August, 2019.

• The theme of Edition was

'Mainstreaming the Internet of Things'.

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- It was inaugurated by Ajay Prakash Sawhney, Secretary, Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology, Government of India.

122. Ans. A.

- Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal BS Dhanoa visited Thailand. During his visit, he attended the Indo Pacific Chiefs of Defence Conference in Bangkok.

- The theme for the conference is "Collaboration in a free and Open Indo - Pacific".

- The Chiefs of Defence of over 33 countries attended the Conference.

123. Ans. B.

- 7th Community Radio Sammelan was held at Dr BR Ambedkar Bhawan, New Delhi.

- The theme of this year's sammelan was 'Community Radio for SDGs'.

- It was organized by the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting (I&B).

124. Ans. C.

- The first World Youth Conference for Kindness was recently held in New Delhi. It was inaugurated by President Ram Nath Kovind.

- It was organised by UNESCO Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace and Sustainable Development (MGIEP).

- It was held in commemoration of 150th birth anniversary celebrations of Mahatma Gandhi. It was aimed at providing youth with creative, effective methods of engaging and realising UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It sought inspiration from Gandhi's championing of non-violence.

- Its theme was 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam: Gandhi for the Contemporary World: Celebrating the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.'

125. Ans. B.

BASIC countries (Brazil, South Africa, India and China) held their 28th Ministerial meeting on Climate Change recently in Sao Paulo, Brazil. It was held in the run-up to United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conference of Parties (COP-25) meet scheduled to be held in December 2019. In this meeting, India

was represented by Union Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar.

- BASIC countries expressed concern about climate change and its adverse effects and reaffirmed their commitment to successful implementation of UNFCCC, its Kyoto Protocol and its Paris Agreement, based on recognition of the needs and special circumstances of developing countries and in accordance with principles of Equity and Common But Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities (CBDR-RC) in light of different national circumstances.

- BASIC: It is geopolitical alliance (bloc) of four advanced developing countries – Brazil, South Africa, India and China. It was established by agreement in 2009. These four countries collectively account for one-third of world's geographical area and nearly 40% of world's population.

126. Ans. A.

- The 3rd edition of India's largest education brainstorming event, the ScooNews Global Educators Fest (SGEF) will be held in the city of lakes, Udaipur, Rajasthan (9 & 10th August 2019).

- The theme for this year's fest is 'Education for Sustainability: Moving on from conformity to creativity'.

- It will bring together over 500 educators to discuss the way towards establishing India as the next global education powerhouse.

127. Ans. E.

3rd International Electric Vehicle (EV) Conclave was held in Manesar, Gurugram.

It was organized by the International Centre for Automotive Technology (ICAT) in association with India Energy Storage Alliance (IESA).

128. Ans. B.

Human Resources Development Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank has inaugurated the Technology Expo at IIT Delhi to showcase the latest innovation in the field of science and technology. Over 80 latest innovations and 90 research posters by institutions from across the country are showcasing the

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prototypes developed by the investigators in the day-long exhibition. The Minister said research should be in accordance with the need of common people and industry. Later talking to media, Mr Nishank assured all kinds of support to the research community.

129. Ans. B.

* The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) "decides to convene the high-level 2020 United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development in Lisbon, from June 2 to 6, 2020.

* The Conference was mandated by the Member States of the United Nations because they recognized that SDG 14 — "the Oceans Goal" — needs support to ensure its implementation.

130. Ans. A.

- The 22nd National Conference on e-Governance 2019 was held in Shillong, Meghalaya from 8-9th August, 2019.
- For the first time this mega knowledge sharing event was organized in the north-eastern region of the country.
- Theme of the conference is '**Digital India: Success to Excellence**'.

• It is organized by Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) in association with Union Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology and Meghalaya State Government.

131. Ans. B.

- Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) ministerial meeting of Coordinating Bureau was held in Caracas, capital of Venezuela.
- Theme for 2019 meet was- Promotion and Consolidation of Peace through Respect for International Law.
- Since 2016 Venezuela has held the presidency of NAM which will now be passed on to Azerbaijan in October 2019.

Note:

- It is the 2nd largest international organization after United Nations (UN) with 120 member states.

- NAM headquarters is in Central Jakarta, Indonesia.

132. Ans. A.

The meeting of the BRICS Ministers of Foreign Affairs 2019 was held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

BRICS consists of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.

133. Ans. D.

- The 11th edition of DefExpo India-2020 is scheduled to be held for 1st time in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh. The biennial Expo will be a 4-day event, beginning from 5 to 8 February 2020.

• It offers an opportunity for Indian defence industry to showcase its capabilities and promote its export potential.

• Theme for DefExpo India- 2020 will be 'India: The Emerging Defence Manufacturing Hub'. Its focus will be on 'Digital Transformation of Defence.'

- It would provide a unique platform for Defence industry Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs), exhibitors and private industry to display their latest innovations and capabilities in the field.

134. Ans. D.

The International Police Expo 2019 (5th edition) on theme 'Challenges to strengthen peace and security' has been organised at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi.

The 2019 event saw the participation of Manufacturers and technology players from more than 25 countries.

Over 25 countries are showcasing advanced firearms, combat or armoured vehicles a plethora of disruptive technologies in cybersecurity, drones, homeland security, and safety and rescue at International Police Expo at Pragati Maidan, in New Delhi.

135. Ans. C.

India will host the 14th Conference of the Parties (COP) (from 02 to 13 September)

The global conference will be hosted at India Expo Mart Limited in Greater Noida.

As many as 197 countries are expected to participate in the conference.

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The 14th session of COP will stress on three crucial issues - desertification, land degradation and drought,"

136. Ans. D.

* **India-Nepal Logistics Summit 2019** was held in **Kathmandu, Nepal**.

* It was organised on **28th July 2019**.

* The summit was inaugurated by Nepal **Prime minister KP.Sharma Oli**.

* The theme of the Logistics Summit 2019 was '**Transforming Logistics Landscape**'.

* The summit focused on discussing the transport delays of import cargo from Kolkata Port to Kathmandu, delays in rail transport and additional costs in handling cargo.

137. Ans. B.

Saudi Arabia (first G20 meeting in the Arab world) will host the G20 summit on 21-22 November 2020 in its capital Riyadh.

Note:

- Italy will host the G20 Summit in 2021.
- India will host the G20 Summit in 2022 when the country celebrates its 75th year of Independence.

About G-20

The G20 (Group of Twenty) is an international forum for the governments and central bank governors from 19 countries and the European Union.

It was founded in 1999 with the aim to discuss policy pertaining to the promotion of international financial stability.

138. Ans. B.

* The **2nd Global Disability Summit** was held at Buenos Aires, Argentina from **6th June to 8th June 2019**.

* The first-ever Global Disability Summit was held at London, United Kingdom (UK) on **24th July 2018**.

* Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment **Thaawarchand Gehlot** represented the Indian team at this summit.

139. Ans. B.

A book titled 'A Short History of Indian Railways' has been authored by veteran

journalist and author Rajendra B Aklekar.

140. Ans. C.

BJP MP & Supreme Court lawyer Meenakshi Lekhi has written her debut novel titled 'The New Delhi Conspiracy'. The book has been co-authored by Krishna Kumar who works with her and is published by Harper Collins India, is slated for release on 8th July.

141. Ans. C.

The author of the book "Rekha: The Untold Story" Yasser Usman.

Note: The book "Rekha: The Untold Story" is the biography of Bollywood actress Rekha, which is authored by Yasser Usman.

142. Ans. D.

• "The Third Pillar — How Markets and the State Leave the Community Behind" is authored by **Raghuram Govind Rajan**.

• This book is a reflection on the present state of our world seen through the prism of the triad of markets, state and community, constituting the three pillars of society as it were.

143. Ans. A.

Nobel Peace Prize winner, Pakistani activist Malala Yousafzai is coming up with a new book 'We Are Displaced', charting her experiences travelling the world and visiting refugee camps.

144. Ans. C.

• Eminent Supreme Court lawyer and former union minister Ram Jethmalani (95-years) passed away at his residence in New Delhi.

• Mr. Jethmalani was a senior lawyer in the Supreme Court, a union minister for law and urban development in the Atal Bihari Vajpayee cabinet and the chairman of the Bar Council of India.

• Jethmalani joined the bar at the age of 17 and earned the distinction of being the youngest advocate allowed to practice law.

• He was elected a member of parliament in the 6th and 7th Lok Sabha on a Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) ticket from Mumbai.

• In 2016, he was elected to the Rajya Sabha on RJD ticket.

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145. Ans. B.

Senior Congress leader and former Union Minister S Jaipal Reddy (77-years) passed away in a hospital in Hyderabad. He was a four-term MLA, member of Lok Sabha for five terms and member of Rajya Sabha for two terms.

146. Ans. C.

Girish Raghunath Karnad was an Indian actor, film director, Kannada writer, playwright and a Rhodes Scholar, who predominantly worked in South Indian cinema and Bollywood.

Besides the Jnanpith award, Karnad was also conferred the Padma Shri and Padma Bhushan.

147. Ans. D.

Bollywood's most famous stunt and action choreographer, Veeru Devgn (77-years) passes away in Mumbai.

Mr. Devgan was behind the fight and action scenes for over 80 Hindi films including 'Phool Aur Kaante' (1991), 'Mr. India' (1987), and 'Himmatwala' (1983) among various others.

He was married to Veena, and had four children with her, including actor Ajay Devgan and director Anil Devgan.

148. Ans. D.

* Robert Mugabe was former president of Zimbabwe. He was admitted in a hospital in Singapore for an undisclosed ailment.

* Robert Gabriel Mugabe was a Zimbabwean revolutionary and politician who served as Prime Minister of Zimbabwe (from 1980 to 1987) and then as President (from 1987 to 2017).

* Mugabe was forced to step down by the military in November 2017 following nationwide mass protests.

149. Ans. D.

Mr. Gajendra Singh Shekhawat is the Jal Shakti Minister.

This ministry has been formed by reorganising the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, along with Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation.

Prime minister Narendra Modi has come up with a new ministry called the "Jal Shakti".

150. Ans. D.

• Subrahmanyam Jaishankar is serving as the current Minister of External Affairs.

• He assumed the office on 31st May 2019.

• Previously, he served as Foreign Secretary from January 2015 to January 2018.

• He joined Indian Foreign Service in 1977.

• He had previously served as Indian Ambassador to the United States (2014–2015), China (2009–2013) and the Czech Republic (2001–04), and as High Commissioner to Singapore (2007–09).

• He replaced Sushma Swaraj.

151. Ans. D.

Narendra Singh Tomar is appointed as New Cabinet Minister for the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare in Prime minister's Narendra Modi's second second stint. The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, a branch of the Government of India, is the apex body for formulation and administration of the rules and regulations and laws related to agriculture in India. The three broad areas of scope for the Ministry are agriculture, food processing and co-operation.

152. Ans. A.

Minister of Road transport and Highways, Shipping, Water Resources, River development and Ganga rejuvenation Nitin Gadkari represents Nagpur constituency from Maharashtra in Lok Sabha.

153. Ans. C.

IPS officer VK Johri (1984-batch - Madhya Pradesh cadre) has been appointed as the next Director-General (DG) of Border Security Force (BSF). The BSF is the country's largest border guarding force (present strength of about 2.5 lakh personnel) and is tasked to secure two of India's most important and sensitive fronts with Pakistan and Bangladesh.

The two other border guarding forces are ITBP (China) and SSB (Nepal and Bhutan).

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154. Ans. C.

- Earlier Kalraj Mishra was the Governor of Himachal Pradesh. He was transferred and appointed as the Governor of Rajasthan.

- He will replace Kalyan Singh.

- President Ram Nath Kovind has appointed and transferred the governor of 5 states. Now the 5 states will get new Governor. These states are

a) Rajasthan Kalraj Mishra

b) Telangana Dr Tamilsai Soundararajan

c) HP Bandaru Dattatreya.

d) Maharashtra Bhagat Singh Koshyari

e) Kerala Arif Mohammed Khan

155. Ans. C.

Shri Pramod Chandra Mody (Indian Revenue Service (Income Tax cadre)-1982-batch) has been appointed as the Chairman of the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT).

The CBDT Chairperson is ex-officio special secretary and is under the direct charge of the revenue secretary of India.

156. Ans. D.

BJP veteran and former Odisha minister Biswabhusan Harichandan has been appointed as the new Governor of Andhra Pradesh.

The oath of office was administered by the Acting Chief Justice of Andhra Pradesh, Justice C Pravin Kumar.

Harichandan replaced ESL Narasimhan, who is also governor of Telangana.

The governors (exist in the states) and lieutenant-governors/administrators (union territories and in the NCT of Delhi) of the states and union territories of India have similar powers and functions at the state level as that of the President of India at Union level.

157. Ans. D.

- Senior IPS officer Samant Goel has been appointed as the new Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) chief on June 26, 2019.

- Samant Goel, a 1984 batch IPS officer of Punjab cadre will succeed Anil Dhasmana. Samant Goel is known as the Strategist of Balakot Air Strikes.

- He was heading operations for the agency and was instrumental in planning the February 2019 Balakot air strikes

and also the 2016 surgical strikes before his appointment as raw chief.

158. Ans. D.

German Defence Minister Ursula von der Leyen has been elected as the European Commission's first female president.

Leyen's nomination was approved by 383 votes (required 374), at the European Parliament in Strasbourg, France.

The President of the European Commission is the head of the European Commission, the executive branch of the European Union.

159. Ans. B.

Delhi girl Isha Kanth has been selected for the prestigious two-month internship at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) based at The Hague.

Only two law students from across the world gets selected for this internship programme.

Currently, Isha Kanth pursuing bachelor's degree in Law from Queen Mary University of London.

The ICJ (the principal judicial organ of the United Nations) offers internships for one to three months to students and young professionals who are in the early stages of their careers.

160. Ans. A.

Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan to be honoured with an honorary doctorate degree from La Trobe University at its Melbourne campus in Bundoora.

The award is for his contributions towards underprivileged children, women empowerment initiatives through Meer Foundation.

La Trobe University is the first Australian university to award Khan with an Honorary Degree, Doctor of Letters (honoris causa).

161. Ans. B.

* The novel approach has won the team accolades from animal conservationists and an award for "best innovative idea" from Indian Railways for regional operator **Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR)**.

* Nearly 50 buzzing amplifiers have been deployed as part of "**Plan Bee**" at a dozen "elephant corridors" in the vast

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forests of Assam state, home to nearly 6,000 elephants, 20 percent of the country's total.

* Elephants have long been known to be frightened by the buzzing of bees and stings.

* Villagers in the southern Indian state of Kerala have been using "beehive fences" to scare away marauding elephants.

* When elephants touch the fences, bees inside boxes attached to the fences storm out angrily to defend their colonies.

* Nearly 2,300 people have been killed by elephants in the last five years, according to official figures released in June.

* The elephants too are paying a heavy price with around 700 fatalities in the last eight years.

162. Ans. B.

National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO), an Odisha-based Navaratna Company has been selected for President's award for utilization of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) fund in social development. NALCO was selected for its Aliali Jhia Scheme.

• CSR is funding and grants process undertaken by corporate sector under which they provide financial and other support to Non-Profit Organisations (NGOs). Under Companies Act, 2013 it is a mandatory provision for companies to provide a contribution of 2% of average of their net profits.

163. Ans. C.

Veyil Marangal (Trees Under the Sun), directed by Bijukumar Damodaran, won the award for 'Outstanding Artistic Achievement' at the 22nd Shanghai International Film Festival, becoming the first Indian film to win a major award at the festival.

* "Castle of Dreams," a drama about family, separation and keeping one's promises collected a trio of prizes on Sunday night at the Shanghai International Film Festival. It won the Golden Goblet prize for best film, the best director prize for Reza Mirkarimi,

and a shared best actor award for Hamed Saberi Behdad.

164. Ans. B.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi was conferred with the Maldives' highest honour "Rule of Nishan Izzuddeen" during his two-day state visit to the country.

The Most Honourable Order of the Distinguished Rule of Nishan Izzuddeen" is the Maldives' highest honour accorded to foreign dignitaries.

165. Ans. B.

Rajasthan's Suman Rao (20-year) has been crowned 'Miss India 2019' (56th edition) in an extravagant ceremony at Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Indoor Stadium, Mumbai.

166. Ans. B.

Amitav Ghosh has been announced as **2018's Jnanpith Award** winner for "outstanding contribution towards **literature**".

• He was described as a "path-breaking novelist" by **Bharatiya Jnanpith**.

• The decision was taken in a meeting of Jnanpith **Selection Board** chaired by eminent **novelist** and scholar **Pratibha Ray**.

• Amitav Ghosh writes both **fiction** and **non-fiction**.

167. Ans. D.

Olivia Colman won the Oscars 2019 best actress award for "The Favourite", at the 91st Academy Awards ceremony in Los Angeles.

Other awards are as follows

1. Best Picture - Green Book - directed by Peter John Farrelly

2. Best Actor (Leading Role) - Rami Malek - For acting in the movie 'Bohemian Rhapsody'

3. Best Director - Alfonso Cuarón - For the movie "Roma"

4. Best Foreign Language Film - Roma

Note: A film on menstruation, set in rural India, titled "Period. End of Sentence" has earned a nomination in the Documentary Short Subject category for the 91st Academy Awards.

* The film is directed by Rayka Zehtabchi.

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168. Ans. E.

Rami Malek won the Oscars 2019 best actor award for a biographical film "Bohemian Rhapsody".

Other awards are as follows

1. Best Picture - Green Book - directed by Peter John Farrelly
 2. Best female actor - Olivia Colman won the Oscars 2019 best actress award for "The Favourite"
 3. Best Director - Alfonso Cuarón - For the movie "Roma"
 4. Best Foreign Language Film - Roma
- Note: A film on menstruation, set in rural India, titled "Period. End of Sentence" has earned a nomination in the Documentary Short Subject category for the 91st Academy Awards.

* The film is directed by Rayka Zehtabchi.

169. Ans. E.

• The Union Minister for Civil Aviation Hardeep Singh Puri has inaugurated the new "Aerodrome Control Tower" at Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport in Delhi.

• This ATC tower is India's tallest (102-metres) and most technologically advanced air traffic control (ATC) tower.
• It will enhance safety and boost the efficiency of air transport management services.

• The earth-quake resistant building has been constructed at the cost of approximately Rs 250 crore.

• This allows for simultaneous landings from the same direction on parallel runways which will further increase the capacity of the airport.

170. Ans. C.

• **The entire month of September 2019 will be celebrated as the Rashtriya Poshan Maah.**

• **The theme is Complementary Feeding.**

• **POSHAN Abhiyaan is India's flagship programme to improve nutritional outcomes for children, pregnant women etc.**

• **POSHAN Abhiyaan was launched on 8th March 2018 by the Prime Minister in Jhunjhunu.**

• **Its targets are to reduce stunting, under-nutrition, anaemia and reduce low birth weight by 2%, 2%, 3% and 2% per annum respectively. The target of the mission is to bring down stunting among children in the age group 0-6 years from 38.4% to 25% by 2022**

171. Ans. D.

• Vice President Venkaiah Naidu inaugurated the longest electrified railway tunnel in the country, in Andhra Pradesh.

• The 112-km long railway line project between Krishnapatnam port and Obulavaripalli was constructed to ensure smooth transportation of minerals and industrial goods to and from the port.

• As part of the project, two tunnels were constructed; one which is 6.7 km long and another, which is 1 km long.

172. Ans. C.

• Union Human Resource Development Minister Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' has launched one of world's largest Integrated Online Junction for School Education 'Shagun' in New Delhi.

• The app will provide all the details about the education system in the country as well as detailed information about schools with a feedback procedure structured for the parents.

• The portal seeks to connect approximately 92 lakh teachers and 26 crores, students.

• Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' also announced the setting up of the Integrated National School Education Treasury (INSET) which envisages a fully integrated, instantly accessible and seamless information network for all parameters relating to the students, teachers, and schools in the country.

173. Ans. A.

• This application was launched by Union Ministry for Chemicals and Fertilizers

• Janaushadhi Sugam" mobile application would help people to:

• Locate nearby Janaushadhi Kendra (through Google Map).

• Search Janaushadhi generic medicines.

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- Analyse product comparison of Generic vs Branded medicine in form of MRP & overall savings, etc.

- The app will augment the government vision to provide affordable healthcare to all Indians through the Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP) Kendras across the country and this had already led to substantial savings to poor on medicines.

174. Ans. C.

- Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan inaugurated regulator Food Safety and Standard Authority of India's (FSSAI) National Food Laboratory (NFL) in Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh.

- It was inaugurated on the occasion of 13th anniversary of enactment of Food Safety and Standards Act, (FSSA) 2006.

- It has been established as a result of Public-Private-Partnership (PPP).

- NFL is one of two premier referral laboratories under direct administrative control of FSSAI. The another laboratory located in Kolkata is also being upgraded.

- FSSAI will also be establishing NFLs at Mumbai and Chennai in the near future along the same lines.

175. Ans. C.

- * India's first wireless 3-D Smart Traffic Signal System called Intelights launched in Mohali, Punjab.

- * It proposes a Intelligent Traffic Timer Control to regulate traffic signals with smart bird's eye view using wireless sensor system. It has been installed at traffic crossing near the Airport Road in Mohali on a pilot project basis.

- * Intelights has been devised by students of Chandigarh university after three years of intensive research. It proposes a 360-degree solution to curb the rising problem of traffic congestion.

176. Ans. B.

- The five minute long patriotic music video song is produced by 'Doordarshan'

- The song highlights several paths breaking initiatives of the government including the determination and vision behind the recent successful launch of "Chandrayaan 2".

- The song also pays tribute to the bravery and valour of our armed forces and the martyrs of the country.

- It also shows PM Modi flagged off India's fastest train - the Vande Bharat Express as well as Yoga Day celebrations.

177. Ans. C.

WhatsApp has collaborated with NITI Aayog for WTI Awards 2019 and will be providing support amounting to USD 100,000 to award winners.

NITI Aayog launched fourth edition of Women Transforming India (WTI) Awards. Nominations for the awards will be opened immediately after the launch. The theme for this year's award is 'Women and Entrepreneurship', in continuation of the theme for WTI Awards 2018.

178. Ans. A.

Mukesh Ambani-led 'Reliance Industries' has jumped 42 places to become the highest-ranking Indian firm on the Fortune Global 500 list.

This year, ranked 106, Reliance Industries (RIL) has replaced IOC (117) as the top-ranked Indian company on the Global 500 list.

RIL's revenue soared 32.1 per cent from USD 62.3 billion in 2018 to USD 82.3 billion in 2019.

US giant Walmart continues to top the Fortune 500 list followed by Chinese state-owned oil and gas company Sinopec Group, which moved one rank up.

179. Ans. E.

- * Union Agriculture Ministry has set up an Agri Business Incubation Centre in Chhattisgarh.

- * The centre has been set up by the Union Agriculture Ministry in Indira Gandhi Agriculture University of Raipur.

- * It will focus on innovations, skill building and entrepreneur development in agriculture and allied sectors.

- * It will also help in developing an ecosystem conducive for growth of entrepreneurship in agriculture in state and foster a start-up culture.

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180. Ans. D.

Railway Protection Force (RPF) recently launched 'Operation Thirst' to stop selling of unauthorised Packaged Drinking Water (PDW). During the operation fines were imposed on those found guilty and many were arrested.

• **It was launched by Railway Protection Force (RPF) as an all India drive to crackdown selling of unauthorised Packaged Drinking Water (PDW) in Delhi. The bottles were seized under section 144 and section 153 of Indian Railway Act.**

181. Ans. C.

Union Coal Minister of India Mr Prahlad Joshi has announced to increase coal production to one billion tons by 2022-23. All India raw coal production has increased its production from over 462 Metric tons in 2013-14 to around 730 metric tons in 2018-19.

* 14 dedicated corridors are being developed for the transportation of coal and plans are being made to improve transportation of coal through conveyor belts.

182. Ans. D.

• **Uttarakhand** has been named among best performing states in 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' scheme.

• **Uttarakhand** is one of the country's five best-performing states under the National Programme Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) scheme .

• This scheme was launched on **22nd January 2015** by Prime Minister **Narendra Modi**.

• It is a joint initiative of the **Ministry of Women and Child Development**.

183. Ans. D.

• On June 22, 2019, Japan gifted Imphal Peace Museum to Manipur to mark the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Imphal, one of the fiercest battles of the Second World War, at Maibam Lokpa Ching popularly known as Red Hill (about 20 km southwest of Imphal).

• The inauguration was attended by Manipur Revenue minister Karam Shyam, Japanese Ambassador to India Kenji Hiramatsu, High Commissioner of United Kingdom Dominic Asquith and

TNF Chairman Yohei Sasakawa among others.

Key Points:

• It is funded by a private, non-profit grant-making organization based in Japan named The Nippon Foundation (TNF).

• The Museum is the symbol of reconciliation between Japan & Britain and Japan & India. It will act as a living memory of the fiercest war with a message that history changes and will make the world learn from the past.

184. Ans. B.

Odisha's Chandrani Murmu (25 years and 11 months) has become the youngest Member of Parliament (MP) to the 17th Lok Sabha.

Chandrani Murmu was elected as Biju Janata Dal (BJD) candidate from the tribal-dominated Keonjhar seat.

Indian National Lok Dal's Dushyant Chautala (26-years) from the Haryana Lok Sabha was the youngest MP in the 16th Lok Sabha (2014).

185. Ans. D.

Indian movie 'Gully Boy' has been honoured with the NETPAC (The Network for the Promotion of Asian Cinema) Award for Best Asian Film at Bucheon International Fantastic Film Festival (23rd) in South Korea.

• BIFAN is an international film festival (founded in 1997) with attention to Asian cinema from East Asia and Southeast Asia.

• NETPAC (created in 1990) is a pan-Asian film cultural organization of 29 member countries which involves critics, filmmakers, distributors and exhibitors, festival, organizers and curators, and film educators.

186. Ans. D.

Actress Priyanka Chopra (36-year) will be honoured with the Danny Kaye Humanitarian Award by UNICEF. She will receive the award at the Unicef Snowflake Ball on 3rd December in New York, United States.

187. Ans. A.

India's Automobile major 'Mahindra' has won the Gold Award in South Africa for fairing on various indicators, including

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level of satisfaction among its network of dealers and the manner of allocation of vehicles to them.

Mahindra has received the award from the country's National Automobile Dealers' Association (NADA) which tests dealers' satisfaction with the way a brand supports and communicates with them.

The automobile giant, which has more than 60 dealers in South Africa (for the past 16 years), secured the top position out of the 29 vehicle brands surveyed for the awards.

188. Ans. A.

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has instituted the first edition of Antarashtriya Yoga Diwas Media Samman (AYDMS), from 2019 to mark the contribution of media in spreading the message of Yoga. Total 33 awards will be conferred grouped into 3 categories namely Newspaper (11), Television (11) and Radio (11).

189. Ans. A.

IPS officer Chhaya Sharma has been awarded the 2019 McCain Institute Award for Courage and Leadership. Chhaya Sharma led the investigation team of the infamous Nirbhaya gang-rape and murder case.

The McCain Institute Award is given to those who show courage on behalf of human rights, humanitarian compassion, justice, freedom, and human dignity.

190. Ans. C.

Freelance writer Indian writer 'Annie Zaidi' has won the Nine Dots Prize 2019 for her entry 'Bread, Cement, Cactus'-combining memoir and reportage, exploring concepts of home and belonging to her experience based in contemporary life in India.

It is a prestigious book prize created to award innovative thinking that addresses contemporary issues around the world.

The winner of the Nine Dots Prize is supported to develop their response into a full-length book, which is published by Cambridge University Press (CUP) and given the opportunity to spend a term at the Centre for Research in the Arts,

Social Sciences and Humanities (CRASSH), Cambridge University.

191. Ans. B.

Former ISRO chairman Mr. A S Kiran Kumar was conferred with France's highest civilian honour, Chevalier de l'Ordre national de la Legion d'Honneur. He was awarded for his contribution to India-France space cooperation.

The Ordre national de la Lgion d'Honneur (National Order of the Legion of Honour) is the highest civilian award given by the French for outstanding service to France. National Order of the Legion of Honour created in 1802 by Napoleon Bonaparte.

192. Ans. B.

Recently R K Singh, Power and New & Renewable Energy Minister (constituency-Arrah, Bihar) has proposed to declare ocean energy as renewable energy. According to the proposal, all forms of ocean energy, such as tidal, wave, ocean thermal energy conversion, will now be considered as renewable energy and also be eligible for meeting non-Solar renewable purchase obligations (RPO).

- This step has been taken by the ministry after some renewable energy developers sought clarification regarding the ocean energy.

- RPO is a mechanism by which the State Electricity Regulatory Commissions (SERC) are obliged to purchase a certain percentage of power from renewable energy sources. RPO is being implemented throughout the country to create demand for renewable energy.

- The total identified potential of tidal energy is about 12,455 megawatt (NW), with potential locations identified at Khambhat and Kutch regions of Gujarat and large backwaters where barrage technology could be used.

193. Ans. C.

- India has become the first country in the world to issue **Biometric Seafarer Identity Document (BSID)** capturing the facial biometric data of seafarers.

- Mansukh Mandaviya (Minister of State for Shipping) has launched the project in New Delhi.

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- The new document will give a foolproof identification to our seafarers which will facilitate their movement, provide ease of getting jobs and help in identifying them from any location in the world.
 - Nine data collection centres have been set up at Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Noida, Goa, New Mangalore, Kochi, Vizag and Kandla for the issue of BSID.
 - Every Indian seafarer who possesses a valid Continuous Discharge Certificate issued by the government will be eligible for issue of a BSID.
 - The total number of existing Indian seafarers who will be required to be issued BSIDs is around 3,50,000.
 - All the existing seafarers will be given BSID within the next two years.
194. Ans. B.
- Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises is planning to launch Bharatcraft portal, a desi version e-commerce marketing platform.
 - The information was shared by the Union Minister Nitin Gadkari.
 - Bharatcraft portal will be based on the lines of e-commerce behemoths such as Alibaba and Amazon.
 - Bharatcraft portal will provide platform for MSMEs to market and sell their products and in turn boost the overall sector. It has potential to achieve revenues of around Rs 10 lakh crore in the 2-3 years.
195. Ans. C.
- Doordarshan Anchor Neelum Sharma was known for her programmes like 'Tejaswini' and 'Badi Charcha'.
 - She had been awarded the Nari Shakti Puruskar (highest civilian award for the woman in India) by President Ram Nath Kovind in 2018.
 - Through her show Tejaswini, Neelum focused on woman achievers of India.
196. Ans. C.
- Gujarat ranks on top in the installation of rooftop solar projects with an installed capacity of 261.97 megawatts, Minister of State for New and Renewable Energy and Power.
 - Total rooftop solar installation in India currently stands at 1,700.54 MW. Gujarat is followed by Maharashtra and

Tamil Nadu with 198.52 MW and 151.62 MW respectively.

197. Ans. C.

As per All India Tiger Estimation – 2018, Madhya Pradesh has the highest number of tigers with 526, followed by Karnataka at 524.

The count of tigers in India has risen to 2967, in 2018.

The data was collected using an Android-based application- M-STrIPES (Monitoring system for Tigers' Intensive Protection and Ecological Status).

198. Ans. D.

The Municipal Corporation of Ambikapur has launched India's first garbage café at Ambikapur city in Chhattisgarh.

Under this scheme, A person fetching a kilo of plastic waste to the garbage cafe will be assured of a full meal.

Those collecting at least 500 grams will benefit from a substantial breakfast.

Earlier, Ambikapur was ranked second cleanest city in India after Indore.

199. Ans. B.

The Higher Education Department of the Union Ministry of Human Resource Development has finalized and released a 5-year Vision Plan titled as Education Quality Upgradation and Inclusion Programme (EQUIP).

* EQUIP This Vision Plan by HRD Ministry is in accordance with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's direction for finalizing a 5-year Vision plan for each Ministry.

* For aforementioned focus areas 10 Expert Group drawn from senior academicians, administrators and industrialists suggested over 50 initiatives that would transform country's higher education sector completely.

* Aim of this plan is to doubling Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) and resolving geographically and socially skewed access to higher education institutions in India and promotes Research & Innovation ecosystems for positioning India in Top-3 countries globally in matters of knowledge creation.

200. Ans. D.

Telangana to have India's first blockchain district; woos firms with

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incentives.

Telangana State Information Technology, Electronics and Communication department (ITE&C) signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Tech Mahindra to launch India's first Blockchain district. The MoU was signed at International Blockchain Congress 2018 held in Hyderabad.

Blockchain district

It will be centre of excellence, incubator and process development for emerging technology with innovative infrastructure and facilities to foster growth of Indian blockchain start-ups and companies. Tech Mahindra as its founding member will provide platform and technology assistance to all incubators in it. It will also empower accelerators to develop and solve market problems across its global customer ecosystem. Telangana ITE&C Department will provide regulatory and policy support to enable and promote Blockchain growth both in India and globally.

201. Ans. C.

The Government of India has reduced the rate of contribution under the ESI Act from 6.5% to 4% (employers' contribution being reduced from 4.75% to 3.25% and employees' contribution being reduced from 1.75% to 0.75%). Reduced rates will be effective from 01 July 2019.

202. Ans. D.

Delhi **Metro becomes** India's **first** project to **receive power** from **waste-to-energy**.

Continuing its efforts to establish an environment-friendly network, the Delhi **Metro has become** the first **ever** project in the country to **receive power generated from a waste-to-energy plant**.

203. Ans. D.

Flight Lieutenant Mohana Singh has become the first woman fighter pilot to fly by day a Hawk advanced jet aircraft. She landed after a gruelling 4 aircraft combat sortie at Air Force station Kalaikunda, West Bengal.

Singh has over 500 hours of incident-free flying, of which 380 hours are on the Hawk Mk 132 jet.

204. Ans. A.

- **Bhawana Kanth** is one of the first female pilots of India.

- She was declared as the **first combat pilot** along with two of her cohort, Mohana Singh, and Avani Chaturvedi.

- She was commissioned into the Indian Air Force as one of the first women fighter pilots in **2016**.

205. Ans. E.

11th Arctic Council ministerial meeting held at Rovaniemi in Finland, India was re-elected as an observer to intergovernmental forum Arctic Council.

- Arctic Council was established in 1996 by Ottawa Declaration.

- Headquarter: Tromso, in Norway

- Members (8): Russia, Sweden, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Denmark (representing Greenland and Faroe Islands), Canada and United States.

206. Ans. C.

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel has announced to set up 'Lemru Elephant Reserve' to provide permanent habitat for the wild elephants in the state.

207. Ans. D.

- The Kerala government would set up a first-of-its-kind elephant rehabilitation centre with an outlay of Rs 105 crore, to take care of jumbos, which were either orphaned or abandoned.

- Kottor, an ecotourism village situated nearly 35 km from here, would soon host the country's first-ever elephant rehabilitation centre.

- Chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan had inaugurated the phase 1 of the project last month.

- The rehab centre would house an elephant museum, mahout training centre, a well-equipped veterinary hospital and crematorium for the pachyderms.

- The Kottor elephant rehabilitation centre is also planning to accommodate aged captive elephants.

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208. Ans. B.

* India's first underwater train will soon get started in **Kolkata** under the **Hooghly river**.

* This train will bring ease to the people of Kolkata and pride to the people of India.

* The 16-kilometre long Kolkata Metro project will connect Salt Sector 5 with Howrah Maidan.

209. Ans. A.

<><>

210. Ans. C.

M C Sampath, minister for industries stated that South Korean multinational automotive manufacturer Hyundai plans to launch its electric car for India and the global market from Chennai facility will help make Tamil Nadu the first state in India to manufacture electric cars.

- The Tamil Nadu (TN) State Government aims to attract the multinational companies that are moving out of China after the US (United States)-China trade dispute. The TN Industries Development Corporation (TIDCO) is selecting a consultant for preparing a report on developing a Greenfield airport near Chennai.

211. Ans. C.

Meghalaya became the first state in India to ensure water conservation with its State Water Policy. The draft water policy was approved by the State Cabinet in a meeting chaired by Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma.

- The policy aims to recognize water resources as a common pool resource, to provide safe and hygienic water for drinking, domestic, sanitation & livelihood development to all residents of the state, ensure the protection and conservation of catchment areas of all water sources to prevent degradation of the quantity and quality of water sources.

- The policy also suggests safety audit of state dams at periodic intervals by the Meghalaya State Dam Safety Organization (SDSO) to identify the safety risks and mitigate the adverse impacts.

212. Ans. B.

- Odisha got a GI tag for its own version of 'Rasagola', which is 20 months after the GI Tag given to 'Rasogolla' of West Bengal.

- The Registrar of Geographical Indications, Chennai, has issued a certificate registering the sweetmeat as 'Odisha Rasagola' under the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999. The certificate will be valid till February 22, 2028.

- The Odisha Small Industries Corporation Limited (OSIC) and Utkala Mistanna Byabasayee Samiti (Utkala Sweetmakers Business Body) will be registered holder of Odisha rasagola's GI tag.

- Note - A GI is a distinctive sign/name used on a product generally collectively owned, which can be used to differentiate goods on the basis of its unique characteristics and geographical origin. A GI tag helps in the branding and marketing of a local product and can attract penalties if copied by anybody outside that geographical region.

213. Ans. E.

- Andhra Pradesh became the first state to reserve jobs for local youth.

- The Andhra Pradesh Assembly passed the Andhra Pradesh Employment of Local Candidates in Industries/Factories Act, 2019.

- The Act reserves 75% private jobs across all categories in industrial units, factories, joint ventures as well as the project that are in public-private partnership (PPP) mode.

- It reserves 75 per cent jobs in industrial units, factories, joint ventures and projects set up under public-private partnership mode.

214. Ans. A.

On June 30, 2019, 82 members

"Special Rhino Protection Force"

(SRPF) was deployed in **Kaziranga National Park** (KNP), **Assam** with an objective to protect the **one-horned rhinoceros**.

Key Points:

i. SRPF consists of 74 men & 8 women

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who are trained to combat poachers and understand animal behaviour. They are posted under 8 ranges of KNP.

ii. KNP, home for one-horned rhino, was declared as the UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) World Heritage Site in 1985.

iii. Kaziranga National Park is most famous for **One-horned Rhinoceros**.

iv. It spreads across the floodplains of the Brahmaputra River, its forests, wetlands and grasslands are home to tigers, elephants and the world's largest population of Indian one-horned rhinoceroses.

v. It's visited by many rare migratory birds, and grey pelicans roost near Kaziranga village.

215. Ans. C.

India's first Dinosaur Museum cum Park was **inaugurated** in Gujarat's Mahisagar district and is set to give visitors the true Jurassic **Park** feel. The **museum**, which was inaugurated by Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani at Raiyoli near Balasinor, will **exhibit** remains of various **dinosaurs** and **fossil** records.

216. Ans. A.

Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Kailash Choudhary formally inaugurated the 32nd Congress of the International Seed Testing Association (ISTA) in Hyderabad. Over 600 delegates including seed experts, officials, policy makers and representatives of national and international companies from nearly 70 countries like the UK, South Africa, Argentina, New Zealand, Canada, Austria are taking part in the Congress. The deliberations will be mainly focusing on various technologies for increasing quality seed production and seed export-import policies.

217. Ans. B.

India's first **75-seater solar powered ferry** will come up in the favorite tourism spot of Kerala "Allepey (the Venice of the East)". These boats will be commissioned within the next three months and will run on the 2.5 km-long

Vaikkom-Thavanakkadavu route. The boat is 20 m long, 7 m wide with a maximum cruising speed of 7.5 knots.

Note:-The boat is built by a **Kochi-based NavAlt**, in collaboration with a **French firm AltEn**, which makes solar powered ferries across the world.

218. Ans. A.

- The Himachal Pradesh government make it mandatory for trekkers to carry a GPS device to tackle any exigency.

- Additional Chief Secretary Shrikant Baldi said that - It would be made mandatory for trekkers to have a GPS device so that they can be provided with all possible help in case of an emergency.

- Being a disaster-prone state, it is essential to pay special attention to disseminating weather advisories and installing early warning systems in Himachal Pradesh.

Note:

- Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh is Jai Ram Thakur.

- Present Governor of Himachal Pradesh is Acharya Dev Vrat.

- Capital of Himachal Pradesh is Shimla.

219. Ans. A.

The Chhattisgarh police for the first time has inducted women commandos in the District Reserve Guard in its frontline anti-Naxal force.

These women commandos were part of the security forces' "short action teams" that eliminated three Naxal "commanders" in the past one month.

220. Ans. D.

Virasat-e-Khalsa museum located in Anandpur Sahib town in Punjab is set to find a place in Asia Book of Records for becoming most visited museum in Asian sub-continent on a single day. Museum witnessed a record foot fall of 20,569 visitors on a single day on 20 March 2019.

- This would be 3rd entry for museum in record books. Prior to this, Virasat-e-Khalsa made it to Limca Book of Records in February 2019 edition and India Book of Records and both had listed 'Virasat-e-Khalsa' as country's top-ranked museum in terms of number of visitors.

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221. Ans. D.

Director Kaushik Ganguly's Bengali outing Nagarkirtan, has won big at prestigious 2019's SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation) film festival, bagging 4 awards in total, including Best Feature Film.

• **This year is 9th edition of SAARC film fest. It took place in Colombo, Sri Lanka. Best Short Film' award– Na Bole Wo Haram, a 20-minute film by debutant director Nitish Patan.**

222. Ans. C.

Bonalu is an annual festival of Telangana celebrated in Twin Cities Hyderabad, Secunderabad and other parts of Telangana.

It is celebrated every year in a grand manner in the state during the first month of the monsoon season.

Bonalu is celebrated to ward off diseases and usher in good health, peace and prosperity.

Women, attired in colourful robes, carry the 'Bonalu' (decorated pots containing food) on their heads to the temples for offering them to the Goddess.

223. Ans. B.

Chaukhandi Stupa is an ancient Buddhist site in Sarnath (Uttar Pradesh), with a lofty brick structure crowned with an octagonal tower. Originally stupa is said to be built by Emperor Ashoka. The octagonal tower on top is a Mughal monument built in 1588 to commemorate Humayun's visit to this place.

Lord Buddha delivered his first sermon after attaining enlightenment in Sarnath called dharmachakra –pravartana.

224. Ans. B.

Maharashtra has become first Indian state to provide digitally-signed land record receipts known as 7/12 receipts and accept a digital signature to check irregularities and bring in transparency.

• The 7/12 receipt establishes the ownership of the land and is primarily used by the farmers while applying for loans.

• Maharashtra: CM- Devendra Fadnavis Governor-C. Vidyasagar Rao

225. Ans. E.

* The 10th Jagran Film Festival was inaugurated in an event held at Siri Fort Auditorium in New Delhi.

* It was inaugurated by Prakash Javadekar Union Minister of Information & Broadcasting.

* The film festival aims to create a culture of cinema appreciation and provide a platform that connects great content with audiences across country.

226. Ans. C.

The Chief Minister of Meghalaya, Conrad K Sangma launched the Aroma Mission and Processing Unit of Essential Oil at Byrwa in Ri-Bhoi district on May 27, 2019 to boost Agriculture and allied sector in the state.

227. Ans. D.

• India has announced a contribution of USD 22 million to the Global Fund for AIDS, TB and Malaria(GFTAM) for the 6th replenishment cycle (2020-22).

• This is an increase of 10% over the amount contributed by the US in the 5th cycle.

• The Global Fund is a partnership designed to accelerate the end of AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria.

• As an international organization, the Global Fund mobilizes and invests more than USD 4 billion a year to support programs run by local experts in more than 100 countries.

228. Ans. C.

• Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the RuPay card in UAE making it the first country in West Asia to initiate the Indian indigenous system of electronic payment.

• RuPay card scheme was launched in 2012 to fulfil the Reserve Bank of India's vision to have a domestic, open and multilateral system of payments.

• RuPay facilitates electronic payment at all Indian banks and financial institutions.

• India has already launched the RuPay card in Singapore and Bhutan.

229. Ans. B.

• Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Mangdechhu hydroelectric power plant, one of the

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major projects under **Bhutan's** initiative to generate 10,000 MW hydropower by 2020 with the Indian government's support.

- The Rs 4,500-crore hydroelectric plant touted as a Bhutan-India friendship project, is a 720MW run-of-river power plant built on the Mangdechhu River in Trongsa Dzongkhag district of central Bhutan.

- It was developed by the Mangdechhu Hydroelectric Project Authority (MHPA), which was jointly constituted by the Indian and the Bhutanese governments.

230. Ans. A.

FATF Asia Pacific Group (APG) placed Pakistan on its Blacklist for failure to meet global standards and doing terror funding. The Blacklist is also known as Expedited Follow Up List. Pakistan turned out to be non-compliant in 32 of the 40 Compliance Parameters on Money Laundering.

231. Ans. B.

The Kaji Sara lake in Manang district was discovered about a few months ago by a team of mountaineers. It is located at Singarkharka area of Chame rural municipality. The lake would be the world's highest lake if its altitude of 5000-plus metres is officially verified. The Tilicho lake, situated at an altitude of 4,919 metres, in Nepal, is currently the highest lake.

Lake Titicaca located on the border of Bolivia and Peru is the highest navigable lake in the world. Lake Titicaca has a surface elevation of 3,812 m.

232. Ans. D.

- * According to United Nations report 2019, the **Papua New Guinea** has the highest number of living indigenous languages in the world with 840.

- * **India** stands **fourth** with **453**.

- * Papua New Guinea is linguistically the world's most diverse country with more than 700 native tongues.

- * UN observes the year 2019 as its International Year of Indigenous Languages.

- * UN's Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues reported that nearly 40% of the

estimated 6,700 languages spoken around the world.

233. Ans. C.

The French government is to impose a tax of up to €18 on plane tickets for all flights from airports in France to fund less-polluting transportation projects.

- **The move, which will take effect from 2020, will see a tax of €1.5 imposed on economy-class tickets on internal flights and those within Europe, with the highest tariff applied to business-class travelers flying outside the bloc.**

- **Similar tax was introduced in Sweden in April 2018.**

- **FRANCE: Capital- Paris Currency- Euro, CFP Franc**

234. Ans. D.

Palau has become the 76th signatory country to join the International Solar Alliance (ISA).

According to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), The organisation aims to deploy over 1,000 gigawatts of solar energy and mobilise more than USD 1,000 billion into solar power by 2030.

The International Solar Alliance (ISA) is a group of 121 solar resource-rich countries with headquarters in Gurugram, India.

235. Ans. C.

- * World Health Organization (WHO) has declared deadly Ebola outbreak in Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) as 'Public Health Emergency of International Concern'.

- * Invoking the emergency provision by WHO of declaring a Public health emergency of international concern, is a rare designation which is only used or gravest epidemics.

236. Ans. A.

- Padma Shri awardee **P. Raghu Ram** received an honorary fellowship of Thailand's Royal College of Surgeons on **13th July 2019**.

- He has received this honour for his work boosting breast healthcare and promoting the highest standards of surgical education in India.

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- He is also the president of the **Association of Surgeons of India**.

237. Ans. D.

Ukraine and its European partners on Wednesday formally inaugurated a new metal dome encasing the destroyed reactor at the infamous Chernobyl plant.

- Branded as the world's largest movable metal structure, the so-called New Safe Confinement seals the remains of the fourth reactor at the nuclear plant that was the site of the massive Chernobyl disaster in 1986.
- Its gigantic 108-meter-high dome could cover the Notre Dame cathedral in Paris and weighs 36,000 tonnes.
- The Chernobyl nuclear power station was the scene of the world's worst civilian nuclear accident on April 26, 1986

238. Ans. D.

World's largest burn and plastic surgery institute named **Sheikh Hasina National Burn and Plastic Surgery Institute**. It started functioning in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

The Outpatient Department (OPD) inaugurated by the Health and Family Welfare Minister of Bangladesh Zahid Maleque.

Named Sheikh Hasina National Burn and Plastic Surgery Institute, the 500-bed hospital with 50 ICU and 12 operation theatres will provide advanced treatment to burn patients in Bangladesh.

The institute has been built at a cost of over 500 crores Taka.

239. Ans. C.

Saudi Arabia has become 1st Arab country to be granted full membership of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) following FATF's Annual General Meeting held in Orlando, Florida in the United States (US).

- FATF was established in 1989, with headquarters in Paris, France and comprises of 37-member jurisdictions and 2 Regional Organizations namely Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and European Commission (EC) with kingdom becoming a FATF member, the number of permanent members in-group is now 39.

- FATF is responsible for issuing international standards, policies and best practices to combat money laundering, terrorist financing and proliferation.

240. Ans. A.

In May 2019, the United Arab Emirates launched a permanent residency scheme to woo wealthy individuals and exceptional talents, a move that could attract more Indian professionals and businessmen to the Gulf nation.

The "Golden Card" programme unveiled by UAE Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al-Maktoum is open to investors and "exceptional talents" such as doctors, engineers, scientists, students and artists.

241. Ans. C.

Sri Lankan Airlines has been named the 'World's Most Punctual Airline' for the second consecutive year.

It has been named for the second consecutive time with over 90% of its flights in May being "on time".

Global flight tracker, 'Flightstats' analysed data of 41 carriers from Europe, North America, Asia, the Middle East, and South America, including most of the world's largest and most prestigious airlines before drawing its conclusions.

242. Ans. C.

Ireland becomes the second country to declare climate emergency on 9 May 2019. Britain was the first nation to declare climate emergency on 1 May 2019.

The Irish government will improve its response to the issue of biodiversity loss as per the amendment made to the Irish Parliament.

243. Ans. E.

The World Bank and the Commonwealth Bank of Australia (CommBank) have teamed up to enable recording of secondary market bond trading using blockchain tech.

The institutions announced that their successful recording of a secondary transaction for bond-i, a blockchain-operated debt instrument, on a distributed ledger shows the "vast potential" of the technology, and marks

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the first bond to have both issuance and trading recorded on a blockchain platform.

Bond-i was first issued last August by the World Bank, with the CommBank being a sole arranger. The experiment helped the World Bank raise \$81 million at the time.

244. Ans. D.

The UK has become the first national government to declare an environmental and climate emergency.

Ireland was the second country after Britain to Declare Climate Emergency.

245. Ans. E.

The 2019 International Yoga Day's theme is "Yoga for Climate Action". The Fifth International Yoga Day is being celebrated on 21st June.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi led the nation in celebrating yoga day from Ranchi in Jharkhand.

The idea of the International Day of Yoga was first proposed by PM Modi during his speech at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) on September 27, 2014.

246. Ans. D.

The theme of World Hepatitis Day 2019 is "Invest in eliminating Hepatitis". World Hepatitis Day is being observed on 28th July worldwide to raise global awareness of Hepatitis and encourage prevention, diagnosis, and treatment. The theme focuses on the hepatitis elimination goals by 2030, in the context of universal health coverage.

The date of 28 July was chosen because it is the birthday of Nobel-prize winning scientist Dr Baruch Blumberg, who discovered the hepatitis B virus (HBV) and developed a diagnostic test and vaccine for the virus.

247. Ans. C.

- World Refugee Day is observed on 20th June every year to raise awareness about the conditions and problems that refugee faces in their lives.

- The theme for World Refugee Day 2019 is 'Step with Refugees — Take A Step on World Refugee Day.'

- The theme focuses on that there is a need to take big and small steps in

solidarity with refugees from around the world.

- Millions of people are forced to move from their homes every year to keep safe from war, persecution or natural disaster.

- According to the United Nation (UN) every minute, around 25 people have to leave everything in the search for a better and safer life.

248. Ans. B.

After 36 years of service, Indian Navy's frontline missile destroyer, INS Ranjit has been decommissioned at the naval dockyard in Visakhapatnam.

- INS Ranjit was commissioned on 15th September 1983 with Captain Vishnu Bhagwat as the chair. INS Ranjit was the 3rd of the 5 Kashin-class destroyers built by the former USSR (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics).

249. Ans. A.

Pakistan successfully test-fired surface-to-surface medium-range guided ballistic missile 'Shaheen-II'.

It is a two-stage rocket with a diameter of 1.4 m, length of 17.5 m, the weight of 25 tons and a range of 1500-2000 km.

The Shaheen-II is designed and developed by the NESCOM and the National Defence Complex (NDC) of Pakistan.

250. Ans. C.

The Indian Navy's first full-fledged Services Selection Board (SSB) has been inaugurated by Navy Chief Admiral Sunil Lanba at Diamond Harbour near Kolkata, West Bengal.

The SSB (Kolkata) spread over 27 acres located on the banks of Hooghly that was previously occupied by a Naval Coastal Battery.

This is the fifth SSB of the Indian Navy and will cater for a selection of both permanent and short service commission (SSC) officers.

251. Ans. C.

The armies of India and Myanmar carried out a 3-week-long coordinated operation in their respective border areas called 'Operation Sunrise 2' to bust terror camps.

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- The operation was targeted at militant groups operating in Manipur, Nagaland and Assam.
- This was the 2nd edition of Operation Sunrise. During Operation Sunrise 2, the armies of India and Myanmar coordinated with each other to bust camps of several militant outfits, including NSCN-K (National Socialist Council of Nagaland-Khaplang), Kamtapur Liberation Organization (KLO), United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA) (I) and National Democratic Front of Boroland (NDFB).

252. Ans. A.

- Indigenously produced lightweight bullet proof jacket Bhabha Kavach was launched at International Police Expo 2019 held at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi.
- The jacket which is a major breakthrough for Paramilitary Forces and Indian armed forces got nod from Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).
- It is a state-of-the-art jacket that can withstand 7.62mm hard steel core or bullets fired from an AK-47 rifle, 5.56mm INSAS (Indian Small Arms System) bullet and decommissioned 7.65mm bullet of self-loading rifle (SLR).

253. Ans. C.

- * Marine Acoustic Research Ship (MARS), INS Sagardhwan started its two-month-long second mission Sagar Maitri from Southern Naval Command in Kochi, Kerala.

- * It flagged off by Southern Naval commander Vice Admiral A.K. Chawla and Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) chairman G. Satheesh Reddy.

- * The main visit of Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, and Indonesia would be initiating collaborative research program. The tour aims at collecting data from the entire North Indian Ocean.

254. Ans. E.

- Indian Air Force's Wing Commander **Shaliza Dhami** has become the first female officer in the country to become the Flight Commander of a flying unit.
- Recently, Dhami took over as Flight Commander of a Chetak helicopter unit at Hindon airbase

- She is a permanent commission officer of the flying branch in the Air Force and has been flying choppers.

- Flight Commander is the second in command of the unit meaning that she is the number two in the unit after the commanding officer.

255. Ans. C.

- E-commerce giant Amazon India has launched a Military Veterans Employment programme in the country that will create employment opportunities for military veterans and their spouses across the company's fulfilment centres, sort centres and delivery centres in India.

- Amazon India is partnering with the office of the Director General of Resettlement (DGR) and the Army Welfare Placement Organisation (AWPO) to create continued work opportunities for military families across the country.

- Globally, Amazon has over 17,500 military veterans and spouses actively engaged in the programme.

256. Ans. B.

- * On 22 May 2019, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has successfully launched its earth observation satellite RISAT-2B (latest radar imaging satellite) from Satish Dhawan Space Centre Sriharikota (90 km north of Chennai).

- * It will replace the RISAT-2, which was launched in 2009.

- * The 615 kg satellite was released into the orbit 15 minutes after the lift-off.

- * RISAT-2B meant for application in fields such as surveillance, agriculture, forestry and disaster management support.

- * RISAT-2B expanded Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) making it an advanced earth observation satellite, operating in spotlight mode, mode and mosaic mode.

257. Ans. C.

- YUva VIGyani KARYakram (YUVIKA) for school children was launched by Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) in tune with the Government's vision of Jai Vigyan, Jai Anusandhan.

The Program is primarily aimed at

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imparting basic knowledge on Space Technology, Space Science and Space Applications to the younger ones with the intent of arousing their interest in the emerging areas of Space activities. The program is aimed at creating awareness amongst the youngsters who are the future building blocks of our Nation. ISRO has chalked out this programme to "Catch them young".

258. Ans. C.

The Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) new commercial arm called NewSpace India Limited (NSIL) was officially inaugurated in Bengaluru, Karnataka.

NSIL will be responsible for manufacturing the and production of Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV) and Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) through technology transfer mechanisms.

259. Ans. A.

TRI-NETRA is an abbreviation for Terrain Imaging for Drivers Infrared, Enhanced, Optical & Radar Assisted system. It comprises of the infrared camera, optical camera and radar assisted imaging system for assisting loco pilots in identifying obstructions on tracks, mainly in foggy conditions. This device is making an attempt during fog via ultrasonic waves by help of which it will be able to detect any obstruction on tracks. The field trials being undertaken is for proof of concept and its testing on all parameters will be done after its procurement.

260. Ans. B.

The Union Cabinet has given its nod to the setting up of ISRO Technical Liaison Unit at Moscow, Russia.

The unit will collaborate with Space agencies and industries in Russia and neighbouring countries for mutually synergic outcomes.

ITLU will also support the ongoing bilateral programme of cooperation in space technology and act on behalf of ISRO.

The Cabinet also approved MoU between ISRO and Bolivian Space Agency on

cooperation in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes.

261. Ans. B.

- The Ministries of Earth Sciences and Agriculture have launched a mobile app 'Meghdoot'

that will provide various information to the farmers like weather related info livestock specific information in local language.

- Now the service is available for only 150 districts in different parts of the country.

- The Ministries will provide forecast to farmers relating to temperature, rainfall, humidity, and wind speed and direction.

262. Ans. A.

- * As part of the ongoing Indo-US defence cooperation, a joint military training, Exercise *Yudh Abhyas - 2019* is being conducted at Joint Base Lewis Mc Chord, Washington, USA.

- * It is one of the largest joint running military training and defence corporation endeavors between both countries.

- * This was overall 15th edition of the joint exercise hosted alternately between the two countries.

263. Ans. A.

- It was Nadal's forth US Open title. He won US Open in the years 2010, 2013, 2017, 2019.

- Spain's Rafael Nadal (34-years) defeated Russian Daniil Medvedev 7-5, 6-3, 5-7, 4-6, 6-4 to claim US Open Men's tennis tournament - 2019 in New York (USA).

- Nadal won 12 times the French Open title so he is called the King of Clay Court.

- The four Grand Slam Titles are:

1. Australia Open Hard Courts
2. French Open Clay
3. Wimbledon Grass
4. US Open Hard Courts

264. Ans. B.

- Indian shooter **Yashaswini Singh Deswal** won gold in the **women's 10meter Air Pistol event** at the ISSF World Cup at Rio de Janeiro in Brazil.

- she has also secured an Olympic quota for India. This is India's 9th quota in shooting for 2020 Tokyo Games.

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265. Ans. A.

- **Gokulam Kerala FC** won the Durand Cup 2019 defeating heavyweights **Mohun Bagan** 2-1 at the Salt Lake Stadium, Kolkata.
- With this win, **Gokulam Kerala** became the first club from **the state in 22 years** to clinch the tournament.
- Gokulam Kerala Football Club is an Indian professional football club based in Kozhikode, Kerala.
- A total of 16 teams (Indian Super League-5, I-League- 6, 2nd division club - 1 and armed forces teams- 4) participated in this year's competition.

266. Ans. A.

- Ferrari's Charles Leclerc (21-years) has won the Italian Grand Prix 2019 (89th-edition) at the Autodromo Nazionale Monza track, Italy.
- Valtteri Bottas and Lewis Hamilton of Mercedes finished the race at 2nd and 3rd position respectively.
- Ferrari's last win at Monza came in 2010 through Fernando Alonso.
- The Italian Grand Prix is the fifth oldest national Grand Prix (after the French Grand Prix, the American Grand Prize, the Spanish Grand Prix and the Russian Grand Prix), having been held since 1921.

267. Ans. B.

- Afghan Cricketer **Rashid Khan** has become the youngest ever captain in **142 years of Test cricket history**.
- He is a leg spinner of Afghan Cricket Team and also currently captaining Afghanistan.
- He achieved this stage at the age of **20 years and 350 days**.
- He smashed the previous record of **20 years and 358 days** set by **Zimbabwe's Tatenda Taibu** against Sri Lanka in 2004.

268. Ans. A.

The **2022 FIFA World Cup** is scheduled to be to take place in **Qatar**. It will be the 22nd edition of the **FIFA World Cup**.

It will be the first time football's biggest tournament will be held in the Middle East, and in an Arab and a Muslim-majority country.

The tournament will begin on November 21 2022, while the final will be staged on 18 December 2022 which coincides with Qatar National Day.

269. Ans. C.

- Badminton star PV Sindhu (24-years) defeated Nozomi Okuhara of Japan 21-7, 21-7 in the women's singles final to become the first Indian to win Gold at the BWF World Championships.
- With the win, Sindhu has a full set of medals at World Championships - two bronze medals, two silver medals and a gold medal.

270. Ans. B.

- According to Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) President Nazmul Hasan, Former South African Coach Russel Domingo has been appointed as the Head Coach for the national cricket team for two years.
- He succeeds Steve Rhodes whose tenure was cut short after Bangladesh finished at the 8th position in the 10-nation World Cup this year.
- Russel Domingo has served as the Head Coach for South Africa's T20 side in 2012.
- He later replaced Gary Kirsten as South Africa Coach in the Tests and ODIs in 2013.

271. Ans. D.

* Aishwarya Pissay became the first Indian to claim a world title in motorsports, annexing the FIM World Cup in the women's category after the final round of the championship at Varpalota in Hungary.

* Earlier, Aishwarya has won the first round in Dubai.

* Aishwarya, who won the first round in Dubai and was placed third (Portugal), fifth (Spain) and fourth (Hungary) in the subsequent outings, finished with a tally of 65 points, just four ahead of Portugal's Rita Vieira in the final overall standings for women.

272. Ans. A.

- Serena Williams (37-years) topped the list of the highest-paid female athletes 2019 published by Forbes.
- She has topped the annual list for a 4th the consecutive year with estimated total earnings of USD 29.2 million.

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- Naomi Osaka (Japan) was 2nd on the list with earnings of USD 24.3 million.
- Indian badminton player P.V. Sindhu came in tied for 13th (USD 5.5 million) rounding out the top 15 of Forbes list of best-paid female athletes.

273. Ans. B.

* Khelo India youth games 2020 to be held in Guwahati, it is announced by the Union Minister of sports Kiren Rijiju.

* It is third edition of khelo India youth games will between 18 to 30 January 2020.

* First was hosted by New Delhi in 2018, while Pune hosted 2nd edition in 2019.

* 2020 games will be conducted in partnership with Indian Olympic Association, school games federation of India and assam as a host state.

274. Ans. B.

Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has appointed former cricketer Rahul Dravid as the head of National Cricket Academy (NCA), Bengaluru. Dravid will be involved in mentoring, coaching, training and motivating players, coaches and the support staff at the academy.

National Cricket Academy (established in 2000) is a cricket facility of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) for training young cricketers.

The National Cricket Academy located in Chinnaswamy Stadium Bengaluru, Karnataka in India.

275. Ans. A.

- Kristof Milak shattered Michael Phelps' long-standing world record in the 200 metres butterfly at the World Aquatics Championships in Gwangju.

- Hungarian teenager Milak won the final in 1:50.73, breaking the previous record of 1:51.51, set by Phelps in 2009.

276. Ans. D.

India captain Virat Kohli (417- innings) has become the fastest batsman to reach 20,000 international runs.

Virat Kohli (131 in Tests, 223 in ODIs and 62 T20I) broke Sachin Tendulkar (453 innings) and Brian Lara's (453 innings) record to become the fastest to 20,000 international runs.

277. Ans. C.

British racing driver Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes) beat Sebastian Vettel (Ferrari) to win Canadian Grand Prix 2019.

During the race, both Vettel and Hamilton were engaged in a head-to-head battle when the former ran across the grass accidentally, in the process squeezing the British driver when he re-joined the track.

278. Ans. C.

A_0	B_0	C_0	D_0	A	B	C	D	Valid
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1
0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1
0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	1
0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	1
0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	1
0	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1
1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1
1	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	1
1	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	1

Expression for outputs

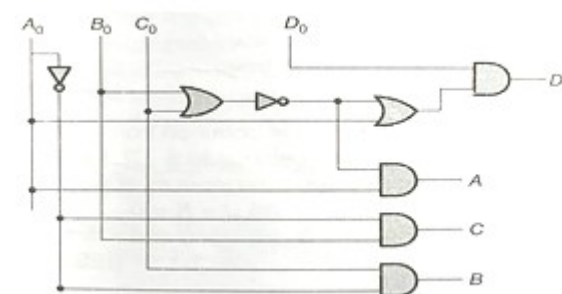
$$A = A_0 (B_0 + C_0)$$

$$B = \bar{A}_0 C_0$$

$$C = \bar{A}_0 B_0$$

$$D = \bar{A}_0 (D_0 + (\bar{B}_0 + \bar{C}_0))$$

$$\text{Valid} = D_0 + (\bar{B}_0 + \bar{C}_0)$$



279. Ans. B.

In September 2008, the Chandrayaan-2 mission was approved by the government for a cost of Rs 425 crore. It is India's second mission to the moon. It aims to explore the Moon's south polar region. The mission's lander is named Vikram after Dr Vikram A Sarabhai, the

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Father of the Indian Space Programme and rover is Pragyan.

280. Ans. A.

* **Facebook** is planning to launch a new form of **cryptocurrency** called **Libra**.

* It will integrate with the social media apps including WhatsApp and Messenger.

* Facebook has linked with 28 partners in a Geneva-based entity called the Libra Association.

* Facebook will govern its new digital coin.

* It will be launch in the first half of 2020.

281. Ans. A.

Indian captain Virat Kohli bagged the International Cricketer and Batsman of the Year award during the CEAT Cricket Rating (CCR) International awards 2019

282. Ans. A.

• State government of **Madhya Pradesh** has launched the **Mukhyamantri Yuva Swabhiman Yojana** to provide employment for youth.

About Mukhyamantri Yuva Swabhiman Yojana

• Under the scheme, 100 days of employment guarantee every year to urban youths from economically weaker sections (EWS). The youth would get Rs 4,000 stipend per month and total Rs 13,500 for the 100 days period would be provided.

• They would be given skill development training during this period, so that they become independent.

• Economically weaker sections are those whose family's annual income is less than Rs 2 lakhs and this is limited to youth in the age group 21-30 years under the scheme.

• According to government about 1.5 lakh urban youths have already registered themselves for this scheme. The government further aims to invite companies to provide full-time employment to trained youths.

283. Ans. D.

• State Government of **Karnataka**, the state which have largest drought-prone land in the country has launched the

water conservation scheme

"Jalamrutha".

• This scheme focuses on drought proofing measures, including protection and rejuvenation of waterbodies.

• It will deploy scientific approaches for water budgeting, water harvesting and water conservation through the use of geospatial data, satellite imagery, topographical and geological data.

• Under this scheme water conservation strategy comprises four components of water literacy, rejuvenation of water bodies, creation of new water bodies as well as development of watersheds and afforestation activities.

• This will operate on a four-tier institutional structure with planning and execution committees being set up at village, taluk, district and State levels.

• Karnataka Government has decided to declare 2019 as the **'Year of Water'** to emphasise the importance of water becoming a scarce commodity and the need to conserve it.

284. Ans. D.

* The government has also proposed to allocate Rs 70,000 crore for PSU bank recapitalisation and has enhanced the target for disinvestment to Rs 1,05,000 crore.

* FM Sitharaman specified multiple provisions and structural changes towards the banking sector, starting with provision of about Rs 70,000 crore in terms of additional capital infusion to state-owned banks to support credit improvement.

* The Budget also proposed to provide PSU banks one-time 6-month credit guarantee of Rs 1 lakh crore to buy high-rated pooled assets of "sound" NBFCs, adding that fundamentally sound NBFCs will keep getting funding from banks, Mutual Funds.

285. Ans. C.

• Aviva Life Insurance has announced the launch of 'Wings', a specially designed mentorship program to empower the female workforce.

• The program is an initiative of the SHE division of the company, for mentoring all the women employees.

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Note:

- Aviva Life Insurance is a joint venture between Dabur Invest and Aviva International Holdings, a UK-based insurance group, whose association with India goes back to 1834.

286. Ans. B.

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) constituted a committee under **Harsh Vardhan**, to review existing state of mortgage securitisation in India and suggest measures to develop market further.

- The committee constitutes a six-member panel that is headed by Harsh Vardhan, Senior Advisor in Bain & Company (a Management consulting company).

- It shall submit its report to RBI by the end of August 2019.

Objective:

- To review existing state of mortgage backed securitisation in India and also suggests measure to deepen housing finance securitisation market.

- To assess role of various counterparties in securitisation process which includes servicers, rating agencies, trustees, and also suggest steps to address key risks.

287. Ans. E.

- The government is estimating a fiscal deficit of 3.3% of GDP in the financial year 2019-20, lower than the 3.4% estimated earlier in the interim Budget presented in February.

The main reason for this is an increase on the revenue side, while expenditure is being controlled, Finance Secretary Subhash Chandra Garg said. Rating agencies and tax analysts say there is a risk of missing the 3.3% target if tax revenue falls short of the target.

Note:

Fiscal deficit: The difference between total revenue and total expenditure of the government is termed as fiscal deficit. It is an indication of the total borrowings needed by the government. While calculating the total revenue, borrowings are not included. A country's fiscal deficit is usually communicated as

a percentage of its gross domestic product (GDP).

288. Ans. D.

India's sprinter Dutee Chand has clinched a Gold medal in the 100-metre dash event at the World Universiade at Napoli in Italy.

She clocked 11.32 seconds as she led the race from start to finish.

Del Ponte of Switzerland won the Silver, while German Lisa Kwayie took home the Bronze.

289. Ans. B.

- * The novel approach has won the team accolades from animal conservationists and an award for "best innovative idea" from Indian Railways for regional operator **Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR)**.

- * Nearly 50 buzzing amplifiers have been deployed as part of "**Plan Bee**" at a dozen "elephant corridors" in the vast forests of Assam state, home to nearly 6,000 elephants, 20 percent of the country's total.

- * Elephants have long been known to be frightened by the buzzing of bees and stings.

- * Villagers in the southern Indian state of Kerala have been using "beehive fences" to scare away marauding elephants.

- * When elephants touch the fences, bees inside boxes attached to the fences storm out angrily to defend their colonies.

- * Nearly 2,300 people have been killed by elephants in the last five years, according to official figures released in June.

- * The elephants too are paying a heavy price with around 700 fatalities in the last eight years.

290. Ans. B.

- On 12th April 2019, as per the 1st edition of Forbes World's Best Bank survey, HDFC Bank has been recognized as number 1 bank by customers in India.

- The survey was based on the customer's satisfaction as well as 5 key attributes of trust, terms and conditions, customer service, digital service, and financial advice.

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• ICICI Bank took the second spot and DBS bank grabbed the third position.
291. Ans. C.

* **Utkarsh 2022: finalized by RBI board** – The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) board has finalised Three Year Roadmap to improve supervision and regulation, among other functions of central bank. This medium term strategy is named as Utkarsh 2022.

Note:

* An internal committee to identify issues that needed to be addressed over next 3 years was formed, which was anchored by Viral Acharya outgoing Deputy Governor of RBI.

292. Ans. A.

The G-20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors' Meeting was held in **Fukuoka, Japan.**

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman attended the two-day meeting of G-20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank governors in Japan.

The deliberations at the meeting would be followed by the G-20 Leaders' Summit scheduled on June 28-29 at Osaka.

Saudi Arabia will host the G20 summit in November 2020.

293. Ans. D.

Pinaka is a multiple rocket launcher produced in India and developed by the **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** for the Indian Army.

The system has a maximum range of 40 km for Mark-I and 75 km for Mark-II,[4] and can fire a salvo of 12 HE rockets in 44 seconds.

The system is mounted on a Tatra truck for mobility. Pinaka saw service during the Kargil War, where it was successful in neutralising enemy positions on the mountain tops.

294. Ans. B.

Abhijeet Gupta claimed his fifth title as India swept medals in all 16 sections of the Commonwealth **chess** championship here on Sunday.

After two other leaders, S. L. Narayanan and Aravindh Chithambaram, drew their top board battle in 32 moves, Abhijeet

caught Arjun Erigaisi in a checkmating net in 39 moves to reach 7.5 points.

295. Ans. C.

The Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) new commercial arm called NewSpace India Limited (NSIL) was officially inaugurated in Bengaluru, Karnataka.

NSIL will be responsible for manufacturing the and production of Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV) and Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) through technology transfer mechanisms.

296. Ans. D.

Prof. Ramesh Chand (Member, Niti Aayog) will be the chairman of the 18-member committee.

The Office of Economic Adviser, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade will be the nodal office for the Working Group.

Since 2011-12, significant structural changes have taken place in the economy.

297. Ans. B.

Popularly known as 'Pink City', Jaipur made an official entry in the list of the UNESCO World Heritage sites recently at the 43rd session of the Unesco World Heritage Committee.

The Walled City of Jaipur (Rajasthan) known for its iconic architectural legacy and vibrant culture, on made its entry into the UNESCO World Heritage Site list.

The announcement was made after the 43rd Session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee, underway at Baku (Azerbaijan).

With this, India now has **38 World Heritage Sites**(30 cultural properties, 7 natural properties and one mixed site).

298. Ans. D.

• Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) has partnered with Microsoft India to use the platform Project Sangam of Microsoft on its Swachh Bharat e-Learning Portal.

• Now MoHUA has trained more than 110,000 municipal functionaries on best sanitation practices across 4,000 plus cities in India.

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- With this partnership, the MoHUA has increased the features on the Swachh Bharat e-Learning Portal.

299. Ans. D.

- On 3rd March 2019, central government approved the proposal for setting up of a Centre for Disability Sports at Gwalior.
- This centre at Gwalior will be set up with an estimated cost of Rs 170.99 crores over a period of 5 years.
- Improved sports infrastructure will ensure effective participation of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) in sports activities and also enable them to compete at national and international levels.
- Setting up of this Centre will develop a sense of belonging in Divyangjan to facilitate their integration in society.

300. Ans. C.

- The state government of Kerala and the World Bank has signed USD 250 Million loan agreement for the First Resilient Kerala Program to enhance the State's resilience against the impacts of natural disasters and climate change.
- The Resilient Kerala Program will focus on strengthening the State's institutional and financial capacity to protect the assets and livelihoods of poor and vulnerable groups through an inclusive and participatory approach.
- The 2018 floods and landslides in Kerala led to severe impact on property, infrastructure, and lives and livelihoods of people.

301. Ans. A.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has released the Financial Benchmark Administrators (Reserve Bank) Directions, 2019 for a regulatory framework for financial benchmarks, to improve the governance of the benchmark processes in markets regulated by it.

302. Ans. A.

A Union Ministry of Forest, Environment and Climate Change (MoEFCC) panel has recommended for 'in-principle' permission for survey and exploration of Uranium in **Amrabad Tiger Reserve** in **Telangana**.

Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) under MoEFCC made a recommendation at its meeting on 22 May 2019.

Background

The Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research (AMD) had earlier sought permission from Environment Ministry to carry out survey and drilling of boreholes around for exploration of uranium in *Amrabad and Udimalla* (Mahaboobnagar district) region upto 76 km besides 7 km in the adjoining **Nagarjunasagar Tiger Reserve** in Andhra Pradesh, for use in nuclear power generation.

303. Ans. A.

Kaziranga National Park is located in the **Golaghat** and **Nagaon** districts of **Assam** and is circumscribed by the **Brahmaputra River**. It was designated with **National Park** status in 1968 and was declared **UNESCO World Heritage Site** in 1985 for its unique natural environment.

Note:

Kaziranga National Park is the most popular conservation efforts to save the endangered species like one-horned rhinoceros in India.

304. Ans. A.

The Reserve Bank of India has constituted a Working Group of six members headed by Shri Tapan Ray to Review Regulatory and Supervisory Framework for Core Investment Companies.

Mr. Tapan Ray is a Non-Executive Chairman of Central Bank of India and former Secretary, Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Govt. of India.

The committee will suggest measures to strengthen corporate governance and disclosure requirements for CICs, assess the adequacy of supervisory returns submitted by CICs and suggest changes therein and various other things for the betterment of CIC.

305. Ans. B.

Naari Tu Narayani/Women

* Overdraft of **Rs. 5,000** to be allowed for every verified women SHG member having a Jan Dhan Bank Account.

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- * Approach shift from women-centric-policy making to women-led initiatives and movements.

- * A Committee proposed with Government and private stakeholders for moving forward on Gender budgeting.

SHG:

- * Women SHG interest subvention program proposed to be expanded to all districts.

- * One woman per SHG to be eligible for a loan up to **Rs. 1 lakh under MUDRA Scheme.**

On 5th July, The Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman made her maiden Budget Speech and presented the Union Budget 2019-20 before the Parliament.

10-point Vision for the decade

- * Building Team India with *Jan Bhagidari*: Minimum Government Maximum Governance.
- * Achieving *green Mother Earth* and *Blue Skies* through a pollution-free India.
- * Making Digital India reach every sector of the economy.
- * Launching *Gaganyaan*, *Chandrayan*, other Space and Satellite programmes.
- * Building physical and social infrastructure.
- * Water, water management, clean rivers.
- * Blue Economy.
- * Self-sufficiency and export of food-grains, pulses, oilseeds, fruits and vegetables.
- * Achieving a healthy society via

Ayushman Bharat, well-nourished women & children, safety of citizens.

- * Emphasis on MSMEs, Start-ups, defence manufacturing, automobiles, electronics, fabs and batteries, and medical devices under Make in India.
306. Ans. A.

NASA to send robotic 'dragonfly' drone to Saturn moon Titan. Tiny copter will soar over the icy world, looking for signs of life. Get ready to see another world from the eyes of a dragonfly — at least, a robotic one. NASA said Thursday that it's sending a drone called Dragonfly to explore Saturn's largest moon, Titan.

307. Ans. B.

- Sunil Chhetri was named as the AIFF Men's Footballer of the Year for a record-extending sixth time.

- The 34-year-old striker, who has been in peak form in the last couple of years, has earlier won the honour in 2007, 2011, 2013, 2014 and 2017. He currently plays for Bengaluru FC in the Indian Super League.

- Chhetri is currently the second highest international goal scorers among active players with 70 strikes to his name, behind Cristiano Ronaldo (149). He has gone past Lionel Messi (68), who is third in the list, during the 2019 Intercontinental Cup opener against Tajikistan.

- Chhetri is the most capped player of the country with 109 matches, ahead of former captain Bhaichung Bhutia (107).

308. Ans. A.

HDFC Bank and Common Services Centres (CSCs) launched a co-branded 'Small Business Money Back Credit Card' for small traders and village-level entrepreneurs (VLEs). The credit card is specifically designed for VLEs and VLE-sourced customers. It would give users easy access to credit for their day-to-day business expenses.

- * The card launched by HDFC Bank MD Aditya Puri and CSC Chief Dinesh Kumar Tyagi.

- * CSCs act as access points for delivery of various services and there are 3.6 lakh such centres operating across the country.

309. Ans. B.

Digital Payments

- **TDS of 2%** on cash withdrawal exceeding Rs. 1 crore in a year from a bank account

- Business establishments with annual turnover more than Rs. 50 crore shall offer low cost digital modes of payment to their customers and no charges or Merchant Discount Rate shall be imposed on customers as well as merchants.

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- Self-sufficiency and export of food-grains, pulses, oilseeds, fruits and vegetables.
- Achieving a healthy society via **Ayushman Bharat**, well-nourished women & children, safety of citizens.
- Emphasis on MSMEs, Start-ups, defence manufacturing, automobiles, electronics, fabs and batteries, and medical devices under Make in India.

310. Ans. B.

Odisha Governor Ganeshi Lal opened the 21st edition of Commonwealth Table Tennis Championship at the Jawaharlal Indoor Stadium in Cuttack.

The event witnesses the top players from Australia, Bangladesh, Cyprus, England, Malaysia, India, Sri Lanka, Nigeria, Scotland, South Africa, Singapore and Wales.

Ghana, Guyana and Pakistan pulled out of the 21st Commonwealth Table Tennis Championships.

311. Ans. D.

The World Economic Situation and Prospects (WESP) 2019 report is a joint product of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the five United Nations regional commissions (Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

(ESCAP) and Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA).

312. Ans. B.

The World Humanitarian Day (WHD) is observed every year on **19th August**.

The day recognizes the aid workers who risk their lives in **humanitarian service** and mobilizes people to advocate for humanitarian action.

313. Ans. D.

• The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation's (SCO) 19th summit was held in **Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan** from **13-14 June, 2019**.

• The eight permanent members of SCO are: China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, India and Pakistan.

• The Shanghai Cooperation Organization(SCO) was formed on **15th June 2001**.

• It is headquartered in **Beijing, China**.

314. Ans. C.

The Prime Minister unveiled the statue of former Prime Minister Sh. Lal Bahadur Shastri at the Lal Bahadur Shastri International Airport in Varanasi. He then launched the tree-plantation drive at Anand Kanan Vatika in Varanasi.

• It is built by Northern Coalfields, a subsidiary of Coal India.

315. Ans. B.

• The final match of ICC Cricket World Cup 2019 was played at **Lord's Cricket Ground**, England on **14th July 2019**.

• In final, England beat New Zealand on boundary count after both the match and the subsequent Super Over finished as ties.

316. Ans. A.

India will be the ICC Cricket World Cup 2023 host country. This will be the first time that India is hosting the cricket tournament on its own. India had co-hosted the World Cup with its neighbouring nations in all the three previous occasions.

India will be hosting the 13th edition of the men's Cricket World Cup. This was decided at an International Cricket Council meeting held in London. India has co-hosted the World Cup three times in the past, 1987 with Pakistan, 1996

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with Pakistan and Sri Lanka and 2011 with Sri Lanka and Bangladesh. The ICC World Cup 2023 will be held in India from February 9-March 26, 2023. The World Cup 2023 will also see participation from 10 teams.

317. Ans. A.

- SBI Managing Director Anshula Kant has been appointed as the Managing Director (MD) and Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of World Bank.
- As Managing Director and Chief Financial Officer, Kant will be responsible for financial and risk management of the World Bank Group.
- Among other key management duties, her work will include oversight of financial reporting, risk management, and working closely with the World Bank CEO on mobilization of IDA and other financial resources.
- Kant, a native of India, is a graduate in Economic Honours from Lady Shri Ram College for Women and a Post-Graduate in Economics from Delhi School of Economics.

318. Ans. E.

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has constituted a six-member committee headed by TN Manoharan (Chairman, Canara Bank) on the Development of Secondary Market for Corporate Loans to come up with recommendations to increase the efficiencies of the debt market and aid in the resolution of stressed assets.

The committee will make recommendations on required policy/regulatory interventions for facilitating the development of the secondary market in corporate loans, including loan transaction platform for stressed assets.

319. Ans. D.

The Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) has launched the Mission Solar Charkha for implementation of 50 Solar Charkha Clusters across the country. Solar Charkha Units have been classified as village industries.

320. Ans. D.

The Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has announced a new scheme Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) to promote processing in the fishery sector.

The new scheme 'PMMSY' will be established under the Department of Fisheries for a robust fisheries management framework.

The budget allocated for the newly carved out Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying is Rs 3,737 crore.

Of the total budget allocated to the new ministry, Rs 2,932.25 crore is estimated to be spent on various schemes to promote animal husbandry and dairying, while Rs 804.75 crore for the fisheries sector in the current fiscal.

321. Ans. C.

• Brazil will host the 11th BRICS Summit in 2019.

• In 2020, Russia will host the 12th BRICS Summit.

Note:

• The 10th BRICS Summit 2018 was hosted by South Africa in Johannesburg.

• The theme of the BRICS summit 2018 was - Collaboration for Inclusive Growth and Shared Prosperity in the 4th Industrial Revolution.

• BRICS member countries include - Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.

322. Ans. B.

Hemis Gompa, the largest and richest Buddhist monastery in Ladakh plays host to the popular yearly festival day called Hemis Festival. This 2-day festival is celebrated on the 10th day of the Tibetan lunar month and remembered as the birth of Padmasambhava.

Hemis Festival of Ladakh is celebrated every year on the birth anniversary of Guru Padamsambhav. It is a two-day celebration which marks the victory of good over evil. The legend has it that Lord Padamsambhav defeated the dark forces with the help of Vajrayana Buddhism. And, therefore, the people of Ladakh celebrate the day of his birth on a huge scale.

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323. Ans. B.

The Reserve Bank of India considering setting up a Public Credit Registry (PCR), which will be an extensive database of credit information for India that will be accessible to all stakeholders. PCR is managed by a public authority like the central bank or the banking supervisor, and reporting of loan details to the PCR by lenders and/or borrowers is mandated by law.

324. Ans. D.

The **30th Summer University Games** 2019, the largest multi-sport event, with a participation of 118 nations & having 18 sports was held between 3rd and 14th July 2019.

The tournament was held in **Naples, Italy**. The opening and closing ceremony were held at the third-largest stadium in Italy, **Stadio San Paolo**.

Note:

- i. **Japan** won the top spot with 82 Medals (33 Gold, 21 Silver, 28 Bronze).
- ii. India got **29th place** in the list with the total medal tally of 4 (1Gold, 1Silver, 2 Bronze).
- ii. Dutee Chand, hailing from Jajpur district of Odisha, became the first Indian to win a gold medal at the event. She is the current national champion in the women's 100 metres event. She is the third Indian woman to ever qualify for the Women's 100 meters event at Summer Olympic Games (for 2016 Rio Olympics).
- iii. The Indian shooter Elavenil (Cuddalore, Tamilnadu) got 225.2 points in the final round to finish second behind Brazdova Lucie(Czech Republic) with 250.3 points.
- iv. The women's team comprising Nina Chandel, Elavenil Valarivan and Aayushi Gupta got their Bronze medal with 1866.2 points.
- v. Angad Vir Singh Bajwa (24) shot 44 in the final & got Bronze medal. He had made it to the finals with the third-best of 122/125 score. The gold was won by Nicolas Vasiliou of Cyprus with 56 hits. Angad represented India in his first senior world cup in Acapulco 2015.

325. Ans. B.

- Arjun Munda elected to the 17th Lok Sabha from **Khunti** constituency in the 2019 parliamentary elections.
- He won the Khunti (ST) seat after narrowly beating his nearest Congress rival Kalicharan Munda by 1,445 votes.
- Arjun Munda has been given the post of **Minister of Tribal Affairs** in the 17th Lok Sabha under Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- Arjun Munda (born 3 May 1968) is a Cabinet Minister of Government of India. He was also Chief Minister of the Indian state of Jharkhand.

326. Ans. B.

Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has appointed former cricketer Rahul Dravid as the head of National Cricket Academy (NCA), Bengaluru. Dravid will be involved in mentoring, coaching, training and motivating players, coaches and the support staff at the academy.

National Cricket Academy (established in 2000) is a cricket facility of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) for training young cricketers.

The National Cricket Academy located in Chinnaswamy Stadium Bengaluru, Karnataka in India.

327. Ans. C.

The Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) is published by the Oxford Poverty & Human Development Initiative (OPHI) and the United Nations Development Programme.

It replaced the previous Human Poverty Index.

328. Ans. D.

The University Grants Commission (UGC) has approved a 'Scheme for Trans-disciplinary Research for India's Developing Economy' (STRIDE) to boost research culture in India.

The scheme will strengthen research culture and innovation in colleges & Universities.

It will provide support to research projects that are socially relevant, locally need-based, nationally important and globally significant.

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STRIDE will support research capacity building as well as basic, applied and transformational action research that can contribute to national priorities with a focus on inclusive human development.

329. Ans. A.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has constituted an Expert Committee headed by Bimal Jalan on Economic Capital Framework in consultation with the Union Government.

Former secretary Rakesh Mohan was named as the Vice Chairman.

330. Ans. C.

Basant Kumar Birla was an Indian businessman of the Birla family. He was chairman of the Krishnarpan Charity Trust, BK Birla Institute of Engineering & Technology and various educational trusts and institutes.

Basant Kumar Birla (12 January 1921 – 3 July 2019) was an Indian businessman of the Birla family. He was chairman of the Krishnarpan Charity Trust, BK Birla Institute of Engineering & Technology (BKBIET) and various educational trusts and institutes.

331. Ans. E.

Explanation: The money market is the arena in which financial institutions make available to a broad range of borrowers and investors the opportunity to buy and sell various forms of short-term securities. There is no physical "money market." Instead it is an informal network of banks and traders linked by telephones, fax machines, and computers. Money markets exist both in the United States and abroad.

The short-term debts and securities sold on the money markets—which are known as money market instruments—have maturities ranging from one day to one year and are extremely liquid.

Treasury bills, federal agency notes, certificates of deposit (CDs), eurodollar deposits, commercial paper, bankers' acceptances, and repurchase agreements are examples of instruments. The suppliers of funds for money market instruments are institutions and individuals with a

preference for the highest liquidity and the lowest risk.

332. Ans. E.

According to National Annual Rural Sanitation Survey (NARSS) 2017-18, 93.4% of rural Indian households have access to toilets. The NARSS was conducted by an Independent Verification Agency (IVA) under the World Bank support project to the Swachh Bharat Mission Gramin (SBM-G). The NARSS also re-confirmed the Open Defecation Free (ODF) status of 95.6% of villages which were previously declared and verified as ODF by various districts/states. The survey was conducted between mid-November 2017 and mid-March 2018 and covered 92040 households in 6136 villages across States and UTs of India.

333. Ans. C.

* The joint Air Force Exercise **Garuda 2019** will be conducted between **India and France**.

* It will be held in **July 2019**.

* It will be the **sixth edition of Garuda Exercise**.

* It will be organized in the **Arabian Sea**.

* India and France had in 1998 signed an agreement for joint military exercises between their armed forces.

* The first edition of Garuda took place in 2003 at the **Gwalior Air Force Station**.

334. Ans. C.

The National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR) is an Indian institute for research in rural development. It is located in Rajendranagar near Hyderabad. NIRD offers a two year PGDM (RM) course. It is an autonomous organization under the Department of Rural Development and received accreditation from AICTE in 2018.[6] Prior this, NIRDPR offered a one-year PGDRDM course.

The selection process is through Valid Score in CAT / XAT / MAT / ATMA. It started in 2018. This course assures 100% placement and provides basic understanding of the Rural Sector.

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The institute was first named National Institute of Community Development (NICD) in 1962, later merging with Central Institute of Study and Research in Community Development at Mussoorie, (now in Uttarakhand) and Trainers Training Institute at Rajpur.

335. Ans. A.

The International Day of Charity is observed annually on **5th September**. It was declared by the United Nations General Assembly in 2012.

336. Ans. D.

Veteran actor-filmmaker Vijaya Nirmala (75-years) passed away due to a heart attack.

Vijaya Nirmala was born in Tamil Nadu into a film producing Nidudavolu family. She acted in more than 200 films in Tamil, Telugu and Malayalam.

She also produced over 15 films in her career under her own banner, Vijaya Krishna Movies.

She made her directorial debut with a Malayalam film and directed over 40 films in Telugu.

337. Ans. E.

Hanoi, the capital of Vietnam, is known for its centuries-old architecture and a rich culture with Southeast Asian, Chinese and French influences.

338. Ans. A.

Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (**RIDF**). The Fund is maintained by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD).

Government of India created the RIDF in NABARD in 1995-96, with an initial corpus of Rs.2,000 crore. With the allocation of Rs.28,000 crore for 2018-19 under RIDF XXIV, the cumulative allocation has reached Rs.3,20,500 crore, including Rs. 18,500 crore under Bharat Nirman.

339. Ans. B.

* National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) approved merger of private sector lender IndusInd Bank with Bharat Financial Inclusion (BFIL), a microfinance company.

* Bharat Financial will become a subsidiary of the private lender.

* IndusInd Bank is established on 1994 by S.P. Hinduja.

* The headquarters of IndusInd Bank is located in Mumbai.

340. Ans. B.

Pradhan Mantri Karam Yogi Maandhan Scheme

* Pension benefits to about three crore retail traders & small shopkeepers with annual turnover less than **Rs. 1.5 crore**.

* Enrolment to be kept simple, requiring only Aadhaar, bank account and a self-declaration.

* Rs. 350 crore allocated for FY 2019-20 for 2% interest subvention (on fresh or incremental loans) to all GST-registered MSMEs, under the Interest Subvention Scheme for MSMEs.

* Payment platform for MSMEs to be created to enable filing of bills and payment thereof, to eliminate delays in government payments.

On 5th July, The Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman made her maiden Budget Speech and presented the Union Budget 2019-20 before the Parliament.

10-point Vision for the decade

* Building Team India with *Jan Bhagidari*: Minimum Government Maximum Governance.

* Achieving *green Mother Earth* and *Blue Skies* through a pollution-free India.

* Making Digital India reach every sector of the economy.

* Launching *Gaganyaan*, *Chandrayan*, other Space and Satellite programmes.

* Building physical and social infrastructure.

* Water, water management, clean rivers.

* Blue Economy.

* Self-sufficiency and export of food-grains, pulses, oilseeds, fruits and vegetables.

* Achieving a healthy society via **Ayushman Bharat**, well-nourished women & children, safety of citizens.

* Emphasis on MSMEs, Start-ups, defence manufacturing, automobiles, electronics, fabs and batteries, and medical devices under Make in India.

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341. Ans. B.

Saudi Arabia (first G20 meeting in the Arab world) will host the G20 summit on 21-22 November 2020 in its capital Riyadh.

Note:

- Italy will host the G20 Summit in 2021.
- India will host the G20 Summit in 2022 when the country celebrates its 75th year of Independence.

About G-20

The G20 (Group of Twenty) is an international forum for the governments and central bank governors from 19 countries and the European Union. It was founded in 1999 with the aim to discuss policy pertaining to the promotion of international financial stability.

342. Ans. D.

The **first Deputy Prime Minister** of India was **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel**, who was also **home minister** in Jawaharlal Nehru's cabinet.

343. Ans. D.

Nripendra Misra has been re-appointed as Principal Secretary to Prime Minister Narendra Modi

According to DoPT order, during the term of their office, they will be assigned the rank of Cabinet Minister.

344. Ans. C.

The headquarter of Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) is in Paris, France. It was established in 1961.

Membership: 36 countries

The mission of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) is to promote policies that will improve the economic and social well-being of people around the world.

345. Ans. D.

- The '**Bold Kurukshetra-2019**' is a Joint Military Exercise of **India and Singapore**.
- It was inaugurated at **Babina Cantonment of Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh**.

- This exercise was started on **2nd April 2019**.

- It was the **13th** Joint Military Exercise between India and Singapore.

- The **12th Joint** Military Exercise 'Bold Kurukshetra-2019' was concluded on **April 11th, 2019**.

- The joint exercise is aimed at developing military technology, enhance the maritime security and bolster the nations' fight against terrorism.

346. Ans. C.

- On 11th April 2019, Professor **Najma Akhtar** of National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration has been appointed as the first women vice-chancellor of Jamia Millia Islamia University (JMI) for a period of five years by the President of India.

- She will succeed Talat Ahmad.

347. Ans. C.

- * The Executive Directors of the World Bank unanimously selected David R. Malpass as President of the World Bank Group for a five-year term beginning on April 9, 2019.

- * He becomes the 13th president of World Bank.

- * The World Bank President is Chair of Boards of Directors of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) and International Development Association (IDA).

- * The President is also ex officio Chair of Boards of Directors of the International Finance Corporation (IFC), Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA), and the Administrative Council of the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID).

348. Ans. B.

- According to the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) India Rankings 2019, which was released by the Human Resource Development (HRD) Ministry Indian Institute of Management- Bangalore topped the list of best management institute in India.

- The parameters broadly cover Teaching, Learning and Resources, Research and Professional Practices, Graduation Outcomes, Outreach and Inclusivity, and Perception.

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Note:

- Indian Institute of Technology, Madras topped the overall ranking of the country's higher education institutions.
- Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru topped the list of best universities in India.
- IIT-Madras was the top engineering college.
- Jamia Hamdard emerged as the best pharmacy college.
- Bengaluru's National Law School of India University topped the list of law institutes.
- IIT-Kharagpur was first among architecture colleges and All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Delhi, topped the medical institutes' list.

349. Ans. D.

India's Boxer Amit Panghal picked up his second successive gold medal of the year in the 52-kilogram category. Panghal defeated Korea's Kim Inkyu Korea.

India bagged one gold and two silver medals at the Asian Boxing Championships in Bangkok.

350. Ans. A.

Ramesh Pokhriyal is the newly appointed Union Minister of Ministry of Human Resource Development. He succeeded **Prakash Javadekar**.

351. Ans. B.

- India's first aqua mega park was inaugurated in Andhra Pradesh on 12 February 2019.
- The park is promoted by Godavari Mega Aqua Food Park limited.
- It is the first park for processing fish and marine products in Andhra Pradesh.
- The park has been set up under the Ministry of Food Processing Industries' Mega Food Park Scheme.

352. Ans. B.

Shiva Thapa is an **Indian boxer** from Guwahati(Assam). He was the youngest **Indian boxer** to qualify for the Olympics.

353. Ans. B.

- The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India is an authority, established by the

Constitution of India under article 148,

- Who audits all receipts and expenditure of the Government of India and the state governments, including those of bodies and authorities substantially financed by the government.
- Comptroller and Auditor General of India is appointed by the President of India following a recommendation by the Prime Minister.

354. Ans. C.

* Vikramjit Singh Sahney has been elected as the new president of International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) India.

* He is the Chairman of SUN Group.

* ICC India is one of the most active chapters of the ICC, the world's apex business organisation.

355. Ans. C.

The Indian Navy's first full-fledged Services Selection Board (SSB) has been inaugurated by Navy Chief Admiral Sunil Lanba at Diamond Harbour near Kolkata, West Bengal.

The SSB (Kolkata) spread over 27 acres located on the banks of Hooghly that was previously occupied by a Naval Coastal Battery.

This is the fifth SSB of the Indian Navy and will cater for a selection of both permanent and short service commission (SSC) officers.

356. Ans. B.

India hosted a two-day convention to mark the 'World Homeopathy Day'(10th-April) at Dr Ambedkar International Centre in New Delhi (9-10th April 2019). AYUSH awards relating to Homoeopathy for Life Time Achievement, Best Teacher, Young Scientist and Best Research paper will be conferred on this occasion.

357. Ans. C.

Justice **Adarsh Kumar Goel**, who retired from the Supreme Court, has been appointed the chairperson of the National Green Tribunal (NGT).

Note:

- **National Green Tribunal** (NGT) is a dedicated body armed with the essential

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skill to handle the environmental disputes involving multi-disciplinary issues.

- It was established on **18 October 2010** under the **National Green Tribunal Act 2010** for effective and expeditious disposal of cases relating to environmental protection and conservation of forests.

358. Ans. B.

- The GST Council decided to reduce GST rate on electrical vehicles from 12 percent to 5 per cent and on EV chargers from 18 per cent to 5 percent from August 1, 2019.
- The move is aimed at accelerating the adoption of eco-friendly mobility solutions.

359. Ans. A.

Jaspal Rana is an Indian **shooter**. He contested mainly in the 25 m Centre Fire Pistol category.

360. Ans. A.

- On 16 April 2019 Fellow of the Royal Society in the UK selected 51 distinguished scientists from all across the world as the fellows and foreign members of Fellow of the Royal Society in UK.
- Gagandeep Kang and three other Indian-origin scientists were selected.
- Kang is the First Indian Female Scientist to be elected as Fellow of the Royal Society in the UK.
- Kang is 56-year-old she is the Executive Director of Translational Health Science and Technology Institute at Faridabad.

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