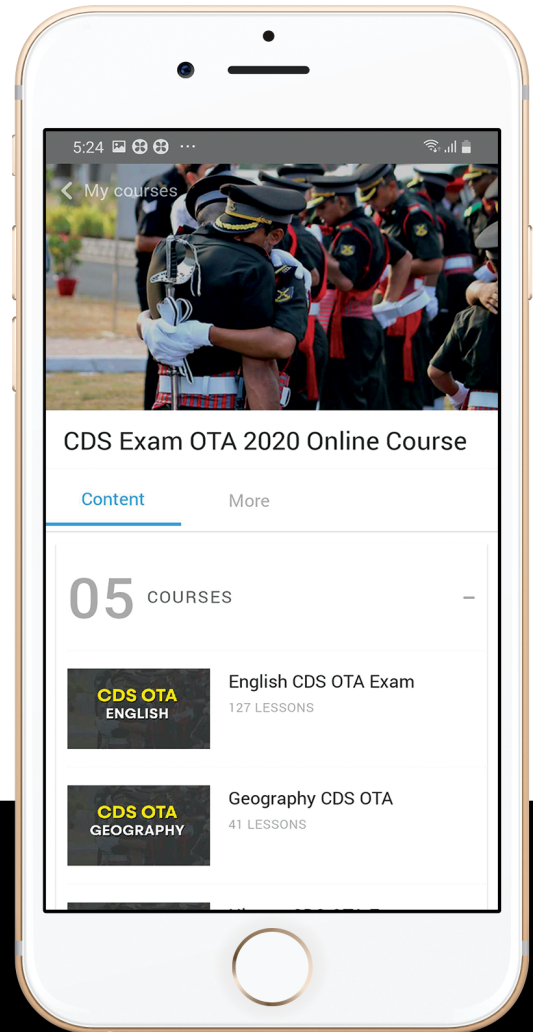




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TOPIC
Defence Exams MCQ's With Explanation: Current Affairs

DEFENCE EXAMS MCQ'S WITH CURRENT AFFAIRS

1.----- promotes 2019 as year of investment in backdrop of wider business with India?

- A. Uzbekistan
- B. Pakistan
- C. Indonesia
- D. Saudi Arabia

Answer: A. Uzbekistan- Uzbekistan promotes 2019 as year of investment in backdrop of wider business with India.

2. Which is the full form of NSAB?

- A. National Security Advisory Board
- B. National Seasonal Advisory Board
- C. National Safety Admin Board
- D. National Secure Advisory Board

Answer: A. National Security Advisory Board -National Security Advisory Board is the full form of NSAB.

3. Centre brings booklet on cyber safety for school children titled ----- ?

- A. The God of small things
- B. The Guide
- C. The White Tiger
- D. A Handbook for Students on cyber Safety"

Answer: D. A Handbook for Students on cyber Safety - Centre brings booklet on cyber safety for school children titled as A Handbook for Students on cyber Safety.

5. Who has become the highest wicket-taker in international cricket in 2018?

- A. Shannon Gabriel
- B. Lockie Ferguson
- C. Jasprit Bumrah
- D. Kagiso Rabada

Answer: C. Jasprit Bumrah -India fast bowler Jasprit Bumrah has become the highest wicket-taker in international cricket in 2018 after picking up 9 wickets in the Melbourne Test against Australia.

6. Which state Police becomes first police force in India to digitise all malkhanas?

- A. Uttar Pradesh
- B. Punjab
- C. Assam
- D. Delhi

Answer: D. Delhi -With the launch of 'E-Malkhana' in the remaining 10 districts at Chinamaya Mission, the Delhi Police has become first in country to have digitalised malkhana in Police Stations of its all districts.

7. How much amount has been funded by Sports Ministry for athletes under the Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS) for their preparations for 2020 Olympics?

- A. Rs 200 crore
- B. Rs 100 crore
- C. Rs 150 crore
- D. Rs 250 crore

Answer: B. Rs 100 crore - The Sports Ministry has earmarked Rs 100 crore for the funding of athletes under the Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS) for their preparations for 2020 Olympics, according to Sports Authority of India Director General Neelam Kapur.

8. Archie Schiller, the seven-year-old who was named as the co-captain of the _____ team.

- A. Zimbabwe
- B. New Zealand
- C. Australia
- D. England

Answer: C. Australia - Cricket Australia named seven-year-old leg-spinner Archie Schiller as the new team co-captain alongside regular skipper Tim Paine for the Boxing Day Test against India at the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

9. First test communication satellite of Hongyan constellation and six Yunhai-2 atmospheric environment research satellites were launched by ----- in its 297th Long March-2D rocket mission ?

- A. China
- B. Pakistan
- C. Saudi Arabia
- D. India

Answer: A. China - First test communication satellite of Hongyan constellation and six Yunhai-2 atmospheric environment research satellites were launched by China in its 297th Long March-2D rocket mission.

10. Who is concurrently accredited as the next Ambassador of India to the Federal Republic of Somalia?

- A. Rahul Chhabra
- B. Suresh Krishnan
- C. Naresh Iyer
- D. Vivek Kumaran

Answer: A. Rahul Chhabra - Rahul Chhabra is concurrently accredited as the next Ambassador of India to the Federal Republic of Somalia.

11. As per a report by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Banks recovered bad loans worth ₹_____ crore in 2017-18.

- A. 40,400
- B. 35,300
- C. 20,200
- D. 55,500

Answer: A. 40,400 - Banks recovered bad loans worth ₹40,400 crore in 2017-18, as per a report by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). The loans were recovered through channels like the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), SARFAESI Act, Debt Recovery Tribunals and Lok Adalats.

12. Prime Minister Narendra Modi renamed Ross Island in Andaman and Nicobar as _____.

- A. Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Island
- B. Shaheed Dweep
- C. Swaraj Dweep
- D. Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Island

Answer: D. Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Island - The Ross Island was renamed as Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Dweep, the Neil Island as Shaheed Dweep and the Havelock Island as Swaraj Dweep.

13. On December 30, 2018, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced renaming of three islands of Andaman and Nicobar archipelago as a tribute to _____.

- A. Indira Priyadarshini Gandhi
- B. Bhagat Singh
- C. Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose
- D. Maulana Abul Kalam Azad

Answer: C. Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose - On December 30, 2018, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced renaming of three islands of Andaman and Nicobar archipelago as a tribute to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.

14. Who is concurrently accredited as the next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Liberia?

- A. Y.K. Sailas Thangal
- B. Henry Serrano Villard
- C. Edwin Allan Lightner
- D. David D. Newsom

Answer: A. Y.K. Sailas Thangal - Y.K. Sailas Thangal is concurrently accredited as the next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Liberia.

15. How many Ashok Chakra recipients are honoured by Keonjhar Police with postage stamps?

- A. 10
- B. 25
- C. 28
- D. 65

Answer: A. 10 - There are 10 Ashok Chakra recipients are honoured by Keonjhar Police with postage stamps.

16. Which entity released guidelines on restructuring of advances to the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)?

- A. RBI
- B. SEBI
- C. NITI Aayog
- D. Ministry of MSME

Answer: A. RBI- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on January 1, 2019 released guidelines on restructuring of advances to the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). The central bank allowed a one-time restructuring of existing debt of up to 25 crore rupees for the MSMEs which have defaulted on payment, however, the loans given to them continue to be classified as standard assets.

17. Who was appointed as the Chief Information Commissioner recently?

- A. Vanaja N. Sarna
- B. Sudhir Bhargava
- C. Neeraj Kumar Gupta
- D. Suresh Chandra

Answer: B. Sudhir Bhargava- Sudhir Bhargava was appointed as the Chief Information Commissioner (CIC), along with four new information commissioners in the central information commission.

18. Prime Minister Narendra Modi renamed three islands of Andaman and Nicobar after which freedom fighter?

- A. Shaheed Bhagat Singh
- B. Lala Lajpat Rai
- C. Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose
- D. Chandrashekhar Azad

Answer: C. Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose- Prime Minister Narendra Modi renamed three islands of Andaman and Nicobar after Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose on December 30, 2018. These three islands are - Ross Island, Neil Island and Havelock Island.

19. Which city will host the Indian Science Congress (ISC) 2019?

- A. Delhi
- B. Mumbai
- C. Ranchi
- D. Jalandhar

Answer: D. Jalandhar- The Indian Science Congress (ISC) 2019 is going to be held from January 3 – 4, 2019 in Jalandhar, Punjab. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the 106th edition of ISC-2019, based on the theme 'Future India: Science and Technology'.

20. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 6th IRRI South Asia Regional Centre (ISARC) in which city?

- A. Varanasi
- B. Ghazipur
- C. Agra
- D. Lucknow

Answer: A. Varanasi- Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently inaugurated the 6th IRRI South Asia Regional Centre (IRRI SARC) at the campus of National Seed Research and Training Center (NSRTC) in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh. The first international Center in the eastern India is expected to play a major role in harnessing and sustaining rice production in the region.

21. Who was sworn in as first Chief Justice of Telangana HC?

- A. Justice T B N Radhakrishnan
- B. Justice Praveen Kumar
- C. Dilip Babasaheb Bhosale
- D. Kalyan Jyoti Sengupta

Answer: A. Justice T B N Radhakrishnan- Justice Thottathil Bhaskaran Nair Radhakrishnan was on January 1, 2018 sworn in as the first Chief Justice of the Telangana High Court. Prior to this, Justice Radhakrishnan had been serving as the Chief Justice of the High Court of Judicature at Hyderabad for both Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.

22. Who was sworn in as the first acting Chief Justice of the independent Andhra Pradesh Court post bifurcation of the state?

- A. Dilip Babasaheb Bhosale
- B. Justice Praveen Kumar
- C. Justice T B N Radhakrishnan
- D. Kalyan Jyoti Sengupta

Answer: B. Justice Praveen Kumar- Justice Praveen Kumar was on January 1, 2018 sworn in as the new acting Chief Justice of the Andhra Pradesh High Court. The oath of the office was administered by the state's Governor ESL Narasimhan.

23. Who was named ICC Women's Cricketer of the Year?

- A. Smriti Mandhana
- B. Poonam Yadav
- C. Mithali Raj
- D. Harmanpreet Kaur

Answer: A. Smriti Mandhana- Smriti Mandhana has been named as Best player of the year, ODI Player of the Year and included in ICC Women's Team of the Year 2018. The cricketer had played a crucial role in India's semi-final appearance at the ICC Women's World T20 in the West Indies.

24. Which two nations formally withdrew from UNESCO with the close of the year 2018?

- A. US, Palestine
- B. Iran, Israel
- C. Israel, US
- D. North Korea, Russia

Answer: C. Israel, US- The United States and its ally Israel officially withdrew from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) with the close of the year 2018. The two nations had announced their intention to quit the international organisation in October 2017, accusing it of anti-Israel bias.

25. Which space agency has launched a new platform to engage students in space science activities?

- A. NASA
- B. CSA

- C. ESA
- D. ISRO

Answer: D. ISRO- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) launched a new platform called 'Samwad with Students' on January 1, 2018 in Bengaluru, as part of its enhanced outreach programme. Through the 'Samwad with Students', ISRO aims to constantly engage youngsters across India in activities concerning space science to capture their scientific temperament.

26. The Cabinet recently approved the merger of Bank of Baroda with which two banks?

- A. Dena Bank and Vijaya Bank
- B. Vijaya Bank and RBL Bank
- C. RBL Bank and IDBI Bank
- D. IDBI Bank and Dena Bank

Answer: A. Dena Bank and Vijaya Bank- The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on January 2, 2019 approved the 'Scheme of Amalgamation' for merger of Bank of Baroda, Vijaya Bank and Dena Bank. The amalgamation will be the first-ever three-way consolidation of banks in India. The merger of Bank of Baroda, Dena Bank and Vijaya Bank was proposed by the Union Finance Ministry on September 17, 2018.

27. Which nation assumed the charge as Non-Permanent Members of UN Security Council on January 1, 2019?

- A. Bolivia
- B. Ethiopia
- C. Kazakhstan
- D. South Africa

Answer: D. South Africa- Five nations, namely, Belgium, Dominican Republic, Germany, Indonesia and South Africa on January 2, 2019 assumed the charge as the Non-Permanent Members of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC).

28. Cabinet recently approved restructuring of National Health Agency as National Health Authority for better implementation of which scheme?

- A. National Health Mission
- B. Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana
- C. Rashtiya Swasthiya Bima Yojana
- D. Janashree Bima Yojana

Answer: B. Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana- The Union Cabinet on January 2, 2019 approved the restructuring of existing National Health Agency as "National Health Authority" for better implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY).

29. The Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) recently hit which mark in January 2019?

- A. 2 crore mark
- B. 4 crore mark
- C. 6 crore mark
- D. 8 crore mark

Answer: C. 6 crore mark- Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu handed over 6 crore LPG connection under Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) to Jasmina Khatoon from Shivpark, Khanpur, Delhi. The Government launched Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana to provide 8 Crore deposit-free LPG connections to women belonging to the Below Poverty Line (BPL) families with a budgetary allocation of Rs. 12800 crore.

30. The India Pharma 2019 & India Medical Device 2019 conferences will be held in which city in February 2019?

- A. New Delhi
- B. Bengaluru
- C. Mumbai
- D. Lucknow

Answer: B. Bengaluru- The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) will be organising the 4th International Conference on Pharmaceutical & Medical Device sector on February 18, 2019 in Bengaluru. The theme for India Pharma 2019 is 'Enabling Quality Affordable Healthcare' and that of India Medical Device 2019 is 'Med-Tech India: Gearing up for Ayushman Bharat'.

31. Which nation ceased to be a member of OPEC from January 1, 2019?

- A. Saudi Arabia
- B. Qatar
- C. Bahrain
- D. Oman

Answer: B. Qatar- Qatar ceased to be a member of the Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries from January 1, 2019. The country had sent an official notification to the OPEC expressing its wish to pull out and to focus on its liquefied natural gas production in December. The decision came amid the ongoing diplomatic and economic blockade imposed on the country by its Persian Gulf neighbours and several Arab states.

32. Jair Bolsonaro took over the Presidential office of which nation on January 1, 2019?

- A. Germany
- B. Armenia
- C. Brazil

D. Mexico

Answer: C. Brazil- Brazil's far-right President Jair Bolsonaro took office on January 1, 2019 and used his inaugural speech to promise to build a "society without discrimination or division". The 63-year-old Bolsonaro is seen as a deeply divisive figure whose racist, homophobic and misogynistic remarks have angered many.

33. Which nation has closed its major immigration detention facilities?

A. Australia

B. Canada

C. Germany

D. United States of America

Answer: A. Australia- The Australian government has announced the closure of two onshore immigration detention facilities. There are approximately 1,250 people currently in Australia's eight remaining immigration detention centers, down from 10,200 in mid-2013.

34. Which city hosted the 106th Indian Science Congress?

A. Jalandhar

B. Jaipur

C. Bhopal

D. Dehradun

Answer: A. Jalandhar - The 106th Indian Science Congress was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Jalandhar, Punjab on January 3, 2019. Speaking at the inauguration ceremony, the Prime Minister called for the invention of new low-cost technologies for the help of farmers.

35. The Union Cabinet approved 'Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2018' to modify the list of people belonging to which community in Arunachal Pradesh?

A. Scheduled Caste

B. Bodo

C. Scheduled Tribes

D. Garo

Answer: C. Scheduled Tribes- The Union Cabinet has approved the introduction of the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2018 in the Parliament for certain amendments in the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950 so as to modify the list of Scheduled Tribes of Arunachal Pradesh.

36. Prime Minister Narendra Modi attended the One District, One Product Regional Summit in _____.

- A. Ghaziabad
- B. Kanpur
- C. Ahmedabad
- D. Varanasi

Answer: D. Varanasi- Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Varanasi and Ghazipur in Uttar Pradesh for one day. He attended the One District, One Product Regional Summit at Deendayal Hastakala Sankul in Varanasi. Here he laid foundation stone for 14 new development projects worth around 98 crores. Also, in the event, loans worth Rs. 2000 crore were disbursed.

37. Who among the following took the command of the Indian Army's Gajraj Corps on 30 December 2018?

- A. Lt Gen Gurbal Singh Sangha
- B. Lt Gen Manoj Pande
- C. Lt Gen Ranbir Singh
- D. Lt Gen Manoj Mukund Naravane

Answer: B. Lt Gen Manoj Pande- The Gajraj Corps (IV Corps) is a military field formation of the Indian Army, created in 1961. Lt Gen Manoj Pande took the command of the Indian Army's Gajraj Corps on 30 December 2018. He replaced Lt Gen Gurbal Singh Sangha. Prior to this, he was the Chief of Staff in Headquarters Southern Command.

38. Name of the Portuguese airline which introduced single-use plastic free flight on 29 December 2018.

- A. White Airways
- B. Orbest
- C. Hi Fly
- D. EuroAtlantic

Answer: C. Hi Fly- Portuguese airline 'Hi Fly' introduced single-use plastic free flight on 29 December 2018. The flight took off from Lisbon to Natale, Brazil, without a single piece of single-use plastic on board. There were no plastic cups, plastic silverware, plastic cocktail stirrer, and plastic food containers.

39. An exhibition titled 'Dandi Yatra' was inaugurated in _____.

- A. Surat
- B. Patna

- C. Kolkata
- D. New Delhi

Answer: D. New Delhi- An exhibition titled 'Dandi Yatra' was inaugurated in New Delhi on 29 December 2018. It was organised by the National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA). The exhibition is part of the celebration of the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. The exhibition showcases the unseen drawings of artist Chhaganlal Jadav and also the masterworks of NGMA's collection of contemporaneous artists.

40. Name the Indian player who became the 1st ever player to take 20 catches in a Test series.

- A. Sadiq Kirmani
- B. Syed Kimani
- C. Naren Tamhane
- D. Rishabh Pant

Answer: D. Rishabh Pant- 21 years old Indian wicket-keeper Rishabh Pant became the 1st ever player to take 20 catches in a Test series by surpassing former cricketers Naren Tamhane and Syed Kirmani who had recorded 19 catches in 1954-55 and 1979-80 respectively. Pant achieved the feat to take 20 catches in just 3 matches whereas Naren Tamhane and Syed Kimani took 19 catches in 6 and 7 matches respectively. Rishabh Pant took 11 catches 6 in first innings and 5 in second innings against Australia in the 3rd Test Match to break the record of fellow wicket-keeper Wriddhiman Saha who took 10 catches in a match.

41. Deen Dayal Veterinary University proposed to set up the first goat fertility lab in the state of _____ under Rastriya Krishi Vikas Yojna at the cost of Rs 22 crore.

- A. Odisha
- B. Jharkhand
- C. Assam
- D. Uttar Pradesh

Answer: D. Uttar Pradesh- The Deen Dayal Veterinary University in Uttar Pradesh proposed to set up the first goat fertility lab in the state under Rastriya Krishi Vikas Yojna at the cost of Rs 22 crore. The University has entered into a contract with Pradeshik cooperative Dairy Federation for marketing. Rastriya Krishi Vikas Yojna or National Agriculture Development Programme is a State Plan Scheme of Additional Central Assistance launched in August 2007 as a part of the 11th Five Year Plan by the Government of India. It aims to achieve 4% annual growth in agriculture through development of Agriculture and its allied sectors.

42. Which of the following pension management software was launched by Narendra Modi for pensioners of telecom department?

- A. System for Authority and Management of Pension
- B. Systematic Allocation of Monthly Pension
- C. Scheme for All-India Management of Pension
- D. System for Automated Management of Pension

Answer: A. System for Authority and Management of Pension- Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Varanasi and Ghazipur in Uttar Pradesh for one day. In Varanasi, he launched the System for Authority and Management of Pension (SAMPANN) software which is developed to ease the problems of pensioners.

43. Which Union Ministry has released a booklet titled "A Handbook for Students on cyber Safety" to inform the school children about the different aspects of cyber safety?

- A. Ministry of Home Affairs
- B. Ministry of Information Technology
- C. Ministry of Women and Child Development
- D. Ministry of Human Resource Development

Answer: A. Ministry of Home Affairs- The Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India has released a booklet titled "A Handbook for Students on cyber Safety" to inform the school children about the different aspects of cyber safety. The booklet aims to create awareness among citizens especially students about cyber threats and provides details about the various safeguards that can be adopted by the children in order to protect themselves from cyber grooming. The booklet also deals with the problem of cyber bullying, identity theft, cyber grooming, email fraud & job fraud and guides the citizens about the various safeguards to avoid such threats.

44. SBI Life Insurance join hands with this bank for bancassurance partnership recently.

- A. Punjab National Bank
- B. Allahabad Bank
- C. Corporation Bank
- D. Andhra Bank

Answer: B. Allahabad Bank- A 'bancassurance' pact was signed between State-owned Allahabad Bank and SBI Life Insurance to sell the policies of the insurer from over 3,238 branches of the Allahabad Bank. The agreement is considered as one of the largest Bancassurance partnerships in the country. The agreement was signed in the presence of Allahabad Bank Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Mallikarjuna Rao and SBI Life MD & CEO Sanjeev Nautiyal.

45. Which state government is going to create a spiritual department)

- A. Assam
- B. Rajasthan

C. Madhya Pradesh

D. Odisha

Answer: C. Madhya Pradesh - The Congress-led Madhya Pradesh Government announced that it is going to create an Adhyatmik Vibhag (spiritual department) by merging several existing department. The proposed Adhyatmik Vibhag (Spiritual Department) going to be formed by merging Dharmik Nyas Evam Dharmasv Department (Religious Trust and Endowment Department), Anand Vibhag (Happiness Department) in addition to the Directorate of Religious Trust and Endowment, Madhya Pradesh Teerth Evam Mela Pradhikaran and Rajya Anand Sansthan. Madhya Pradesh had become the first state in the country to create Happiness Department.

46. Who was appointed the next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Liberia on 28th December 2018?

A. Mayuri Singh

B. Y.K. Sailas Thangal

C. S.K. Sinthya Thomas

D. Manoj Prathap

Answer: B. Y.K. Sailas Thangal- Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Government of India announced that Mr. Y.K. Sailas Thangal who is the ambassador of the India to the Republic of Cote d' Ivoire has been concurrently accredited as the next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Liberia with residence in Abidjan. Y. K. Thangal, IFS Officer of 1996 batch was appointed as the Ambassador of India to Republic of Cote d' Ivoire on 14th September 2018. India is represented in Liberia through its embassy in Abidjan (Ivory Coast) and an active honorary consulate in Capital of Liberia, Monrovia since 1984.

47. Which Asian country has recently submitted its 6th National Report (NR6) to the Convention on Biological Diversity?

A. India

B. Bhutan

C. Malaysia

D. Israel

Answer: A. India- India submitted its Sixth National Report (NR6) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). The report was submitted online to the CBD Secretariat by the Environment Minister, Dr. Harsh Vardhan, during the inaugural session of the 13th National Meeting of the State Biodiversity Boards (SBBs) in New Delhi. With this, India is among the first five countries in the world, the first in Asia and the first among the biodiversity-rich mega diverse countries to have submitted the report. The submission of national reports is a mandatory obligation on parties to international treaties, including the CBD. The NR6 provides an update of progress in achievement of 12 National

Biodiversity Targets (NBT) developed under the convention process in line with the 20 global Aichi biodiversity targets. As per report, the population of the lion has risen from 177 in 1968 to over 520 in 2015 and elephants from 12 thousand in the 1970s to 30 thousand in 2015.

48. Name the Veteran actor who passed away in Canada at the age of 81.

- A. Shakti Kapoor
- B. Kader Khan
- C. Amrish Puri
- D. Johnny Lever

Answer: B. Kader Khan- Veteran actor-writer Kader Khan passed away in Canada at the age of 81. Kader Khan made his acting debut in 1973 with Rajesh Khanna's "Daag" and has featured in over 300 films. He wrote dialogues for over 250 movies. Before becoming an actor he had written dialogues for Randhir Kapoor-Jaya Bachchan's "Jawani Diwani". As a screenwriter, Khan frequently collaborated with Manmohan Desai and Prakash Mehra.

49. High-Level Committee approved an assistance of Rs 1,146.12 crore from the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) to this state, recently.

- A. Tamil Nadu
- B. Maharashtra
- C. Bihar
- D. Rajasthan

Answer: A. Tamil Nadu- The High-Level Committee (HLC) chaired by Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh approved additional assistance of Rs 1,146.12 crore from the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) to Tamil Nadu, which was affected by cyclone 'Gaja' recently. The Central government had released assistance of Rs 353.70 crore from the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) as an interim relief to the state. Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley, Union Minister for Agriculture Radha Mohan Singh and Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog Dr Rajiv Kumar are the members of the HLC.

50. How many Indian-origin women scientists awarded by Australian government under Superstar of STEM initiative?

- A. 8
- B. 5
- C. 3
- D. 4

Answer: C. 3- Three Indian-origin women scientists Onisha Patel, Devika Kamath and Asha Rao are among the 60 Superstars of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics) list awarded by Australian government. Under the initiative, due to gender

gap in STEM courses, the government there is planning to train these scientists for one year to become influencers for female students.

51. Which city is the venue of the 42nd Indian Social Science Congress (ISSC)?

- A. Bhubaneswar
- B. Hyderabad
- C. Kolkata
- D. New Delhi

Answer: A. Bhubaneswar - The 42nd Indian Social Science Congress (ISSC-2018) was inaugurated by Manipur governor Dr Najma Heptulla at KIIT University campus in Bhubaneswar, Odisha on December 27. The theme of the Congress was 'Human Future in Digital Era'. The ISSC is the annual meet of social scientists organised by Indian Social Science Academy (ISSA). It is a multidisciplinary national forum, which promotes integration of Science of Nature-Humans-Society through intra, inter and multi disciplinary appraisal of current research and theory.

52. Which Indian player has been named as the ICC Women's Cricketer of the Year 2018?

- A. Jhulan Goswami
- B. Harmanpreet Kaur
- C. Mithali Raj
- D. Smriti Mandhana

Answer: D. Smriti Mandhana - Stylish left-handed Indian opener, Smriti Mandhana has won the Rachael Heyhoe Flint Award for the ICC Women's Cricketer of the Year and also been named as the ICC Women's ODI Player of the Year. She scored 669 runs at an average of 66.90 in 12 ODIs and 622 runs at a strike-rate of 130.67 in 25 T20Is during the voting period, which ran from 1 January to 31 December 2018. Beside her, Australia's wicketkeeper-batter Alyssa Healy voted ICC T20I Player of the Year. England's Sophie Ecclestone named ICC Emerging Player of the Year. Mandhana is only the second Indian woman to win an ICC award after fast bowler Jhulan Goswami who was named the women's player of the year in 2007.

53. ESAF Small Finance Bank (SFB) has recently got RBI nod to operate as a scheduled bank. The headquarters of ESAF is located at ____?

- A. Thiruvananthapuram
- B. Chennai
- C. Thrissur
- D. Kolkata

Answer: C. Thrissur - As per 2nd schedule of the RBI Act of 1934, the ESAF Small Finance Bank (SFB) Ltd has got approval from Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to operate

as a scheduled bank. This makes ESAF the fifth scheduled bank from Kerala after Federal Bank, South Indian Bank, Catholic Syrian Bank, and Dhanlaxmi Bank. Being a scheduled bank, ESAF can step up resource mobilisation through the issue of certificate of deposits and inter-bank borrowings at competitive rates of interest. The bank can also seek funds from trusts, associations, religious institutions and mutual funds. It will also enable the bank to avail higher refinance facility. It will also assume more responsibility for the implementation of government schemes and Aadhaar enrolment services. ESAF has a presence in urban, semi-urban, rural and unbanked rural areas with a network of 432 banking outlets across 13 States. The headquarters of ESAF is located at Thrissur, Kerala.

54. Who is the newly appointed Chief Information Commissioner (CIC)?

- A. Sudhir Bhargava
- B. Vanaja N. Sarna
- C. Suresh Chandra
- D. Yashwardhan Sinha

Answer: A. Sudhir Bhargava - Sudhir Bhargava, a former Secretary to the Ministry of Social Justice, has taken charge as new Chief Information Commissioner (CIC) on January 1. Beside him, President Ram Nath Kovind has also appointed four new members as Information Commissioners - ex-IFS officer Yashwardhan Kumar Sinha, former IRS officer Vanaja N Sarna, former IAS Neeraj Kumar Gupta and former Law Secretary Suresh Chandra. Now, the only woman in the CIC will be ex-IRS officer Vanaja N. Sarna. The CIC is the highest appeal body under the Right to Information (RTI) Act. The authority deals with grievances related to RTI requests, and has jurisdiction over all central public authorities.

55. Norman Gimbel, the Oscar & Grammy-winning lyricist has passed away. He was from which country?

- A. United States
- B. France
- C. Germany
- D. Italy

Answer: A. United States - Norman Gimbel (91), the Oscar & Grammy-winning American lyricist has passed away in New York on December 17, 2018. His lyrics graced hit songs such as Roberta Flack's "Killing me softly with his song" and Jim Croce's "I got a name". He also wrote the English lyrics to the Brazilian bossa nova melody 'The Girl From Ipanema'.

56. Who has become the first Indian wicket-keeper to claim 20 catches in Test series?

- A. Dinesh Karthik
- B. MS Dhoni

C. Rishabh Pant

D. Ajay Ratna

Answer: C. Rishabh Pant - Rishabh Pant became the first Indian wicket-keeper to claim 20 catches in Test series, during the final day of the 'Boxing Day Test' in Melbourne against Australia on December 30. He surpassed former cricketers Naren Tamhane and Syed Kirmani who had recorded nineteen dismissals in 1954-55 and 1979-80 respectively. Brad Haddin from Australia holds the record for taking most catches in a Test series (29). In 'Boxing Day Test', India beat Australia by 137 runs to take an unassailable 2-1 lead in the four-match series. India took a giant stride towards winning their first ever test series on Australian soil in seven decades.

57. Transgenders can file sexual harassment case under which section of IPC?

A. Section 357A

B. Section 356A

C. Section 354A

D. Section 358A

Answer: C. Section 354A - Recently, the Delhi High Court has ruled that Section 354A of Indian Penal Code (IPC) can be used by transgender persons to register complaints of sexual harassment. The Section 354A of the IPC deals with sexual harassment and punishment for sexual harassment. The development came after a transgender student's complaint of sexual harassment was not entertained by the police. The Delhi University student wanted to lodge a complaint against male students who allegedly sexually harassed her on the college campus. According to the police, there was a lack of an appropriate penal section under which they could register such a complaint. In it, the HC bench also allowed the petitioner to maintain anonymity and directed that the cause title would read, Anamika versus Union of India & Ors. The bench also stated that the Supreme Court's National Legal Services Authority of India (NALSA) judgment of 2014 was gender neutral.

58. Which toll-free helpline has been launched by NHRC to file complaint through CSC?

A. 14433

B. 14432

C. 14434

D. 14435

Answer: A. 14433 - Justice (retd) H L Dattu, the Chairperson of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), has recently launched a toll-free number -- 14433 -- and also a facility to file complaints through Common Service Centre (CSC) at the Manav Adhikar Bhawan, New Delhi. The toll-free number would be available only during the office hours of the NHRC. The commission has shortlisted 750 CSC with at least one each in a district. The service will be expanded to all the CSCs in a phased manner. The NHRC is an autonomous public body constituted on 12th October 1993 under the

Protection of Human Rights Ordinance of 28 September 1993. It is responsible for the protection and promotion of human rights, defined by the Act as "rights relating to life, liberty, equality and dignity of the individual guaranteed by the Constitution or embodied in the International Covenants".

59. Which country has announced 2019 as the 'Year of Active Investment and Social Development' in backdrop of wider business with India?

- A. Kyrgyzstan
- B. Tajikistan
- C. Turkmenistan
- D. Uzbekistan

Answer: D. Uzbekistan - President of Uzbekistan, Shavkat Mirziyoye has recently announced 2019 as the 'Year of Active Investment and Social Development' in the backdrop of proposed investments from India to boost economy of this Central Asian country, in his annual address to the Parliament. The President stated that concrete measures will be taken on creating an open economy, radically improving the business environment and investment climate, reducing the state presence in the economy. Activities on improving the health of the population will continue at a new level. He further stressed that investment was the driver of economy, new technologies, advanced experience and highly qualified specialists come with investments into all sectors and regions.

60. Who is the head of the government committee that suggested AICTE to stop setting up new engineering colleges from 2020?

- A. Bhaskar Ramamurthy
- B. B V R Mohan Reddy
- C. Devang Vipin Khakhar
- D. Partha Pratim Chakraborty

Answer: B. B V R Mohan Reddy - A government committee, headed by IIT-Hyderabad chairman B V R Mohan Reddy, has advised the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) to stop setting up new colleges from 2020 and review the creation of new capacity every two years after that. The panel has also suggested that no additional seats should be approved in traditional engineering areas such as mechanical, electrical, civil and electronics and that institutes should be encouraged to convert current capacity in traditional disciplines to emerging new technologies. This recommendation has been justified on the ground that current capacity utilisation in traditional disciplines is just 40% as opposed to 60% seat occupancy in branches such as computer science and engineering, aerospace engineering and mechatronics. For the same reason, the committee has urged the AICTE to introduce undergraduate

engineering programmes exclusively for artificial intelligence, blockchain, robotics, quantum computing, data sciences, cyber security and 3D printing and design.

61. ISRO has launched which initiative with students to engage them on space science activities?

- A. Space
- B. Sansad
- C. Samwad
- D. Sangrah

Answer: C. Samwad - The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has recently launched Samwad with Students as part of its outreach programme. The Indian Space agency will engage youngsters across the country in activities concerning space science under this programme. The new conversation mission will inspire students cutting across schools and colleges. During the inauguration in Bengaluru, 40 students and 10 teachers from select schools interacted with ISRO Chairman Dr. K Sivan about the Indian Space Programme and their benefits to the common man.

62. Who has taken charge as the first Chief Justice of Telangana High Court?

- A. T B Radhakrishnan
- B. Chagari Praveen Kumar
- C. Sarasa Venkatanarayana Bhatti
- D. Akula Venkata Sesha Sai

Answer: A. T B Radhakrishnan - Justice Thottathil B. Radhakrishnan has taken charge as first Chief Justice of Telangana High Court. Governor ESL Narasimhan administered the oath to him at a ceremony held at Raj Bhavan. The separate High Court for Telangana came into existence on 1st January 2, 2019 after the bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh in 2014. Later, Governor Narasimhan administered oath to Justice Chagari Praveen Kumar as the first Chief Justice of Andhra Pradesh High Court in Vijayawada on the same day. With this, the separate high courts for Telugu states became functional.

63. Which state's women has recently formed 620-km-long 'wall' to uphold gender equality?

- A. Tamil Nadu
- B. Karnataka
- C. Kerala
- D. Odisha

Answer: C. Kerala - In Kerala, around 50 lakhs of women assembled under the aegis of the Left Democratic Front (LDF) to create an almost unbroken human wall that stretched 620 km from Kasaragod in north Kerala to Thiruvananthapuram in the south

on 1st January 2019. Marshalled by the Kerala government and a section of Hindu organisations, the wall was organised against the backdrop of the Supreme Court verdict on Sabarimala. The programme ended with a joint pledge to harness the power of renaissance principles to insulate society against revanchist forces that sought to push Kerala back to the dark ages of casteism and discriminatory religious practices. The event was organised by the ruling CPI(M) along with over 176 other socio-political organisations, including the CPI, Sree Narayana Dharma Paripalana Yogam and the Kerala Pulayar Maha Sabha.

64. Who has been sworn-in as new president of Brazil?

- A. Michel Temer
- B. Fernando Haddad
- C. Jair Bolsonaro
- D. Hamilton Mourao

Answer: C. Jair Bolsonaro - On 1st January 2019, Jair Bolsonaro has been sworn-in as new president of Brazil for a four-year term. He is a member of the Social Liberal Party (PSL) and succeeded Michel Temer. Bolsonaro won the presidential election by a wide margin against Fernando Haddad of the left-wing Workers Party on 28 October 2018.

65. Which of the following countries have officially quit UNESCO?

- A. Russia and Qatar
- B. Japan and UK
- C. United States and Israel
- D. Iran and Qatar

Answer: C. United States and Israel - The United States and Israel officially quit the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) with the close of 2018. The countries had announced their decisions in 2017 of withdrawing from the agency, accusing it of bias against Israel. America has demanded fundamental reform in UNESCO, which was co-founded by it after World War II to foster peace. UNESCO also works to improve education for girls, promote understanding of the Holocaust's horrors, and to defend media freedom. The withdrawals will not greatly impact UNESCO financially since it has been dealing with a funding slash ever since 2011 when both Israel and the US stopped paying dues after Palestine was voted in as a member state. . Israel joined the agency in 1949. It is best known for its World Heritage program, which designates cultural sites and aims to preserve traditions.

66. India has cut import tax on crude palm oil sourced from ASEAN nations from 44% to ___?

- A. 38%

- B. 40%
- C. 42%
- D. 36%

Answer: B. 40% - India has slashed import taxes on crude and refined palm oil sourced from Southeast Asian (ASEAN) countries after a request from suppliers. According to the official notification, the duty on crude palm oil was lowered to 40% from 44%, while the tax on refined palm oil was cut to 45% from 54% if imported from Malaysia and to 50%, if purchased from Indonesia or other member-nations of ASEAN. India imports 60% — 15.5 million tonnes annually — of its edible oil requirements, largely from Malaysia, Indonesia, Argentina and Ukraine. The reduction will lead to higher imports of palm oil by the world's biggest edible oil buyer in coming months as it would narrow the difference between the tropical vegetable oil and competitors such as soyabean oil and sunflower oil.

67. Who is the recipient of the 2019 National Nritya Shiromani Award?

- A. Gudiseva Shyam Prasad
- B. Upmaka Durga Prasad Rao
- C. Talluri Sunil Chowdaryu
- D. Anindita Neogy Anaam

Answer: D. Anindita Neogy Anaam - On January 2, US-based Kathak exponent Anindita Neogy Anaam has been honoured with the National Nritya Shiromani award for promoting the dance form across the world. The award was conferred on her in Cuttack at the 10th Cuttack Mahotsav : International Dance and Music festival in Odisha. The fest is organised by Utkal Yuva Sanskrutik Sangh (UYSS) in association with Cuttack district administration. Anindita Anaam is also recipient of prestigious national awards like Jayadev Rashtriya Puraskar and Bidagdha Nartaki Samman for her outstanding achievement in the preservation and promotion of Indian art in India and abroad.

68. The Union Government has launched Ujjwala sanitary napkin initiative in which of the following states?

- A. Uttar Pradesh
- B. Odisha
- C. Jharkhand
- D. Haryana

Answer: B. Odisha - Union Petroleum Minister Dharmendra Pradhan has recently launched the Ujjwala Sanitary Napkin initiative in Bhubaneswar to improve female hygiene and health and employability of rural women. Under the new initiative, 100 manufacturing units will be set up at Common Service Centres (CSCs) covering 93 blocks in the State at an estimated cost of Rs 2.94 crore. Each manufacturing unit will employ five or six Ujjwala beneficiaries with an aim to provide employment to nearly 600

women across all districts. The women will first receive training in manufacturing and sale of sanitary napkins. Each facility will have the capacity to produce 1200-2000 pads per day and will have a sterilisation room to ensure that the napkins are sterilised before they are packed for use. The sanitary napkins will be priced at Rs 42 per pack of eight pads. This initiative will provide women with an opportunity to earn between Rs 5,000 and Rs 15,000 per month. Thus, the Central scheme will be a counter to the Odisha government's Khushi scheme, in which sanitary napkins are provided free of cost to female students of government and government-aided schools in the state.

69. Fehmarn Belt Fixed Link, which is in news recently, is the proposed tunnel to connect islands of which of the following countries?

- A. Denmark and Germany
- B. France and Italy
- C. UK and Spain
- D. Brazil and Chile

Answer: A. Denmark and Germany - Recently, German authorities approved an \$8 billion rail and road tunnel linking Denmark and Germany, despite environmental objections. The project comprises a four-lane motorway and a two-track railway. It is part-funded by the European Union (EU). The 19 km Fehmarn Belt Fixed Link is a planned immersed tunnel that is proposed to connect the Danish island of Lolland with the German island of Fehmarn. It was due to be completed in 2024, but has been delayed by environmental protests in Germany. The link would cross over the Fehmarn Belt in the Baltic Sea – 18 km wide – hence providing a direct link by railway and highway between northern Germany and Lolland, and thence to the Danish island of Zealand and Copenhagen. Once completed, it will become the world's longest road and rail tunnel, and will open new socio-economic opportunities on both sides of the border.

70. Who has been appointed as new Chairman of the Railway Board?

- A. Satish Jain
- B. Ashish Kumar
- C. Vinod Kumar Yadav
- D. Pooja Badola

Answer: C. Vinod Kumar Yadav- Vinod Kumar Yadav, the South Central Railway (SCR) general manager, has been appointed as Chairman of the Railway Board under the Ministry of Railways and ex-officio Principal Secretary to the Government of India. He succeeded Ashwani Lohani. Yadav led SCR to a creditable performance during his tenure as General Manager. The Zone recorded its best ever financial performance in the fiscal year 2017-18, grossing Rs 13,673 crore of originating earnings. SCR won the highest number of performance efficiency shields (six) among all Zones in 2017-18, thereby earning recognition with the highest honour, Pandit Gobind Vallabh Pant Shield

for overall performance. Commencing his career on Indian Railways as Assistant Electrical Engineer in February 1982, he held several important executive and managerial positions in Indian Railways.

71. Which European country has recently introduced GAFA Tax on Global Internet, Technology Firm?

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

Answer: B. France - France has recently introduced a new "GAFA tax" - named after the large internet and technology companies viz. Google, Apple, Facebook and Amazon - to ensure the global giants pay a fair share of taxes on their massive businesses in Europe. The so-called GAFA tax targeting major digital firms comes into force on 1st January 2019. Some other EU member states such as Britain, Spain and Italy are also working on national versions of a digital tax, with Singapore and India also planning their own schemes.

72. Which Indian bowler has become the highest International Wicket-Taker in 2018?

- A. Mohammed Shami
- B. Kuldeep Yadav
- C. Jasprit Bumrah
- D. Ravichandran Ashwin

Answer: C. Jasprit Bumrah - Indian pacer Jasprit Bumrah has become the highest international wicket-taker all formats in the calendar year 2018. He took 48 wickets in 9 Tests, 22 wickets in 13 ODIs and 8 wickets in 8 T20I matches. Hence, a total of 78 wickets in 2018 was taken by Bumrah. He surpassed South Africa's Kagiso Rabada's tally of 77 wickets to reach the milestone. While on the third position is Bumrah's countryman Kuldeep Yadav who took 76 scalps.

73. What is the theme of the 106th edition of Indian Science Congress (ISC-2019)?

- A. Reaching the Unreached through Science and Technology
- B. Science and Technology for Human Development
- C. Future India: Science & Technology
- D. Innovations in Science & Technology

Answer: C. Future India: Science & Technology- The 106th Indian Science Congress (ISC-2019) has been inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Lovely Professional University (LPU) in Jalandhar, Punjab from 3rd January 2019. The theme of the 5-day science congress is 'Future India: Science & Technology'. Approx 30,000 delegates, including 300 top scientists and Nobel Laureates from across world are

attending the congress. In it, around 100 plus conferences and events of scientific and technology origin will also be held, where eminent personalities from DRDO, ISRO, DST, AIIMS, UGC, AICTE, and many elite universities of the USA, UK, India and other countries will participate. The event will play a pivotal role in stimulating scientific research effort and raising the scientific temperament in the country and the world. There will also be four parallel mega events, including the children's science conference; women's science conference; science communicators' meet; and, science exhibition. The exhibition will see participation from the national and international science companies, especially from the US, Australia, Germany and Switzerland.

74. Recently, the Union cabinet has approved merger of the Vijaya Bank and Dena Bank with Bank of Baroda (BoB). In terms of market value, what would be rank of the combined merger bank?

- A. 1st
- B. 3rd
- C. 4th
- D. 2nd

Answer: B. 3rd - On 2nd January 2019, the Union Cabinet approved the merger of Vijaya Bank and Dena Bank with Bank of Baroda (BoB). With the merger, BoB will become the third largest bank after State Bank of India and ICICI Bank. The move will help create a strong globally competitive bank with economies of scale and enable the realization of wide-ranging synergies, leveraging of networks and low-cost deposits and substantial rise in customer base and operational efficiency. The scheme will come into effect from 1st of April this year. The pay and allowances and services of the employees of all three banks will remain same as earlier. As per the Scheme of Amalgamation, the shareholders of Vijaya Bank will get 402 equity shares of BoB for every 1,000 shares held. In case of Dena Bank, its shareholders will get 110 shares for every 1,000 shares of BoB.

75. The Union Cabinet has approved amendment to which of the following acts to recognize trade unions?

- A. Trade Unions Act of 1935
- B. Trade Unions Act of 1947
- C. Trade Unions Act of 1966
- D. Trade Unions Act of 1926

Answer: D. Trade Unions Act of 1926 -The Union Cabinet has recently approved amendment to the Trade Unions Act of 1926 to make provisions regarding Recognition of Trade Unions. The amendment provides for insertion of section 10A in the principal Act to power centre and state governments to recognize trade unions and federation of Trade Unions at Central as well as State level. The proposed bill will also provides for

insertion of clause (ba) in Section 29(2) of the Act, which empowers the centre and states to make regulations for manner of recognition of trade unions and deciding disputes in this regard. After the amendment Act is passed, the manner of recognition will be prescribed in the regulations. The present act provides for only registration of trade unions. Currently, there is no provision for recognition of unions in the Act.

76. The Veer Savarkar International Airport has recently declared as an authorized Immigration Check post. It is located in which of the following UTs / states?

- A. Daman & Diu
- B. Andaman and Nicobar Islands
- C. Maharashtra
- D. West Bengal

Answer: B. Andaman and Nicobar Islands - The Veer Savarkar International Airport in Port Blair has been declared as an authorized Immigration Check post for entry into/exit from India with valid travel documents for all classes of passengers. It was declared under sub-rule (b) of rule 3 of the Passport (Entry into India) Rules of 1950. This decision of the Union Government will open up the Port Blair Airport for direct international flight and immigration facilities. For this purpose, the Superintendent of Police (CID), Andaman and Nicobar Police has been appointed as the 'Civil Authority' at Port Blair airport for the purpose of the immigration check post. The Andaman and Nicobar Islands is a union territory and comes under the administrative control of the home ministry. Recently, the three islands of the Andaman and Nicobar archipelago have been renamed as a tribute to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose. These are as follows: the Ross Island was renamed as Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Dweep, the Neil Island as Shaheed Dweep and the Havelock Island as Swaraj Dweep.

77. Justice AK Sikri has become the new Executive Chairman of National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) , which of the following is not a function of NALSA?

- A. Speedy disposal of cases
- B. Free legal services to the weaker sections
- C. Organise Lok Adalats
- D. Deals with grievances related to RTI requests

Answer: D. Deals with grievances related to RTI requests - President Ram Nath Kovind nominated Justice AK Sikri as the Executive Chairman of National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) with effect from December 31, 2018. The post got vacant after the retirement of Justice Madan B Lokur. The NALSA was constituted on 5th December 1995 under the authority of the Legal Services Authorities Act 1987. Its purpose is to provide free legal services to the weaker sections of the society and to organise Lok Adalats for amicable settlement of disputes. The Chief Justice of India is

the Patron-in-Chief, while second seniormost judge of Supreme Court of India (SCI) traditionally takes over as the Executive Chairman of the Authority. The prime objective of NALSA is speedy disposal of cases and reducing the burden of judiciary.

78. Who is the head of the RBI panel on MSME revival?

- A. U K Sinha
- B. Ram Mohan Mishra
- C. Bindu Ananth
- D. Abhiman Das

Answer: A. U K Sinha -The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has appointed an 8-member expert committee headed by former SEBI chairman U.K. Sinha to comprehensively review and propose long-term solutions for the economic and financial sustainability of the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector. The MSME sector has been facing stress due to the demonetisation exercise and implementation of GST. The panel would review the current institutional framework in place to support the MSME sector, and examine the factors affecting the timely and adequate availability of finance to the sector. The panel will also review existing MSME-focussed policies and their impact, and study the global best practices with respect to MSMEs and recommend their adoption in India. The committee will submit its report by the end of June 2019.

79. Who has been honoured with the Kabi Samrat Upendra Bhanja National Award for Lifetime Achievement in Literature?

- A. Nabaghana Parida
- B. Suresh Chandra
- C. Yashwardhan Sinha
- D. Manoj Das

Answer: D. Manoj Das - Prof. Manoj Das, an eminent English and Odia Litterateur, received the Kabi Samrat Upendra Bhanja National Award for Lifetime Achievement in Literature. This ceremony was instituted by the Berhampur University, Odisha. During the 53rd foundation day ceremony, the university also honoured noted folk dance guru Nabaghana Parida with Dakshin Odisha Loksankruti Samman.

80. Which state government has launched Krishak Bandhu scheme to address farmers distress?

- A. Odisha
- B. Karnataka
- C. Jharkhand
- D. West Bengal

Answer: D. West Bengal -The West Bengal government has launched Krishak Bandhu scheme to provide financial assistance to farmers and landless labourers. The state

government will give an annual financial assistance (cash dole) of Rs 5,000 per acre in two instalments – one during kharif and another during rabi – for a single crop. Farmers can take the financial assistance at one go too. Farmers can take the financial assistance at one go too. Under the scheme, the state government also announced a life insurance cover of Rs 2, 00,000 in case of death, irrespective of the cause, of an earning family member (farmer) aged between 18 and 60 years. Farmers need not pay any premium for availing this life insurance cover. The registration of farmers and share-croppers under this scheme will start February onwards. Benefits will accrue from January 1, 2019.

81. How many states have achieved 100 percent household electrification under Centre's 'Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana' (Saubhagya), as on 31st December 2018?

- A. 13
- B. 18
- C. 20
- D. 25

Answer: D. 25- On December 31, 2018, the Minister of State (IC) for Power and New & Renewable Energy Shri RK Singh announced that 25 states have achieved 100 percent household electrification under Centre's 'Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana' (Saubhagya). The Government with the support of State Power Departments and DISCOMs have already connected about 2.39 Crore households since launch of scheme. Only about 10.48 Lakh households are left to be electrified in 4 States viz., Assam, Rajasthan, Meghalaya and Chhattisgarh. The highest volume of electrification was done in the State of Uttar Pradesh with 74.4 Lakh willing households being electrified in all of its 75 districts.

82. The Centre has released around _____ rupees since financial year 2015-2016 to bridge the gap between literacy levels of tribal girls and the general female population?

- A. Rs 185 crore
- D. Rs 209 crore
- C. Rs 345 crore
- D. Rs 420 crore

Answer: A. Rs 185 crore - On 02nd January 2019, the Centre has released around Rs 185 crore since financial year 2015-2016 to bridge the gap between literacy levels of tribal girls and the general female population. The scheme, being implemented through voluntary and non-governmental organisations, aims at reducing the dropout rate at the elementary level by creating the required ambience for the education of tribal girls. Minister of State Tribal Affairs Jaswantsinh Bhabhor told the Lok Sabha that the government released Rs 53.29 crore in the 2015-16 fiscal under a scheme for education

of tribal girls in 54 districts where the ST female literacy rate is less than 35 per cent. Rs 65.44 crore was released in financial year 2016-17 under the scheme titled 'Strengthening Education among ST Girls in Low Literacy Districts. The government released Rs 46.28 crore in the 2017-18 fiscal and has so far released Rs 20.36 crore in 2018-19.

83. Where was the 5-day long 'Indian Science Congress (ISC)-2019' inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 3rd January 2019?

- A. Jalandhar, Punjab
- B. Hisar, Haryana
- C. Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh
- D. Panaji, Goa

Answer: A. Jalandhar, Punjab- On January 3, 2018, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 5-day long 'Indian Science Congress (ISC)-2019' that will conclude on January 7, 2018, in Jalandhar, Punjab. It is organized by Lovely Professional University, Punjab. The theme of 106th edition of ISC-2019, is: 'Future India: Science and Technology'.

84. Veer Savarkar International Airport located in _____ has been declared as an authorized Immigration Check post?

- A. Guwahati, Assam
- B. Cuttack, Odisha
- C. Port Blair, Andaman & Nicobar Islands
- D. Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh

Answer : C. Port Blair, Andaman & Nicobar Islands- On January 3, 2019, Information, Public Relations and Tourism Division of Andaman and Nicobar Administration announced that the Veer Savarkar International Airport in Port Blair will be an authorized Immigration Check post. Superintendent of Police (CID), Andaman and Nicobar Police has been appointed as the 'Civil Authority' for the purpose of the immigration check post. This would work as an entry into/exit point from India with valid travel documents for all classes of passengers. This opened up the Port Blair Airport for direct international flight and immigration facilities.

85. Union Cabinet was apprised of the MoU between India and Morocco on cooperation in which field, on 2nd January 2019?

- A. Maritime Defence
- B. Sports
- C. Customs Matters
- D. Cyber Security

Answer : D. Cyber Security- On 2nd January 2019, The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has been apprised of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Morocco on cooperation in the area of Cyber Security. The MoU was signed on 25th September 2018. The MoU will promote cooperation for Exchange of knowledge and experience in detection, resolution and prevention of security-related incidents between India and Morocco. Implementation of the MoU will result in significant mutual benefits in the Cyber Security sector, through institutional and capacity building with Morocco in the field of Cyber Security.

86. Union Cabinet approved the restructuring of existing National Health Agency as _____ for better implementation of Pradhan Mantri – Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY), on 2nd January 2019?

- A. National Health Authority
- B. National Health Board
- C. National Welfare Scheme
- D. National Welfare Authority

Answer: A. National Health Authority- On 2nd January 2019, the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the restructuring of existing National Health Agency as “National Health Authority” for better implementation of Pradhan Mantri – Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY). With this approval, the existing society “National Health Agency” has been dissolved and will be replaced by National Health Authority as an attached office to Ministry of Health & Family Welfare. National Health Authority will be chaired by Union Health Minister to enable the decision making at a faster pace, required for smooth implementation of the scheme. The National Health Authority will have full accountability, authority and mandate to implement the Pradhan Mantri – Jan Arogya Yojana. The proposed National Health Authority will be funded by existing budget that was approved earlier by the Cabinet for the National Health Agency, including costs related to IT, human resources, infrastructure, operational costs etc and no new funds have been approved.

87. Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs allowed inclusion of merchant exporters under Interest Equalisation Scheme (IES) for Pre and Post Shipment Rupee Export Credit by providing them interest subsidy of what percent?

- A. 3 %
- B. 4 %
- C. 6 %
- D. 8 %

Answer: A. 3 % - On 2nd January 2019, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi chaired the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, which gave its approval to the proposal of the Department of Commerce to provide 3 % interest subsidy to merchant exporters, to

enhance liquidity with a view to boost outbound shipments. The Department of Commerce had proposed to include merchant exporters under the Interest Equalisation Scheme (IES) for Pre and Post Shipment Rupee Export Credit by allowing them interest equalisation rate of 3% on all such credit for export of products which are covered under 416 tariff lines identified under the scheme.

88. Union Cabinet approved the continuation of Rastriya Yuva Sashaktikaran Karyakram Scheme for the Period 2017-18 to 2019-2020 with budget outlay of _____ rupees?

- A. Rs.2250 crore
- B. Rs.1160 crore
- C. Rs.4566 crore
- D. Rs.3356 crore

Answer: B. Rs.1160 crore- On 2nd January 2019, the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the continuation of Rastriya Yuva Sashaktikaran Karyakram Scheme for the Period 2017-18 to 2019-2020 with budget outlay of Rs.1160 crore. In consultation with Ministry of Finance and NITI Aayog, eight youth schemes of 12th Five Year Plan period were brought under the umbrella scheme of Rashtriya Yuva Sashaktikaran Karyakram as sub-schemes as part of a rationalization exercise. This helped in achieving better synergies between the Schemes and thereby, improving their effectiveness and helping in achieving better outcomes with the available resources. The Scheme beneficiaries include the youth in the age-group of 15-29 years, in line with the definition of 'youth' in the National Youth Policy, 2014. In case of programme components specifically meant for the adolescents, the age-group is 10-19 years. The eight sub-schemes included Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan, National Youth Corps, National Programme for Youth and Adolescent Development, International Cooperation, Youth Hostels, Assistance to Scouting and Guiding Organizations, National Discipline Scheme and National Young Leaders Programme.

89. Union Cabinet approved amendment to which act to make provisions regarding recognition and giving statutory backing to central and state-level trade unions, on 2nd January 2019?

- A. Factories Act, 1949
- B. Trade Unions Act, 1926
- C. Employee Unions Act, 1951
- D. Employee Welfare Act, 1935

Answer: B. Trade Unions Act, 1926- The Union Cabinet approved amendment to the Trade Unions Act, 1926 to make provisions regarding recognition and giving statutory backing to central and state-level trade unions. The approval of the bill will facilitate recognition of Trade Unions at Central and State level and will ensure that the

nomination of workers' representatives in tripartite bodies by the government will become more transparent. Besides this the bill will check on the arbitrary nomination of workers' representatives by the Government and reduce litigations and industrial unrest. The bill will empower the Centre to frame rules for recognising unions and resolving disputes involving them. Currently there is no statutory provision for either the recognition of a trade union in industry, or the establishment or recognition of a union at the central and state level.

90. Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved the scheme for merger of state-run Vijaya Bank, Dena Bank and _____ on 2nd January 2019, marking the first three-way merger in India's banking sector?

- A. Bank of Baroda
- B. Bank of India
- C. Union Bank of India
- D. Indian Overseas Bank

Answer: A. Bank of Baroda- On 2nd January 2019, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi approved the scheme for the merger of state-run Vijaya Bank, Bank of Baroda(BoB) and Dena Bank, marking the first-ever three-way merger in the country's banking sector. The merger which will come into force on April 1, 2019 will form the third largest bank in the country, after government-owned State Bank of India and private sector lender ICICI. In the merger process, Vijaya Bank and Dena Bank are transferor banks and BoB is the transferee bank. This means that all businesses, assets, rights, titles, claims, licences, approvals and other privileges and all property, all borrowings, liabilities and obligations of Vijaya Bank and Dena Bank will be transferred to Bank of Baroda. The merged bank will have a combined business of Rs 14.82 lakh crore. There will be no impact on the service conditions of the employees and there will be no retrenchment following the merger.

91. The President of which country signed the "Asia Reassurance Initiative Act (ARIA)" into law, on 31st December 2018?

- A. Iran
- B. United States (US)
- C. United Kingdom (UK)
- D. United Arab Emirates (UAE)

Answer: B. United States of America (USA)- On 31st December 2018, President of United States of America (USA), Donald J. Trump signed the "Asia Reassurance Initiative Act (ARIA)" into law. The act establishes a multifaceted U.S. strategy to increase U.S. security, economic interests, and values in the Indo-Pacific region. The

ARIA will authorize \$1.5 billion over a five year period to enhance economic, diplomatic and security cooperation with strategic regional allies. The ARIA Act was introduced into the Senate in April by Senator Cory Gardner, and was co-sponsored by Senators Edward Markey, Marco Rubio, and Ben Cardin. ARIA was passed by the Senate on December 04 2018, and approved by the House on December 12 2018. ARIA draws attention to U.S. relations with China, India, the ten member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), and Northeast Asian allies Japan and South Korea.

92. Reserve Bank of India has set up an expert committee under former SEBI chairman _____ to suggest long-term solutions for the economic and financial sustainability of the MSME sector?

- A. N K Singh
- B. U K Sinha
- C. Rohit Bansal
- D. L K Lakshman

Answer: B. U K Sinha- On 2nd January 2019, the Reserve Bank set up an expert committee under former SEBI chairman U K Sinha to suggest long-term solutions for the economic and financial sustainability of the MSME sector. The eight-member committee will also examine the factors affecting the timely and adequate availability of finance to the sector. The RBI has announced the expert panel on MSMEs after it allowed a one-time restructuring of existing debt of up to 25 crore rupees for the companies which have defaulted on payment but the loans given to them have continued to be classified as standard assets. The restructuring has to be implemented by 31st of March 2020. The expert committee will submit its report by the end of June 2019. The panel will also review the current institutional framework in place to support the MSME sector and study the impact of the recent economic reforms on the sector and “identify the structural problems affecting its growth”.

93. Bharti AXA Life Insurance started delivering policies and renewal premium receipt to customers through which instant messaging platform, on 2nd January 2019?

- A. Snapchat
- B. WhatsApp
- C. Telegram
- D. Instagram

Answer: B. WhatsApp- On 02nd January 2019, private sector insurer Bharti AXA Life Insurance started delivering policies and renewal premium receipt to customers via instant messaging platform WhatsApp as a part of its alternative service option to the policy holders. Bharti AXA Life Insurance, a joint venture between Bharti Enterprises and French Insurance major AXA is one of the first few insurers to provide the option of

policy contract, renewal premium receipts and claim intimation through whatsapp. The Policy contract will be available for download shortly after its issuance.

94. SBI Life Insurance signed a bancassurance pact with _____ bank, aiming to offer a comprehensive financial planning solution to its customers, on 2nd January 2019?

- A. Federal Bank
- B. Syndicate Bank
- C. Canara Bank
- D. Axis Bank

Answer: B. Syndicate Bank- On January 2, 2019, Syndicate Bank and SBI Life Insurance signed a bancassurance pact aiming to offer a comprehensive financial planning solution to its customers. This was signed between: Syndicate Bank MD & CEO, Mrutyunjay Mahapatra and MD and CEO of SBI Life, Sanjeev Nautiyal. Through the pact, Syndicate Bank will provide penetration in the market with its 3,000 branches and SBI Life's diverse range of protection, wealth creation and savings insurance products will be brought to the table to the customers.

95. Name the asset management company (AMC) that has become India's largest AMC after a gap of over two years, as per the latest data of Association of Mutual funds in India (AMFI)?

- A. ICICI Prudential MF
- B. HDFC Mutual Fund
- C. HSBC Mutual Fund
- D. Yes Mutual Fund

Answer: B. HDFC Mutual Fund- On January 3, 2019, as per the latest data of Association of Mutual funds in India (AMFI), HDFC Mutual Fund has surpassed ICICI Prudential MF to become the country's largest asset management company (AMC) after a gap of over two years. As per the data, as of December 2018, HDFC MF managed assets worth Rs 3.35 lakh crore, while those of ICICI Prudential MF stood at Rs 3.08 lakh crore. And consequently, the assets under management (AUM) of HDFC MF have grown over 9 per cent in October-December quarter from the last quarter. Whereas, ICICI Prudential MF's AUM reduced by 0.6 per cent. Among other firms, SBI MF stood at the third slot with AUM of Rs 2.64 lakh crore, followed by Aditya Birla Sun Life MF (Rs 2.42 lakh crore) and Reliance MF (Rs 2.36 lakh crore). Overall, asset base of the country's mutual fund industry was at Rs 23.61 lakh crore at the end of December quarter.

96. India's defence sector received _____ rupees foreign direct investment during 2014-18, as announced by Minister of State for Commerce and Industry C R Chaudhary?

- A. Rs. 1.21 crore

- B. Rs. 2.32 crore
- C. Rs. 4.56 crore
- D. Rs. 3.45 crore

Answer: A. Rs. 1.21 crore- On January 2, 2019, Minister of State for Commerce and Industry C R Chaudhary announced that India's defence sector received Rs 1.21 crore (Rs 12,146,180) foreign direct investment during 2014-18. The break-down of the FDI flows are as follows:

- In 2013-14: defence industries had received USD 0.82 million
- In 2014-15: USD 0.08 million, and
- In 2015-16: USD 0.10 million.
- In 2016-17, the industries had failed to attract any foreign direct investments.
- In 2017-18: USD 10,000 (about Rs 7 lakh) FDI was attracted by the sector.

97. Name the institute that signed a MoU with 7 public sector oil companies for setting up Centre of Excellence in Oil, Gas and Energy, on 2nd January 2019?

- A. Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kharagpur
- B. Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Bombay
- C. National Institute of Technology (NIT), Jalandhar
- D. Madras Institute of Technology (MIT), Madras

Answer: B. Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Bombay- On January 2, 2019, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Bombay and 7 public sector oil companies inked a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for setting up Centre of Excellence in Oil, Gas and Energy. The MoU was signed by heads of:

- Indian Oil Corp (IOC),
- Oil and Natural Gas Corp (ONGC),
- GAIL India Ltd,
- Bharat Petroleum Corp Ltd (BPCL),
- Hindustan Petroleum Corp Ltd (HPCL),
- Oil India Ltd and
- Engineers India Ltd.

98. Indian Oil Corp (IOC), announced commissioning of its first Rs 5,151-crore worth Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) import terminal in _____, on 2nd January 2019?

- A. Ennore, Tamil Nadu
- B. Pune, Maharashtra
- C. Surat, Gujarat
- D. Guwahati, Assam

Answer: A. Ennore, Tamil Nadu- On January 2, 2018, Indian Oil Corp (IOC), the nation's biggest oil firm, announced commissioning of its first Rs 5,151-crore worth Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) import terminal in Ennore, Tamil Nadu. This is the first

LNG import terminal IOC has built on its own and will become operational by the end of January 2019. IOC holds 95 per cent stake in the Ennore LNG import terminal. Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation (TIDCO) has 5 per cent. The firm is also working on laying a 1,385 km natural gas pipeline originating from the Ennore terminal to Nagapattinam in Tamil Nadu via Puducherry. Also, branch pipelines will be laid in Madurai, Tuticorin, and Bengaluru to meet the LNG demand.

99. The Government of India cut import duties on refined and crude palm oil from ASEAN (Association of South-East Asian Nations) to 40 and ____ percent respectively, with effect from 1st January 2019?

- A. 54 %
- B. 45 %
- C. 35 %
- D. 25 %

Answer : B. 45 % - On December 31, 2018, the ministry of finance announced that the government has cut import duties on refined, crude palm oil from ASEAN countries to 40 and 45 percent respectively. This move was taken under the India-ASEAN Free Trade Agreement and Malaysia under the India-Malaysia Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (IMCECA). The duty on crude palm oil from Malaysia, Indonesia and other members of the Association of South East Asian Nations was cut to 40 per cent from 44 per cent. The tax on refined palm oil was cut to 45 per cent from 54 per cent if imported from Malaysia and to 50 per cent, if purchased from Indonesia or other member-nations of ASEAN. The duty cuts were made effective from January 1, 2019. India expects to import 15.5 million tonnes, with 60 per cent from Malaysia and Indonesia, followed by soyabean oil from Argentina and Brazil, sunflower oil from Ukraine and Russia and canola oil from Canada. The effective duty difference between crude and refined palm oil has narrowed to 5.5 percent from 11 percent. This move could hurt the domestic refining industry.

100. Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR) under Commerce Ministry suggested that India will not impose anti-dumping duty on coated paper from European Union, the US and ____, on 3rd January 2019?

- A. China
- B. Japan
- C. Russia
- D. France

Answer: A. China - On January 3, 2019, after the conclusion of its anti-dumping probe, the Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR), under Commerce Ministry suggested that India will not impose anti-dumping duty on coated paper from China, European Union and the US. The probe conducted by the DGTR has not found any

impact on the domestic industry due to the alleged dumped imports. The probe was conducted as per the request of the Indian Paper Manufacturers Association on behalf of BILT Graphics Paper Products, subsidiary of Ballarpur Industries.

101. Name the Pentagon comptroller who was appointed the acting deputy defence secretary of the United States, on 3rd January 2019?

- A. Patrick Shannahan
- B. David Norquist
- C. Frank Gallagher
- D. Jonathan Roosevelt

Answer: B. David Norquist- On January 3, 2019, Pentagon comptroller David Norquist was named acting deputy defence secretary of the United States. He has been the department's chief financial officer and comptroller since May 2017. In addition to that, Deputy Secretary of Defence Patrick Shanahan was appointed to serve as the acting secretary of defence.

102. Robotic probe Chang'e 4 of which country became the first ever spacecraft to land on face of the Moon not seen from the Earth, on 3rd January 2019?

- A. United States of America (USA)
- B. Japan
- C. China
- D. South Korea

Answer: C. China- China National Space Administration's (CNSA) robotic probe, Chang'e 4 has become the first ever to land on face of the Moon not seen from the Earth, on 3rd January 2019. The mission aims to take detailed measurements of the Moon's terrain and mineral composition.

103. Scientists of which institute have developed a simple paper kit that can test freshness of milk and tell how well it has been pasteurized?

- A. Indira Gandhi Institute of Technology (IGIT), New Delhi
- B. Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Guwahati
- C. Indian Institute of Sciences (IISc), Bengaluru
- D. Amrita University, Coimbatore

Answer. B. Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Guwahati- On 01st January 2019, scientists at Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati have developed a simple paper kit that can test freshness of milk and tell how well it has been pasteurized. The kit is sided with smart phone app to ensure that milk is consumed before it turns too sour. The team has prepared a kit by attaching probe discs onto a 2 cm square transparent cellulose acetate film. The probe is then covered with another cellulose acetate film. Colour reaction takes place when milk is injected through a tiny hole in the cover and a smart

phone can be used to get the results. It takes just about 15 minutes to detect raw milk from pasteurized one.

104. Scientists have developed a device named WAND which stands for “Wireless artifact-free neuromodulation device” that works like a Pacemaker for which part of the body?

- A. Heart
- B. Brain
- C. Lungs
- D. Liver

Answer. B. Brain- Scientists have developed a device named WAND which stands for “Wireless artifact-free neuromodulation device” that works like a “Pacemaker for the brain” to monitor the brain’s electrical activity and potentially deliver fine-tuned treatments to patients suffering from diseases like epilepsy and Parkinson’s. The most important feature of the device is that it is both wireless and autonomous, which means when it learns to recognize the signs of tremor or seizures then it can adjust the stimulation parameters on its own to prevent the unwanted movements. The device has custom integrated circuits to record the full signal from both the subtle brain wave and the strong electrical pulses.

105. Tropical Storm Usman hit _____ with heavy rains and triggered deadly landslides, on 29th December 2018?

- A. Vietnam
- B. Thailand
- C. Philippines
- D. Indonesia

Answer: C. Philippines- On December 29, 2018, tropical Storm Usman hit Philippines’ Bicol region in Manila. The tropical depression brought heavy rains and triggered deadly landslides all over the country. The Philippines is affected by 15 to 20 typhoons every year during the rainy season, which usually begins in May or June and concludes in November or December.

106. Name the cricketer who broke Sachin Tendulkar’s record to become the fastest batsman to score 19000 international runs on 3rd January 2019?

- A. Tim Paine
- B. Virat Kohli
- C. Rashid Khan
- D. Jacques Kallis

Answer: B. Virat Kohli- On 3rd January 2019, 30 years old Indian cricket team captain, Virat Kohli broke Sachin Tendulkar’s record to become the fastest batsman to score

19000 international runs on the 1st day of 4th Test Match in Sydney against Australia. Virat Kohli crossed 19000 runs mark in 399 innings whereas Sachin Tendulkar took 432 innings to score 19000 runs. West Indies' Brian Lara and Australia's Ricky Pointing took 433 and 444 innings respectively to score 19000 international runs.

107. Dibyendu Palit passed away on 3rd January 2019. He was a ____?

- A. Politician
- B. Film maker
- C. Actor
- D. Writer

Answer: D. Writer- On January 3, 2019, renowned Bengali writer and Sahitya Akademi awardee Dibyendu Palit passed away at 79. Palit was conferred the Sahitya Akademi for his novel 'Anubhab' in 1998. His first short story 'Chhandopatan' was published in 1955 and his first novel 'Sindhu Baroan' published in 1959. He was awarded the 'Bankim Purashkar' for 'Dheu' in 1990 and 'Ananda Purashkar' in 1984 for 'Sahojodha'.

108. Ramakant Achrekar passed away on 3rd January 2019. He coached which sport?

- A. Hockey
- B. Football
- C. Cricket
- D. Kabaddi

Answer: C. Cricket- On January 3, 2019, 1990 Dronacharya awardee cricket coach Ramakant Achrekar, who coached Cricketer Sachin Tendulkar passed away at 86. Besides Tendulkar, he also coached other prominent players like Vinod Kambli, Pravin Amre, Sameer Dighe and Balwinder Singh Sandhu. Because of his contribution to the sport, he was honoured with Padma Shri in 2010. The Kamath Memorial Cricket Club in Dadar was founded by him.

109. Who has been appointed as Chairman of Ordnance Factory Board (OFB)?

- A. Ajay Jain
- B. Kuldeep Saxena
- C. Hemant Bhargava
- D. Saurabh Kumar

Answer: D. Saurabh Kumar- Saurabh Kumar, a 1982-batch Indian Ordnance Factory Service officer, has taken charge as new Director General of Ordnance Factories (DGOFF) and chairman of the Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) in Kolkata. An expert in the manufacture of ordnance, Kumar was on deputation to the Ministry of Defense as the director of planning and coordination from 2002 to 2009. During this period, he was involved in drafting the Indian offset policy for defence purchases and the 'Make' procedure in the Defence Procurement Procedure of 2003-04. He was also instrumental

in piloting the proposals and obtaining the approval of the government for setting up two new greenfield ordnance factories at Nalanda and Korwa in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh respectively.

110. The 3rd edition of the National Entrepreneurship Awards (NEA) hosted by which Union ministry?

- A. Ministry of Corporate Affairs
- B. Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
- C. Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
- D. Ministry of Human Resource Development

Answer: C. Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship- The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) hosted third edition of the National Entrepreneurship Awards (NEA) in New Delhi on January 4, 2019. The awards aim to recognize and honor outstanding young first-generation entrepreneurs and those who have contributed immensely in building the entrepreneurship ecosystem. Total of 43 awards will be presented this year. These include 39 awards for Young Entrepreneurs in different sectors and four awards for Entrepreneurship Ecosystem Builders. The winners will receive trophy, certificate and cash prizes ranging from Rs. 5 to 10 lakhs. There are special awards for women, persons with disability, scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and entrepreneurs from areas with limited opportunities. The NEA is a platform focused on driving innovation, ushering in a positive change for youth in entrepreneurship across all the industries. The awards will inspire and promote growth of entrepreneurs in India.

111. On which date, the 2018 World Braille Day (WBD) was observed recently?

- A. January 3
- B. January 4
- C. January 2
- D. January 5

Answer: B. January 4 - The World Braille Day (WBD) is observed every year on January 4 to remember the birth anniversary of Louis Braille, the inventor of Braille - for the people with visual disabilities. Louis Braille was born on 4th January 1809 in the town of Coupvray in northern France. At the age of just 3, he lost his both eyes in an accident. This resulted into the invention of the 6 dots- which is popularly known as braille. The day is also observed to raise awareness on the importance of Braille for approximately 1.3 billion people living with some form of distance or near vision impairment. It is a means of realizing fully the human rights of visually-impaired and partially-sighted people, and bringing written language to the forefront as a critical prerequisite for promoting fundamental freedoms. Around the world, 39 million people are blind, and another 253 million have some sort of vision impairment.

112. The Union Cabinet has approved the introduction of a Bill to modify the list of Scheduled Tribes (STs) of Arunachal Pradesh. Which of the following tribes will be included in the list?

- A. Mishmi-Kaman
- B. Idu
- C. Taraon
- D. All of the above

Answer: D. All of the above - The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the introduction of a Bill to modify the list of Scheduled Tribes (STs) of Arunachal Pradesh. Now, the bill - Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2018 - will be introduced in the Parliament for certain amendments in the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950. The bill proposes deletion of the Abor tribe from the state's ST list "as it is the same as Adi" tribe. The bill seeks to include the Mishmi-Kaman (Miju Mishmi), Idu (Mishmi) and Taraon (Digaru Mishmi) tribes in the list. It also proposes inclusion of "Monpa, Memba, Sartang, Sajolong in lieu of the Momba" tribe. The Nocte, Tangsa, Tutsa and Wancho tribes would replace the words "any Naga tribe" in the state's ST list. As there is no tribe called "Khampti", the bill replaces it with "Tai Khamti" on the list.

113. Who has been conferred with ISRS National Geospatial Award for Excellence-2017 (LTA Award)?

- A. Jayanta Kumar Ghosh
- B. Manorhar Reddy
- C. Hardeep Singh Puri
- D. Pon Radhakrishnan

Answer: A. Jayanta Kumar Ghosh- Prof. Jayanta Kumar Ghosh of IIT Roorkee was conferred with ISRS National Geospatial Award for Excellence-2017 (Life Time Achievement Award) at the Space Application Centre in Ahmedabad. He won the award for his contribution towards the development of geospatial science and applications. The award comprised a citation, a medal and Rs 1 lakh. The Indian Society for Remote Sensing (ISRS) is an organization known in the area of space science, remote sensing and geo-spatial technology.

114. Which city is the venue of the 2019 Indian Panorama Film Festival (IPFF)?

- A. Lucknow
- B. Panaji
- C. Pune
- D. New Delhi

Answer: D. New Delhi - The Indian Panorama Film Festival (IPFF) has started at Siri Fort Auditorium II, New Delhi from 4th January. The 10-day Festival is being organized

by the Directorate of Film Festivals, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting (I&B). The directors of the opening feature film 'Olu' and of the opening non-feature film 'Kharvas' viz. Shri Shaji N Karun and Shri Aditya Suhas Jambhale were presented at the inauguration of the fest. All the films selected under the Indian Panorama section in the 49th International Film Festival of India (IFFI-2018) will be screened during the Festival. The entry for the Festival is free and seating is on the first-come-first-served basis.

115. Who has been appointed acting Chairman of LIC?

- A. Sunita Sharma
- B. B Venugopal
- C. Hemant Bhargava
- D. Usha Sangwan

Answer: C. Hemant Bhargava - Hemant Bhargava, the senior-most MD at LIC, has been appointed acting Chairman of LIC. The move comes after VK Sharma retired from the top job at LIC on 31st December 2018. In order to select new chairman and one MD, selection process will be conducted by Banks Board Bureau (BBB) and 8 officials will be interviewed for both the posts on January 4 in Delhi. One MD post was vacant since Usha Sangwan retired on September 30. The top management of LIC consists of chairman and four MDs.

116. CH Lokanath, who passed away recently, was the veteran stage and cine artist of which language?

- A. Tamil
- B. Kannada
- C. Telugu
- D. Odia

Answer: B. Kannada - C. H. Lokanath (91), a noted Indian Kannada language veteran stage and cine artist, has passed away in Bengaluru, Karnataka on 31st December 2018. He had acted in more than 1000 plays and 650 films. He is affectionately addressed as "Uncle Lokanath" or "Uppinakayi" by the industry people. Some of his noted characters he has played are: Galileo in "Galileo", Rajaram in "Aspota", Dr. Faustus in "Dr. Faustus", Dushtabudhi in "Chandrasahsa" and many such plays. His most famous films include "Bhootayyana Maga Ayyu", "Collegu Ranga", "Hosa Neeru" and Mane Mane Kathe. He has even acted in several episodes of Malgudi Days.

117. Which of the following structures has/have been declared as Monuments of national importance in 2018 by Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)?

- A. Neemrana Baori in Rajasthan
- B. Haveli of Agha Khan in Agra
- C. Old High Court Building in Nagpur

D. All of the above

Answer: D. All of the above - The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) declared six structures to the list of monuments of national importance in 2018. These are – the 125-year-old Old High Court Building in Nagpur (Maharashtra), two Mughal-era monuments in Agra — Haveli of Agha Khan and Hathi Khana, the ancient Neemrana Baori in Rajasthan's Alwar district; the Group of Temples at Ranipur Jharail in Odisha's Bolangir district; and the Vishnu Temple in Kotali, Pithoragarh district, Uttarkhand. According to the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act of 1958, an “Ancient Monument means any structure, erection or monument, or any tumulus or place of interment, or any cave, rock-sculpture, inscription or monolith which is of historical, archaeological or artistic interest and which has been in existence for not less than 100 years”. There were 3,686 centrally protected monuments/sites under the ASI in the country; the number has now increased to 3,693. Uttar Pradesh (745 monuments/sites), Karnataka (506) and Tamil Nadu (413) have the highest number of ASI-maintained sites.

118. Who has been appointed as the new Chief Justice of Pakistan?

- A. Asif Saeed Khosa
- B. Nasir-ul-Mulk
- C. Jawwad S. Khawaja
- D. Anwar Zaheer Jamali

Answer: A. Asif Saeed Khosa - On 2 January 2019, President Arif Alvi appointed Justice Asif Saeed Khosa as the new Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP). Khosa will succeed Mian Saqib Nisar on 18th January and will remain at seat till December 20, 2019. The Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) is the head of the court system of Pakistan (the judiciary branch of government) and the chief judge of the Supreme Court of Pakistan. He is responsible for supervising federal judicial policies, and conducting judicial business in the Supreme Court.

119. The tropical cyclone ‘Pabuk’ has recently occurred in which of the following countries?

- A. Thailand
- B. Indonesia
- C. Japan
- D. Mauritius

Answer: A. Thailand - In Thailand, Tropical storm Pabuk caused floods and blackouts leaving nearly 30,000 people in evacuation shelters across the southern part of the country on January 5, 2019. Pabuk packed winds of up to 75km an hour and brought heavy rains and storm surges as it lashed the entire south of the kingdom. It is expected to be the worst storm to hit the region in 30 years. The storm was downgraded to a

depression early today as it moved into the Andaman Sea. Meanwhile, 'yellow' alert has been issued for the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. As per the latest data, no warning has been issued for Odisha but due to cyclonic activities near the Andaman Islands, weather in the eastern Indian state will be cloudy and dry. IMD has predicted heavy rainfall over the Andaman Islands from the evening of January 5. People in the Andaman Islands have been advised to remain in safe places and IMD has advised fishermen to stay out of the sea.

120. The Central Government has given nod for Centre for Classical Language in which city of Kerala?

- A. Aluva
- B. Tirur
- C. Munnar
- D. Guruvayur

Answer: B. Tirur - The Union Ministry of Human Resource Development (HRD) has recently approved the establishment of a Centre for Classical Language at the Thunchath Ezhuthachan Malayalam University in Tirur, Kerala. The Ministry has communicated the decision to the Central Institute of Indian Languages, Mysuru. In view of this, the State government would be required to prepare a detailed project report and sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ministry. The aim of the proposed centre is to study and research and other aspects of Malayalam language & will prove beneficial in implementing various projects for Malayalam language development. The centre would also assist the Malayalam University in its various initiatives.

121. Under the Right to Education (RTE) amendment Bill 2018, which of the following measures is/are taken by the Parliament?

- A. To abolish no-detention policy till class 8
- B. Enable state governments to allow schools to fail students
- C. Provides regular examination in classes V and VIII
- D. All of the above

Answer: D. All of the above - Parliament has passed the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (Amendment) Bill, 2018, with the Rajya Sabha approving it on 3rd January 2019. The bill seeks to amend a law to abolish the 'no detention policy' till Class VIII by enabling state governments to allow schools to fail students. The Lok Sabha had already passed the bill seeking to further amend the Right to Education (RTE) Act of 2009 to abolish the no-detention policy in schools on July 2018. Under the current provisions of the RTE Act, no student can be detained till class 8 and all students are promoted to the next grade. As per the amendment, it would be left to the States to decide whether to continue the no-detention policy. HRD Minister Prakash Javadekar assured the Rajya Sabha that no child will be excluded from school in case

he or she fails. The Bill provides for a regular examination in classes V and VIII and if the child fails, he or she shall be given additional opportunity for re-examination in two months' time.

122. Which country has recently signed Asia Reassurance Initiative Act (ARIA) Into Law?

- A. Russia
- B. United States
- C. China
- D. France

Answer: B. United States - U.S. President Donald J. Trump has recently signed the Asia Reassurance Initiative Act (ARIA) into law. The act seeks to establish a multifaceted U.S. strategy to increase U.S. security, economic interests, and values in the Indo-Pacific region. Specifically, the ARIA authorises a spending of US\$1.5 billion over a five year period to enhance cooperation with America's strategic regional allies in East and Southeast Asia. The act will pave the way to develop a long-term strategic vision and a comprehensive, multifaceted, and principled United States policy for the Indo-Pacific region, and for other purposes. Hence, the act is designed to counter the encroaching influence and growing threat from China, and to reinvigorate US leadership in the region.

123. Which Indian mountaineer has become the world's first female Amputee to scale Antarctica's Highest Peak?

- A. Malavath Purna
- B. Gurmayum Anita Devi
- C. Arunima Sinha
- D. Santosh Yadav

Answer: C. Arunima Sinha- Indian mountaineer Dr. Arunima Sinha has become the world's first female Amputee to scale Antarctica's Highest Peak - Mount Vinson on 4th January 2019. Apart from this, she was also the world's first woman amputee to climb Mount Everest in 2013. Sinha was a national level volleyball player who was pushed from a running train by some robbers in 2011 while she was resisting them. As a result, one of her legs had to be amputated below the knee. Now, her aim is to climb all the continents' highest peaks and hoist the National Flag of India. She has already scaled five peaks — Mt Everest, Mt Kilimanjaro, Mt Ebrus, Mt Kosciuszko and Mt Aconcagua.

124. Which of the following has become the India's largest Asset Management Company (AMC)?

- A. Aditya Birla Sun Life Mutual Fund
- B. SBI Mutual Fund

C. ICICI Prudential MF

D. HDFC Mutual Fund

Answer: D. HDFC Mutual Fund - HDFC Mutual Fund has surpassed ICICI Prudential MF to become the India's largest Asset Management Company (AMC). As per the latest data available with Association of Mutual funds in India (Amfi), HDFC MF manages assets worth Rs 3.35 lakh crore, while ICICI Prudential MF stood at Rs 3.08 lakh crore as of December 2018. MFs are investment vehicles made up of a pool of funds collected from a large number of investors and invest in stocks, bonds and money market instruments, among others.

125. Which Indian organisation has allowed custodial services in commodity market?

A. RBI

B. SEBI

C. IRDA

D. SIDBI

Answer: B. SEBI - Markets regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has recently allowed custodial services in the commodity derivatives market. Under the new framework, existing custodians will be permitted to add commodities as an asset class and provide physical delivery of both the securities and commodities. Currently, the regulation on the custodian of securities provides safekeeping of securities, gold or gold related instruments, title deeds of real estate and incidental services. However, it is not applicable for protection of goods, which are underlying assets of commodity derivatives. To enable participation of institutional investors in commodity derivatives market, the regulator has made necessary amendments in the custodian regulations so as to provide for requisite custodial services. The responsibility of custodians will not be limited to holding of securities but would also include holding of goods. The move is aimed at enabling the participation of institutional investors such as mutual funds and portfolio managers in the commodity derivatives market.

126. Dibyendu Palit, who passed away recently, was the renowned writer of which language?

A. Bengali

B. Urdu

C. Tamil

D. Malayalam

Answer: A. Bengali - Dibyendu Palit (79), the renowned Bengali writer and Sahitya Akademi awardee, has passed away in Kolkata, West Bengal on 3rd January 2019. Born in Bhagalpur in Bihar in 1939, Palit had studied comparative literature in Jadavpur University and his first short story 'Chhandopatan' was published in 1955 in the Sunday edition of Anandabazar Patrika. It was followed by his first novel 'Sindhu Baroan'

published in 1959. He was awarded the 'Bankim Purashkar' for 'Dheu' in 1990 and 'Ananda Purashkar' in 1984 for 'Sahojoddha'. He was conferred the Sahitya Akademi for his novel 'Anubhab' in 1998.

127. The Global Healthcare Summit (GHS) 2019 will be held in which of the following cities?

- A. New Delhi
- B. Hyderabad
- C. Cuttack
- D. Indore

Answer: B. Hyderabad - The 13th edition of Global Healthcare Summit (GHS-2019) will be held in Hyderabad, Telangana from July 21 to 24. The summit is being organized in partnership with the Global Association of Physicians of Indian Origin. It would have over a 100 speakers, who would share their expertise on clinical practice. The summit would have an international research competition for which the American Association of Physicians with Indian Origin (AAPI) would work in collaboration with a leading academic medical college in Hyderabad. The competition would be for medical students, residents, fellows and junior doctors. It would have five categories for abstract submission, including basic sciences, hospital administration, innovation, AYUSH and clinical science and patient-based research. A medical quiz competition for medical students would also be held during the summit. Winners would be given Rs. 5 lakh, Rs. 3 lakh and Rs. 1 lakh for first, second and third prizes respectively. More than 500 physicians are expected to attend the summit.

128. Which city is the venue of the 80th National Table Tennis Championship 2019?

- A. New Delhi
- B. Cuttack
- C. Hyderabad
- D. Kochi

Answer: B. Cuttack - The 80th National Table Tennis Championship began at Jawaharlal Nehru Indoor Stadium in Cuttack on January 4, 2019. As many as 35 teams, including 550 players from different parts of the country are participating in the mega championship. Medal winners at Commonwealth Games and Asian Games Manika Batra, Senior players like Sharath Kamal, Madhuriba Patkar, Olympian Ankita Das are some of the key players who will be in the limelight during the event. Odisha State Table Tennis Association (OSTTA) is hosting the championships after a gap of 18 years. The event will conclude on January 9.

129. The Union Cabinet has recently approved a reservation at what percentage for 'economically backward' upper castes in government jobs?

- A. 5%
- B. 10%
- C. 6%
- D. 15%

Answer: D. 10% - The Union cabinet has recently approved a 10% reservation in educational institutions and government jobs for economically backward sections in the general category. The constitutional amendment bill will be tabled in Parliament on 8th January 2019, the last day of the Winter Session. The proposed reservation will be over and above the existing 50% reservation enjoyed by the Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs) and the Other Backward Classes (OBCs), taking the total reservation to 60%. For this, the government will amend Articles 15 and 16 - which are on discrimination and equal opportunity - of the Constitution to implement it. Among the major castes to benefit from the proposed law are Brahmins, Rajputs (Thakurs), Jats, Marathas, Bhumihars, several trading castes, Kapus and Kammas among other upper castes. It would also benefit the poor in other religions. The move is being seen as a step to consolidate upper caste votes just ahead of the general elections. Most Opposition parties called it an election gimmick but are not likely to oppose it.

130. Which Indian organization has recently signed MoU with SAMEER for research in Communication Navigation and Surveillance (CNS)?

- A. DRDO
- B. ISRO
- C. AAI
- D. BARC

Answer: C. AAI - The Airports Authority of India (AAI) has signed MoU with Society for Applied Microwave Electronics Engineering and Research (SAMEER) for joint research programs in the field of Communication Navigation and Surveillance (CNS). The SAMEER is an autonomous Research and Development (R & D) institute under MeitY. The MoU will provide a platform for Collaborative Research for both the Organizations to work together. Both the organizations will strive to arrive at a beneficial solution for CNS Systems related R and D activities in the country. The MoU will also provide for the transfer of skill by SAMEER experts in the areas of Radio Frequency, Millimetre Wave and Antenna-related solutions to AAI domain experts; while on the other hand, it will pave way for exposure for the SAMEER researchers to the challenging Aviation field.

131. Who is the head of task force to look into suicides of JNV students?

- A. Jitendra Nagpal
- B. Piyush Bindra
- C. K S Jain
- D. Preeti Juneza

Answer: A. Jitendra Nagpal - The Union Human Resource Development (HRD) Ministry has constituted the Task Force to look into the issues of suicides of the students in Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas (JNU). Under the Chairmanship of Psychiatrist - Dr Jitendra Nagpal, the task force will look into the circumstances leading to the suicidal deaths of students residing in the hostels of Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas residential schools. It will also suggest ways and means to arrest the trend of suicides by students. Besides, the Ministry has sent a proposal to engage two full time counselors (one male and one female) in each of the 630 functional JNVs to the Department of Expenditure for approval.

132. Who is the recipient of the Ramnath Goenka Excellence in Journalism Award for Investigative Reporting (Print category)?

- A. Sandhya Ravishankar
- B. Anand Kumar Patel
- C. S Vijay Kumar
- D. Sushant Kumar Singh

Answer: C. S Vijay Kumar - S. Vijay Kumar, Senior Deputy Editor with The Hindu in Chennai, was presented the Ramnath Goenka Excellence in Journalism Award for Investigative Reporting (Print category) for his reports on how taxmen alerted officials about payoffs in the Tamil Nadu gutka scam – but were ignored. The award was presented by Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh at a ceremony in New Delhi on January 7. The award for Investigative Reporting in the broadcast category was won by Anand Kumar Patel of India Today TV. The awards for Political Reporting went to Brajesh Rajput of ABP News Network and Sushant Kumar Singh of the Indian Express. The award in the Environmental Reporting category were presented to Sushil Chandra Bahuguna of NDTV and Sandhya Ravishankar of the online magazine The Wire.

133. Which country's team has clinched the 2019 Hopman Cup title?

- A. Germany
- B. Switzerland
- C. France
- D. England

Answer: B. Switzerland - The Swiss team of Roger Federer and Belinda Bencic has won the 31st edition of the Hopman Cup tournament 2019 in Perth, Australia. They defeated German team of Alexander Zverev and Angelique Kerber 4-0 1-4 4-3 (5-4) in the deciding mixed doubles final. Twenty-time Grand Slam champion Federer is the first player to win three Hopman Cups - twice with Bencic and once with Martina Hingis, in 2001. Beside this, Switzerland became the first team to defend the Hopman Cup. It has been reported that the Hopman Cup will be replaced by an ATP tournament from next year.

134. Which city is the venue of the 2nd edition of Khelo India Youth Games 2019?

- A. New Delhi
- B. Kolkata
- C. Pune
- D. Lucknow

Answer: C. Pune - In Maharashtra, the 2nd edition of Khelo India Youth Games 2019 will be held in Pune, known as the city of students on January 9. It has already been announced that Youth Olympic Gold Medallist in shooting Manu Bhaker and Saurabh Chaudhari, as well as weight lifter Jeremy Lalrinnunga will be among the cream of India's youth sporting talent competing at these games. Three 10-year-old athletes including footballer Pratima Kumar from Jharkhand, hockey player Lalitlanchhungi from Mizoram and West Bengal's 10m air rifle shooter Abhinav Shaw, will pick up their first experience of competing in a large-scale multi-discipline event.

135. The Union Government has amalgamated which of the following Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) into a single RRB?

- A. Punjab Gramin Bank and Sarva UP Gramin Bank
- B. Malwa Gramin Bank and Allahabad UP Gramin Bank
- C. Sarva UP Gramin Bank and Gramin Bank of Aryavart
- D. Punjab Gramin Bank, Malwa Gramin Bank and Sutelej Gramin Bank

Answer: D. Punjab Gramin Bank, Malwa Gramin Bank and Sutelej Gramin Bank - The Government of India (GoI) has amalgamated three Regional Rural Banks (RRB) -- Punjab Gramin Bank, Malwa Gramin Bank and Sutelej Gramin Bank -- into a single RRB with effect from January 1. The sponsor banks of the RRBs are National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), the Government of Punjab and Punjab National Bank (PNB), State Bank of India (SBI) and Punjab and Sind Bank.

136. Which Indian origin personality has joined IMF as its first female Chief Economist?

- A. K S Chithra
- B. Shobhana Bhartia
- C. Gita Gopinath
- D. Padmasree Warrior

Answer: C. Gita Gopinath - Prof. Gita Gopinath, the John Zwaanstra professor of International Studies and Economics at Harvard University, has joined International Monetary Fund (IMF) as its first female Chief Economist. The 11th chief economist of the IMF, Gopinath succeeded Maurice (Maury) Obstfeld as Economic Counsellor and Director of the IMF's Research Department. With this, Gopinath became the 2nd Indian after former RBI Governor Raghuram Rajan to be appointed to the position.

137. Which city is the venue of the All India Radio National Poets Conference 2019?

- A. Chennai
- B. Kolkata
- C. New Delhi
- D. Kochi

Answer: A. Chennai - The All India Radio National Poets Conference will be held in Chennai on January 10, 2019. It will be inaugurated by the Tamil Nadu Governor Bunwarilal Purohit. This is the first time the city would be hosting the Sarva Basha Kavi Sammelan since its launch in 1956. In it, 22 poets representing as many languages included in the eighth schedule of the Constitution would be presenting their poems. Scholars in Hindi and Tamil will present the translated version of the poems in the Conference itself. The programme will be aired on the 25th of this month.

138. The Personal Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2018 has struck out which disease as a ground for seeking a divorce?

- A. HIV
- B. Leprosy
- C. Asthma
- D. Cancer

Answer: B. Leprosy - On January 7, the Lok Sabha passed 'The Personal Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2018', which seeks removal of leprosy as a ground for divorce from various Acts governing marriage in India. The Bill seeks to amend five Acts: the Divorce Act of 1869, the Dissolution of Muslim Marriage Act of 1939, the Special Marriage Act of 1954, the Hindu Marriage Act of 1955, and the Hindu Adoptions and Maintenance Act of 1956. Presently, leprosy is completely curable and can be treated with multi-drug therapy. However, old legislative provisions discriminating the persons affected by leprosy continued in various laws. If passed by Rajya Sabha and eventually made an Act, the Bill will go a long way in detaching the social stigma associated with the disease.

139. Which of the following allowed tokenization of debit, credit and prepaid card transactions to enhance the safety of digital payments ecosystem in India?

- A. Ministry of Finance
- B. SEBI
- C. RBI
- D. NPCI

Answer: C. RBI - The Reserve Bank of India has allowed tokenization of debit, credit and prepaid card transactions to enhance the safety of the digital payments ecosystem in the country. The central bank has allowed card schemes like Visa, Mastercard and others to start issuing tokens for third party payment applications as well. "Tokenisation and de-tokenisation" shall be performed only by the authorized card network and

recovery of original Permanent Account Number (PAN) should be feasible for the authorized card network only. Tokenisation acts as an additional layer of security as it masks sensitive card data such as the 16-digit Account Number, expiration date and security code.

140. Who among the following was conferred with the ICSI Lifetime Award?

- A. Nadar
- B. Adi Godrej
- C. Kumar Mangalam Birla
- D. Uday Kotak

Answer: B. Adi Godrej - Industrialist and Godrej Group Chairman Adi Godrej was conferred the ICSIs Lifetime Achievement Award for 'Translating Excellence in Corporate Governance into Reality'.

141. Which city is the venue of the 4th Edition Of Raisina Dialogue?

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

Answer: B. New Delhi - On 8th January 2019, the 4th edition of the Raisina Dialogue started in New Delhi with theme "A World Reorder: New Geometries; Fluid Partnerships; Uncertain Outcomes". The 3-day Raisina Dialogue is India's flagship annual geopolitical and geostrategic conference. The Dialogue brought together over 600 delegates from 93 countries, including influential political leaders, strategic thinkers, policy practitioners, technology innovators, business representatives and academics on a common platform where they will offer their vision and propose solutions that will serve all in the decades ahead. The discussions will seek to address issues arising from ongoing global transitions and changes to the world order, triggered by unique leaders, innovative partnerships and new technologies.

142. What is the theme of the first-ever Global Aviation Summit (GAS-2019)?

- A. Flying for all
- B. Flying for Peace
- C. Flying for Harmony
- D. Flying for Brotherhood

Answer: A. Flying for all - The first-ever Global Aviation Summit (GAS-2019) with the theme "Flying for all" is scheduled to be held in Mumbai from January 15-16, 2019. Organised by the Ministry of Civil Aviation along with FICCI, the GAS-2019 will discuss how to ride this strong tailwind of growth and pave the way forward for the aviation sector. It will provide a platform to the aviation fraternity to showcase the challenges in

newly developing growth spots and understand how technology-driver innovations will change air travel in future. The summit is supported by International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), Federal Aviation Administration of US (FAA), International Air Transport Association (IATA), Civil Air Navigation Services Organisation (CANSO), Airports Council International (ACI) and Association of Asia Pacific Airlines (AAPA).

143. Who has been appointed the new Director-General of Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB)?

- A. Kumar Rajesh Chandra
- B. Alok Verma
- C. Vivek Tyagi
- D. P S Mukherjee

Answer: A. Kumar Rajesh Chandra - Kumar Rajesh Chandra, A 1985 batch IPS officer, has been appointed the new Director-General of Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) and will hold the post till 31st December 2021 i.e. date of his retirement on superannuation or until further orders. He succeeded S.S. Deswal. Prior to this post, Chandra was DG at Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS). The SSB is one of Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) of India and is currently under the administrative control of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA). Its headquarters is located at New Delhi and its motto is 'Service, Security and Brotherhood'.

144. Who has become the first monarch of Malaysia to resign before completing tenure?

- A. Abdul Halim
- B. Ismail Petra
- C. Nasiruddin Shah
- D. Muhammad V

Answer: D. Muhammad V - The Malaysian King, Sultan Muhammad V has become the Malaysia's first monarch to step down from the throne before completing his five-year tenure on 6th January 2019. No reason was given and palace officials did not respond to requests for comment. Malaysia is the only country in the world to have a rotational monarchy, in place since the country became independent from Britain in 1957. Here, the king assumes a largely ceremonial role, his assent is needed for the appointment of a prime minister and various other senior officials. The country has nine royal households, who typically take turns to sit on the throne. The selection of the next king can be decided by a vote in the Council of Rulers, made up of all nine royal households.

145. Which grading index has been introduced by HRD Ministry to assess quality of school education in states?

- A. 60-point

- B. 75-point
- C. 70-point
- D. 80-point

Answer: C. 70- point - The Ministry of Human Resource Development (HRD) has introduced a 70-point grading index to assess the quality of school education offered by states. Here, the states will be marked out of 1,000 scores on 70 parameters to assess quality of education. The move will reportedly provide a correct picture of each state's performance. The minister has also ensured that there will be fair competition to improve upon each other's performances. The school curriculum will also be reviewed to ensure holistic education in which there will be time for physical education, value education, life skill education and experiential learning

146. On which date, the 2019 Non-Resident Indian Day is observed recently?

- A. January 8
- B. January 9
- C. January 6
- D. January 7

Answer: B. January 9 -The Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD), also known as Non-Resident Indian Day, is observed every year on 9th of January to mark the contribution of the overseas Indian community towards the development of India. The day commemorates the return of Mahatma Gandhi from South Africa to Mumbai on 9 January 1915.

147. Who is the head of the RBI panel on digital payments?

- A. Aruna Sharma
- B. H R Khan
- C. Nandan Nilekani
- D. Kishore Sansi

Answer: C. Nandan Nilekani - The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has appointed a 5-member committee headed by Nandan Nilekani to suggest ways to improve digital payments. The committee will review the existing status of digitisation of payments in the country, identify the current gaps in the ecosystem and suggest ways to bridge them and assess the current levels of digital payments in financial inclusion. It will also suggest measures to strengthen the safety and security of digital payments and provide a road map for increasing customer confidence and trust while accessing financial services through digital modes. Further, it will suggest a medium-term strategy for deepening of digital payments and other related items. The committee will submit its report in 90 days from its first meeting.

148. Which Indian pavilion has won the 'Exhibitor of the Year Award' at 106th Indian Science Congress (ISC-2019)?

- A. DRDO
- B. ISRO
- C. BARC
- D. VSSC

Answer: A. DRDO - The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) pavilion received 'Exhibitor of the Year Award' at 106th Indian Science Congress (ISC-2019) held at Lovely Professional University (LPU), Phagwara, Punjab. The pavilion narrated the saga of self-reliance & national pride with the 'Make in India' spirit, which gained a lot of attention from visitors who also got an opportunity to interact with DRDO's scientists. The DRDO also showcased various Life Sciences Products like Portable Chemical Agent Detector, Full body protector for women, underwater breathing apparatus for T-90 tank crew and Ready-to-Eat Packaged Foods. Further, the DRDO pavilion also provided information on the pan India online competition, 'Kalam's Vision; Dare to Dream'.

149. The Indian economy is expected to grow at how much percentage in FY19, as per latest estimate of Central Statistics Office (CSO)?

- A. 7.5%
- B. 7.4%
- C. 7.6%
- D. 7.2%

Answer: D. 7.2% - The Central Statistics Office (CSO) has recently released the First advance estimates of National Income for the current fiscal FY 19, under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. In it, Indian economy is expected to grow at 7.2% in FY19, against 6.7% in FY18, due to improvement in the performance of agriculture and manufacturing sectors. However, the CSO estimate is a bit lower than 7.4% growth projected by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for the current fiscal. According to the estimates, farm sector is set to grow at 3.8% against 3.4% last year, at constant or inflation-adjusted prices. At current prices, the sector expected to grow at an identical 3.8%, which could be emblematic of an agri-commodity price crash across wholesale mandis.

150. Which city is the venue of the 6th Women Of India Organic Festival 2019?

- A. New Delhi
- B. Bhopal
- C. Hyderabad
- D. Chandigarh

Answer: D. Chandigarh - The 6th 'Women of India Organic Festival 2019 will be hosted by Ministry of Women and Child Development (WCD) at Leisure Valley in Chandigarh from 12th to 14th January to celebrate and promote women farmers and entrepreneurs in the organic sector from the remotest parts of India. The purpose of the festival is to encourage Indian women entrepreneurs and farmers to connect with more buyers and thus, empower them through financial inclusion, while promoting organic culture in India. Over 100 women are coming together at Leisure Valley, which will become the epicentre of an organic extravaganza. The Festival will showcase over 1,000 varied organic products, including fabric, wellness, grains, seeds, jewellery, bakery items and a lot more.

151. What is the India's GDP forecast for FY19, as per World Bank's 2019 Global Economic Prospects report?

- A. 7.5%
- B. 7.4%
- C. 7.3%
- D. 7.2%

Answer: C. 7.3% - The World Bank has recently released 2019 Global Economic Prospects report titled "Darkening Skies", which forecasted that India's GDP is expected to grow at 7.3% in the fiscal year 2018-19, and 7.5% in the following two years. While, China's economic growth is projected to slow down to 6.2% each in 2019 and 2020 and 6% in 2021. It said India will continue to be the fastest growing major economy in the world. The World Bank said in its latest report that in India, the growth has accelerated, driven by an upswing in consumption, and investment growth has firmed as the effects of temporary factors wane. Domestic demand has strengthened as the benefits of structural reforms such as the Goods and Services Tax (GST) harmonisation and bank recapitalisation take effect.

152. The controversial Citizenship (Amendment) Bill 2019 seeks to provide Indian citizenship to non-Muslims from which of the following countries?

- A. Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan
- B. Myanmar, Bangladesh and Afghanistan
- C. Afghanistan, Pakistan and Myanmar
- D. Myanmar, Pakistan and Bangladesh

Answer: A. Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan -On January 8, the Lok Sabha has passed the controversial Citizenship (Amendment) Bill 2019 that seeks to provide Indian citizenship to non-Muslims from Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan. It will pave way for the religious minorities --the Hindus, Jains, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists and Parsis -- from these countries to get Indian citizenship. According to Union Home Ministry, the purpose of the bill is to provide Indian citizenship to those who had been forced to seek shelter in India because of religious persecution or fear of persecution in

their home countries. The Bill provides for Indian citizenship to such immigrants after six years of residence in India instead of 12 years currently. The bill will apply to all States and Union Territories of the country and the beneficiaries of Citizenship Amendment Bill will be able to reside in any state of the country. Hence, the Bill seeks to amend the Citizenship Act of 1955 to make illegal immigrants from these countries eligible for Indian citizenship. The bill will now be tabled in the Rajya Sabha for discussion.

153. Who has become first Indian to head Global Solar Council (GSC)?

- A. Kirti Ranjan
- B. Pranav R Mehta
- C. Mayur A Seth
- D. Naveen Kumar

Answer: B. Pranav R Mehta - Pranav R Mehta has become the first Indian to head the Global Solar Council (GSC) on 01 January 2019. He is a visionary in the field of Solar Energy and the chairman of National Solar Energy Federation of India (NSEFI). The GSC, founded in 2015, is an international non-profit association of the national, regional and international associations in solar energy and the world's leading corporations. It is headquartered at Washington D.C., USA. The NSEFI is an umbrella organization of all solar energy stakeholders of India. This apex solar organization works in the area of policy advocacy and is a national platform for addressing all issues connected with solar energy growth in India.

154. Which country has been named as the host of 2019 Africa Cup of Nations?

- A. Cameroon
- B. Egypt
- C. Morocco
- D. Ivory Coast

Answer: B. Egypt - The 2019 Africa Cup of Nations will be hosted by Egypt between 15th June and 13th July, after original host nation Cameroon was stripped of due to delays in preparations and concerns over security. The Confederation of African Football (CAF) President Ahmad Ahmad has recently made the announcement in Senegalese capital Dakar. With this, the North African nation will host the competition for the fifth time and it will be the first time 24 teams will take part. It will use 8 stadiums during the tournament, hosting in five different cities: Alexandria, Ismailia, Port Said, Suez and the capital Cairo.

155. The Union Government has launched the Web- Wonder Women campaign in collaboration with which human rights organization?

- A. Breakthrough India
- B. OYSS Women

C. Nirbhaya Vahini

D. CARE India

Answer: A. Breakthrough India -On 9th January, the Union Ministry of Women and Child Development (WCD) has launched an online campaign, '#www : Web-WonderWomen'. The purpose of the campaign is to discover and celebrate the exceptional achievements of women, who have been driving positive agenda of social change via social media. The Ministry in collaboration with Twitter India and Breakthrough India (a human rights organization) has started this campaign. It aims to recognize the fortitude of Indian women stalwarts from across the globe who have used the power of social media to run positive & niche campaigns to steer a change in society. This Campaign will recognize and acknowledge the efforts of these meritorious Women. The Campaign invites entries from across the world till 31st of January 2019. Indian-origin women, working or settled anywhere in the world, are eligible for nomination. The shortlisted entries will be open for public voting on Twitter and the finalists will be selected by a specialized panel of judges.

156. Gangajal Project, which is in news recently, is launched in which of the following cities?

A. Patna

B. Kanpur

C. Agra

D. Haridwar

Answer: C. Agra - On 9th January 2019, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched a series of development projects worth Rs. 2900 Crores for the Agra city and the adjoining areas during his second visit to the city. He launched Gangajal project, which will provide Agra with better and more assured water supply. The aim of the Gangajal project is to bring 140 cusecs of Ganga water to Agra. This will help meet the drinking water demands in the city. He also laid the foundation stone for an Integrated Command and Control Centre (ICCC) for the Agra Smart City project. In this project CCTVs will be installed throughout Agra City for monitoring and surveillance for the purpose of safety and security. The smart city project is meant to develop the tourism destination as a modern world-class city. Besides, the SN Medical College in Agra will be upgraded with a 100-bed maternity wing. During his first visit in November 2016, he had launched a housing project, the PM Awas Yojana (Gramin). Under this scheme, 65 lakh houses have been constructed so far, including 9.2 lakh in Uttar Pradesh.

157. India's longest single-lane steel cable suspension bridge has opened in which of the following states?

A. Himachal Pradesh

B. Arunachal Pradesh

- C. Odisha
- D. Gujarat

Answer: B. Arunachal Pradesh - Chief Minister Pema Khandu has recently inaugurated India's longest 300-meter single-lane steel cable suspension bridge over River Siang in Upper Siang district of Arunachal Pradesh, which borders China. The suspension bridge - also known as Byorung bridge - was built at a cost of Rs 4,843 crore and funded by the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) under Non Lapsable Central Pool of Resources (NLCPR) scheme. It will reduce the distance from Yingkiong to Tuting town by almost 40 km. The earlier road length was 192 km. The Byorung bridge will benefit about 20,000 people residing on both sides of the bank of Siang river and will also boost military preparedness.

158. Which of the following states is set to become the first Indian state to roll out Universal Basic Income (UBI)?

- A. Maharashtra
- B. Kerala
- C. Sikkim
- D. Tamil Nadu

Answer: C. Sikkim - The Sikkim Democratic Front (SDF) ruled government has recently decided to include UBI in its manifesto ahead of 2019 state assembly polls and aims to implement the scheme by 2022. If everything goes according to the plan, it will be the Indian first state to roll out UBI scheme aimed at providing a fixed monthly income to residents irrespective of their economic, social status. The Universal Basic Income (UBI) is a programme for providing all citizens of a country or other geographic area/state with a given sum of money, regardless of their income, resources or employment status. The main idea behind UBI is to prevent or reduce poverty and promote equality among citizens. As per Basic Income Earth Network (BIEN), the essential principle behind UBI is the idea that all citizens are entitled to a livable income, irrespective of the circumstances they're born in.

159. The first-ever India-Central Asia Dialogue at the level of Foreign Ministers is scheduled to be held in which of the following countries?

- A. Turkmenistan
- B. Tajikistan
- C. Afghanistan
- D. Uzbekistan

Answer: D. Uzbekistan - The first-ever India-Central Asia Dialogue at the level of Foreign Ministers is scheduled to be held in Samarkand, Uzbekistan on January 12 and 13. will be co-chaired by External Affairs Minister (EAM) Sushma Swaraj and the Foreign Minister of Uzbekistan, Abdulaziz Kamilov. The foreign minister of Afghanistan will participate in the dialogue as a special invitee for the session dedicated to

connectivity issues in the region. The foreign ministers of Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan and the first deputy foreign minister of Kazakhstan will represent their respective countries. The dialogue is expected to strengthen India's engagement, including political, economic, development partnership and cultural, with all the Central Asian countries and take it to a new level.

160. What is the India's rank at the EIU Democracy Index 2018?

A. 41st

B. 54th

C. 33rd

D. 62nd

Answer: A. 41st - India has been ranked at 41st at the 11th edition of EIU Democracy Index 2018, which provides a snapshot of the state of world democracy for 165 independent states and two territories. The report explaining the index titled 'Democracy 2018: Me too? Political Participation, Protest & Democracy' was particularly damning of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). Despite the criticism, the report pointed that in India, the image of the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi resonates with an aspiring middle class, and he has also maintained the support of business. The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU)'s index rank nations on five parameters – electoral process and pluralism, functioning of government, political participation, political culture and civil liberties. Among all these parameters India fared the worst when it came to political culture. The index is topped by Norway, followed by Iceland, Sweden, New Zealand and Denmark.

161. Which of the following states have signed agreement for Renukaji multipurpose dam project?

A. Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh

B. Delhi, Rajasthan and Uttarakhand

C. Delhi, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh

D. All of the above

Answer: D. All of the above - On January 11, an agreement for Renukaji Dam Multipurpose Project was signed in New Delhi among 6 States - Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Delhi, Rajasthan and Uttarakhand. Under the agreement, three storage projects are proposed to be constructed on the river Yamuna and two of its tributaries - Tons and Giri in the hilly regions of Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh. These include Lakhwar project on river Yamuna in Uttarakhand, Kishau on river Tons in Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh and Renukaji on river Giri in Himachal Pradesh. These three projects were identified as National Projects in 2008 under which 90% funding of the cost of irrigation & drinking water component will be provided by the Govt. of India (GoI) as central assistance and the rest 10% cost of the irrigation and drinking water component will be borne by the beneficiary states. In addition to this, a

concession agreement was also signed for Namami Gange projects for the city of Prayagraj under Hybrid Annuity Mode and One City One Operator Concept.

162. Who has been appointed new Prime Minister of Taiwan?

- A. Chen Shui-bian
- B. Tsai Ing-wen
- C. Su Tseng-chang
- D. William Lai

Answer: Su Tseng-chang- Taiwanese president Tsai Ing-wen has appointed Su Tseng-chang as the island's new Prime Minister, during a Cabinet reshuffle following the ruling Democratic Progressive Party (DPP)'s heavy losses in local elections. Su's appointment follows the widely-expected resignation of William Lai, the second premier to quit since Tsai took office in 2016, in line with a practice of leaders quitting when their party loses a major election. Su is a former premier appointed in 2006 by then-President Chen Shui-bian and was a chairman of Tsai's DPP for two terms.

163. Who has been named as India's Chef de Mission for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics?

- A. Birendra Prasad Baishya
- B. Brij Bhushan Saran Singh
- C. Abhinav Bindra
- D. Sukhdev Sharma

Answer: A. Birendra Prasad Baishya -President of the Indian Weightlifting Federation (IWF), Birendra Prasad Baishya has been named as India's Chef de Mission for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. It is for the first time that the sport of Weightlifting has been accorded with the honour of Chef de Mission for the Olympics. Baishya is also one of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) Vice Presidents. He is a former Union minister and a former Rajya Sabha Member from Assam. The Japanese capital –Tokyo - will host the Games for the second time in 2020 after having organised it 56 years back in 1964.

164. What is the India's position at the 2019 Henley and Partners Passport Index?

- A. 81st
- B. 62nd
- C. 43rd
- D. 79th

Answer: D. 79th - As per 2019 Henley and Partners Passport Index, the Indian passport has been ranked as the 79th most powerful in the world. The Henley index ranks world's passports based on how many countries they can get the holder access to without a prior visa. An Indian passport holder can visit 61 countries without a pre-travel visa. Japan tops the list and its passport gives holders access to 190 countries. Singapore and South Korea come 2nd with access to 189 countries each while France and Germany share the third spot with access to 188 countries each. The US passport gives

its citizens access to 185 countries without the need for a prior visa and shares the sixth spot with UK, Austria, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Switzerland, Belgium and Canada. The Henley Passport Index is based on data provided by the International Air Transport Authority (IATA) and covers 199 passports and 227 travel destinations. It is updated in real time throughout the year, as and when visa policy changes come into effect.

165. Who has been ranked No.1 in the light fly (45-48kg) category by the International Boxing Association (AIBA)?

- A. Laishram Sarita Devi
- B. Sarjubala Devi
- C. Nikhat Zareen
- D. Mary Kom

Answer: D. Mary Kom - Ace Indian pugilist Mary Kom from Manipur has been ranked No.1 in the Light Fly (45-48kg) category by the International Boxing Association (AIBA), after scoring 1700 points. Earlier, Kom won the historic sixth gold medal at the 2018 Women's World Boxing Championship by defeating Hanna Okhota of Ukraine in the 48kg category in New Delhi. She also won gold medals at the 2018 Commonwealth Games and the Silesian Open Boxing Tournament in Poland.

166. Which IIT has decided to launch 6-month Artificial Intelligence course?

- A. IIT Bombay
- B. IIT Kharagpur
- C. IIT Bombay
- D. IIT Kanpur

Answer: B. IIT Kharagpur - IIT Kharagpur will launch a six-month course on Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning for working professionals and engineering students. The aim of the certified programme is to strengthen India's talent pool in Machine Learning and AI. The course will begin from March 2019 & will be offered at institute units in Kharagpur, Bangalore and Kolkata and possibly in Hyderabad. The course will comprise 16 one-credit modules and one capstone project. The course modules have been carefully designed to cover mathematical and algorithmic foundations, artificial intelligence fundamentals and several modules on statistical and machine learning methods.

167. Which of the following is the base year for the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) ?

- A. 2014
- B. 2017
- C. 2015

D. 2016

Answer: B. 2017 - On January 10, Union Environment Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan launched the much-awaited National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) to combat air pollution. The NCAP is a pollution control initiative that was launched with the intention to cut the concentration of coarse (PM10) and fine particles (PM2.5) by at least 20% in the next five years, with 2017 as the base year for comparison. The NCAP will be a mid-term, five year action plan with 2019 as the first year. The plan includes 102 most-polluting cities, across 23 states and Union territories, which were identified by Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) on the basis of their ambient air quality data between 2011 and 2015. Apart from experts from the industry and academia, the programme is expected to be a collaboration between the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Ministry of Heavy Industry, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Health, NITI Aayog, and CPCB.

168. Who is the author of the book 'We are Displaced: My Journey and Stories from Refugee Girls Around the World'?

A. Nadia Murad

B. Kailash Satyarthi

C. Malala Yousafzai

D. Tawakkol Karman

Answer: C. Malala Yousafzai - The book titled 'We are Displaced: My Journey and Stories from Refugee Girls Around the World' has been authored by Malala Yousafzai, the Nobel Peace Prize winner and Pakistani activist. In it, the author is charting her experiences travelling the world and visiting refugee camps. Here, Malala not only explores her own story of adjusting to a new life while longing for home, but she also shares the personal stories of some of the incredible girls she has met on her various journeys - girls who have lost their community, relatives and often the only world they've ever known.

169. Who is the head of the SEBI committee to link research to policy making?

A. Sankar De

B. U K Sinha

C. Pratap Mukherjee

D. K S Chauhan

Answer: A. Sankar De - Security and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has recently constituted a Research Advisory Committee (RAC) to strengthen its research function and enhance its linkage to policy making. It will be headed by Dr. Sankar De. The RAC will assist in formulating policy to undertake research relevant for development and regulation of capital markets. Among the other functions of the committee will be

defining objectives, scope and direction of research relevant for development and regulation of capital markets in the country with focus on "linkage of research to policy making".

170. Which of the following international organizations has recently released the report 'Future of Consumption in Fast-Growth Consumer Market – India'?

- A. WEF
- B. IMF
- C. World Bank
- D. UNESCO

Answer: A. WEF - The World Economic Forum (WEF) has recently released its latest report titled 'Future of Consumption in Fast-Growth Consumer Market – India'. The report stated that India is set to become the world's third largest consumer market behind only USA and China by 2030. As per the report, consumer spending in India is expected to grow from \$1.5 trillion at present to \$6 trillion by 2030. With the annual GDP growth rate of 7.5%, India is currently the world's sixth largest economy. The report noted that growth of the middle class will lift nearly 25 million households out of poverty. As per the report, growth in income will transform India from a "bottom of the pyramid economy" to a middle class-led one. The report produced in collaboration with Bain & Company builds on consumer surveys conducted across 5,100 households in 30 cities and towns in India, and draws from more than 40 interviews with private and public-sector leaders.

171. Who has become the first Indian to win in the FIA Formula 3 European Championship?

- A. Narain Karthikeyan
- B. Ashwin Sundar
- C. Jehan Daruvala
- D. Karun Chandhok

Answer: C. Jehan Daruvala - Jehan Daruvala of Sahara Force India Academy has become the first Indian driver to win in the FIA Formula 3 European Championship in Race 3 at the Nuremberg circuit on July 2, 2017. Jehan's victory in race 3 comes 18 years after Narain Karthikeyan won in the British F3 Championship. The 2.3-km Norisring is an extremely fast and flowing layout for a street circuit and mistakes are punished by the concrete walls instead of tyre barriers. FIA Formula 3 is the toughest junior racing category in the world.

172. Which of the following railway zones has launched mobile app to help people navigate through Prayagraj city during Kumbh Mela?

- A. North Eastern Railway

- B. Northeast Frontier Railway
- C. North Western Railway
- D. North Central Railway

Answer: D. North Central Railway - The North Central Railway (NCR) has launched a 'Rail Kumbh Seva Mobile App' to help people navigate through Prayagraj city during Kumbh Mela starting from January 15. The app will also provide information regarding all the 'Mela special' trains that will be run during the period. Additionally, the app will provide a link to the user to buy both unreserved and reserved train tickets. Mr Malviya said, through this app, the users will not only get to know their current location, but will also be able to reach to all railway stations, the mela zone, major hotels, bus stations and other facilities within Prayagraj. A photo gallery, containing pictures of previous Kumbh Melas can also be accessed through the app.

173. Which state has topped ACI's Ease Of Doing Business (EDB) Index 2018?

- A. Gujarat
- B. Andhra Pradesh
- C. Maharashtra
- D. Delhi

Answer: B. Andhra Pradesh - Andhra Pradesh has topped the 2018 Ease of Doing Business (EDB) Index of Asia Competitiveness Institute (ACI). The ACI team, led by Tan Khee Giap, mentioned that despite Andhra Pradesh's excellent performance in ACI's EDB Index, the government needs to bridge numerous institutional and infrastructural gaps in order to sustain its position in the future. The index ranked economies of 21 states of India. In it, Maharashtra acquired 2nd position, while Delhi came in third place, respectively. The EDB index is based upon three parameters called ABC - Attractiveness to Investors, Business Friendliness and Competitiveness Policies.

174. Who has become the first Indian business tycoon to be named "Fugitive Economic Offender (FEO)"?

- A. Mehul Choksi
- B. Nirav Modi
- C. Subrata Roy
- D. Vijay Mallya

Answer: D. Vijay Mallya - Former liquor baron Vijay Mallya has become the first Indian businessman to be declared a Fugitive Economic Offender (FEO) under the newly enacted Fugitive Economic Offenders Act of 2018 by the Special Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) court in Mumbai. The tag now allows the government to confiscate and sold his properties in alleged Rs. 9,000 crore loan default case in India. According to the new law, a FEO is a person against whom an arrest warrant has been issued for his or her involvement in economic offences involving at least Rs. 100 crore

or more and has left India to avoid prosecution. Mallya has been accused of defaulting on loan repayments and money laundering and had left India in March 2016. Mallya currently facing extradition from the United Kingdom after a Westminster Magistrates Court in London ordered his return to India to face fraud charges resulting from the collapse of his defunct Kingfisher Airlines. However, the ruling has been challenged in the High Court in the UK.

175. Which African country has recently opened West Asia's largest cathedral in its New Administrative Capital?

- A. Egypt
- B. Nigeria
- C. Ethiopia
- D. Kenya

Answer: A. Egypt - Egypt has recently opened West Asia's largest cathedral in its New Administrative Capital, 45km east of Cairo. President Abdul Fattah al-Sisi inaugurated the newly-built Cathedral of Nativity and a mosque on the eve of Coptic Christmas in a symbolic message of tolerance in the predominantly Muslim nation. The newly built Al-Fattah Al-Aleem Mosque will be able to accommodate almost twice that of the cathedral, both of which are located in the major development that is the new administrative capital.

176. Rani, who won gold in 78 kg category at Senior National Women's Judo Championship 2019, is the Lady Head constable of which state?

- A. Jharkhand
- B. Manipur
- C. Himachal Pradesh
- D. Rajasthan

Answer: C. Himachal Pradesh - Lady Head constable Rani of 5th Indian Reserve Battalion (IRB) of Himachal Pradesh Police won a Gold medal in 78 kg category in the Senior National Women's Judo Championship at Visakhapatnam on January 7, 2019. Rani was also declared the best Judoka at the Championship.

177. What is the theme of the 27th New Delhi World Book Fair 2019?

- A. Books opening the mind. Doors opening the future
- B. Vivid Bharat - Diverse India
- C. Readers with Special Needs
- D. Kathasagara: Celebrating Children's Literature

Answer: C. Readers with Special Needs - The 27th New Delhi World Book Fair has started at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi on January 5 with theme "Readers with Special Needs". The All India Radio (AIR) is the radio partner for book fair. Over 20 countries

including Canada, China, Sri Lanka, and the US are participating in the book fair. More than 600 publishers from across the country are participating in the event. The book fair focuses on Readers with Special Needs, to promote the idea of inclusive learning through a series of exhibitions. The timing of the fair is from 11 am to 8 pm and tickets are available at 50 metro stations. The cost of the entry tickets is 30 rupees for adults and 20 rupees for children. There will be free entry for students in school uniform and senior citizens.

178. Which state government has announced interest-free loans of up to Rs 3 lakh for Women Self-Help Groups (WSHGs)?

- A. Odisha
- B. Chattisgarh
- C. Madhya Pradesh
- D. Rajasthan

Answer: A. Odisha - As part of the Mission Shakti scheme, Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has recently announced interest-free loans of up to Rs 3 lakh for Women Self-Help Groups (WSHGs) in the state. The initiative would benefit around 70 lakh women associated with six lakh SHGs. He also distributed financial assistance of Rs 3,000 each to six lakh WSHGs as part the state government's efforts to digitally empower women. In a bid to strengthen the programme, the Odisha government has also decided to build 'Mission Shakti Home' in each gram panchayat across the state. Besides, the Odisha Chief Minister also announced incentives of Rs 500 per month for anganwadi workers and Rs. 200 for helpers.

179. Which of the following journalists has been conferred with lifetime achievement award by the Mantralaya and Vidhimandal Vartahar Sangh?

- A. Prajakta Pol
- B. Vishwas Waghmode
- C. Dinu Randive
- D. Mahesh Tiwari

Answer: C. Dinu Randive - Veteran journalist Dinu Randive (93) has been conferred with the lifetime achievement award by the Mantralaya and Vidhimandal Vartahar Sangh, an association of journalists covering Maharashtra legislature and secretariat. Mr Randive started his journalistic career in 1956. He also participated in the freedom struggle, the Sanyukta Maharashtra movement and the Goa liberation movement. Award winners in other categories included Vishwas Waghmode, Mahesh Tiwari and Prajakta Pol.

180. Which state government has recently approved projects to revive mythical Saraswati river?

- A. Punjab
- B. Haryana
- C. Jharkhand
- D. Uttar Pradesh

Answer: B. Haryana - On 2nd January 2019, the Haryana government approved 11 projects for the rejuvenation of the mythical Saraswati river. The purpose of the projects is to revive the ancient Saraswati river in the state and ensure regular flow of fresh water into it. These include the construction of Somb Saraswati barrage, Saraswati reservoir and Adi Badri dam on Somb river, a tributary of the Yamuna that originates in the Shivalik Hills. The projects were approved at a meeting of the Haryana Saraswati Heritage Development Board (HSHDB) chaired by the chief minister Manohar Lal Khattar. The board also approved construction of bridges at different locations and a Saraswati ghat. The construction of Somb Saraswati barrage and Saraswati reservoir would enable the storage of 1,000 hectare metres of water. The Haryana plan also involves interlinking of the Markanda river with what is said to be the course of the Saraswati through the Kainthla supply channel.

181. Who is the head of the EC panel which submitted its report on digital media and campaigning during last 48 hours before polls?

- A. Abhay Kapoor
- B. U K Malhotra
- C. Umesh Sinha
- D. Sunil Arora

Answer: C. Umesh Sinha - The Election Commission (EC) appointed Committee has submitted its report on digital media and campaigning during last 48 hours before polls to the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sunil Arora. The Committee was constituted under the chairmanship of Sr. Deputy Election Commissioner Umesh Sinha. The panel was mandated to review and suggest modifications in the provisions of Section 126 of the Representation of the People Act dealing with campaigning in the last 48 hours and related provisions of the Model Code of Conduct. The report stated that apart from the regulation by law and ECI instructions, proactive support and sustained effort by all stakeholders including political parties, will be necessary to contain the evil impact. No campaigning is allowed in the last 48 hours so that voters can think independently. This period is also called silence period. The recommendations of Committee will be considered by the Commission in detail for follow up action.

182. Which city is the venue of the 25th edition of Partnership Summit 2019?

- A. New Delhi
- B. Dehradun
- C. Hyderabad

D. Mumbai

Answer: D. Mumbai - On January 12, Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu inaugurated the 25th edition of Partnership Summit 2019 in Mumbai. This edition of the Summit will showcase India in the present landscape of an emerging “New India”, the “New Global Economic Address”. The 2-day summit is expected to build new partnerships and explore investment opportunities in sectors like Artificial Intelligence, big data, food processing, defense, aeronautics, renewable energy and tourism. It will see New India in active engagement and collaboration within the country and with the world. The summit is a global platform for dialogue, debate, deliberation and engagement among Indian and global leaders on economic policy and growth trends in India.

183. Which of the following Indian players has recently received the honorary membership of the Sydney Cricket Ground (SCG)?

- A. Cheteshwar Pujara
- B. Shikhar Dhawan
- C. Rohit Sharma
- D. Virat Kohli

Answer: D. Virat Kohli - Indian skipper Virat Kohli and coach Ravi Shastri has received the honorary membership of the Sydney Cricket Ground (SCG) for their contribution to the sport of cricket. Recently, The Indian team defeated Australia 2-1 in the four-match Test series, ending the country's 71-year-old wait for a rare series win Down Under. Apart from Kohli and Shastri, the only other international cricketers to be granted the honorary membership of the SCG are Sachin Tendulkar and Brian Lara of the West Indies.

184. Which Indian journalist has been appointed president of the Alliance for Media Freedom (AFMF)?

- A. Vineet Jain
- B. N Ram
- C. Shaili Chopra
- D. Shoma Chaudhury

Answer: B. N Ram - Narasimhan Ram, chairman of THG Publishing Private Limited, has been appointed president of the Alliance for Media Freedom (AFMF), a cross-media advocacy and action group of media organisations, promoters and journalists. The Alliance is dedicated to work for the cause of media freedom, media independence and the safety of the last journalist. It has adopted a charter that underlines the importance of creating enabling conditions to safeguard free speech guaranteed by the Indian Constitution.

185. Ashutosh Aman, which is in news recently, is associated with which sports?

- A. Hockey
- B. Football
- C. Cricket
- D. Kabaddi

Answer: C. Cricket - Bihar left-arm spinner Ashutosh Aman broke the 44-year old record of most wickets in a single Ranji Trophy season by finishing the 2018-19 tournament with 68 wickets. He break the previous record of 64 dismissals set by former India captain Bishan Singh Bedi in the 1974–75 tournament. Aman now holds the record for most wickets taken in a Ranji Trophy season by any bowler. He is employed with the Indian Air Force (IAR) and hails from Bihar's Gaya.

186. Who has been conferred the ICSI Lifetime Achievement Award?

- A. Azim Premji
- B. Adi Godrej
- C. Rahul Bajaj
- D. Indu Jain

Answer: B. Adi Godrej - Industrialist and Godrej Group Chairman Adi Godrej for 'Translating Excellence in Corporate Governance into Reality'. The awards were instituted by The Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI), which is celebrating its golden jubilee. The 18th ICSI National Awards for Excellence in Corporate Governance were bagged jointly by Cipla Ltd and Dabur India Ltd and five others: ACC Ltd, Hindustan Unilever Ltd, Indian Oil Corp, Tata Metaliks Ltd and Indian Hotels Co Ltd. The 3rd CSR Excellence Awards went to GMR Hyderabad International Airport Ltd, Tata Power Co Ltd and Ambuja Cements Ltd in Emerging, Medium and Large categories respectively.

187. In which year, the great Indian scholar Swami Vivekananda was born?

- A. 1859
- B. 1863
- C. 1865
- D. 1856

Answer: B. 1863- The 2019 National Youth Day (NYD) has recently celebrated in India on January 12 to mark the 156th birth anniversary of social reformer, philosopher and thinker Swami Vivekananda. Born in Kolkata on 12th January 1863 as Narendra Nath Datta, he was one of India's most revered spiritual leaders. He was considered a major force in the revival of Hinduism in India and bringing it to the status of a major world religion in the late 19th century. He became popular in the western world after his famous speech at the World's Parliament of Religions in Chicago in 1893. He was the chief disciple of the 19th-century Indian mystic Ramakrishna and founder of the

Ramakrishna Math and the Ramakrishna Mission. In 1984, the Government of India (GoI) declared the day as the National Youth Day (NYD) and since 1985 the event is celebrated in India every year.

188. Which city is the venue of the 29th Indian Paint Conference 2019?

- A. Agra
- B. Delhi
- C. Raipur
- D. Udaipur

Answer: A. Agra - The 29th biennial Indian Paint Conference has started in Agra, Uttar Pradesh from 11th January 2019. It is organized by the Indian Paint Association (IPA), the apex body of the country's paint industry. This would be the largest trade show of the estimated Rs. 500 billion (50,000 Crore) Indian Paints & Coatings industry. The 3-day Conference will witness knowledge sharing sessions from leading paint industry stalwarts and subject matter experts from India and abroad.

189. Who has been sworn-in as the new President of Venezuela?

- A. Henri Falcon
- B. Juan Guaido
- C. Nicolas Maduro
- D. Hugo Chavez

Answer: C. Nicolas Maduro - Nicolas Maduro has been sworn-in for a second term as Venezuela's president on 10th January 2019, despite international criticism that his re-election was illegitimate. The result was denounced as fraudulent by many neighbouring countries, including Argentina, Mexico, Chile, Colombia, Brazil, Canada and the United States, as well as organizations such as the European Union, and the Organization of American States. This resulted in widespread condemnation, the National Assembly invoking a State of emergency, and nations removing their embassies from Venezuela. With their belief that his election was illegitimate, they claimed that by retaking power, Maduro was converting Venezuela into an illegal de facto dictatorship. At present, Venezuela is enduring a historic crisis following two decades of socialist rule, with residents struggling to afford basic goods as inflation soars, driving mass migration.

190. Which of the following is/are the features of the National Youth Parliament Festival 2019?

- A. To hear the voice of youth between 18-25 years
- B. To encourage the youth to engage with public issues
- C. To obtain opinions on Vision of New India in 2022
- D. All of the above

Answer: D. All of the above- On the occasion of National Youth Day (NYD- 2019), Union minister Col Rajyavardhan Rathore (Retd) launched the National Youth

Parliament Festival 2019. It is organised on the theme of “Be The Voice of New India” and “Find solutions and contribute to policy”. Youth in the age bracket of 18-25 years are invited to participate in the District Youth Parliaments. This is done in order to hear the voice of youth in this age bracket who are allowed to vote but cannot contest in elections. The fest will be conducted at three levels: District, State and National. The best three speakers at the National Youth Parliament will be awarded Rs. 2 Lakhs, Rs. 1.50 Lakhs and Rs. 1 Lakh respectively by the Prime Minister. The festival will also encourage the youth to engage with public issues, understand the common man’s point of view, form their opinion and express these in an articulate manner. Relevant and effective voices on Vision of New India in 2022 would be captured and documented to make these available to policy makers and implementers to take it forward.

191. Which state has become the India’s 1st state to implement 10% quota to Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) of general category?

- A. Punjab
- B. Karnataka
- C. Kerala
- D. Gujarat

Answer: D. Gujarat - The Gujarat Government has recently announced that the benefits of 10% quota for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) of general category in educational institutions and government jobs will be applicable from 14th January 2019 midnight. It is clarified that the eligibility of the new quota will be applicable only for which the announcement for jobs and admissions have been made but the process has not yet begun. In such cases, the ongoing process will be suspended for time being and fresh process will begin after incorporating the 10% additional quota. However, it is pertinent to mention here that the benefits of the fresh quota will not be applicable for which the process had begun before January 14, 2019, like for which the process of written, oral, computer proficiency or preliminary tests have already been conducted. The Centre had taken the decision under Article 46 of Guiding Principles of Constitution of India after Amendment of the Articles 15 and 16, incorporating 10 per cent reservation for Economically Weaker Sections.

192. The Government of India (GoI) has drafted five-year action plan to address drug abuse in the country for which of the following periods?

- A. 2019 to 2024
- B. 2017 to 2022
- C. 2018 to 2023
- D. 2016 to 2021

Answer: C. 2018 to 2023 - The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has drafted a five-year action plan to address the problem of drug and substance abuse in

the country. The aim of the National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction (for 2018 to 2023) is to employ a multi-pronged strategy to address the issue. It involves education, de-addiction and rehabilitation of affected individuals and their families. The plan focuses on preventive education, awareness generation, counselling, treatment and rehabilitation of drug-dependent people, besides training and capacity-building of service providers through collaborative efforts of the Centre, state and NGOs. Plans are also afoot for awareness generation through social, print, digital and online media, and engagement of celebrities, besides strengthening the national tollfree helpline for drug prevention. The move comes after the Ministry withdrew the draft National Drug Demand Reduction Policy from the Cabinet. It had been pending for more than five-and-half years and was redrafted twice during the period.

193. Which country hold the first-ever Annual Disarmament and International Security Affairs Fellowship Programme?

- A. Japan
- B. India
- C. Bhutan
- D. South Korea

Answer: B. India - On January 14, the first-ever Annual Disarmament and International Security Affairs Fellowship Programme has started at the Foreign Services Institute in New Delhi. It was inaugurated by the United Nations under-secretary-general and high representative for disarmament affairs Izumi Nakamitsu and foreign secretary Vijay Keshav Gokhale. Young Diplomats from 27 countries are participating in the Fellowship Programme, which will continue till 1st of Feb 2019. The purpose of the programme is to equip participants with knowledge and perspectives on various issues related to disarmament, non-proliferation, arms control and international security. The Programme covers a range of issues relevant to disarmament and international security such as global security environment, weapons of mass destruction, certain conventional weapons, space security, maritime cooperation, security of cyberspace, export controls, emerging technologies etc.

194. In which year, the 10th Sikh guru Govind Singh was born?

- A. 1660
- B. 1666
- C. 1659
- D. 1668

Answer: B. 1666 - The 352nd birth anniversary of Guru Govind Singh has recently celebrated as Prakash Utsav with religious fervour and gaiety in various parts of the country. The main function is organised at Takhat Sri Harmandir Sahib Gurdwara, Patna Sahib, where thousands of pilgrims across the globe are offering prayers. Born at Patna

Sahib in Bihar on 5th January 1666, Guru Govind Singh was the 10th Sikh guru. He succeeded his father Guru Tegh Bahadur Singh as leader of Sikhs at the age of just nine. The 10th Sikh Guru was a spiritual leader, philosopher, poet and master warrior. He is considered as the eternal guru by his followers because of his contribution to Sikhism. He founded the Sikh warrior community called 'Khalsa Panth' at Anandpur Sahib in 1699, and introduced the Five Ks, the five articles of faith that Khalsa Sikhs wear at all times.

195. Which of the following commands is the only Tri-service theater command of the Indian Armed Forces (IAF)?

- A. Andaman and Nicobar Command
- B. Southern Command
- C. Northern Command
- D. Eastern Command

Answer: A. Andaman and Nicobar Command - The Andaman and Nicobar Command is the first and only Tri-service theater command of the Indian Armed Forces, based at Port Blair in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The archipelago is straddled strategically near the mouth of the Malacca Straits which is an important Sea Lane of Communication used by the navies of several countries. Recently, it is in news because Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman witnessed a joint military drill involving the Indian Army, the Indian Air Force, the Navy and the Indian Coast Guard in the A&N Islands on January 14. In her 2-day visit to Islands, she will also witness three exercises - general survival exercise, amphibious drill and a joint drill.

196. Who has been honoured with Lifetime Achievement Award by the West Bengal Film Journalists Association (WBFJA)?

- A. Mithun Chakrabarty
- B. Buddhadeb Dasgupta
- C. Moushumi Chatterjee
- D. Subhashish Mukherjee

Answer: B. Buddhadeb Dasgupta -National award-winning filmmaker Buddhadeb Dasgupta has been honoured with the Lifetime Achievement Award by the West Bengal Film Journalists Association (WBFJA). The award is in the name of the late Satyajit Ray. He was awarded the award in the third edition of the 'Cinemar Samabartan' ceremony on January 13, 2019. Dasgupta is a big name in the parallel cinema. He is known for his political films like "Dooratwa" (Distance) and "Grihajuddha" (Crossroads). As a director, he has won the National Film Award for Best Direction twice, for "Uttara" (2000) and "Swapner Din" (2005).

197. Who has won the newly-instituted Sushila Devi Literature Award?

- A. Namita Gokhale
- B. Keki N. Daruwalla
- C. Pratibha Satpathy
- D. Srinibash Udgata

Answer: A. Namita Gokhale - The first edition of Bhopal Literature and Art Festival (BLF) was held at the Multi Art Centre of the Bharat Bhawan in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh from January 12 to 14, 2019. The festival is a brainchild of former bureaucrat Raghav Chandra. over 70 writers and artists participated in the literary event. In it, Namita Gokhale has won the Sushila Devi Literature Award for her novel "Things to Leave Behind". She was awarded in the 'Best Book of Fiction Written by a Woman Author' category. The newly-instituted award recognizes the best work of fiction by a woman author and comes with a cash prize of Rs 2 lakh.

198. Which state government has launched 'One Family, One Job' scheme?

- A. Sikkim
- B. Odisha
- C. Jharkhand
- D. Punjab

Answer: A. Sikkim - Sikkim Chief Minister Pawan Chamling has recently launched 'One Family, One Job' scheme which entitles one government job for every family in the state. Though, the employment will be awarded only to members of those families which do not have a government job at present. As per scheme, CM Chamling handed over appointment letters to over 12,000 unemployed youths at a "Rojgar Mela" (employment fair) at the Paljor stadium, Gangtok. The task of providing employment was entrusted to the Department of Personnel. He also declared that all loan debts in the farming and agriculture sector would be revoked. As of now, the state government has over 1 lakh regularised employees on its rolls from a population of just 6.4 lakh. Sikkim is the only state in the country that gives the highest salaries to state government employees.

199. Who is the head of Group of Ministers (GoM) on GST revenue shortfall faced by states?

- A. Sushil Kumar Modi
- B. Shivraj Chouhan
- C. Raman Singh
- D. Vasundhara Raje Scindia

Answer: A. Sushil Kumar Modi - Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Kumar Modi will head the 7-member Group of Ministers (GoM) to look into the revenue shortfall being faced by states following the roll out of Goods and Services Tax (GST). The GST Council, headed by Finance Minister Arun Jaitley, had decided to set up the GoM at its meeting on 22nd December 2018. As per a GST Council notification, the committee will

suggest steps for augmenting collections. It will undertake data analysis and suggest measures for course correction. Several states, including Bihar, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Jammu and Kashmir, Odisha and Gujarat are facing revenue shortfall. The states have faced revenue shortfall in the range of 14 to 37% in the April to November period. Among the Union Territories, Puducherry is facing maximum shortfall of 43%. Of the 29 states, only Andhra Pradesh and five north eastern states -- Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Sikkim and Nagaland -- have recorded revenue increase post the GST roll out.

200. Which Indian personality is the recipient of the first-ever Philip Kotler Presidential award?

- A. Mukesh Ambani
- B. Narendra Modi
- C. Ratan Tata
- D. Vijay Nahar

Answer: B. Narendra Modi - The Prime Minister Narendra Modi received the first-ever Philip Kotler Presidential award in New Delhi for his outstanding leadership for the nation. According to the award citation, under his leadership, India is now identified as the centre for innovation and value added manufacturing (Make in India), as well as a global hub for professional services such as information technology, accounting and finance. The Award focuses on the triple bottom-line of People, Profit and Planet. It will be offered annually to the leader of a Nation. Prof. Philip Kotler is a world renowned Professor of Marketing at Northwestern University, Kellogg School of Management.

201. Which state has become the India's 1st state to implement 10% quota to Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) of general category?

- A. Punjab
- B. Karnataka
- C. Kerala
- D. Gujarat

Answer: D. Gujarat - The Gujarat Government has recently announced that the benefits of 10% quota for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) of general category in educational institutions and government jobs will be applicable from 14th January 2019 midnight. It is clarified that the eligibility of the new quota will be applicable only for which the announcement for jobs and admissions have been made but the process has not yet begun. In such cases, the ongoing process will be suspended for time being and fresh process will begin after incorporating the 10% additional quota. However, it is pertinent to mention here that the benefits of the fresh quota will not be applicable for which the process had begun before January 14, 2019, like for which the process of written, oral, computer proficiency or preliminary tests have already been conducted.

The Centre had taken the decision under Article 46 of Guiding Principles of Constitution of India after Amendment of the Articles 15 and 16, incorporating 10 per cent reservation for Economically Weaker Sections.

202. The Government of India (GoI) has drafted five-year action plan to address drug abuse in the country for which of the following periods?

- A. 2019 to 2024
- B. 2017 to 2022
- C. 2018 to 2023
- D. 2016 to 2021

Answer: C. 2018 to 2023 - The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has drafted a five-year action plan to address the problem of drug and substance abuse in the country. The aim of the National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction (for 2018 to 2023) is to employ a multi-pronged strategy to address the issue. It involves education, de-addiction and rehabilitation of affected individuals and their families. The plan focuses on preventive education, awareness generation, counselling, treatment and rehabilitation of drug-dependent people, besides training and capacity-building of service providers through collaborative efforts of the Centre, state and NGOs. Plans are also afoot for awareness generation through social, print, digital and online media, and engagement of celebrities, besides strengthening the national tollfree helpline for drug prevention. The move comes after the Ministry withdrew the draft National Drug Demand Reduction Policy from the Cabinet. It had been pending for more than five-and-half years and was redrafted twice during the period.

203. Which country hold the first-ever Annual Disarmament and International Security Affairs Fellowship Programme?

- A. Japan
- B. India
- C. Bhutan
- D. South Korea

Answer: B. India - On January 14, the first-ever Annual Disarmament and International Security Affairs Fellowship Programme has started at the Foreign Services Institute in New Delhi. It was inaugurated by the United Nations under-secretary-general and high representative for disarmament affairs Izumi Nakamitsu and foreign secretary Vijay Keshav Gokhale. Young Diplomats from 27 countries are participating in the Fellowship Programme, which will continue till 1st of Feb 2019. The purpose of the programme is to equip participants with knowledge and perspectives on various issues related to disarmament, non-proliferation, arms control and international security. The Programme covers a range of issues relevant to disarmament and international security such as global security environment, weapons of mass destruction, certain conventional

weapons, space security, maritime cooperation, security of cyberspace, export controls, emerging technologies etc.

204. In which year, the 10th Sikh guru Govind Singh was born?

- A. 1660
- B. 1666
- C. 1659
- D. 1668

Answer: B. 1666 - The 352nd birth anniversary of Guru Govind Singh has recently celebrated as Prakash Utsav with religious fervour and gaiety in various parts of the country. The main function is organised at Takhat Sri Harmandir Sahib Gurdwara, Patna Sahib, where thousands of pilgrims across the globe are offering prayers. Born at Patna Sahib in Bihar on 5th January 1666, Guru Govind Singh was the 10th Sikh guru. He succeeded his father Guru Tegh Bahadur Singh as leader of Sikhs at the age of just nine. The 10th Sikh Guru was a spiritual leader, philosopher, poet and master warrior. He is considered as the eternal guru by his followers because of his contribution to Sikhism. He founded the Sikh warrior community called 'Khalsa Panth' at Anandpur Sahib in 1699, and introduced the Five Ks, the five articles of faith that Khalsa Sikhs wear at all times.

205. Which of the following commands is the only Tri-service theater command of the Indian Armed Forces (IAF)?

- A. Andaman and Nicobar Command
- B. Southern Command
- C. Northern Command
- D. Eastern Command

Answer: A. Andaman and Nicobar Command - The Andaman and Nicobar Command is the first and only Tri-service theater command of the Indian Armed Forces, based at Port Blair in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The archipelago is straddled strategically near the mouth of the Malacca Straits which is an important Sea Lane of Communication used by the navies of several countries. Recently, it is in news because Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman witnessed a joint military drill involving the Indian Army, the Indian Air Force, the Navy and the Indian Coast Guard in the A&N Islands on January 14. In her 2-day visit to Islands, she will also witness three exercises - general survival exercise, amphibious drill and a joint drill.

206. Who has been honoured with Lifetime Achievement Award by the West Bengal Film Journalists Association (WBFJA)?

- A. Mithun Chakrabarty
- B. Buddhadeb Dasgupta
- C. Moushumi Chatterjee

D. Subhashish Mukherjee

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211. Who was the first Commander-in-Chief of Indian Army post Independence?

- A. K M Cariappa
- B. Sam Manekshaw

C. K S Thimayya

D. P P Kumaramangalam

Answer: A. K M Carriappa - The 71st Army Day is celebrated across the country on 15th January 2019 to commemorate the day when Lieutenant General (later Field Marshal) Kodandera M. Carriappa (C-in-C) took over the command of Army from General Sir FRR Bucher, the last British Commander-in-Chief in 1949 and became the first Commander-in-Chief of Indian Army post Independence. KM Cariappa is one of only two Indian Army officers to hold the five-star rank of field marshal; the other being Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw. The day also remembers the glory of Indian Army and to salute the valiant soldiers, who have sacrificed their lives for the Nation.

212. Which country has launched 'Fair Value for Innovation' at Raisina Dialogue in New Delhi?

A. United States

B. Germany

C. France

D. Japan

Answer: A. United States -The United States has launched a new innovation initiative titled 'Fair Value for Innovation' at the 4th edition of the Raisina Dialogue in New Delhi. The initiative was launched by the Global Innovation Policy Center (GIPC) of United States Chamber of Commerce. It will examine economic underpinnings that would enable breakthrough innovation, and explore how policymakers can harness innovation capital in India and around the globe through research, advocacy, partnerships, and programs.

213. Which of the following franchise teams has won the 5th season of Premier Badminton League (PBL) title?

A. Hyderabad Hunters

B. Chennai Smashers

C. Bengaluru Raptors

D. Mumbai Rockets

Answer: C. Bengaluru Raptors - Bengaluru Raptors have won their first-ever Premier Badminton League (PBL) title at Bengaluru on 13th January 2019. In the title clash played, Bengaluru edged out Mumbai Rockets, with a 4-3 win. Star player Kidambi Srikanth, Vu Ji Trang and the Men's Doubles pair of Mohammad Ahsan and Hendra Satiawan won their matches for Bengaluru guiding them to victory.

214. Shakil Ahmed, who is in news recently, is associated with which sports?

A. Swimming

B. Indoor rowing

- C. Judo
- D. Chess

Answer: B. Indoor rowing - Shakil Ahmed, who is Asian Cup gold medallist and noted oarsman, has set up a world record in indoor rowing by completing one lakh metres in above-40 years category in Kolkata. A FISA level one coach, Shakil began his record-setting indoor rowing feat in Salt Lake stadium complex at 8 am on 13 January 2019 and achieved the milestone of covering 1,00,000 metres of simulated distance in 10 hours. He also has the record of completing 50,000 metres of simulated rowing in four hours and 13 minutes which is already in the Limca Record Book.

215. Which city is the venue of the 9th International Conference on Micro Irrigation?

- A. Raipur
- B. Ahmedabad
- C. Jaisalmer
- D. Aurangabad

Answer: D. Aurangabad -In Maharashtra, the 9th International Micro Irrigation Conference (IMIC) will be held at Aurangabad on 16th January 2019 with theme "Micro Irrigation in Modern Agriculture". The 3-day event will be a multi-disciplinary dialogue in the form of a conference discussing issues related to micro irrigation for modern agriculture and various related issues like new techniques in micro irrigation for increased crop productivity, micro irrigation in cluster level farming etc. The conference is being organized by the Union Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation in association with International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID), Indian National Committee on Surface Water (INCSW) and WAPCOS Limited, a CPSE under the Union Ministry. The event will aim to address problems of developing as well as developed nations in the context of present-day challenges.

216. Kollam Bypass, which is in news recently, touches which of the following National Highways?

- A. NH 44, NH 19 and NH 701
- B. NH 27, NH 109 and NH 907
- C. NH 48, NH 311 and NH 208
- D. NH 66, NH 183 and NH 744

Answer: D. NH 66, NH 183 and NH 744 - On 15th January 2019, Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated to the nation the 13 km, 2 lane Kollam bypass on NH-66 in Kerala. Constructed at a cost of Rs 352 core, this highway has three major bridges over Ashtamudi Lake. The Kollam bypass project will ease traffic congestion around Kollam town and reduce the travel time between Alappuzha and Thiruvananthapuram. The importance of the Kollam bypass is, it touches 3 major National Highways - NH 66, NH 183 and NH 744 - passing through the state of Kerala. Some of the landmark ongoing

National Highways projects in the state include the Thiruvananthapuram Bypass, Thalassery-Mahe Bypass, Kuthiran Tunnel along Wadakkanchery –Thrissur section of NH-544, Alappuzha bypass on NH66. These projects, on completion, will create new socio- economic opportunities for the people and boost trade and tourism in this region.

217. India's largest start up ecosystem has launched in which of the following states?

- A. Tamil Nadu
- B. Rajasthan
- C. Kerala
- D. Punjab

Answer: C. Kerala - On 13th January, Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan launched the India's largest startup ecosystem -named as 'Integrated Startup Complex (ISC)' - with a 1,000-seat capacity in Kalamassery, Kochi. The 8-floor facility, which is spread across 1.82 lakh sqft area, is set up by Kerala Startup Mission (KSUM). The ISC houses ultra modern facilities of Maker Village that promotes hardware startups, Bionest that promotes medical technologies, BRINC which is the country's first international accelerator for hardware startups, BRIC which is country's first cancer technology incubator developing solutions for cancer diagnosis and care, and a Centre of Excellence set up by industry majors. The Kochi facility has beaten the status of Jaipur-based Bhamashah Techno Hub, as South Asia's largest startup hub. In future, it will beat Station-F of Paris to emerge as the world's biggest technology hub after its full expansion in 13 acres. It is built to provide top quality infrastructure for incubation and acceleration for the state's startups.

218. Which UT/state government has decided to impose a ban on single-use plastic products from 1st March 2019?

- A. Tamil Nadu
- B. Puducherry
- C. Delhi
- D. Karnataka

Answer: B. Puducherry - Puducherry government has decided to impose a ban on the production, sale, and use of single-use plastic products in the Union Territory from 1st March 2019. The massive drive would also be launched to create awareness among the merchants and the public on the necessity of the ban. The decision has been taken to keep the environment clean. The ban on non-biodegradable bags will open up a new market for canvas/cotton, denim and jute bags. Earlier, the Tamil Nadu government had announced ban on manufacture, sales, storage and usage of disposable plastic on 2018 World Environment Day (WED), with effect from 1st January 2019. Beside this, in March 2018, the Maharashtra Government also issued a notification imposing a ban on

manufacture, use, sale, and distribution of all plastic materials like bags, spoons, Disposable utensils.

219. Which city is the venue of the first-ever Global Aviation Summit (GAS-2019)?

- A. Mumbai
- B. Varanasi
- C. Chennai
- D. Hyderabad

Answer: A. Mumbai - Civil Aviation Minister Suresh Prabhu inaugurated the first-ever Global Aviation Summit (GAS-2019) in Mumbai on January 15. The two-day summit, with a theme 'Flying for all-especially the next 6 Billion', is being organised by Ministry of Civil Aviation in association with FICCI. It offers stakeholders an opportunity to explore, deliberate and understand how technology-driven innovations will change air travel in the decades to come. The event will host experts and CEOs from Global Aviation Fraternity emphasizing upon the latest trends, futuristic aircraft and cutting-edge technologies. It also gives the opportunity to highlight latest concepts like drones, air taxis, volocopters, new jets and ultra-light aerial electric vehicles etc. It will also entail discussions on airports of future, innovations, safety & security, financing & leasing, sustainability and growth drivers - cargo, logistics.

220. Lenin Rajendran, who passed away recently, was the renowned personality of which field?

- A. Politics
- B. Journalism
- C. Sports
- D. Film Making

Answer: D. Film Making - Lenin Rajendran (67), an eminent Malayalam filmmaker and chairman of the Kerala Film Development Corporation (KFDC), has passed away in Chennai, Tamil Nadu on 14th of January 2019. Known for his unique style of filmmaking, Rajendran had entered tinsel town by directing the movie 'Venal' during the early 1980s. A multiple state award winner, Rajendran helmed a number of critically acclaimed movies including "Swathi Thirunal", "Daivathinte Vikrithikal", "Mazha", "Kulam" and "Idavapathi".

221. Who has become the youngest gold medallist in shooting at the Khelo India Youth Games 2019?

- A. Mehuli Ghosh
- B. Devanshi Rana

C. Abhinav Shaw

D. Pratap Singh Tomar

Answer: C. Abhinav Shaw - Abhinav Shaw (10) has become the youngest gold medallist in shooting at the Khelo India Youth Games 2019 in Pune. He teamed up with Mehuli Ghosh to help West Bengal win the 10m air rifle mixed team event. Delhi's Devanshi Rana bagged gold in Under-21 girls 25m pistol event. In overall medals tally, Home state Maharashtra is leading in Medal tally of the event with 177 Medals including 64 Gold. Delhi is on No. 2 with 121 medals including 47 Gold and Haryana is on No.3 with 110 Medals including 37 Gold.

222. Who is the head of the Group of Ministers (GoM) for GST issues in real estate?

A. Kamleshwar Sharma

B. Prabhuram Chowdhary

C. Govind Singh

D. Nitin Patel

Answer: D. Nitin Patel -The Government of India (GoI) has constituted a 7-member Group of Ministers (GoM) to boost the real estate sector under the GST regime. Deputy Chief Minister of Gujarat Nitin Patel will be the convener of the GoM. The panel will analyse tax rate of GST and suggest a composition scheme for residential construction units. It will also look into the issue of the legality of inclusion or exclusion of land or any other ingredient in the composition scheme and suggest valuation mechanism. It will also examine various aspects of the GST levy on Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) and Development Rights in a joint Development Agreement and suitable model. Currently, GST on the under-construction flats and houses is 12% whereas ready-to-move-in flats with a completion certificate attract no GST. There are also complaints about the builders not passing on the benefit of input tax credit to the consumers. The Council's law and fitment committee will assist the panel. The officers from the Centre and states can also be invited in the committee for inputs, if required.

223. Which state government has launched the farm debt-waiver scheme 'Jai Kisan Rin Mukti Yojana'?

A. Madhya Pradesh

B. Odisha

C. Jharkhand

D. Punjab

Answer: A. Madhya Pradesh - In Madhya Pradesh, Chief Minister Kamal Nath launched the Rs 50,000-crore farm debt-waiver scheme named 'Jai Kisan Rin Mukti Yojana' on January 16, 2019. It would benefit 55 lakh small and marginal farmers.

Under this scheme, Farmers who have registered themselves to pay GST and are paying income tax cannot avail benefits.

224. Trishna gas project, which is in news recently, is located in which of the following states?

- A. Nagaland
- B. Tripura
- C. Manipur
- D. Assam

Answer: B. Tripura - The National Board for Wildlife (NBWL) has recently given its approval for the Trishna Gas project of ONGC to extract Natural Gas from Trishna Wildlife Sanctuary (TWS) in Belonia subdivision of Gomati district of Tripura. ONGC has discovered 10-12 gas bearing wells in the sanctuary. The gas extracted from the Sanctuary would be transported to the North Eastern Electric Power Corporation (NEEPCO) owned 100 MW gas-based thermal power project at Monarchak in Sonamura subdivision of Sipahijala district. The Tripura unit of ONGC would provide Rs 25 crore to the state government for carrying out Swacch Bharat Abhiyan. The NBWL is a statutory organization constituted under the Wildlife Protection Act of 1972, and is chaired by the Prime Minister. It is an apex body to review all wildlife-related matters and approves projects in and around national parks and sanctuaries. It is chaired by the Prime Minister.

225. Who of the following has become the wicket-keeper captain with the most number of catches in a match?

- A. Kamran Akmal
- B. Rashid Latif
- C. MS Dhoni
- D. Sarfaraz Ahmed

Answer: D. Sarfaraz Ahmed - Sarfaraz Ahmed, the current captain of the Pakistan cricket team, has set a new wicket-keeping record during the final Test match against South Africa at the Wanderers Stadium in Johannesburg on January 13. He took 10 catches in the on-going Test match and surpassed Australia's Adam Gilchrist and former Indian captain, MS Dhoni, to become the only wicket-keeper captain with the most number of catches in a match. Furthermore, the Pakistani captain has also made another record; taking five catches in each innings of a Test match.

226. 'IMBEX 2018-19' has started between India and which of the following countries?

- A. Bangladesh
- B. Myanmar
- C. Mauritius
- D. Indonesia

Answer: B. Myanmar- On 14th January 14 2019, the 2nd edition of India-Myanmar bilateral Army exercise 'IMBEX 2018-19' has commenced at Chandi Mandir military station in Haryana that houses the headquarters of the Western Command of the Indian Army. The purpose of this joint training event is to train the Myanmar delegation for participation in UN peacekeeping operations. The exercise includes participation of 15 officers from Myanmar Army and 15 officers from Indian Army who shall jointly train for over a period of six days. During the exercise, focus will be on training the Myanmar Army on tactics, procedures, expertise and methodology required by the contingent of the member nations for serving in UN peacekeeping operations.

227. Michael Atiyah was the noted mathematician of which country, who passed away recently?

- A. Germany
- B. United Kingdom
- C. France
- D. United States

Answer: B. United Kingdom -Prof. Sir Michael Atiyah (89), the noted British mathematician has passed away in United Kingdom on 11th January 2019. He was best known for his co-development of a branch of mathematics called topological K-theory and the Atiyah-Singer index theorem. His research also involved deep insights relating to mathematical concepts known as "vector bundles". Sir Michael was also a recipient of the Abel Prize (2004) and Fields Medal (1966), and was the former president of the Royal Society in London. He was one of the foremost mathematicians whose work encompassed topology and geometry, and worked with several Indian mathematicians such as Indian-American mathematician Harish-Chandra and Vijay Kumar Patodi, during his career.

228. Who is the head of the committee which is formed by Madras High Court to weed out invasive plant species from Western Ghats?

- A. M M Sundaresh
- B. N Sathish
- C. Cherukuri Raghavendra Babu
- D. Priyavrat Sisodiya

Answer: C. Cherukuri Raghavendra Babu - The Madras High Court has expressed serious concern over the exotic invasive species that have stifled the growth of the native shola forests and grasslands on the Western Ghats. It observed that such species are the second largest cause of biodiversity loss in the world and impose high costs to agriculture, forestry, and aquatic ecosystems. Hence, for this burning issue, the court has constituted an expert committee to suggest ways and means to remove the alien plants species and rehabilitate the forests. Here, a division bench of justices M M

Sundaresh and N Sathish passed the interim order on a batch of Public Interest Litigation (PIL) petitions seeking to restrain the Tamil Nadu government from cultivating eucalyptus trees in Western Ghats for commercial purpose. It has also directed the committee to file a report on the ways to weed out such species within two months. The committee will be headed by Cherukuri Raghavendra Babu, the chairman of the expert committee on invasive species in Chennai National Biodiversity Authority.

229. Which country has taken over the Chair of the Group of 77 (G-77) for 2019?

- A. Burundi
- B. China
- C. Egypt
- D. Palestine

Answer: D. Palestine -The State of Palestine has launched the historical phase by presiding Group of 77 (G-77) for 2019 on January 15. Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas succeeded Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi with a promise to confront "assaults" on multilateralism and a pledge to seek a peaceful two-state solution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The decision to elect Palestine as the 2019 Chair of the G77 was taken in September 2018 by the foreign ministers of the Groups' member states. For this, the UN General Assembly (UNGA) in 2017 adopted a resolution granting the observer-state of Palestine additional rights to act as chair of the G-77. The bloc - which through an expanding membership is now comprised of 134 countries - rotates chairmanship duties each year to different members. The G-77 is the global body's largest intergovernmental organisation of developing countries including India. It is established in 1964 by 77 developing countries in Geneva. It claims to provide the means for the countries of the South to articulate and promote their collective economic interests and enhance their joint negotiating capacity on all major international economic issues within the UN system and promote South-South cooperation for development.

230. Which state government has launched 'Ama Ghare LED' scheme?

- A. Tripura
- B. Odisha
- C. Arunachal Pradesh
- D. Mizoram

Answer: B. Odisha - Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has recently launched 'Ama Ghare LED' scheme, under which about 95 lakh families in the State will each get four LED bulbs free of cost. Under the scheme, each beneficiary registered under National Food Security Act (NFSA) and the State Food Security Scheme (SFSS) will be provided four LED bulbs of 9 watt each free of cost. To implement the scheme, the

bulbs will be distributed at Panchayat offices as well as PEETHA (People's Empowerment—Enabling Transparency and Accountability of Odisha Initiative) camps across the state. The beneficiaries will have to produce biometric authentication to get the benefits of the scheme.

231. Which city is the venue of the 1st National EMRS National Sports Meet 2019?

- A. Hyderabad
- B. New Delhi
- C. Dehradun
- D. Chennai

Answer: A. Hyderabad - On 14th January 2019, the 1st National Level Sports Meet for the students of Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) was held at G.M.C Balayogi Stadium in Gachibowli, Hyderabad. The event has a participation of 1777 students comprising of 975 boys and 802 girls representing 20 States of the country. The striking feature of Sports meet has been the platform made available to tribal students studying in EMRS from the remote corners of North East India to Himachal Pradesh in North to Kerala in South and Gujarat in West to exhibit their latent talent in sports which would otherwise not be possible in normal course. The three day event had competitions in 13 different disciplines of track and field that includes Hockey, Wrestling, Football, Archery, Volley Ball, Kabaddi, Handball, Kho Kho and Athletics. The scheme of EMRSs is one of the flagship intervention of the Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs introduced in the year 1997-98 to ensure tribal students get access to quality education in the remote tribal areas.

232. Who has been named as the chief coach for the Indian women boxers?

- A. Gurbax Singh Sandhu
- B. Anoop Kumar
- C. Mohammed Ali Qamar
- D. Chhote Lal Yadav

Answer: C. Mohammed Ali Qamar - Mohammed Ali Qamar, India's first Commonwealth Games gold medal in boxing, has been named as the chief coach for the Indian women boxers. With this new role, he became the youngest ever person to get the top job. Ali Qamar replaced veteran Shiv Singh as the women's coach. Prior to this, Ali Qamar was an assistant coach in the national camp for more than a year. Ali Qamar had created history in the 2002 Manchester edition of the Commonwealth Games, when he became the first Indian ever to win a Commonwealth Boxing Gold.

233. Who has won the Franco-German Human Rights Award?

- A. Maria da Penha
- B. Yu Wensheng

- C. Thun Saray
- D. Wang Qiaoling

Answer: B. Yu Wensheng - Detained Chinese lawyer, Yu Wensheng has won the Franco-German Human Rights Award for his exceptional contribution to the protection and promotion of human rights. His wife, Madam Xu Yan, received the Franco-German Prize for Human Rights and the Rule of Law on her husband's behalf from the French and German ambassadors to China at an event organised by the German embassy in Beijing on January 14, 2019. Wensheng is best known for suing the Beijing government over the city's once chronic pollution - was detained in January 2018 and charged with "inciting subversion of state power". Prior to his arrest, he had circulated an open letter calling for five reforms to China's constitution, including the institution of multi-candidate presidential elections.

234. D Gukesh, who has been crowned India's youngest Grandmaster (GM), is from which state?

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

Answer: B. Tamil Nadu - D Gukesh from Chennai has become the 2nd youngest Grandmaster (GM) in the world and the youngest Indian to achieve the feat at 12 years, seven months and 17 days. He erased the mark set by his state-mate R Praggnanandhaa in June 2018. He achieved his third and final GM norm at the ongoing 17th Delhi International Open Chess tournament in Delhi after beating compatriot D K Sharma in the ninth round. Gukesh becomes India's 59th Grand Master. Sergey Karjakin from Ukraine holds the record for the world's youngest- ever grandmaster, having qualified for the title at the age of 12 years and 7 months in 2002.

235. Who has been appointed the new CEO of the International Cricket Council (ICC)?

- A. K P Sharma
- B. Manu Sawhney
- C. Mohan Das Pai
- D. Vinod Rai

Answer: B. Manu Sawhney - Manu Sawhney, a veteran media professional, has been appointed the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the International Cricket Council (ICC). He will join the organisation in February and take formal charge of his position in July, once incumbent David Richardson steps down following the 2019 ICC Men's Cricket World Cup. Sawhney is the former CEO of Singapore Sports Hub and Managing Director of ESPN Star Sports.

236. Which state government has recently decided to start bird hospitals?

- A. Kerala
- B. Delhi
- C. Rajasthan
- D. Madhya Pradesh

Answer: B. Delhi - In a first, the government of Delhi has proposed a specialised treatment facility for birds in the National Capital Territory, as part of its Animal Health and Welfare Policy 2018. It aims to strengthen overall animal health cover through prevention, control and eradication of various disease conditions, disease monitoring, surveillance and extension of veterinary services. It also aims to animal welfare through sensitization of public, rehabilitation of animals, crisis/disaster management for animals, infirmary for sick or injured, hostel facility for farm, stray or abandoned animals.

237. The 10th edition of the India Rubber Expo (IRE-2019) has started in which of the following cities?

- A. Mumbai
- B. Kochi
- C. Shimla
- D. Hyderabad

Answer: A. Mumbai - The 10th edition of the India Rubber Expo (IRE-2019) has been inaugurated by Union Minister Suresh Prabhu at the Bombay Convention & Exhibition Centre in Mumbai on January 17. The IRE will showcase the latest technological developments in rubber industry and also talk about the current market status, facilities and services on R&D and quality control. It provides a platform for the Indian companies to meet and collaborate with overseas companies. The 3-day event offers a unique opportunity for Indian companies to meet and collaborate with overseas companies. The India Rubber Expo is Asia's largest rubber expo.

238. Which organisation / personality has been chosen for the Gandhi Peace Prize 2018?

- A. Ekal Abhiyan Trust
- B. Akshaya Patra Foundation
- C. Yohei Sasakawa
- D. Sulabh International

Answer: C. Yohei Sasakawa - Yohei Sasakawa, who is Goodwill Ambassador of the WHO for Leprosy Eradication, has been conferred the Gandhi Peace Prize for 2018. The award will be given to Sasakawa in recognition of his work towards eradication of the disease in India and across the world. The Ministry of Culture has also announced the Gandhi Peace Prize for the years 2015, 2016 and 2017. These are as follows: Ekal Abhiyan Trust has been chosen for the award for year 2017 while Akshaya Patra Foundation and Sulabh International will share the award for 2016. Vivekananda Kendra, Kanyakumari bagged the award for 2015. Vivekananda Kendra will be awarded

for its contribution in rural development, education, development of natural resources. The annual award was instituted by the Government of India in 1995 during the commemoration of 125th Birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. The award carries an amount of Rs 1Crore, a Citation in a scroll, a plaque as well as an exquisite traditional handicraft/handloom item.

239. Who is the convenor of the newly constituted Group of Ministers (GoM) to look at issues related to lottery under GST?

- A. Sudhir Mungantiwar
- B. Himanta Biswa Sarma
- C. Mauvin Godinho
- D. Krishna Byre Gowda

Answer: A. Sudhir Mungantiwar - In pursuance of decision in the 32nd Meeting of GST Council held on 10th January 2019 at New Delhi, a Group of Ministers (GoM) on issues relating to lottery has been constituted. The ministerial panel headed by Maharashtra Finance Minister Sudhir Mungantiwar will examine uniformity of taxation on lottery under GST or other issues arising out of it. Under GST, state-organised lottery falls under the 12% tax slab while state-authorized lottery attracts 28% tax. According to the terms of reference, the panel will decide whether the disparity in tax structure on the same product needs be continued or a uniform rate be prescribed for both. The panel will also examine any other issue related to enforcement, including the legal frame work, in order to curb evasion of tax on lottery and suggest appropriate tax rate to address the problem. The GoM for lottery will submit its report to GST Council in next its meeting for approval.

240. Saksham 2019 is an annual high intensity people-centric mega campaign under the aegis of which ministry?

- A. Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation
- B. Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas
- C. Ministry of Finance
- D. Ministry of Information and Broadcasting

Answer: B. Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas - Saksham 2019 is an annual high intensity one-month long people-centric mega campaign, which is organised by Petroleum Conservation Research Association (PCRA) under the aegis of Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas. The purpose of the Saksham (Sanrakshan Kshamta Mahotsav) is to sensitize the masses about conservation and efficient use of petroleum products which will lead towards better health and environment. The campaign seeks to promote effective utilization of petroleum products, something that will lead to environmental protection.

241. For how many states, Ministry of Home Affairs Rs 637.98 crore for development of areas along international borders?

- A. 8
- B. 12
- C. 15
- D. 17

Answer: D. 17 - The Ministry of Home Affairs announced release of Rs 637.98 crore during 2018-19 to 17 states to develop the living standards of people living within 50 kilometres of the International Border. This will be given under the Border Area Development Programme (BADP). Earlier in 2017-18, the ministry had released Rs 1,100 crore for the all-round development of villages along the international borders.

242. Asian Cup gold medallist Shakil Ahmed has set up a world record in which of the following sport?

- A. Surfing
- B. Rowing
- C. Canoeing
- D. Gymnastics

Answer: B. Rowing - Asian Cup gold medallist Shakil Ahmed has set up a world record in indoor rowing by completing 1 lakh meters in above-40 years category in Kolkata. Shakil began his record-setting indoor rowing feat in Salt Lake stadium complex and achieved the milestone of covering 1 lakh meters of simulated distance in 10 hours.

243. The Madras High Court has set up an expert committee to find a solution to root out invasive species of plants from the Western Ghats. It was headed by;

- A. N Sathish
- B. M M Sundaresh
- C. Cherukuri Raghavendra Babu
- D. Atulananda Das

Answer: C. Cherukuri Raghavendra Babu- The Madras High Court has set up an expert committee to find a solution to root out invasive species of plants from the Western Ghats. The committee shall be headed by Cherukuri Raghavendra Babu, the chairman of the expert committee on invasive species in Chennai National Biodiversity Authority. It has also directed the panel to file a report on the ways to weed out such species within two months. A division bench of justices M M Sundaresh and N Sathish recently decided to constitute the committee on a batch of petitions seeking to restrain the state government from cultivating eucalyptus species in Tamil Nadu for commercial purpose.

244. On which date, Indian Army Day was observed?

- A. 15 January
- B. 13 January
- C. 9 January
- D. 6 January

Answer: A. 15 January- Army Day is observed on January 15 in India. On this day in 1949, Field Marshal Kodandera M Cariappa took over as the first Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Army from General Sir Francis Butcher, the last British Commander-in-Chief. Army day is dedicated to the soldiers who fought to safeguard the country's honour. This is the 71st celebration of the Indian Army Day.

245. Where was the 1st National Level Sports Meet for the students of Eklavya Model Residential Schools held?

- A. Bengaluru
- B. Mumbai
- C. Delhi
- D. Hyderabad

Answer: D. Hyderabad - The 1st National Level Sports Meet for the students of Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) was inaugurated by Jaswantsinh Sumanbhai Bhabhor, Minister of State for Tribal Affairs at G.M.C Balayogi Stadium, Hyderabad. The Minister also launched an app 'EMRS Sports Meet' dedicated on the occasion. The event had participation of 1777 students comprising of 975 boys and 802 girls representing 20 States of the country.

246. Which bank appoints B Sriram and Rama Bijapurkar on its board as independent director?

- A. ICICI Bank
- B. Punjab National Bank
- C. Kotak Mahindra Bank
- D. HDFC Bank

Answer: A. ICICI Bank - Private sector ICICI Bank inducted former SBI Managing Director B Sriram and management consultant Rama Bijapurkar on its board as independent director. Both are appointed for 5 years, subject to the approval of shareholders, ICICI Bank stated in a regulatory filing on stock exchanges. Sriram retired as the managing director of IDBI Bank in September 2018. Prior to IDBI Bank, he was the managing director of SBI.

247. Who has been appointed as the new CEO of ICC?

- A. Belinda Clark
- B. Manu Sawhney
- C. Ranjan Madugalle

D. Kyle Coetzer

Answer: B. Manu Sawhney- The International Cricket Council (ICC) announced that Manu Sawhney has been appointed as the organization's new Chief Executive Officer (CEO). Sawhney, the former CEO of Singapore Sports Hub and Managing Director of ESPN Star Sports, will join the organization before formally taking over the reins from David Richardson in July following the ICC World Cup 2019.

248. This program was launched to enable women entrepreneurs and women self-help groups (WSHGs) to sell handicrafts and handloom, accessories and many other products.

A. Udyogini Scheme

B. SKishor

C. TREAD scheme

D. Womaniya on GeM

Answer: D. Womaniya on GeM - Government e Marketplace (GeM) has launched "Womaniya on GeM", an initiative to enable women entrepreneurs and women self-help groups (WSHGs) to sell handicrafts and handloom, accessories and many other products. The initiative seeks to develop women entrepreneurship on the margins of society to achieve gender-inclusive economic growth. Government e-Marketplace is a 100% government owned company set up under the aegis of Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

249. Who was elected the President of the Democratic Republic of Congo?

A. Joseph Kabila

B. Felix Tshisekedi

C. Emmanuel Shadary

D. Martin Fayulu

Answer: B. Felix Tshisekedi - Democratic Republic of Congo's opposition leader Felix Tshisekedi won the long delayed Presidential Election by receiving more than 7 million or 38% votes. Following the election results, Current President Joseph Kabila is stepping down after 18 years in office. Mr Tshisekedi will be the first opposition challenger to win since the DR Congo gained independence in 1960. Martin Fayulu stands second and Emmanuel Shadary stands third in the Presidential elections.

250. Name Nepal's Chief of the Army Staff who was awarded the Honorary Rank of General of the Indian Army by President of India Ram Nath Kovind.

A. General Purna Chandra Thapa

B. General Narinder Simha

C. General Ram Prathap

D. General Surya Kishan

Answer: A. General Purna Chandra Thapa - The President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, awarded the Honorary Rank of General of the Indian Army on Sukirtimaya Rashtradeep General Purna Chandra Thapa, Chief of the Army Staff, Nepal Army, for his immense military skills and immeasurable contribution to bring up Nepal's long and friendly relationship with India, at a special Ceremony held at Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi. Thapa assumed the command of the Nepal Army in September 2018. Nepal army chief is to arrive India on a four day visit. It will be his first official bilateral visit after taking over the command of the Nepal Army.

251. 2+2 Inter-Sessional meeting between the United States and India was held in which of the following city?

- A. New Delhi
- B. San Francisco
- C. Mumbai
- D. New York

Answer: A. New Delhi- The inaugural round of a 2+2 Inter-Sessional meeting between the United States and India which focused on the progress of defence and foreign policy issues between the two countries took place in New Delhi. Shri Gourangalal Das, Joint Secretary (AMS), Ministry of External Affairs and Shri Shambhu S. Kumaran, Joint Secretary (PIC), Ministry of Defence led the Indian delegation. The U.S. delegation was led jointly by Ambassador Ms. Alice Wells, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State and Mr. Randall Schriver, Assistant Secretary of Defense. The meeting was a follow up on the decisions taken during the India-U.S. Ministerial 2+2 Dialogue, which was held in New Delhi in September 2018.

252. 6th annual 'Women of India Organic Festival' was held in _____.

- A. Hyderabad
- B. Chandigarh
- C. Chennai
- D. Kolkata

Answer: B. Chandigarh - The three-day 6th annual 'Women of India Organic Festival' commenced at Leisure Valley, Sector-10, Chandigarh. This is the first time the event is being held in Chandigarh. It aims to celebrate and promote women farmers and entrepreneurs in the organic sector from the remotest parts of India. It has been organized by the Ministry of Women and Child Development. Shri B.L. Sharma, Secretary, Women and Child Development, UT Chandigarh was the Chief Guest.

253. Who launched the 'Ama Ghare LED' scheme in the state on 11th January 2019?

- A. Arvind Kejriwal
- B. Nitish Kumar
- C. Naveen Patnaik

D. Mamata Banerjee

Answer: C. Naveen Patnaik- Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik launched the 'Ama Ghare LED' scheme, under which about 95 lakh families in the State will each get four LED bulbs free of cost. The scheme in which the LED bulbs (9-watt each) will be distributed to the beneficiaries registered under the National Food Security Act (NFSA) and the State Food Security Scheme (SFSS) was launched during the 'Ama Gaon, Ama Bikash' programme. Distribution of the bulbs will be started through the PEETHA (Peoples Empowerment - Enabling Transparency and Accountability of Odisha Initiatives) schemes on January 15. The scheme will be implemented by Odisha Power Transmission Corporation Limited (OPTCL) and the bulbs will be distributed through camps to be held during 15th to 20th of every month and through the PDS outlets across the State.

254. India's Largest Startup Ecosystem Inaugurated in which of the following city?

- A. Kerala
- B. Rajasthan
- C. Tamil Nadu
- D. Haryana

Answer: A. Kerala -India got its largest startup ecosystem when Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan inaugurated a 1.8-lakh-square-foot facility housing incubation set-ups across a string of segments in modern technology. The Integrated Startup Complex under the Kerala Startup Mission (KSUM) includes the ultra-modern facilities of Maker Village that promote hardware startups, the BioNest that promotes medical technologies, BRINC which is the country's first international accelerator for hardware startups.

255. The tallest bronze statue (33 ft.) of Swami Vivekananda built at a cost of Rs 17 crore was unveiled in _____ on 12th January 2019 to mark the 156th birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda.

- A. Agra, Uttar Pradesh
- B. Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala
- C. Ranchi, Jharkhand
- D. Udaipur, Rajasthan

Answer: C. Ranchi, Jharkhand - The nation celebrated the National Youth Day (also known as Yuva Diwas) to honour the birthday of Swami Vivekananda, one of India's greatest spiritual and social leaders who had strong faith in the power of youth. On this occasion, President Ram Nath Kovind and Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid tributes to Swami Vivekananda on his 156th birth anniversary. On National Youth Day 2019, the tallest bronze statue (33 ft.) of Swami Vivekanand built at the cost of Rs 17 crore will be unveiled in Ranchi, Jharkhand by Chief Minister Raghubar Das.

256. Who has become the youngest gold medallist in shooting at the Khelo India Youth Games 2019?

- A. Mehuli Ghosh
- B. Devanshi Rana
- C. Abhinav Shaw
- D. Pratap Singh Tomar

Answer: C. Abhinav Shaw - Abhinav Shaw (10) has become the youngest gold medallist in shooting at the Khelo India Youth Games 2019 in Pune. He teamed up with Mehuli Ghosh to help West Bengal win the 10m air rifle mixed team event. Delhi's Devanshi Rana bagged gold in Under-21 girls 25m pistol event. In overall medals tally, Home state Maharashtra is leading in Medal tally of the event with 177 Medals including 64 Gold. Delhi is on No. 2 with 121 medals including 47 Gold and Haryana is on No.3 with 110 Medals including 37 Gold.

257. Who is the head of the Group of Ministers (GoM) for GST issues in real estate?

- A. Kamleshwar Sharma
- B. Prabhuram Chowdhary
- C. Govind Singh
- D. Nitin Patel

Answer: D. Nitin Patel- The Government of India (GoI) has constituted a 7-member Group of Ministers (GoM) to boost the real estate sector under the GST regime. Deputy Chief Minister of Gujarat Nitin Patel will be the convener of the GoM. The panel will analyse tax rate of GST and suggest a composition scheme for residential construction units. It will also look into the issue of the legality of inclusion or exclusion of land or any other ingredient in the composition scheme and suggest valuation mechanism. It will also examine various aspects of the GST levy on Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) and Development Rights in a joint Development Agreement and suitable model. Currently, GST on the under-construction flats and houses is 12% whereas ready-to-move-in flats with a completion certificate attract no GST. There are also complaints about the builders not passing on the benefit of input tax credit to the consumers. The Council's law and fitment committee will assist the panel. The officers from the Centre and states can also be invited in the committee for inputs, if required.

258. Which state government has launched the farm debt-waiver scheme 'Jai Kisan Rin Mukti Yojana'?

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

Answer: A. Madhya Pradesh- In Madhya Pradesh, Chief Minister Kamal Nath launched the Rs 50,000-crore farm debt-waiver scheme named 'Jai Kisan Rin Mukti Yojana' on January 16, 2019. It would benefit 55 lakh small and marginal farmers. Under this scheme, Farmers who have registered themselves to pay GST and are paying income tax cannot avail benefits.

259. Trishna gas project, which is in news recently, is located in which of the following states?

- A. Nagaland
- B. Tripura
- C. Manipur
- D. Assam

Answer: B. Tripura - The National Board for Wildlife (NBWL) has recently given its approval for the Trishna Gas project of ONGC to extract Natural Gas from Trishna Wildlife Sanctuary (TWS) in Belonia subdivision of Gomati district of Tripura. ONGC has discovered 10-12 gas bearing wells in the sanctuary. The gas extracted from the Sanctuary would be transported to the North Eastern Electric Power Corporation (NEEPCO) owned 100 MW gas-based thermal power project at Monarchak in Sonamura subdivision of Sipahijala district. The Tripura unit of ONGC would provide Rs 25 crore to the state government for carrying out Swacch Bharat Abhiyan. The NBWL is a statutory organization constituted under the Wildlife Protection Act of 1972, and is chaired by the Prime Minister. It is an apex body to review all wildlife-related matters and approves projects in and around national parks and sanctuaries. It is chaired by the Prime Minister.

260. Who of the following has become the wicket-keeper captain with the most number of catches in a match?

- A. Kamran Akmal
- B. Rashid Latif
- C. MS Dhoni
- D. Sarfaraz Ahmed

Answer: D. Sarfaraz Ahmed - Sarfaraz Ahmed, the current captain of the Pakistan cricket team, has set a new wicket-keeping record during the final Test match against South Africa at the Wanderers Stadium in Johannesburg on January 13. He took 10 catches in the on-going Test match and surpassed Australia's Adam Gilchrist and former Indian captain, MS Dhoni, to become the only wicket-keeper captain with the most number of catches in a match. Furthermore, the Pakistani captain has also made another record; taking five catches in each innings of a Test match.

261. 'IMBEX 2018-19' has started between India and which of the following countries?

- A. Bangladesh
- B. Myanmar
- C. Mauritius
- D. Indonesia

Answer: B. Mauritius - On 14th January 2019, the 2nd edition of India-Myanmar bilateral Army exercise 'IMBEX 2018-19' has commenced at Chandi Mandir military station in Haryana that houses the headquarters of the Western Command of the Indian Army. The purpose of this joint training event is to train the Myanmar delegation for participation in UN peacekeeping operations. The exercise includes participation of 15 officers from Myanmar Army and 15 officers from Indian Army who shall jointly train for over a period of six days. During the exercise, focus will be on training the Myanmar Army on tactics, procedures, expertise and methodology required by the contingent of the member nations for serving in UN peacekeeping operations.

262. Michael Atiyah was the noted mathematician of which country, who passed away recently?

- A. Germany
- B. United Kingdom
- C. France
- D. United States

Answer: United Kingdom - Prof. Sir Michael Atiyah (89), the noted British mathematician has passed away in United Kingdom on 11th January 2019. He was best known for his co-development of a branch of mathematics called topological K-theory and the Atiyah-Singer index theorem. His research also involved deep insights relating to mathematical concepts known as "vector bundles". Sir Michael was also a recipient of the Abel Prize (2004) and Fields Medal (1966), and was the former president of the Royal Society in London. He was one of the foremost mathematicians whose work encompassed topology and geometry, and worked with several Indian mathematicians such as Indian-American mathematician Harish-Chandra and Vijay Kumar Patodi, during his career.

263. Who is the head of the committee which is formed by Madras High Court to weed out invasive plant species from Western Ghats?

- A. M M Sundaresh
- B. N Sathish
- C. Cherukuri Raghavendra Babu
- D. Priyavrat Sisodiya

Answer: C. Cherukuri Raghavendra Babu - The Madras High Court has expressed serious concern over the exotic invasive species that have stifled the growth of the native shola forests and grasslands on the Western Ghats. It observed that such

species are the second largest cause of biodiversity loss in the world and impose high costs to agriculture, forestry, and aquatic ecosystems. Hence, for this burning issue, the court has constituted an expert committee to suggest ways and means to remove the alien plants species and rehabilitate the forests. Here, a division bench of justices M M Sundaresh and N Sathish passed the interim order on a batch of Public Interest Litigation (PIL) petitions seeking to restrain the Tamil Nadu government from cultivating eucalyptus trees in Western Ghats for commercial purpose. It has also directed the committee to file a report on the ways to weed out such species within two months. The committee will be headed by Cherukuri Raghavendra Babu, the chairman of the expert committee on invasive species in Chennai National Biodiversity Authority.

264. Which country has taken over the Chair of the Group of 77 (G-77) for 2019?

- A. Burundi
- B. China
- C. Egypt
- D. Palestine

Answer: D. Palestine- The State of Palestine has launched the historical phase by presiding Group of 77 (G-77) for 2019 on January 15. Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas succeeded Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi with a promise to confront "assaults" on multilateralism and a pledge to seek a peaceful two-state solution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The decision to elect Palestine as the 2019 Chair of the G77 was taken in September 2018 by the foreign ministers of the Groups' member states. For this, the UN General Assembly (UNGA) in 2017 adopted a resolution granting the observer-state of Palestine additional rights to act as chair of the G-77. The bloc - which through an expanding membership is now comprised of 134 countries - rotates chairmanship duties each year to different members. The G-77 is the global body's largest intergovernmental organisation of developing countries including India. It is established in 1964 by 77 developing countries in Geneva. It claims to provide the means for the countries of the South to articulate and promote their collective economic interests and enhance their joint negotiating capacity on all major international economic issues within the UN system and promote South-South cooperation for development.

265. Which state government has launched 'Ama Ghare LED' scheme?

- A. Tripura
- B. Odisha
- C. Arunachal Pradesh
- D. Mizoram

Answer: B. Odisha - Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has recently launched 'Ama Ghare LED' scheme, under which about 95 lakh families in the State will each get four LED bulbs free of cost. Under the scheme, each beneficiary registered under

National Food Security Act (NFSA) and the State Food Security Scheme (SFSS) will be provided four LED bulbs of 9 watt each free of cost. To implement the scheme, the bulbs will be distributed at Panchayat offices as well as PEETHA (People's Empowerment—Enabling Transparency and Accountability of Odisha Initiative) camps across the state. The beneficiaries will have to produce biometric authentication to get the benefits of the scheme.

266. Who has become the first Indian athlete to be nominated in Laureus World Comeback of Year Award?

- A. Vinesh Phogat
- B. Hima Das
- C. Mary Kom
- D. Muhammed Anas Yahiya

Answer: A. Vinesh Phogat - Ace Indian female wrestler Vinesh Phogat from Haryana has become the first Indian athlete to receive a nomination in the prestigious Laureus World Comeback of the Year Award. Vinesh made a sensational comeback after battling a long injury lay-off to win a gold medal at the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games and Jakarta Asian Games. She has been nominated alongside US Tour Championship winner Tiger Woods, who won his first tournament in five years. The Awards will be presented in Monaco on the 18th of February 2019. Monaco is a tiny independent city-state on France's Mediterranean coastline.

267. Which state government has announced Shaurya Award for Students?

- A. Sikkim
- B. Haryana
- C. Himachal Pradesh
- D. Rajasthan

Answer: B. Haryana -Haryana chief minister Manohar Lal Khattar has announced a 'Shaurya Award' to students in the name of 71 martyrs of state police force who laid down their lives in the line of duty while protecting society and maintaining law and order in the state. It was announced by the state government while organizing the first state-level function at the National Police Memorial in New Delhi to honour the families of all 71 policemen who died in various attacks and encounters since the formation of the state in 1966. Under this award, a prize money of Rs 11,000 in memory of a police martyr will be given to a student for courageous deeds every year in a village block where the school is located and where a martyr studied during his childhood.

268. Who has been appointed as Director General (Investigation) in the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)?

- A. Amit Kulshrestha

- B. S N Pradhan
- C. Prabhat Singh
- D. Pradeep Das

Answer: C. Prabhat Singh - Prabhat Singh, a 1988 batch IPS officer of Jharkhand cadre, has been appointed as new Director General (Investigation) in the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC). Singh is at present Special Director in Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF). He has been appointed to the post for a period up to April 30, 2020, the date of his superannuation. The NHRC is an autonomous public body constituted on 12th October 1993 under the Protection of Human Rights Ordinance of 28 September 1993. It was given a statutory basis by the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993 (TPHRA). Apart from him, S N Pradhan has been appointed Director General of National Disaster Response Force (NDRF).

269. What is the theme of the 9th Vibrant Gujarat Global Investors Summit 2019?

- A. Gujarat Going Global
- B. Shaping a new India
- C. Gujarat Connecting India to the World
- D. Explore India

Answer: B. Shaping a new India - On 18th January, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 9th edition of Vibrant Gujarat global investors' summit- 2019 at Mahatma Mandir Exhibition cum Convention Centre in Gandhinagar. The main theme of the 3-day summit is "Shaping a new India". More than 30 thousand international and Indian delegates including the 5 Heads of States from from Uzbekistan, Rwanda, Denmark, Czech Republic and Malta are participating in the summit. Apart from this, 11 international organizations are participating as partner organizations for the Summit. The summit will provide a forum for discussion on Global, National and State-level agendas with a sharp focus on all round economic development for a 'New India'.

270. Which union ministry has decided to organize Shehri Samridhi Utsav?

- A. Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution
- B. Ministry of Women and Child Development
- C. Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
- D. Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs

Answer: D. Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs - Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has decided to organize an event named Shehri Samridhi Utsav from 1st -15th February 2019 all over the country focusing on urban livelihoods. The purpose of the event is to extend the outreach of Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM) to the poorest of poor and the most vulnerable.

271. The Ministry of Finance has started which series on Twitter to educate general public about the budgetary process?

- A. Know Budgetary Process
- B. Know Your Budget
- C. Know Your Economy
- D. Know Making of Budget

Answer: B. Know Your Budget - The Union Ministry of Finance has started 'Know Your Budget' fortnight series on its Twitter handle to educate general public about the budgetary process. The series would explain the importance of Union Budget and its making, and would continue for about a fortnight. In the first series of tweets, the Ministry explained the terms - Union Budget and Vote on Account. These are as follows: The Budget is the most comprehensive report of the government's finances in which revenues from all sources and outlays for all activities are consolidated. The Budget also contains estimates of the government's accounts for the next fiscal year called Budget estimates. The Vote on Account is defined as a grant made in advance by Parliament for expenditure for a part of the next financial year.

272. Who has become the first Indian and youngest man to climb the seven highest peaks and volcanic summits across all continents?

- A. Mamta Sodha
- B. Jaahnavi Sriperambuduru
- C. Malavath Purna
- D. Satyarup Siddhanta

Answer: D. Satyarup Siddhanta - Mountaineer Satyarup Siddhanta conquered the highest point Antarctica 'Mount Sidley' on 19th of January 2019. With this feat, he became the first Indian and youngest man to climb the seven highest peaks and volcanic summits across all continents. According to the in-Reach Satellite, Communicator Satyarup was carrying, he summited Mount Sidley at 6. 28 in the morning Indian Standard Time (IST) at a temperature of minus 40-degree Celsius. He achieved the feat at the age of 35 years and 262 days. Australia's Daniel Bull had done it at the age of 36 years 157 days. Last year, Satyarup had scaled the highest volcanic peak in North America, Pico de Orizaba. Satyarup hails from Haridevpur in South Kolkata and is a software engineer by profession.

273. Which Indian-born personality is the recipient of the 2019 Japan Prize for his outstanding contribution to sustainable soil management?

- A. Rattan Lal
- B. Jayant Narlikar
- C. Rohini Godbole
- D. Raghunath Mashelkar

Answer: A. Rattan Lal - The Japan Prize Foundation has recently announced the laureates of the 2019 Japan Prize, who have pushed the envelope in their respective fields of “Materials and Production” and “Biological Production, Ecology”. Indian-born Dr. Rattan Lal, a soil scientist at The Ohio State University, has been awarded the 2019 Japan Prize for his outstanding contribution to sustainable soil management. Lal is the first Ohio State scientist and the first soil scientist to ever receive the prize. Apart from Lal, Dr. Yoshio Okamoto, Professor Emeritus at Nagoya University in Japan, has also been chosen for the award. To honor Drs. Lal and Okamoto, the Japan Prize Foundation will host an award ceremony on April 8, 2019 in Tokyo. Each laureate will receive a certificate of recognition and a commemorative gold medal. A cash award of 50 million Japanese yen (approximately \$450,000 USD) will also be given to each prize field.

274. Which city is the venue of the 2nd World Orange Festival (WOF-2019)?

- A. Kanpur
- B. Udaipur
- C. Nagpur
- D. Jhansi

Answer: C. Nagpur - In Maharashtra, the 2nd World Orange Festival (WOF-2019) has started in Nagpur from 19th January, which will continue till to 21st of this month. The festival, while offering its famed oranges to the world, will also showcase and brand the exquisite fruit in order to boost its export. Agricultural experts and scientists from various countries will participate in the workshops and guide farmers.

275. The world's first human rights TV channel has been launched in which of the following cities?

- A. New York
- B. London
- C. Berlin
- D. Paris

Answer: B. London - The world's first television channel dedicated to human rights has been launched in London with a promise to deliver hidden stories ignored by mainstream media into people's living rooms. The International Observatory of Human Rights (IOHR) stated that its web-based channel would bring human rights issues to audiences in over 20 countries across Europe, Latin America and the Middle East. Topics will include refugees, press freedom and the incarceration of journalists, extremism, women's rights, LGBT+ issues and the plight of the world's stateless people. Broadcasts can be viewed via the netgem.tv interactive platform and will shortly be available via a mobile app.

276. The state-of-the-art National Museum of Indian Cinema (NMIC) has recently inaugurated in which of the following cities?

- A. Mumbai
- B. Shillong
- C. Hyderabad
- D. Varanasi

Answer: A. Mumbai - On 19th January, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the National Museum of Indian Cinema (NMIC) in Mumbai, Maharashtra. The state-of-the-art Museum has been built at a cost of over Rs 140 crore. The objective of the Museum is to take its visitors through an absorbing journey of over a century of Indian cinema in a story telling mode with the help of visuals, graphics, artifacts, interactive exhibits and multimedia expositions. The Museum is housed in two buildings - the New Museum Building and the 19th century historic palace Gulshan Mahal in the Films Division campus in Mumbai. The New Museum Building has four Exhibition Halls which encapsulate Gandhi and Cinema, Children's Film Studio, Technology, creativity and Indian Cinema and Cinema across India. The museum will not only cater to the needs of film critics and enthusiasts but also enthrall visitors through visuals, graphics, interactive exhibits and multimedia expositions about India's century-long cinematic journey.

277. The Government of India (GoI) has approved setting up of three new Naval Air Squadrons in which of the following states?

- A. Assam and Sikkim
- B. Gujarat and Tamil Nadu
- C. West Bengal and Odisha
- D. Kerala and Karnataka

Answer: B. Gujarat and Tamil Nadu- The Government of India (GoI) has approved setting up of three new naval air squadrons in Gujarat and Tamil Nadu as part of efforts to bolster the Indian Navy's overall strength. Besides this, the Central Government has also sanctioned manpower towards manning additional aircraft in existing Dornier Surveillance Squadrons in Kerala and Andaman Islands. A contract for procurement of 12 Dornier aircraft was signed with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) two years back and their delivery is commencing soon. The new Dornier 228 maritime surveillance aircraft to be delivered to the Navy are fitted with improved 'state of the art' sensors and equipment which includes glass cockpit, advanced surveillance radar, optical sensors and networking features. The aircraft will enhance maritime domain awareness of Indian Navy through round the clock sensor based surveillance and provide targeting data in areas of operation to ward off terror and other threats from sea. The addition will further strengthen Indian Navy's efforts at Coastal Security of India's vast coastline of over 7 thousand kilometres.

278. The German parliament has classified which of the following North African states as safe countries of origin?

- A. Algeria
- B. Tunisia
- C. Morocco
- D. All of the above

Answer: D. All of the above- The German parliament has recently adopted a draft law that classifies the North African states of Algeria, Tunisia and Morocco as well as Georgia as safe countries of origin. The move is meant to deter migrants from those countries and streamline the handling of asylum applications. Once the law is approved by the German Federal Council, asylum procedures for people arriving from these countries will be accelerated. The return procedure of rejected applicants to their home country will also be sped up. According to the German constitution, safe countries of origin are countries in which there is neither political persecution nor inhuman or degrading punishment and treatment. The law has yet to be approved by the German Federal Council.

279. Who has been elected as the new Prime Minister of Sweden?

- A. Gustav Fridolin
- B. Stefan Lofven
- C. Ulf Kristersson
- D. Jimmie Åkesson

Answer: B. Stefan Lofven- In Sweden, Prime Minister Stefan Lofven has been elected for a second term on 18th January 2019 after an agreement was struck between the Social Democrats, Greens, Liberals, and Centre Party, and after the Left Party agreed to abstain from voting against Lofven. He is expected to formally present his new government and its full programme on 21st January 2019. It will be one of the weakest administrations in Sweden in 70 years, with just 32.7% of voters having cast ballots for the two parties. Sweden's inconclusive legislative elections in September 2018 had not left either main parliamentary bloc with a majority.

280. Which of the following state governments have approved 10% reservation reservation for poor among general category?

- A. Odisha and Uttar Pradesh
- B. Gujarat and Assam
- C. Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan
- D. Jharkhand and Uttar Pradesh

Answer: D. Jharkhand and Uttar Pradesh - After Gujarat and Jharkhand, the Uttar Pradesh government has approved 10% reservation in jobs and educational institutions for economically backward in the general category. The decision was taken at the state cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath in Lucknow. Recently, President Ram Nath Kovind cleared the landmark Constitution (124 Amendment) Bill,

2019 passed by parliament, which will provide 10% reservation in government jobs and college seats for people outside high income brackets. Now, the Act empowers all individuals of the General category whose family's combined annual income is less than Rs 8 lakh, and who hold less than five acres of agricultural land.

281. Diffo Bridge, which is in news recently, is located in which of the following states?

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

Answer: B. Arunachal Pradesh- In Arunachal Pradesh, Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has inaugurated the Diffo Bridge over Diffo river in Lower Dibang Valley district on 18th January 2019. The bridge is 426 mts long Pre Stressed Concrete Box Girder type bridge on Roing-Koron-Paya road in the state. It would provide uninterrupted access between Dibang valley and Lohit valley region of Eastern Arunachal Pradesh and an all-weather Road to the troops deployed on the China Border. The construction work was done by Project Udayak, Border Roads Organisation (BRO) in this region.

282. Which city is the venue of the 7th ASEAN-India Tourism Ministers 2019?

- A. Ha Long
- B. Paris
- C. Tokyo
- D. Berlin

Answer: A. Ha Long - The 7th ASEAN-India Tourism Ministers was held in Ha Long City, Viet Nam on 18th January 2019. Here, Union Tourism Minister of India, K J Alphons co-chaired the Tourism Ministers' meeting with the Vietnamese minister, Mr. Nguyen Ngoc Thien. As a follow up to the Summit, the Ministers launched the ASEAN-India Tourism Cooperation Year 2019, and looked forward to enhancing cooperation with a view to increasing two-way tourist visits and promoting greater people-to-people exchanges between ASEAN and India. The Ministers' meeting agreed to further enhance ASEAN-India cooperation in tourism under the framework of the '2012 Memorandum of Understanding between ASEAN and India on strengthening tourism cooperation with intensified efforts and activities. The Tourism Ministers of Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand also attended the meeting.

283. Which company has launched India's first PolicyHack for Teachers?

- A. Infosys
- B. Dell
- C. Reliance

D. Wipro

Answer: B. Dell - India's first PolicyHack for Teachers has been launched by Dell in partnership with the UNESCO Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace and Sustainable Development (MGIEP) and Ignus. As a part of its three-city PolicyHack series, Dell hosted an interactive hackathon where teachers focused on their learning journey. It's first-of-its-kind hackathon for teachers which will create a platform where teachers, school representatives and a cross-sectional group experts related to education can interact with each other.

284. Which IIT will launch India's first B.Tech course in Artificial Intelligence (AI)?

A. IIT Hyderabad

B. IIT Bombay

C. IIT Indore

D. IIT Kanpur

Answer: A. IIT Hyderabad - The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Hyderabad will launch India's first full-fledged B.Tech (Bachelors of Technology) programme in Artificial Intelligence (AI) for the academic year 2019-20. The course will have an intake of around 20 students and the admission will be done on the basis of the JEE-Advanced score. The course syllabus will comprise of the study of algorithms from the computer science department, signal processing from the electrical engineering department, robotics from mechanical engineering department and mathematical foundations. The course will also focus on application verticals such as healthcare, agriculture, smart mobility, among many others. The aim here is to produce students with a sound understanding of the fundamentals of theory and practice of AI and machine learning. Globally, US-based Carnegie Mellon University and Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) offer similar courses. It must be noted that IIT Hyderabad already offers an M.Tech programme in Artificial Intelligence-Machine Learning.

285. India's First Lithium Ion Giga Factory will be build by which of the following companies?

A. Antrix Corporation

B. GAIL

C. HAL

D. BHEL

Answer: D. BHEL - India's First Lithium Ion Giga Factory will be build by Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) and Libcoin. Both the companies are in dialogue to form a world class consortium to initially build 1GWh lithium ion battery plant in India. Its capacity will be scaled up to 30GWh in due course. With this, India has finally taken steps into its energy security and clean energy commitment to the world. This project will bring energy independence by replacing oil imports with abundant renewable. This project also includes "Made by India, for India", with focus on core-cost components

manufactured domestically. It will also create integrated manufacturing ecosystem resulting in self-reliance and lower cost.

286. Which of the following cities has been named as the World Capital of Architecture for 2020?

- A. Pune
- B. Rio de Janeiro
- C. Paris
- D. Melbourne

Answer: B. Rio de Janeiro- The Brazilian city of Rio de Janeiro has been named as the World Capital of Architecture for 2020 by the UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization). Rio will be the first city to receive the title under a program launched together by UNESCO and the International Union of Architects (UIA) in 2018. The city will host the 27th edition of the World Congress of the International Union of Architects (UIA) in July 2020, an event that occurs every three years. According to UNESCO, the World Capital of Architecture is intended to become an international forum for debates about pressing global challenges from the perspectives of culture, cultural heritage, urban planning and architecture. As one of the oldest cities in Brazil, Rio has a mix of modern and colonial architecture, with world-renowned sites like the statue of Jesus Christ and contemporary constructions like the Museum of Tomorrow.

287. Shivakumara Swami was the spiritual leader of which sect, who passed away recently?

- A. Vaishnavism
- B. Shaivism
- C. Shaktism
- D. Tantrism

Answer: B. Shaivism- Shivakumara Swami (111), a revered seer of the Lingayat-Veerashaiva faith, has passed away in Tumkur, Karnataka on January 21, 2019. He was affectionately referred to as Nadedaduva Devaru (Walking God) in the State. He was also the head of 5-centuries-old Sree Siddaganga Matha, which educated and hosted lakhs of students from economically deprived backgrounds. In recognition of his humanitarian work, the Swami was conferred with an honorary degree of Doctor of Literature by Karnataka University in 1965. On his centenary in 2007, the Government of Karnataka awarded Swamiji the prestigious Karnataka Ratna award, the highest civilian award of the state. In 2015 the Government of India awarded him the Padma Bhushan.

288. Which country is hosting the 2nd World Integrated Medicine Forum (WIMF-2019)?

- A. China

- B. Japan
- C. India
- D. Russia

Answer: C. India - The 2nd World Integrated Medicine Forum (WIMF-2019) on the 'Regulation of Homeopathic Medical Products' will be held in Goa from 23-25 January, 2019. The 3-day forum, which will be inaugurated by AYUSH Minister Shripad Naik, will explore and illustrate the potential benefits and pitfalls of bi-lateral/multilateral collaboration and advance global cooperation on a synergistic basis. In it, approx 20 countries are participating.

289. Which city is the venue of the Youth Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (YPBD-2019)?

- A. Varanasi
- B. Hyderabad
- C. Jabalpur
- D. Jaipur

Answer: A. Varanasi - The Youth Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (YPBD-2019) has started at Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh on January 21. The theme for this year PBD is "Role of Indian Diaspora in building New India". Prime Minister Narendra Modi will formally inaugurate the event tomorrow, with Prime Minister of Mauritius, Pravind Kumar Jugnauth being the Chief Guest. Several world leaders of Indian origin will share their insights into the role of Indian diaspora for a New India.

290. The Government of India (GoI) has decided to recruit women in military police after graded induction at what percentage?

- A. 10%
- B. 15%
- C. 20%
- D. 25%

Answer: C. 20% - The Government of India (GoI) has decided to induct women in Personnel Below Officer Rank (PBOR) role in Corps of Military Police for the first time ever. The women will be inducted into the military police in a graded manner, and will eventually comprise 20% of its total strength. The decision to induct women in the military police will enhance their representation in the armed forces. Their role would range from probing rape and molestation cases to assisting the Army wherever required. Currently, women are allowed in select areas such as medical, legal, educational, signals and engineering wings of the Army. The role of the military police includes policing cantonments and army establishments, preventing a breach of rules and regulations by soldiers, maintaining movement of soldiers as well as logistics during peace and war, handling prisoners of war and extending aid to civil police whenever required.

291. Which country to host 14th Session of the Conference Of Parties (CoP) to UNCCD in 2019?

- A. Brazil
- B. Canada
- C. South Africa
- D. India

Answer: D. India- India will host the 14th session of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD COP-14) to address the issue of land degradation and desertification. The conference is scheduled to be held in October 2019, and will have participation from over 100 countries. The UNCCD, established in 1994, has 197 parties working towards maintaining and restoring land and soil productivity and mitigating the effects of drought.

292. The central bank of which country has recently banned the use of Indian currency notes?

- A. Pakistan
- B. Bangladesh
- C. Nepal
- D. Sri Lanka

Answer: C. Nepal- The Nepal Rastra Bank (NRB), the central bank of Nepal, has recently announced the ban of Indian currency notes with denominations above Rs.100. Under the new rule, Nepali citizens cannot carry these denominations to other countries except India. Similarly, Nepalis are also not allowed to bring such notes from other countries. The central bank has issued a circular prohibiting Nepali traveller, banks and financial institutions from holding or carrying and trading Indian bank notes higher than Rs. 100. The central bank said in its circular that Indian denominations of Rs 2,00, Rs 500 and Rs 2000 cannot be carried and used for trading. The decision to ban these notes has come at a time when the NRB has requested the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to allow Nepal to use currency notes with all denominations. At present, only the notes with a denomination of Rs. 100 and below are freely exchangeable in Nepal.

293. Who has been chosen for the first-ever Sheikh Saud International Prize for Materials Research?

- A. K. Radhakrishnan
- B. K Sivan
- C. C N R Rao
- D. G. Madhavan Nair

Answer: C. C N R Rao - Eminent scientist and recipient of Bharat Ratna, C N R Rao has been chosen for the first Sheikh Saud International Prize for Materials Research,

given by the Centre for Advanced Materials of the UAE. The award includes a plaque, a medal and a cash prize of \$100000. The award will be presented to Rao at the International Workshop on Advanced Materials in Ras Al Khaima on February 25. Professor Rao is the National Research Professor, Linus Pauling Research Professor and Honorary President of Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR). He was awarded the Bharat Ratna, the highest civilian award of India in 2014.

294. Which state government has recently roll out Startup and Innovation policy '2018-2023'?

- A. Karnataka
- B. Tamil Nadu
- C. Kerala
- D. Telangana

Answer: B. Tamil Nadu - On January 19, the Tamil Nadu government roll out 'Startup & Innovation policy 2018-2023' with a mission of providing an enabling and innovative ecosystem for startups registered in the State and to make Tamil Nadu a 'Global Innovation hub for startups' by 2023. The mission shall aim for a minimum of 1,00,000 high skilled job creation, direct and indirect, in the Startup ecosystem. For implementing the policy, the State will set up Tamil Nadu Startup Fund with a corpus of Rs 250 crore. The fund will be invested in other SEBI registered Alternative Investment Funds for investment in startups and MSMEs established in Tamil Nadu.

295. Which country has launched satellite to create world's first artificial meteor shower?

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

Answer: B. Japan - The Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) has launched a rocket carrying a satellite capable of delivering an artificial meteor shower into the Earth's atmosphere. This will be the world first artificial meteor satellite if the mission succeed. The satellite was launched by Epsilon-4 Rocket from the JAXA Uchinoura Space Center. It is carrying the first of two micro-satellites built by Tokyo-based startup Astro Live Experiences (ALE). The satellite is set to release tiny balls from the micro-satellites in the hope of mimicking shooting stars in the night sky above Hiroshima in 2020. The process of producing such simulation is called Plasma Emission. Once the tiny ball is released in the space, it will automatically burn up to ashes so that no risk is posed to the people. The glow will be so much bright that it will be seen even through the light-polluted Tokyo city. The tiny ball is expected to shine for several seconds before being completely burned up. Apart from this tiny ball, the ALE is also looking

forward to introducing disused satellites so that it will produce even brighter glows. Hence, the world's first artificial shooting star project 'Sky Canvas' aims to bring people from all over the world together to witness an unprecedented, collective experience.

296. Who is the head of the IBBI working group to suggest a suitable framework for Group Insolvency?

- A. Anshula Kant
- B. Shardul Shroff
- C. UK Sinha
- D. Pradeep Kumar

Answer: C. UK Dinha - The insolvency regulator Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) has set up a 11-member working group under the Chairmanship of former SEBI chief UK Sinha to go into the concept of 'Group Insolvency' and suggest a suitable framework. This Working Group has been tasked to submit a report — within two months and will recommend a complete regulatory framework to facilitate insolvency resolution and liquidation of corporate debtors in a corporate group within the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC). At present, the IBC provides for the resolution or liquidation of only individual stressed companies. So a framework within the IBC is sought to be created for the resolution/liquidation of an entire stressed corporate group having several entities in multiple NCLT jurisdictions.

297. Which city is the venue of the Arab Economic And Social Development Summit 2019?

- A. Muscat
- B. Beirut
- C. Riyadh
- D. Baghdad

Answer: B. Beirut- The Arab Economic and Social Development Summit held in the Lebanese capital Beirut, in which the Arab leaders and officials issued a joint statement called Beirut Declaration. The declaration calls for the establishment of an Arab free trade zone. It also urged the International community to support nations hosting Syrian refugees and take steps to minimise the impact of the refugee crisis. The declaration stated that the refugee crisis in Arab countries is the worst humanitarian problem since World War II. It points out that the crisis leads to an economic slowdown, increases the expenditure and deficit, imposes burdens on public sectors and infrastructure and poses risks to the society. At the conclusion of the 2019 summit, Arab leaders have agreed a 29-item economic agenda in addition to encouraging the safe return of Syrian refugees to their homeland.

298. Which Indian-American philanthropist has been conferred with the 2019 Rosa Parks Trailblazer award?

- A. Dalip Singh Saund
- B. Balvir Singh
- C. Gurinder Singh Khalsa
- D. Manka Dhingra

Answer: C. Gurinder Singh Khalsa - An Indian-American philanthropist and entrepreneur, Gurinder Singh Khalsa has been conferred with the prestigious 2019 Rosa Park Trailblazer award for his campaign that forced US authorities to change their policy towards headgear of the Sikh community. In 2007, Khalsa was refused access to board an aeroplane because of his turban. Thereafter Khalsa mobilised more than 67,000 people nationwide for petitions and took the issue to all the way to the US Congress, which forced Transportation and Security Administration (TSA) to change its headgear policy towards the Sikh community. As a result, Sikhs can now wear their turban through airport security in the US. Khalsa natively belongs to village Adhoi in Barara block of the Ambala district.

299. Masazo Nonaka, who passed away recently, was the world's oldest man of which country?

- A. Japan
- B. South Korea
- C. Germany
- D. Spain

Answer: A. Japan- On 20th January 2019, Masazo Nonaka, a Japanese supercentenarian, has passed away in Japan at the age of 113 after living a stress-free life. The Guinness World Records officially recognised Nonaka as the world's oldest living man after the death of 113-year old Spaniard Francisco Nunez Olivera in 2018. Nonaka was born on 25th July 1905, two years after the Wright Brothers launched the first power-driven flight and just months before Einstein published his theory of relativity. Japan has one of the world's highest life expectancies and was home to several people recognised as among the oldest humans to have ever lived.

300. Which of the following Indian players are featured in both ICC Test & ODI team of the year 2018?

- A. Virat Kohli and Jasprit Bumrah
- B. Rishabh Pant and Rohit Sharma
- C. Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli
- D. Jasprit Bumrah and Rohit Sharma

Answer: A. Virat Kohli and Jasprit Bumrah - The International Cricket Council (ICC) has recently announced the men's Test and ODI teams of the year 2018. Three players,

each from India and New Zealand, were named in Test team while four players, each from India and England, were named in ODI squad. Virat Kohli has been named captain of both sides following a remarkable 2018 as batsman and skipper. The Test team also features his compatriots, wicketkeeper Rishabh Pant and fast bowler Jasprit Bumrah, who is the only player apart from Kohli to feature in both sides. The ODI team has opener Rohit Sharma, spinner Kuldeep Yadav and Bumrah from India side. The awards, which honour performances during a calendar year, saw the India captain Kohli walk into both sides which were selected by the ICC Voting Academy comprising former players, members of the media and broadcasters. In the last calendar year, skipper Kohli scored more than 2,500 runs in both formats of the game combined with 11 centuries. Kohli also ended 2018 as the top-ranked Test and ODI batsman in the ICC Player Rankings while his side finished the year as the top-ranked side in Tests and number two in ODIs, behind England.

301. The annual meet of World Economic Forum (WEF) has started in which of the following cities?

- A. London
- B. Berlin
- C. Paris
- D. Davos

Answer: D. Davos - The annual meet of World Economic Forum (WEF) has started in Davos with theme 'Globalization 4.0: Shaping a Global Architecture in the Age of the Fourth Industrial Revolution'. The aim of the 5-day event is to discuss what's ailing the world amid fears of the global economy sleepwalking into a crisis. Those expected to attend include German Chancellor Angela Merkel, Swiss President Ueli Maurer, Japan's Shinzo Abe, Italy's Giuseppe Conte and Israel's Benjamin Netanyahu among more than 30 heads of states/government, as also CEOs of global corporations, central bankers, economists, civil society leaders, media heads, celebrities and heads of international organisations like IMF, WTO, OECD and World Bank, among more than 3,000 participants. More than 100 CEOs from India are expected to participate in the meet. Nobel Laureate Kailash Satyarthi and filmmaker Karan Johar are also going to be a part of session which would be open for public.

302. India's first private-sector Howitzer gun-manufacturing plant has come up in which of the following cities?

- A. Hyderabad
- B. Kochi
- C. Dehradun
- D. Surat

Answer: D. Surat - On 19th January, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the India's first Armoured Systems Complex (ASC) built by a private company - Larsen & Toubro (L&T) - at Hazira in Surat, Gujarat. This is the India's first private facility where the K9 Vajra self-propelled Howitzer guns will be manufactured. Spread over 40 acres within L&T's 755-acre Hazira Manufacturing Complex, the ASC is executing the K9 Vajra guns programme. The K9 Vajra contract involves delivery of 100 such systems in 42 months, which is the largest contract awarded to a private company by the Ministry of Defence. L&T had signed a transfer of technology contract for guns with South Korean company Hanwha Corporation. The gun weighs 50 tonnes and can fire 47kg bombs at a 43-kilometre distance target. It can turn around at zero radius. The ASC is a state-of-the-art facility to manufacture and integrate advanced armoured platforms such as self-propelled artillery Howitzers, future infantry combat vehicles (FICV), future ready combat vehicles (FRCV) or future main battle tanks.

303. Raghbir Singh Bhola, who passed away recently, was the veteran personality of which sports?

- A. Cricket
- B. Hockey
- C. Football
- D. Basketball

Answer: B. Hockey - Raghbir Singh Bhola (92), the former India hockey player, has passed away in New Delhi on January 21, 2019. He represented India in the 1956 Melbourne and 1960 Rome Olympics, winning a gold and silver medals respectively for the country. His dedication and passion for field hockey continued in various aspects throughout his life and he served in diverse roles such as member of the IHF selection committee, FIH international umpire, manager of the Indian hockey team, TV commentator and government observer at the Olympic Games. He successfully captained the Indian Air Force hockey and Services team from 1954-60 and won the Inter Services Hockey Championship three times and the National Hockey Championship on two occasions. In 2000, he was honoured with the Arjuna Award for his life time achievements in Field Hockey.

304. Which the following states celebrated their 47th statehood day on 21st January 2019?

- A. Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram
- B. Manipur, Mizoram and Nagaland
- C. Manipur, Meghalaya and Tripura
- D. Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya and Nagaland

Answer: C. Manipur, Meghalaya and Tripura - The states of Manipur, Meghalaya and Tripura celebrated their 47th statehood day on 21st January 2019. On this day in 1972,

all the three states became full-fledged states under the North Eastern Region (Reorganisation) Act, 1971. The erstwhile princely states of Tripura and Manipur were merged with India in 1949 and became full-fledged states in 1972. Meghalaya was a part of Assam before it was carved out as a full-fledged state under the NER Act of 1971.

305. Aadhaar cards are now valid travel documents for Indians travelling to which of the following neighboring countries?

- A. Nepal and Bhutan
- B. Nepal and Bangladesh
- C. Bhutan and Myanmar
- D. Sri Lanka and Bangladesh

Answer: A. Nepal and Bhutan- According to recent Union Home Ministry communique, Aadhaar cards are now valid travel documents for Indians under 15 and over 65 years travelling to Nepal and Bhutan. Indians other than those in the two age brackets will not be able to use Aadhaar to travel to the two neighbouring countries, for which no visas are needed. Indian citizens going to Nepal and Bhutan don't need a visa if they have a valid passport, a photo identity card issued by the Government of India (GoI) or an election ID card issued by the Election Commission (EC). Earlier, persons over 65 and under 15 could show their PAN card, driving licence, Central Government Health Service (CGHS) card or ration card, but not the Aadhaar, to prove their identity and visit the two countries.

306. Which city is the venue of the India Steel 2019 Exhibition and Conference?

- A. Mumbai
- B. New Delhi
- C. Dehradun
- D. Hyderabad

Answer: A. Mumbai - India Steel 2019 Exhibition and Conference has started in Mumbai on January 23. The three-day event organised by Ministry of Steel will help chart out the future growth path of the steel industry. The event will provide an opportunity for all the stakeholders to deliberate and identify ways to contribute towards building a robust roadmap for the further growth of the steel sector. Over 250 exhibiting companies from 15 countries, over 200 International buyers and large number of delegates are expected to hold business meetings during this event. More than 10 thousand business visitors both from India and abroad are expected to visit.

307. The Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose museum has recently inaugurated in which of the following cities?

- A. Port Blair

- B. New Delhi
- C. Tiruchirappalli
- D. Kollam

Answer: B. New Delhi - On 23rd January, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Subhash Chandra Bose museum at the iconic Red Fort in New Delhi to mark the leader's 122nd birth anniversary. The Museum on Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose and Indian National Army provides a detailed account of Subhash Chandra Bose and the history of Indian National Army (INA). It also showcases various artefacts related to Subhash Chandra Bose and INA. The artefacts include wooden chair and sword used by Netaji, medals, badges, uniforms and other artefacts related to INA. Beside this, Prime Minister also inaugurated the Yaad-e-Jallian Museum on the Jallianwala Bagh and World War I, the Museum on 1857- India's first war of Independence and Drishyakala-Museum on Indian Art within the Red Fort complex.

308. Who has been sworn-in as the new President of Madagascar?

- A. Freddy Tinasoa
- B. Marc Ravalomanana
- C. Andry Rajoelina
- D. Jean Pierre Rakoto

Answer: C. Andry Rajoelina - Andry Rajoelina has been sworn-in as the new President of Madagascar after taking the oath of office in Antananarivo before 9 judges of the High Constitutional Court. He won the 2018 Malagasy presidential election with 56% of the vote.

309. Who has won the 'Prabha Khaitan Woman's Voice Award' at the Apeejay Kolkata Literary Festival (AKLF-2019)?

- A. Arundhati Subramaniam
- B. Vikram Seth
- C. Keki N. Daruwalla
- D. Ranjani Murali

Answer: D. Ranjani Murali - US-based Indian poet Ranjani Murali has been bestowed the 'Prabha Khaitan Woman's Voice Award' at the Apeejay Kolkata Literary Festival (AKLF-2019). The award carries a cash prize of Rs 1 lakh and a citation. The purpose of the award is to recognise and encourage creative writing by women in India, to create a forum for their work and to support the publication of their writing. It is a joint initiative between Oxford Bookstore and Prabha Khaitan Foundation.

310. Who has become the first player-ever to win ICC Test, ODI Player And Cricketer Of The Year?

- A. Virat Kohli

- B. Kane Williamson
- C. Kumar Dharmasena
- D. M S Dhoni

Answer: A. Virat Kohli - Team India skipper Virat Kohli has become the first player-ever in history to win all three of top ICC awards after being named captain of the ICC's Test and ODI teams of 2018 for a fabulous run in international cricket. These are: the Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy for ICC Cricketer of the Year, the ICC Men's Test Player of the Year and the ICC ODI Player of the Year awards. Kohli scored 1,322 runs at an average of 55.08 in 13 Tests with five hundreds during the calendar year while in 14 ODIs he amassed 1202 runs at an astonishing average of 133.55 with six centuries. He also scored 211 runs in 10 T20Is. He also ended the year at No. 1 in both the rankings for Tests and ODIs. His performance was put into sharper context by the fact that India played most of their cricket in 2018 away from the subcontinent. Among the other major winners were Rishabh Pant, who was named the Emerging Cricketer of the Year. Sri Lanka's Kumar Dharmasena was named the Umpire of the Year, while New Zealand cricketer Kane Williamson won the Spirit of Cricket award.

311. Which technical giant has launched a new e-commerce platform re-weave.in for handloom weavers?

- A. Microsoft
- B. Wipro
- C. Facebook
- D. Infosys

Answer: A. Microsoft - Microsoft India has launched a new e-commerce platform re-weave.in for handloom weavers under its Project ReWeave, as part of its philanthropic initiatives. This e-commerce platform will help connect artisans to buyers directly and enables them to expand to newer customers and markets. The new e-commerce website hosts signature collections created by weaver communities and showcases traditional designs and products created from natural dyes. This e-marketplace will help sell to a broad set of customers, helping weavers to increase their income and earn a sustainable livelihood, while also reviving forgotten Indian art. The Indian handloom industry is the second-largest employment provider for the rural population in India, with almost 43 lakh weavers. Project ReWeave also aims to help weavers with working capital support through non-profit organisations.

312. Which Indian armed force has conducted the massive coastal defence exercise 'Sea Vigil-2019' to check 26/11-style attacks?

- A. Indian Army
- B. Indian Air Force
- C. Indian Navy

D. All of the above

Answer: C. Indian Navy - The Indian Navy, in coordination with the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) and other stakeholders, conducted the massive coastal defence exercise codenamed 'SEA VIGIL-2019' off the Indian coast on January 22-23, 2019. The exercise, a first of its kind, covered the entire 7516.6 km coastline and Exclusive Economic Zone of India and involves all the 13 coastal States and Union Territories along with all maritime stakeholders, including the fishing and coastal communities. The main goal of the large-scale exercise is to comprehensively and holistically validate the efficacy of the measures taken since '26/11'. The exercise also aims to test India's preparedness to thwart any attempt by anti-national elements to carry out an attack on its territory or against its citizens by infiltrating through the sea route.

313. Which of the following ports has become the only Indian port to be listed amongst the world's top 30 container ports, as per the latest Lloyds Report?

A. Visakhapatnam

B. Kandla

C. Paradip

D. JNPT

Answer: D. JNPT - The Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT) has got listed amongst the top 30 container ports globally, as per the latest Lloyds Report. Hence, JNPT has become the only Indian port to be listed amongst the world's top 30 container ports. JNPT notched up five spots, to be 28th on the list, compared to its previous ranking. This is a validation of all the efforts and strategic initiatives being implemented at JNPT in order to enhance overall port efficiency. The JNPT also launched their App service to facilitate better tracking of consignment and ease the trade process for their EXIM partners.

314. Which international organization has recently released the World Economic Outlook (WEO)?

A. UNESCO

B. IMF

C. World Bank

D. AIIB

Answer: B. IMF - The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has recently released its biannual World Economic Outlook (WEO) update at the World Economic Forum (WEF-2019) in Davos. In it, IMF estimates India's economic growth at 7.3% in 2018-19, 7.5% in 2019-20 and 7.7% in 2020-21. With the latest outlook, India will remain the fastest-growing economy in the world, at least for the next two years. The IMF report stated that India's economy is poised to pick up in 2019, benefiting from low oil prices and a slower pace of monetary tightening than previously expected as inflation pressures ease. The

latest growth projection by the IMF is a tad higher than the Central Statistics Office's (CSO) estimate of 7.2%, but lower than the RBI's estimate of 7.4%. But it is in line with the World Bank's estimate of 7.3%.

315. The Union Cabinet has approved MoU between India and which country for cooperation on the recruitment of domestic workers?

- A. Japan
- B. Iran
- C. Kuwait
- D. Saudi Arabia

Answer: C. Kuwait - The Union Cabinet has approved recently the signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Kuwait for cooperation on the recruitment of domestic workers. The MOU provides a structured framework for cooperation on domestic workers related matters and provides strengthened safeguards for Indian domestic workers including female workers deployed in Kuwait. The MOU is initially valid for a period of 5 years and incorporates provision for automatic renewal. Around three lakh Indian domestic workers deployed in Kuwait will benefit from the decision. The MOU will promote bilateral cooperation in domestic workers related matters between the two countries.

316. Who has won the 'Laureus Sportsman of the Year award' the maximum number of times?

- A. Lewis Hamilton
- B. Roger Federer
- C. Lionel Messi
- D. Cristiano Ronaldo

Answer: B. Roger Federer - The Laureus World Sports Awards is an annual awards ceremony, which honours individuals and teams from the world of sports along with sporting achievements throughout the year. Swiss tennis player Roger Federer with 6 awards holds the record for having won the 'Laureus Sportsman of the Year award' maximum number of times.

317. The Ministry of Finance has started which series on Twitter to educate general public about the budgetary process?

- A. Know Budgetary Process
- B. Know Your Economy
- C. Know Your Budget
- D. Know Making of Budget

Answer: C. Know Your Budget- The Union Ministry of Finance has started 'Know Your Budget' fortnight series on its Twitter handle to educate general public about the

budgetary process. The series would explain the importance of Union Budget and its making, and would continue for about a fortnight. In the first series of tweets, the Ministry explained the terms - Union Budget and Vote on Account. These are as follows: The Budget is the most comprehensive report of the government's finances in which revenues from all sources and outlays for all activities are consolidated. The Budget also contains estimates of the government's accounts for the next fiscal year called Budget estimates. The Vote on Account is defined as a grant made in advance by Parliament for expenditure for a part of the next financial year.

318. The Ministry of Finance constituted a Group of Ministers (GoM) for boosting the Real Estate Sector under the GST regime. It consists of how many members?

- A. 4
- B. 5
- C. 9
- D. 7

Answer: D. 7- The Ministry of Finance on January 15, 2019 constituted a 7-Member Group of Ministers (GoM) for boosting the Real Estate Sector under the GST regime. The GoM was constituted in pursuance of the decision of GST Council taken in the 32nd meeting held on January 10, 2019 at New Delhi. The group has been tasked to provide a Composition Scheme for Residential Construction Units. The Secretary of the GoM will be Manish Sinha, Joint Secretary (TRU-II), Central Board of Indirect taxes and Customs (CBIC).

319. How many lawmakers voted against the Brexit deal in the UK Parliament?

- A. 502
- B. 432
- C. 381
- D. 253

Answer: B. 432 - UK lawmakers voted 432 to 202 against May's plan for taking Britain out of the European Union, the biggest parliamentary defeat for a government in modern British political history.

320. Which institute has announced the launch of a full-fledged bachelor's programme in Artificial Intelligence technology?

- A. IIT Hyderabad
- B. IIT Gandhinagar
- C. IIT Delhi
- D. IIT Kanpur

Answer: A. IIT Hyderabad- The Indian Institute of Technology-Hyderabad has announced the launch of a full-fledged bachelor's programme in Artificial Intelligence

technology from the new academic session, which is a first for the country and only the third globally.

321. The Constitution (103rd Amendment) Act, 2019, the Act providing _____ % reservation in government jobs and educational institutions to Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) of General Category.

- A. 10%
- B. 8%
- C. 7.5%
- D. 5%

Answer: A. 10% - The Constitution (103rd Amendment) Act, 2019, the Act providing 10 percent reservation in government jobs and educational institutions to Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) of General Category, came into effect on January 14, 2019. The move came after the Union Government exercised its powers conferred by sub-section (2) of section 1 of the Constitution (One Hundred and Third Amendment) Act, 2019 and appointed January 14, 2019 as the date on which the provisions of the said Act shall come into force.

322. In which State do the Airports Authority of India (AAI) plan to test remote Air Traffic Control (ATC) tower system?

- A. Kerala
- B. Goa
- C. Gujarat
- D. Haryana

Answer: C. Gujarat - The Airports Authority of India (AAI) is to run a pilot project that will in all likelihood see Gujarat's Ahmedabad and Bhavnagar as the first to do away with manned towers for providing Air Traffic Control (ATC) services at their airports. Earlier, AAI and SAAB signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that the airports would run a pilot deployment of a Remote ATC Tower system where air traffic controllers and the control tower would be replaced by a bank of 16 high-definition, remotely operated, infrared cameras. SAAB India, which is into defence and aviation, will lead the pilot project that is expected to take a year before it becomes operational. The system is projected as a measure that can help AAI save costs. AAI, which manages more than 120 airports, is expected to operationalize more airfields in the coming months, especially with new routes being added under the regional connectivity scheme.

323. Who to lead Indian womens hockey team for Spain tour?

- A. Rani Rampal
- B. Vandana Katariya

C. Sunita Lakra

D. Anupa Barla

Answer: A. Rani Rampal - Ace striker Rani Rampal will captain an 18-strong Indian women's team, while experienced goalkeeper Savita will be her deputy for the season opener in Spain starting Jan 26, Hockey India announced Friday. The Indian Hockey team is set to play four matches with Spain and two matches against the Women's World Cup runners-up, Ireland. The team will leave on January 24 for the Spain tour from Bengaluru, where they have been based for the past two weeks for the National Camp.

324. Which ministry will organise the event 'Shehri Samridhi Utsav' from February 1, 2019?

A. Ministry of Rural Development

B. Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs

C. Ministry of Women and Child Development

D. Ministry of Labour and Employment

Answer: B. Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs - 'Shehri Samridhi Utsav' organised by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, will focus on urban livelihoods and extending the outreach of National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM) to the poorest of the poor and the most vulnerable, and facilitate access of SHG members to the other government schemes. The Deen Dayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Urban Livelihoods Mission extends coverage to all the 4041 statutory cities and towns, thereby covering almost the entire urban population. The mission aims to provide the shelter equipped with essential services to the urban homeless in a phased manner to reduce poverty and vulnerability of the urban poor households.

325. Indian Naval Air Station Shibpur will be commissioned as this _____.

A. INS Kohasa

B. INS Utkrosh

C. INS Shikra

D. INS Garuda

Answer: A. INS Kohasa - Naval Air Station Shibpur will be commissioned as INS Kohasa by Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Sunil Lanba on January 24, 2019. The move is being undertaken to enhance the operational capability of Andaman and Nicobar Command.

326. Who were awarded honorary membership of Sydney Cricket Ground?

A. Ravichandran Ashwin, Rohit Sharma

B. MS Dhoni, Virat Kohli

C. Rahul Dravid, MS Dhoni

D. Ravi Shastri, Virat Kohli

Answer: D. Ravi Shastri, Virat Kohli - Indian national cricket team's captain Virat Kohli and coach Ravi Shastri on January 11, 2019 received the honorary membership of the Sydney Cricket Ground (SCG) for their contribution to the sport of cricket. The Indian team defeated Australia 2-1 in the four-match Test series, ending the country's 71-year-old wait for a rare series win Down Under.

327. The Union Home Minister has approved a task force report on the use of space technology in which of the following area?

- A. Rural Development
- B. Education
- C. Fighting Air Pollution
- D. Border management

Answer: D. Border management- Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh has approved report of task force created by MHA to identify areas for use of space technology in improving Border Management. The key aim is to strengthen island and border security and facilitate development of infrastructure in border and island areas.

328. Which station name was changed to Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Station?

- A. Mandhana Junction railway station
- B. Mughalsarai junction railway station
- C. Dildarnagar Junction railway station
- D. Faizabad Junction railway station

Answer: B. Mughalsarai junction railway station - The Uttar Pradesh Cabinet approved the proposal to rename the Mughalsarai tehsil after Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay, co-founder of the Bharatiya Jana Sangh. The proposal for renaming the Mughalsarai railway station to Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay junction was initiated in August 2018. Many places in Uttar Pradesh have got new names under the government of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. In 2018, the state cabinet decided to rename Allahabad city Prayagraj, and Faizabad district was renamed Ayodhya district. The Indian Air Force airport in Gorakhpur was renamed after Maha Yogi Gorakhnath.

329. PM Modi inaugurates Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit 2019 on January 18, 2019. The theme of the summit is;

- A. Improve Women Entrepreneur
- B. Digital India
- C. Youth Connect 2019: Shaping A New India - The Story of Billion Dreams
- D. Smart & Shared Mobility

Answer: C. Youth Connect 2019: Shaping A New India - The Story of Billion Dreams- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the ninth edition of the Vibrant

Gujarat Global Summit 2019 on January 18, 2019. The summit is being held at the Mahatma Mandir, Gandhinagar, Gujarat. The theme of the Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit 2019 was "Youth Connect 2019: Shaping A New India - The Story of Billion Dreams". The heads of five countries including Uzbekistan President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, Rwanda President Paul Kagame, Prime Minister of Denmark Lars Lokke Rasmussen, Prime Minister of the Czech Republic Andrej Babis and Prime Minister of Malta Joseph Muscat are expected to attend the summit.

330. The telecom company which is to launch AI-powered chatbot in India.

- A. MESCOM
- B. CESCO
- C. DESCOM
- D. BESCOM

Answer: D. BESCOM - The Bangalore Electricity Supply Company (Bescm) is preparing to launch Artificial Intelligence (AI) powered chatbots to deal with the innumerable calls and messages that its multiple helplines receive when there are power cuts. The power utility has called for an Expression of Interest from IT service providers to implement the idea on its social media pages, helpline, and app. The chatbots are expected to be utilized in multiple interfaces, such as WhatsApp, social media, and the website.

331. Which state became the third state after Jharkhand and Gujarat to approve the 10 % reservation for economically backward among upper castes in jobs and educational institutions?

- A. Telangana
- B. Uttar Pradesh
- C. Rajasthan
- D. Chhattisgarh

Answer: B. Uttar Pradesh - Uttar Pradesh became the third state after Jharkhand and Gujarat to approve the 10 per cent reservation for economically backward among upper castes in jobs and educational institutions. The Approval was given in a meeting headed by Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister, Yogi Adityanath. The Reservation for the poor among upper castes came into effect on 14th January 2019, when Parliament passed "The Constitution (124 Amendment) Bill 2019".

332. Who won Rosa Park Trailblazer award?

- A. Priscilla Chan
- B. Shakira
- C. Azim Premji
- D. Gurinder Singh Khalsa

Answer: D. Gurinder Singh Khalsa - An Indian-American philanthropist and entrepreneur, Gurinder Singh Khalsa(45), has been presented with the prestigious Rosa Park Trailblazer award for his campaign that forced US authorities change their policy towards headgear of the Sikh community.

333. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) approved the appointment of V Vaidyanathan as MD and CEO of which bank for a period of three years?

- A. IDFC First Bank
- B. IDBI Bank
- C. RBL Bank
- D. Axis Bank

Answer: A. IDFC First Bank - Reserve Bank of India (RBI) approved the appointment of V Vaidyanathan as MD and CEO of IDFC First Bank for a period of three years. The Tenure of V Vaidyanathan started from 19th December 2019. V Vaidyanathan is the founder and chairman of Capital First. IDFC Bank and non-banking financial company Capital First completed their merger in December 2018 and created a loan asset book of 1.03 Lakh crore for the merged entity IDFC First bank.

334. 25th International conference and exhibition on terrestrial and satellite broadcasting, BES EXPO 2019 held in _____.

- A. Kolkata
- B. Mumbai
- C. New Delhi
- D. Chennai

Answer: C. New Delhi - 25th International conference and exhibition on terrestrial and satellite broadcasting, BES EXPO 2019 was inaugurated by the Information and Broadcasting Secretary Amit Khare and TRAI Chairman RS Sharma in New Delhi. The theme of the exhibition is "Next Gen Broadcasting in the IT World". The Exhibition was concluded on 19th January 2019. More than 300 companies from 25 countries from around the world have displayed their product at the BES EXPO 2019. The conference was organized for the 25th consecutive year and will be attended by more than 1000 delegates. BES EXPO 2019 was organized by Broadcast Engineering Society (India), endorsed by DRM U.K. and supported by Prasar Bharati, ABU Malaysia, AES India, Ministry of Communications & IT and Society of Broadcast Engineers, U.S.A.

335. India's first PolicyHack for Teachers was launched by;

- A. HCL
- B. TCS
- C. Wipro

D. Dell

Answer: D. Dell - India's first PolicyHack for Teachers has been launched by Dell in partnership with the UNESCO Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace and Sustainable Development (MGIEP) and Ignus. As a part of its three-city PolicyHack series, Dell hosted an interactive hackathon where teachers focused on their learning journey. It's first-of-its-kind hackathon for teachers which will create a platform where teachers, school representatives and a cross-sectional group experts related to education can interact with each other.

336. The 2-day Agri Vision 2019 Conference was held in _____.

- A. Ratnagiri
- B. Chennai
- C. Hyderabad
- D. Kolhapur

Answer: C. Hyderabad- The 2-day Agri Vision 2019 Conference on envisioning Agro solutions for Smart and Sustainable Agriculture was held in Hyderabad. It was inaugurated by Vice-President M Venkaiah Naidu. The conference was jointly organized by Professor Jayashankar Telangana State Agricultural University (PJTSAU), Confederation of Indian Industry(CII) and Cornell University, USA.

337. Where was the two Fast Interceptor Craft (FIC) inducted to boost coastal security by the Indian Navy?

- A. Cuttack, Odisha
- B. Kochi, Kerala
- C. Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh
- D. Nagapattinam, Tamil Nadu

Answer: D. Nagapattinam, Tamil Nadu -The Indian Navy inducted two Fast Interceptor Craft (FIC) at Nagapattinam, Tamil Nadu, to boost coastal security. The vessels were acquired for Sagar Prahari Bal, a unit of the Navy. The boats can carry a variety of armament from heavy machine guns to grenade launchers with the upper deck canopies bullet-proof.

338. Who was named as the event ambassador for the 16th Tata Mumbai Marathon which will be held on January 20, 2019?

- A. P V Sindhu
- B. Sakshi Malik
- C. M C Mary Kom
- D. Saina Nehwal

Answer: C. M C Mary Kom -Six-time women's world boxing champion and Olympic medallist M C Mary Kom was named as the event ambassador for the 16th Tata Mumbai Marathon which will be held in January 20, 2019. It would be organized by Procam

International. The marathon will have a prize money of USD 405,000 and will see the participation of over 46,000 runners.

339. According to a report by global consultancy firm PwC, what is the position of India in the world's largest economy rankings in 2019?

- A. 5th
- B. 7th
- C. 9th
- D. 12th

Answer: A. 5th -India is likely to surpass the United Kingdom in the world's largest economy rankings in 2019, to become the world's fifth largest economy, according to a report by global consultancy firm PwC. PwC's Global Economy Watch report projects real GDP growth of 1.6% for the UK, 1.7% for France and 7.6% for India in 2019.

340. President of India Shri Ram Nath Kovind appointed Justice Lingappa Narayana Swamy as the Acting Chief Justice of which high court?

- A. Bombay
- B. Patna
- C. Karnataka
- D. Madras

Answer: C. Karnataka- President of India Shri Ram Nath Kovind using the power conferred to him under Article 223 of the Constitution appointed Justice Lingappa Narayana Swamy as the Acting Chief Justice of the Karnataka High Court. He was appointed Acting Chief Justice of the Karnataka High Court following the elevation of the incumbent Chief Justice Dinesh Maheshwari to the Supreme Court. Justice Swamy who began his career as an Advocate in 1987 and practiced in the Karnataka High Court is presently the senior most Judge of the Karnataka High Court.

341. India's first Light combat helicopter (LCH) was developed by;

- A. Mahindra Aerospace
- B. HAL
- C. Boeing India Private Limited
- D. BRAHMOS

Answer: B. HAL- Light combat helicopter (LCH),has successfully carried out air-to-air missile firing on a moving aerial target at the integrated test range in Chandipur on Odisha coast.This LCH is first in the country,which is designed and developed by Rotary Wing Research & Design Centre (RWRDC),Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL). The helicopter is equipped with helmet mounted sight and a forward looking infrared sighting system, allowing its pilots to detect and destroy any target on ground or in the air. Other weapons on the LCH include a 20mm Turret gun and 70 mm Rockets,that had completed the test last year.

342. The Embassy of this country and International Chamber of Media and Entertainment Industry (ICMEI), India have signed a MoU in the field of art and culture.

- A. Mongolia
- B. Greece
- C. Singapore
- D. Italy

Answer: A. Mongolia- The Embassy of Mongolia and International Chamber of Media and Entertainment Industry (ICMEI), India have further strengthened the relationship between India and Mongolia by signing a MoU in the field of art and culture. The MoU was signed in the presence of H.E. Gonchig Ganbold Ambassador of Mongolia to India and Dr. Sandeep Marwah, President ICMEI. The MoU will enable the two countries to work together on different segments including print, radio, television, cinema, animation, Performing and Fine Arts, tourism, hospitality, education, environment, solar energy, skill development, PR events and advertising, Fashion and Design and Journalism. During the event, the deserving students from Mongolia were handed over the first scholarship of short-term course of Asian Academy of Film and Television which also includes boarding and lodging for three months. Besides, decisions regarding the visit of media team to Mongolia, festival of Films from Mongolia, joint venture in feature film and short film with Mongolian film makers, promotion of Mongolia as a film location, Tourism in Mongolia, etc. were also taken at a joint meeting.

343. The Government of India (GoI) has approved setting up of three new Naval Air Squadrons in which two states?

- A. Gujarat and Tamil Nadu
- B. Andra Pradesh and Kerala
- C. Odisha and Bihar
- D. Uttar Pradesh and Haryana

Answer: A. Gujarat and Tamil Nadu -The Government of India (GoI) has approved setting up of three new naval air squadrons in Gujarat and Tamil Nadu as part of efforts to bolster the Indian Navy's overall strength. Besides this, the Central Government has also sanctioned manpower towards manning additional aircraft in existing Dornier Surveillance Squadrons in Kerala and Andaman Islands. A contract for procurement of 12 Dornier aircraft was signed with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) two years back and their delivery is commencing soon. The new Dornier 228 maritime surveillance aircraft to be delivered to the Navy are fitted with improved 'state of the art' sensors and equipment which includes glass cockpit, advanced surveillance radar, optical sensors and networking features. The aircraft will enhance maritime domain awareness of Indian Navy through round the clock sensor based surveillance and provide targeting data in areas of operation to ward off terror and other threats from sea. The addition will further

strengthen Indian Navy's efforts at Coastal Security of India's vast coastline of over 7 thousand kilometres.

344. Which city was named as the World Capital of Architecture for 2020 by UNESCO?

- A. Brasilia
- B. Salvador
- C. Rio de Janeiro
- D. Fortaleza

Answer: C. Rio de Janeiro - The United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has named the Brazilian city of Rio de Janeiro as the World Capital of Architecture for 2020. Rio will be the first city to receive the title under a programme launched together by UNESCO and the International Union of Architects (UIA) in November 2018. The city beat Paris and Melbourne to get the position. As the first World Capital of Architecture, Rio de Janeiro will hold a series of events under the theme "All the worlds. Just one world," and promote the internationally agreed 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development's 11th Goal: "Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable".

345. Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has inaugurated the Diffo Bridge recently. It was located in the state of;

- A. Assam
- B. Bihar
- C. Arunachal Pradesh
- D. Jharkhand

Answer: C. Arunachal Pradesh- In Arunachal Pradesh, Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has inaugurated the Diffo Bridge over Diffo river in Lower Dibang Valley district on 18th January 2019. The bridge is 426 mts long Pre Stressed Concrete Box Girder type bridge on Roing-Koron-Paya road in the state. It would provide uninterrupted access between Dibang valley and Lohit valley region of Eastern Arunachal Pradesh and an all-weather Road to the troops deployed on the China Border. The construction work was done by Project Udayak, Border Roads Organisation (BRO) in this region.

346. 2019 Arab Economic and Social Development Summit held in which of the following place?

- A. Dubai
- B. Cairo
- C. Sidon
- D. Beirut

Answer: D. Beirut- The Arab Economic and Social Development Summit held in Lebanon's capital Beirut. The leaders of many Arab countries took part in the summit aimed to make a joint statement on a 29-item agenda that ranges from discussions on an Arab free trade zone and the economic effect of Syrian refugees on host countries. The economic meeting is a prelude to the actual Arab League summit taking place in Tunisia in March.

347. Which city is the venue of the 7th ASEAN-India Tourism Ministers 2019?

- A. Ha Long
- B. Paris
- C. Tokyo
- D. Berlin

Answer: A. Ha Long- The 7th ASEAN-India Tourism Ministers was held in Ha Long City, Viet Nam on 18th January 2019. Here, Union Tourism Minister of India, K J Alphons co-chaired the Tourism Ministers' meeting with the Vietnamese minister, Mr. Nguyen Ngoc Thien. As a follow up to the Summit, the Ministers launched the ASEAN-India Tourism Cooperation Year 2019, and looked forward to enhancing cooperation with a view to increasing two-way tourist visits and promoting greater people-to-people exchanges between ASEAN and India. The Ministers' meeting agreed to further enhance ASEAN-India cooperation in tourism under the framework of the '2012 Memorandum of Understanding between ASEAN and India on strengthening tourism cooperation with intensified efforts and activities. The Tourism Ministers of Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand also attended the meeting.

348. Airports Authority of India (AAI) plan to test remote Air Traffic Control (ATC) tower system for which of the following state?

- A. Tamil Nadu
- B. Haryana
- C. Uttar Pradesh
- D. Gujarat

Answer: D. Gujarat- The Airports Authority of India (AAI) is to run a pilot project that will in all likelihood see Gujarat's Ahmedabad and Bhavnagar as the first to do away with manned towers for providing Air Traffic Control (ATC) services at their airports. Earlier, AAI and SAAB signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that the airports would run a pilot deployment of a Remote ATC Tower system where air traffic controllers and the control tower would be replaced by a bank of 16 high-definition, remotely operated, infrared cameras. SAAB India, which is into defence and aviation, will lead the pilot project that is expected to take a year before it becomes operational. The system is projected as a measure that can help AAI save costs. AAI, which manages more than 120 airports, is expected to operationalize more airfields in the

coming months, especially with new routes being added under the regional connectivity scheme.

349. Who was appointed as Additional Solicitor General of India for the Supreme Court?

- A. Sanjay Jain
- B. Rujuta Sen
- C. Advyth Mahila
- D. Arpit Kumar

Answer: A. Sanjay Jain - President Ram Nath Kovind appointed senior advocate Sanjay Jain as Additional Solicitor General of India for the Supreme Court. He will be on the post till June 30, 2020. With the appointment of Sanjay Jain, the Central government now has seven Additional Solicitor General in Supreme Court. Additional Solicitor General, appointed under Law Officers Act 1987, is the third largest law officer of the Central Government. It is a duty of the Additional Solicitor General to assist the Solicitor General. The President of India Ramnath Kovind also appointed Senior Advocate KM Nataraj as the Additional Solicitor General (ASG) in the Supreme Court of India. His term will also end on June 30, 2020. He also held the post as the Additional Advocate-General of Karnataka for four years from 2009 and also as the Additional Solicitor General of India for Southern Zone for a period of 03 years.

350. Who has been elected as the new Prime Minister of Sweden?

- A. Ebba Busch Thor
- B. Jimmie Akesson
- C. Gustav Fridolin
- D. Stefan Lofven

Answer: D. Stefan Lofven - In Sweden, Prime Minister Stefan Lofven has been elected for a second term on 18th January 2019 after an agreement was struck between the Social Democrats, Greens, Liberals, and Centre Party, and after the Left Party agreed to abstain from voting against Lofven. He is expected to formally present his new government and its full programme on 21st January 2019. It will be one of the weakest administrations in Sweden in 70 years, with just 32.7% of voters having cast ballots for the two parties. Sweden's inconclusive legislative elections in September 2018 had not left either main parliamentary bloc with a majority.

351. Which state CM hiked Rs.200 per month under Madhu Babu Pension Yojana scheme?

- A. Bihar
- B. Andhra Pradesh
- C. Haryana
- D. Odisha

Answer: D. Odisha - Odisha's Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik announced in a video conference on "Ama Gaon, Ama Bikash" a hike of Rs 200 per month in the social security pension under Madhu Babu Pension Yojana (MBPY). The state government launched Madhu Babu Pension Yojana on January 1, 2008, by merging two pension schemes - Old Age Pension and Odisha Disability Pension schemes. According to the new change, the elderly persons aged over 60 years would get a revised old age pension of Rs 500 per month as against Rs 300 and those who are more than 80 years old, the pension would be Rs 700 per month instead of Rs 500 per month and the enhanced pension will come into effect from February 15, 2019.

352. Flipkart promotes whom to head Myntra-Jabongs fashion & lifestyle categories?

- A. Gunjan Soni
- B. Zalora
- C. Rishi Vasudev
- D. Manohar Kamath

Answer: C. Rishi Vasudev - Walmart backed E-Commerce giant Flipkart promoted its Fashion department head Rishi Vasudev to head Myntra - Jabong's Fashion and lifestyle categories as an additional responsibility. Rishi Vasudev will report to Flipkart CEO Kalyan Krishnamurthy after the formal announcement which is expected in next 10 days.

353. Virat Kohli has been conferred with how many honors in the 2018 ICC Awards?

- A. 2
- B. 3
- C. 4
- D. 5

Answer: B. 3 - Virat Kohli has become the first player in history to win the Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy for ICC Cricketer of the Year, the ICC Men's Test Player of the Year and the ICC ODI Player of the Year awards following an extraordinary 2018. The International Cricket Council also announced the men's Test and ODI teams of the year with Virat Kohli named captain of both sides. Kohli's 1,322 runs at an average of 55.08 with five centuries in 13 Tests and 1,202 runs at an astounding average of 133.55 with six hundreds in 14 ODIs saw him selected to both sides by every voting member of the Academy with the majority of them also opting to name him at the helm of each.

354. The annual meet of World Economic Forum (WEF) begins in _____.

- A. Germany
- B. Singapore
- C. Switzerland
- D. Canada

Answer: C. Switzerland - The annual meet of World Economic Forum (WEF) began on January 22, 2019 in Davos, Switzerland. The theme of the World Economic Forum 2019 would be 'Globalisation 4.0: Shaping a Global Architecture in the Age of the Fourth Industrial Revolution'. Overall, around 3000 participants from 115 economies would be present during the annual meeting. Those expected to attend the meet include German Chancellor Angela Merkel, Swiss President Ueli Maurer, Japan's Shinzo Abe, Italy's Giuseppe Conte, Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro and Israel's Benjamin Netanyahu, among 30 heads of states and governments. The US President Donald Trump will not be attending the meet this year.

355. Which company launched an e-platform under Project ReWeave to help Handloom weavers?

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

Answer: B. Microsoft - Microsoft India launched a new e-commerce platform re-weave.in for handloom weavers under its Project ReWeave. This e-commerce platform will help connect artisans to buyers directly, enabling them to expand to newer customers and markets. Microsoft in association with the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) also curated a special curriculum in 'CAD and Color for Handloom Weaving' to provide digital training in handloom design. The company first entered the Indian market in 1990 and has since worked closely with the Indian government, the IT industry, academia and the local developer community to usher in some of the early successes in the IT market. Microsoft currently offices in the 9 cities of Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Chennai, Hyderabad, Kochi, Kolkata, Mumbai, the NCR (New Delhi and Gurgaon) and Pune.

356. Who has been sworn in as the president of Madagascar recently?

- A. Norbert Ratsirahonana
- B. Lalao Ravalomanana
- C. Andry Rajoelina
- D. Didier Ratsiraka

Answer: C. Andry Rajoelina - Madagascar president, Andry Rajoelina, has sworn into office after taking the oath in Antananarivo before nine judges of the High Constitutional Court. He won nearly 56% to defeat another former president, Marc Ravalomanana.

357. Indians over 65 and under 15 years can now use Aadhaar Card to visit which country?

- A. Sri Lanka

- B. Nepal
- C. Indonesia
- D. Malaysia

Answer: B. Nepal - The Union Ministry of Home Affairs on January 20, 2019 announced that Aadhaar Cards are now valid travel documents for Indians under 15 and over 65 years travelling to Nepal and Bhutan. However, Indians belonging to the age bracket of 15 to 65 years will not be able to use Aadhaar to travel to the two neighbouring countries.

358. Israel opens new international airport near;

- A. Jaffa
- B. Red Sea
- C. Herzliya
- D. Acre

Answer: B. Red Sea - Israel inaugurated a new international airport Monday in its desert south, meant to boost tourism to the nearby Red Sea and serve as an emergency alternative to Tel Aviv's Ben Gurion Airport in times of conflict. Initially Ramon Airport will handle only domestic flights, operated by Israeli carriers Arkia and Israir.

359. Name of the Indian MP who has been bestowed with Sansad Ratna Award under Jury Committee Special Award category.

- A. Anurag Thakur
- B. Jagat Prakash Nadda
- C. Nirmala Sitharaman
- D. Jyotiraditya Madhavrao Scindia

Answer: A. Anurag Thakur -Himachal Pradesh MP Anurag Thakur has been bestowed with Sansad Ratna Award for his distinguished performance as a parliamentarian under Jury Committee Special Award category. Thakur became the first BJP MP to receive the Jury Committee award. 12 parliamentarians were honored with the Sansad Ratna award, which was set up in 2010 on the suggestion of ex-President APJ Abdul Kalam.

360. Which state will host the 2nd World Integrated Medicine Forum 2019?

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

Answer: D. Goa- The 2nd World Integrated Medicine Forum 2019 on the Regulation of Homeopathic Medical Products will be held in Goa from January 23, 2019. 20 countries will participate in the event. This forum will strengthen regulatory framework worldwide, to assure that the users of Homoeopathy could have wider access to quality-assured homeopathic medicines.

361. India Steel 2019 Exhibition and Conference has started in which of the following city?

- A. Bengaluru
- B. Chennai
- C. New Delhi
- D. Mumbai

Answer: D. Mumbai - India Steel 2019 Exhibition and Conference had begun in Mumbai. The three-day event organized by the Ministry of Steel helped chart out the future growth path of the steel industry. The event provided an opportunity for all the stakeholders to deliberate and identify ways to contribute towards building a robust roadmap for the further growth of the steel sector. More than 10 thousand business visitors both from India and abroad are expected to visit.

362. Who won the "Woman's Voice Award" at the Apeejay Kolkata Literary Festival (AKLF)?

- A. Melvin Vermeer
- B. Ranjani Murali
- C. Alexia Kombou
- D. Laura Gray

Answer: B. Ranjani Murali -US Based Indian poet Ranjani Murali was awarded the "Woman's Voice Award" at the Apeejay Kolkata Literary Festival (AKLF). The Objective of the award is to recognize and encourage creative writing by women in India. The Award carried a cash prize of Rs 1 Lakh along with a citation. Ranjani Murali's second book "Clearly you are ESL" won the Great Indian Poetry Collectives (GIPCs) Editor's Choice award. Her first book "Blind Screens" was published in July 2017.

363. Which state government has recently roll out Startup and Innovation policy '2018-2023'?

- A. Tamil Nadu
- B. Andra Pradesh
- C. Kerala
- D. Karnataka

Answer: A. Tamil Nadu - The Tamil Nadu government roll out 'Startup & Innovation policy 2018-2023' with a mission of providing an enabling and innovative ecosystem for

startups registered in the State and to make Tamil Nadu a 'Global Innovation hub for startups' by 2023. The mission shall aim for a minimum of 1,00,000 high skilled job creation, direct and indirect, in the Startup ecosystem. For implementing the policy, the State will set up Tamil Nadu Startup Fund with a corpus of Rs 250 crore. The fund will be invested in other SEBI registered Alternative Investment Funds for investment in startups and MSMEs established in Tamil Nadu.

364. The central bank of which country banned the use of Indian currency notes with denominations above Rs.100?

- A. Nepal
- B. Pakistan
- C. Myanmar
- D. Bangladesh

Answer: A. Nepal - The Nepal Rastra Bank (NRB), the central bank of Nepal, has recently announced the ban of Indian currency notes with denominations above Rs.100. Under the new rule, Nepali citizens cannot carry these denominations to other countries except India. Similarly, Nepalis are also not allowed to bring such notes from other countries. The central bank has issued a circular prohibiting Nepali traveller, banks and financial institutions from holding or carrying and trading Indian bank notes higher than Rs. 100. The central bank said in its circular that Indian denominations of Rs 2,00, Rs 500 and Rs 2000 cannot be carried and used for trading. The decision to ban these notes has come at a time when the NRB has requested the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to allow Nepal to use currency notes with all denominations. At present, only the notes with a denomination of Rs. 100 and below are freely exchangeable in Nepal.

365. Who among the following has been chosen for the first Sheikh Saud International Prize for Materials Research?

- A. C. N. R. Rao
- B. Pulickel Ajayan
- C. Jayant Narlikar
- D. Raghunath Anant Mashelkar

Answer: A. C. N. R. Rao - Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research announced that the Centre for Advanced Materials of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) chose Eminent Scientist and Bharat Ratna recipient CNR Rao for the first Sheikh Saud International Prize for Materials Research. The Award containing a plaque, a medal and a Cash Prize of USD 100000 will be presented by Sheikh Saud to Professor CNR Rao. CNR Rao was awarded the highest Civilian award, Bharat Ratna in 2014 and presently he is working as the Honorary President of Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research.

366. Who will head an 11-member working group constituted by the IBBI to study the concept of 'Group Insolvency' and suggest a suitable framework?

- A. U.K. Sinha
- B. Mani Sharma
- C. Pratiksha Jain
- D. Surya Prakash A

Answer: A. U.K. Sinha - Former Chairman of Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), U.K. Sinha will head an 11-member working group constituted by the Insolvency and Bankruptcy board of India (IBBI) to study the concept of 'Group Insolvency' and suggest a suitable framework. The Working Group have to submit the report within two months recommending a regulatory framework to facilitate insolvency resolutions and liquidation of corporate debtors in a Group. It was noted that Corporate groups falls apart in insolvency and thereby thwart the chances of their restructuring. Group Insolvency will prevent this situation. Group Insolvency will be very beneficial in a situation where two or more applications are pending in the same court against debtors in the same group. Managing Director of State Bank of India, Anshula Kant and Executive Director and CFO of Tata Steel, Koushik Chatterjee are members this working group.

367. Which country tops in the Global Trust Index as per the 2019 Edelman Trust Barometer report?

- A. Germany
- B. Switzerland
- C. China
- D. Canada

Answer: C. China- The 2019 Edelman Trust Barometer report, noted that the Global Trust Index witnessed a marginal increase of 3 points to 52. China topped the Trust Index among both the informed public and the general population segments. India is among the most trusted nations globally when it comes to government, business, NGOs and media. India was at the 2nd place in the informed public category and 3rd place in the general population category. In terms of trust in companies headquartered in each market, the most trusted are those from Switzerland, Germany, and Canada.

368. Who inaugurated the 15th Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas Convention at Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh?

- A. Ram Nath Kovind
- B. Arun Jaitley
- C. Yogi Adityanath
- D. Narendra Modi

Answer: D. Narendra Modi - The Prime Minister, Narendra Modi inaugurated the 15th Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas Convention at Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh. For the first time, the three day long convention is being organized in Varanasi from 21-23 January, 2019. The theme of PBD Convention 2019 is "Role of Indian Diaspora in building New India".

369. Nirmala Sitharaman launched Tamil Nadu defence industrial Corridor in _____.

- A. Coimbatore
- B. Tiruchirppalli
- C. Vellore
- D. Hosur

Answer: B. Tiruchirppalli - Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman launched a series of projects as a part of the Tamil Nadu Defence Industrial Corridor in Tiruchirppalli. This is considered to be the second corridor succeeding the one launched in Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh. This is considered to be the mega corridor that would link the remaining military manufacturing units present in South India, it is tuned at the cost of 3038cr. The Tamil Nadu corridor has six nodes at Trichy, Salem, Hosur, Kovai, Madurai and Chennai. It is expected to be a specialised facility hub in aero component manufacturing. Sitharaman also launched the "CODISSIA Defence Innovation and Incubation Centre" to support the MSMEs, start-ups and existing industries in their endeavour to expand and contribute significantly for defence indigenisation.

370. Name the country which has signed an MoU to provide modern infrastructural facilities to Swami Vipulananda Institute of Aesthetic Studies of Eastern University in Batticaloa district of Sri Lanka.

- A. India
- B. Nepal
- C. Thailand
- D. Mauritius

Answer: A. India - India and Sri Lanka signed an MoU to provide modern infrastructural facilities to Swami Vipulananda Institute of Aesthetic Studies of Eastern University in Batticaloa district of Sri Lanka. The project involves refurbishment of the auditorium and construction of a modern building complex with recording cum editing facilities and supply vehicles to the institute through a grant of over 27 crore Sri Lankan rupees from the Government of India.

371. How many MoU's signed between India and Afghanistan, recently?

- A. 22
- B. 16
- C. 11
- D. 8

Answer: C. 11- India signed 11 Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) with Afghanistan for 26 projects worth 9.5 million dollars in the field of infrastructure, public services such as health clinics and governance-related projects. The MoUs signed will involve the construction of classrooms, orphanages, health clinics, canal protection walls and enhancing economic opportunities for women. The projects will be developed in seven provinces of Afghanistan- Balkh, Ghor, Herat, Kabul, Bamyan, Badghis and Kapisa. It will help local communities in education, employment and livelihood generation and capacity building. These projects which are part of 577 community-based Small Development Projects (SDP) are being funded by India from 2005-2021 and worth \$120 million.

372. Who was named as ICC's Emerging Player Of The Year?

- A. Ross Taylor
- B. Mustafizur Rahman
- C. Rohit Sharma
- D. Rishabh Pant

Answer: D. Rishabh Pant- Rishabh Pant was named the International Cricket Council's (ICC) Emerging Player Of The Year following an impressive show in India's first-ever Test series win in Australia. The 21-year-old wicketkeeper-batsman scored 350 runs in the four-match Test series that India won 2-1 to script history in 71 years and 11 attempts. With an unbeaten 159-run knock in the 4th Test in Sydney, Rishabh Pant became the first Indian wicket-keeper to score a Test century in Australia. Earlier, he equalled the record for the most catches taken in a Test with 11 against Australia in Adelaide in December.

373. Who is the head of the committee which is formed by Madras High Court to weed out invasive plant species from Western Ghats?

- A. Cherukuri Raghavendra Babu
- B. M M Sundaresh
- C. N Sathish
- D. Dhananjaya Yeshwant Chandrachud

Answer: A. Cherukuri Raghavendra Babu - The Madras High Court has expressed serious concern over the exotic invasive species that have stifled the growth of the native shola forests and grasslands on the Western Ghats. The committee will be headed by Cherukuri Raghavendra Babu, the chairman of the expert committee on invasive species in Chennai National Biodiversity Authority. A division bench of justices M M Sundaresh and N Sathish passed the interim order on a batch of Public Interest Litigation (PIL) petitions seeking to restrain the Tamil Nadu government from cultivating eucalyptus trees in Western Ghats for commercial purpose.

374. Where did Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveil a statue of Dr Vikram Sarabhai, the father of Indian space programme?

- A. Visakhapatnam
- B. Ahmedabad
- C. Sriharikota
- D. Kochi

Answer: B. Ahmedabad - The Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi unveiled a statue of Dr Vikram Sarabhai, the father of Indian space programme at Sabarmati Riverfront in Ahmedabad, Gujarat. The statue was commissioned by Amdavad Municipal Corporation (AMC) and was closely supervised by Kartikeya Sarabhai and Mallika Sarabhai, the son and daughter of Dr. Sarabhai. The statue was installed to mark the innovator's birth centenary year, and to instill a scientific temperament among Gujarat's children. The statue which has been sculpted by Ahmedabad-based artist Dhruv Shilpi is 6-ft-tall, made up of bronze statue and weighs 1,050 kg. It shows Dr Sarabhai seated on a chair and work on his table. A public gallery was also set up adjacent to the statue featuring Vikram Sarabhai's life and work.

375. Which country has taken over the Chair of the Group of 77 (G-77) for 2019?

- A. Egypt
- B. China
- C. Palestine
- D. Brazil

Answer: C. Palestine - The State of Palestine has launched the historical phase by presiding Group of 77 (G-77) for 2019 on January 15. Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas succeeded Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi with a promise to confront "assaults" on multilateralism and a pledge to seek a peaceful two-state solution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The decision to elect Palestine as the 2019 Chair of the G77 was taken in September 2018 by the foreign ministers of the Groups' member states. For this, the UN General Assembly (UNGA) in 2017 adopted a resolution granting the observer-state of Palestine additional rights to act as chair of the G-77. The bloc - which through an expanding membership is now comprised of 134 countries - rotates chairmanship duties each year to different members. The G-77 is the global body's largest intergovernmental organisation of developing countries including India. It is established in 1964 by 77 developing countries in Geneva. It claims to provide the means for the countries of the South to articulate and promote their collective economic interests and enhance their joint negotiating capacity on all major international economic issues within the UN system and promote South-South cooperation for development.

376. Which state government to give 10% quota to economically weaker sections in general category?

- A. Assam
- B. Tamil Nadu
- C. Kerala
- D. West Bengal

Answer: A. Assam - Assam Cabinet headed by Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal has approved 10 percent quota for the economically weaker sections of the general category in government employment and government education institutes. The cabinet also approved the guidelines for disbursement of ₹5,000 each to five lakh farmers of the state under the Mukhya Mantri Krishi Sa Sajuli Yozana for the purchase of farm tools and implements. In another decision, the Cabinet approved a loan amount of ₹95 crore under the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) from NABARD, in-order to construct and strengthen embankments, dykes and other infrastructure across the state. Furthermore, the cabinet also approved incentives for government doctors, nurses and other healthcare workers under Ayushman Bharat & Atal Amrit Abhiyan.

377. Pakke Paga Hornbill Festival (PPHF) was as the "State Festival" of _____.

- A. Jharkhand
- B. Punjab
- C. Madhya Pradesh
- D. Arunachal Pradesh

Answer: D. Arunachal Pradesh - Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister, Pema Khandu declared Pakke Paga Hornbill Festival (PPHF) as the "State Festival" at Seijosa in East Kameng district, Arunachal Pradesh. Pakke Paga Hornbill Festival (PPHF) is only conservation festival of Arunachal Pradesh. The PPHF festival was celebrated first time in 2015 to recognize the role played by the resident Nyishi tribe in conserving hornbills in the Pakke Tiger Reserve (PTR).

378. Which company will create an independent Institute for Ethics in Artificial intelligence (AI) with an investment of \$7.5 million?

- A. Microsoft
- B. Google
- C. Facebook
- D. Netflix

Answer: C. Facebook - Social media giant Facebook announced that it will create an independent Institute for Ethics in Artificial intelligence (AI) with an initial investment of \$7.5 million over a period of five years. Technical University of Munich (TUM) in Germany will collaborate with this project which aims to explore fundamental issues affecting the use and impact of AI. The Institute will address issues that affecting the use and impact of AI such as Safety, Privacy, Fairness, and transparency. TUM was

ranked 6th in the world for AI research by the Times Higher Education magazine in 2018.

379. Sitanshu Yashashchandra has been awarded Saraswati Samman, 2017, for his poetry collection "Vakhar". He belongs to the state of;

- A. Odisha
- B. Gujarat
- C. Assam
- D. Maharashtra

Answer: B. Gujarat - Noted Gujarati poet Sitanshu Yashashchandra has been awarded Saraswati Samman, 2017, for his poetry collection in Gujarati named "Vakhar". This is the 27th edition of the prestigious award instituted by K.K.Birla foundation given every year to an outstanding work of an Indian citizen published during the last 10 years in any of the languages mentioned in Schedule 8 of the constitution. The award comprises of a citation and a plaque apart from award money of 15 lakh rupees. Noted film director and author Gulzar gave away the award at a solemn function at National museum auditorium in New Delhi. Mr. Yashashchandra, recipient of the Padmashri in 2006, is known for seamlessly blending history with poetry.

380. The government has constituted a high power committee to monitor the pricing of medicines and healthcare products. It will be headed by;

- A. NITI Aayog
- B. Ministry of Human Resource Development
- C. Ministry of Home Affairs
- D. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

Answer: A. NITI Aayog - The government has constituted a high power committee to monitor the pricing of medicines and healthcare products. The committee will be headed by a Niti Aayog member (Health). It will be tasked with recommending price controls and monitoring the prices of specific drugs and health products to ensure their affordability. The Standing Committee on Affordable Medicines and Health Products (SCAMHP) will be the recommending body to the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA). The committee will also include the chief economic adviser and other policymakers.

381. Who has become the first woman IPS DIG and Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) officer to successfully complete the South Pole expedition?

- A. Susheela Das
- B. Aniksha Gupta
- C. Aparna Kumar
- D. Roopali Seth

Answer: C. Aparna Kumar - Aparna Kumar has become the first woman IPS DIG and Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) officer to successfully complete the South Pole expedition. Ms Kumar has successfully reached the South Pole after covering 111 kilometres of walking on the snow. She also carried equipment weighing 35 Kilograms along with her. She has already scaled the top six mountain peaks of the six continents of the globe. Ms Kumar reached the South Pole on January 13 where she unfurled the National and ITBP flags. Ms Kumar is a 2002 batch UP Cadre IPS officer, who has been posted at the Northern Frontier Headquarters of ITBP in Dehradun.

382. Who conferred the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar 2019.

- A. Shri Venkaiah Naidu
- B. Shri Narendra Modi
- C. Shri Ram Nath Kovind
- D. Shri Arun Jaitley

Answer: C. Shri Ram Nath Kovind - The President of India, Ram Nath Kovind conferred the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar 2019. The awards were presented to 26 shortlisted awardees including one joint award for National Child Award (now renamed as Bal Shakti Puraskar) under the category of innovation, scholastic, sports, art and culture, social service and bravery. Under National Child Welfare Awards category, 2 individuals and 3 institutions were awarded. The names of awardees were finalized by the National Selection Committee under the Chairpersonship of Minister of Women and Child Development, Maneka Sanjay Gandhi.

383. India ranks _____ in the global talent competitive index.

- A. 80
- B. 72
- C. 65
- D. 44

Answer: A. 80 -India has moved up one position to rank 80th on the global talent competitive index, but remains a laggard among the BRICS nations. Switzerland continues to top the list, released on the first day of the World Economic Forum (WEF) Annual Meeting at Davos by INSEAD business school in partnership with Tata Communications and Adecco Group.

384. World's oldest man who died due to natural causes in Japan at the age of 113.

- A. Jiroemon Kimura
- B. Nami Nagamatzu
- C. Hizui Sherza
- D. Masazo Nonaka

Answer: D. Masazo Nonaka - World's oldest man Masazo Nonaka died due to natural causes in the Japan's northern most island of Hokkaido at the age of 113. Masazo Nonaka was born on 25 July 1905 and have lived with his four generation family. Japan has one of the world's highest life expectancies. The Longest living man on record Jiroemon Kimura who died after his 116th birthday in June 2013 was also from Japan.

385. This company has decided to invest \$ 400 million dollars for over 40 % stake in BrainBees Solutions.

- A. Uber
- B. Alibaba Group
- C. SoftBank
- D. Sony Corporation

Answer: C. SoftBank - SoftBank has decided to invest \$400 million for over 40 per cent stake in BrainBees Solutions, which owns and operates omni-channel baby and mother care product retailer FirstCry. SoftBank is valuing 8 years old Pune based venture, FirstCry at \$600-700 million and planning to pick over 40 per cent stake whereas FirstCry Founder, Supam Maheshwari and Amitava Saha will retain 12-14 per cent stake. As per SoftBank officials the money will come in tranches linked to financial and business performance milestones. Morgan Stanley acted as the Financial advisor for this big deal.

386. The cabinet of this state has decided to cater 5% reservation each for Kapu community and the economically backward classes (EBCs).

- A. Tamil Nadu
- B. Andhra Pradesh
- C. Rajasthan
- D. Gujarat

Answer: B. Andhra Pradesh - Andhra Pradesh cabinet has decided to cater 5% reservation each for Kapu community and the economically backward classes (EBCs) among the forward castes. The cabinet approved the decision of doubling the welfare pensions given under the NTR Bharosa Scheme. Pensions of Rs 1000 and Rs 1500 are doubled to Rs 2000 and Rs 3000 respectively. It is believed that 54.61 lakh pensioners will be benefited from this decision. The cabinet decided to give exemption of life tax for autos and quarterly tax for tractors. It has also approved the proposal of motor vehicle tax arrears. In total 9.79 lakh vehicle owners will be benefited to the extent of Rs 66.50 crores.

387. The only Indian port which listed amongst the top 30 container ports globally as per Lloyds Report.

- A. Marmagao Port
- B. Kandla Port
- C. Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust
- D. Panambur Port

Answer: C. Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust - The Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT), India's premier container port got listed amongst the top 30 container ports globally, as per the latest Lloyds Report. JNPT notched up five spots, to be 28th on the list, compared to its previous ranking. This is a validation of all the efforts and strategic initiatives being implemented at JNPT in order to enhance overall port efficiency.

388. Which country is the biggest supporters of international aid as per the survey of the World Economic Forum?

- A. Russia
- B. Indonesia
- C. UK
- D. India

Answer: D. India - The World Economic Forum (WEF) released a survey ahead of its annual meeting which states that Indians are biggest supporters of international aid. 95 per cent of Indians supported the international aid and expect India to help other nations. World Economic Forum worked with Qualtrics to poll over 10000 from different parts of the world. South Asian Countries like India, Pakistan and Bangladesh exhibit widespread support for international aid leaving behind European countries.

389. Arjuna Award winner Raghbir Singh Bhola passed away recently. He belongs to which of the following sport?

- A. Cricket
- B. Hockey
- C. Tennis
- D. Basket Ball

Answer: B. Hockey - Former Indian hockey player Raghbir Singh Bhola, a two-time Olympic medallist, has passed away aged 92. In 2000, he was honored with the Arjuna Award for his achievements in hockey. He served in diverse roles such as the member of the IHF selection committee, FIH international umpire, manager of the Indian hockey team, TV commentator and government observer at the Olympic Games.

390. With which Institute Omega Healthcare Management Services has signed an MoU for advanced use of the latest technology in providing healthcare solutions?

- A. IIIT Bangalore
- B. IIIT Bhubaneswar
- C. IIIT Allahabad

D. IIIT Hyderabad

Answer: A. IIIT Bangalore - Omega Healthcare Management Services has signed a pact with IIIT-Bangalore for advanced use of the latest technology in providing healthcare solutions. The MoU is aimed at building industry-grade AI engines that can be embedded as part of Omega's business solutions to solve healthcare business challenges. The pact also entails research programmes in artificial intelligence (AI) and Data Science, aiming to focus on specific business-related processes along with expected outcomes, with the programme being collectively decided by both organisations.

391. Which state government has declared Pakke Paga Hornbill Festival (PPHF) as the "State Festival"?

- A. Manipur
- B. Arunachal Pradesh
- C. Nagaland
- D. Meghalaya

Answer: B. Arunachal Pradesh - The Arunachal Pradesh government has recently declared the Pakke Paga Hornbill Festival (PPHF)—the state's only conservation festival, as a "State Festival". The purpose of the fest is to recognise the role played by the resident Nyishi tribe in conserving hornbills in the Pakke Tiger Reserve (PTR), to devise alternative sources of income for a region that relies on hunting and logging, and to tell the rest of the country about the wonders of the PTR and its surrounding areas. As part of the festival, visitors are treated to cultural programmes, food stalls, plays, sightseeing, river and village walks, bird-watching, screenings of short films as well as local tribal sports and dances.

392. Which state government has decided to give 5% quota for Kapu community in 10% reservation for EWS?

- A. Andhra Pradesh
- B. Jharkhand
- C. Tamil Nadu
- D. Telangana

Answer: A. Andhra Pradesh - The Andhra Pradesh government has approved a proposal to grant 5% quota to the Kapu community in the state, after the Central Government recently passed a Bill to provide 10% reservation to Economically Backward Classes (EBCs) from the general category in jobs and education. The decision to ensure that half of the quota under the EBC category be reserved for upper caste Kapus was taken after a state cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu. The Kapus are primarily an agrarian community based in the

Andhra-Telangana region. It is one of the dominant caste groups with political influence in the state. The Kapu community comprises nearly 26% of the state's five crore people.

393. Who has been bestowed with the 2017 Saraswati Samman?

- A. Ramakanta Rath
- B. Padma Sachdev
- C. Mahabaleshwar Sail
- D. Sitanshu Yashashchandra

Answer: D. Sitanshu Yashashchandra - Noted Gujarati poet Sitanshu Yashashchandra has been awarded the 27th edition of the Saraswati Samman 2017 for his poetry collection in Gujarati named "Vakhar". He received the award by the noted film director and author Gulzar at a solemn function at National museum auditorium in New Delhi. The prestigious award is instituted by K.K.Birla foundation & is given every year to an outstanding work of an Indian citizen published during the last 10 years in any of the languages mentioned in Schedule 8 of the constitution. The award comprises of a citation and a plaque apart from award money of Rs. 15 lakh. Mr. Yashashchandra, recipient of the Padmashri in 2006, is known for seamlessly blending history with poetry.

394. What is the India's rank at the Global Talent Competitive Index (GTCI) 2019?

- A. 80th
- B. 64th
- C. 76th
- D. 98th

Answer: A. 80th - India has been ranked 80th at the Global Talent Competitive Index (GTCI) 2019, according to a report released by INSEAD business school in partnership with Tata Communications and Adecco Group. It was released during the World Economic Forum (WEF) Annual Meeting in Davos on 22nd January 2019. The list is topped by Switzerland, followed by Singapore, the US, Norway and Denmark. According to the report, India's biggest challenge is to improve its ability to attract and retain talent. Above all, there is a need to address its poor level of Internal Openness (116th) -- in particular with respect to weak gender equality and low tolerance towards minorities and immigrants and its disappointing showing in lifestyle (112th) indicators. The survey measures how countries and cities grow, attract and retain talent, ranking 125 countries and 114 cities across all groups of income and levels of development.

395. What is the theme of the National Girl Child Day (NGCD-2019)?

- A. Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao
- B. Empowering Girls for a Brighter Tomorrow
- C. Protect, Educate and Value Girls
- D. Protect Future, Protect Girl

Answer: B. Empowering Girls for a Brighter Tomorrow - The National Girl Child Day (NGCD) is celebrated every year on January 24 in India to raise awareness against the social stigma and discrimination faced by girl. The day also highlights the need to protect girl child who is prone to sex selective abortions, sexual abuse and trafficking in India. The 2019 theme “Empowering Girls for a Brighter Tomorrow” was celebrated with objectives of generating awareness on the issue of declining Child Sex Ratio (CSR) and create a positive environment around valuing the girl child. The Union Ministry of Women and Child Development (WCD) celebrated the NGCD-2019 day at Pravasi Bharti Kendra in New Delhi. The programme also observed anniversary of Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) Scheme. A booklet on “Innovations under BBBP” was also released on the occasion. The Ministry has compiled 38 Innovative Activities from Districts across the country to set an example for other Districts. These interventions have been categorized according to five themes, which are Survival, Protection, Education, Participation and Valuing Girls.

396. What is the India's rank at the 2019 Bloomberg Innovation Index?

- A. 19th
- B. 36th
- C. 54th
- D. 67th

Answer: C. 54th - India has been ranked at 54th position in the list of world's most innovative countries, according to Bloomberg 2019 Innovative Index. It is for the first time that India has made it to the rankings. South Korea has topped the Index for the sixth time in a row with a total score of 87.38, followed by Germany, Finland, Switzerland, Israel, Singapore, Sweden, U.S., Japan and France in the top 10. The annual Bloomberg Innovation Index (BII) analyses dozens of criteria using seven metrics, including research and development spending, manufacturing capability and concentration of high-tech public companies. In the 2019 Index, India is among the new entrants from the world's largest emerging economies with a total score of 47.93. Barring India, other nations include Mexico, Vietnam and Saudi Arabia also made a surprise entry. Bloomberg has published top 60 economies out of 95 economies analyzed for the ranking process for the year 2019. Each economy has been assigned a score from 0-100 on the basis of seven equal-weighted metrics.

397. Which city is the venue of the Indian Africa Field Training Exercise (IAFTX-2019)?

- A. Kochi
- B. Kolkata
- C. Pune
- D. Chennai

Answer: C. Pune - The Indian Africa Field Training Exercise (IAFTX-2019) will be conducted at Aundh Military Station and College of Military Engineering in Pune from March 18 to 27. The joint training exercise is being conducted with more than a dozen African countries and India to synergise humanitarian mine action and joint peace operations. The IAFTX-2019 is a positive step towards growing political and military ties with the member nations of African continent and will boost the already strong strategic cooperation between the countries.

398. Bhanu Prakash Singh, who passed away recently, was associated with which field?

- A. Arts
- B. Politics
- C. Sports
- D. Journalism

Answer: B. Politics - Bhanu Prakash Singh (90), the former Union minister, ex-Goa Governor and head of the Narsingharh royal family, has passed away in Indore, Madhya Pradesh on January 24, 2019. He was elected as an MP from Rajgarh Lok Sabha seat in 1962 as an independent candidate. Singh later became close to former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and joined the Congress in 1964. He became a minister in her cabinet. However, when Indira Gandhi abolished privy purses, Singh revolted and resigned from the Congress. In 1991, he became the Governor of Goa.

399. Which NDRF's Battalion has won the first-ever Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar?

- A. 9th
- B. 11th
- C. 8th
- D. 4th

Answer: C. 8th - The Government of India (GoI) has recently instituted an annual award titled Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar. The award is to be announced every year on 23rd January on the birth anniversary of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose. For the year 2019, 8th Battalion of National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) located at Ghaziabad has been selected for the award for its commendable work in Disaster Management. The Award recipient will receive a certificate and a cash prize of Rs. 51 lakh. The 8th Battalion of NDRF was raised in 2006 and is a highly specialised Rescue and Response Force with large area of responsibility covering National Capital Region (NCR), Uttarakhand, Western UP & Haryana. The battalion has participated in 314 major operations and rescued over 50,000 people. In the devastating Kerala floods in 2018, the battalion had rescued 5,338 victims and evacuated 24,000 people to safety. Other major disasters in which this NDRF battalion participated are

Leh cloud burst (2011), Kedarnath floods (2013), cyclone Hudhud (2014), Chennai floods (2015) and Tripura floods (2018).

400. Which international organisation has published its latest World Economic Situation and Prospects (WESP) report?

- A. IMF
- B. WHO
- C. World Bank
- D. United Nations

Answer: D. United Nations - As per latest United Nations' World Economic Situation and Prospects (WESP) report 2019, India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is expected to grow at 7.4% during 2018-19 and improve to 7.6% in FY20. The report also expected that India's economy to expand by 7.4% in 2020-21. Referring to the global economy, the report said it would continue to grow at a steady pace of around 3% in 2019 and 2020 amid signs that growth has peaked. The report also highlighted that global trade tensions pose a threat to the economic outlook. The 2019 report offers timely warnings about a range of macroeconomic challenges facing policymakers as they aim to deliver on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

401. The first-ever UN's International Day of Education is celebrated on which date?

- A. January 26
- B. January 25
- C. January 24
- D. January 23

Answer: C. January 24- The first-ever UN's International Day of Education is observed on January 24 to highlight the role of education for peace and development. Education is a human right, a public good and a public responsibility. The day recognizes the importance of ensuring inclusive quality education & access to lifelong learning opportunities for all. The right to education is enshrined in article 26 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Today, 262 million children and youth still do not attend school; 617 million children and adolescents cannot read and do basic math; less than 40% of girls in sub-Saharan Africa complete lower secondary school and some four million children and youth refugees are out of school. Their right to education is being violated and it is unacceptable. Hence, UNESCO calls on governments and all partners to make universal quality education a leading priority. In India, National Education Day (NED) is observed on November 11 to commemorate the birth anniversary of the first education minister of independent India — Maulana Abul Kalam Azad.

402. Who is the author of the novel 'Zindaginama'?

- A. Rahul Sankrityayan

- B. Krishna Sobti
- C. Mridula Garg
- D. Chitra Mudgal

Answer: B. Krishna Sobti - Krishna Sobti (94), the famous Hindi fiction writer and essayist, has passed away in New Delhi on January 25, 2019. She had won the Sahitya Akademi Award in 1980 for her novel Zindaginama and was awarded the Jnanpith in 2017 for her contribution to Indian literature. Sobti is best known for her 1966 novel Mitro Marajani, an unapologetic portrayal of a married woman's sexuality. Some of her notable works are as follows: Daar Se Bichchuri, Surajmukhi Andhere Ke, Yaaron Ke Yaar, Zindaginama. Some of her well-known short stories are Nafisa, Sikka Badal gaya, Badalom ke ghare.

403. The new Naval Air Base 'INS Kohassa' has commissioned at which of the states /UTs?

- A. Gujarat
- B. West Bengal
- C. Lakshadweep
- D. Andaman and Nicobar Islands

Answer: D. Andaman and Nicobar Islands - The new naval air base 'INS Kohassa' has recently commissioned by Navy Chief Admiral Sunil Lanba into the Indian Navy at the Shibpur Naval Air Station in Diglipur, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, as part of efforts to expand operational presence in the Indian Ocean where China has been increasing its military presence. This is the India's fourth air base and the third naval air facility in the region that overlooks key sea lanes of communication and strategic points. INS Kohassa has been named after a White-Bellied Sea Eagle, which is a large bird of prey, endemic to A&N islands. The new airbase will be used for both Defence and civil aircraft. Earlier, Naval Air Station at Shibpur was manned by utilizing the manpower from INS Utkrosh. Now, the airbase will function as an independent unit. The airbase will be used to handle operations of helicopters and small aircraft like the Dornier.

404. Which IIT has launched an app 'Roshni' to help blind identify notes?

- A. IIT Kanupur
- B. IIT Ropar
- C. IIT Indore
- D. IIT Bombay

Answer: B. IIT Ropar - IIT Ropar has launched an android app 'Roshni' to help the blind in recognizing the denomination of the currency notes, using image processing and analytics. At present, notes of Rs 10, 20, 50, 100, 200, 500 and 2,000 are in circulation, which the blind people find it difficult to recognize due to their size and the tactile marks. The app can recognize both old and new notes and gives audio

information as to which note you are holding in your hands. The user has to bring the currency note in front of phone camera and the app would provide audio notification intimating the currency notes denomination to the user. The app uses the patterns and features embedded on the notes to differentiate and determine the currency denomination. The app is developed by assistant professor Dr Puneet Goyal and his students — Mandhatya Singh, Joohi Chauhan, and R Ram.

405. The Union Cabinet has approved the amendment to which article to strengthen northeast autonomous councils?

- A. Article 282
- B. Article 284
- C. Article 281
- D. Article 280

Answer: D. Article 280 - The Union cabinet has approved the landmark amendment to Article 280 of the Constitution to increase the financial and executive powers of the 10 autonomous councils in the Sixth Schedule areas of the Northeast Region (NER). The amendment would impact a population of about 1 crore tribals living in Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram. The Finance Commission would be mandated to recommend devolution of financial resources to the councils. Till now, the autonomous councils have depended on grants from Central Ministries and the State governments for specific projects. As per the proposed amendment, there will be State Election Commissions (SECs) for holding elections to the autonomous councils, village and municipal councils in the areas of Assam, Mizoram and Tripura. At least one third of the seats would be reserved for women in the village and municipal councils in the Sixth Schedule areas of Assam, Mizoram and Tripura. Here, Meghalaya has for the time being opted out of the provision for elected village and municipal councils and one-third reservation for women.

406. ISRO has successfully launched military satellite 'Microsat-R' from which launch vehicle?

- A. PSLV-C43
- B. PSLV-C44
- C. PSLV-C45
- D. PSLV-C46

Answer: B. PSLV-C44 - ISRO has successfully launched a military satellite 'Microsat-R' and a student satellite 'Kalamsat-V2' into their designated orbits from PSLV-C44 launch vehicle. The launch was the 46th flight of the PSLV which lifted off from Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh. PSLV-C44 is the first flight of PSLV-DL, a new variant of PSLV with two strap-on motors. With this launch, India also becomes the first country to use the fourth stage of a space rocket as an orbital platform

for microgravity experiments. The PSLV is a four-stage launch vehicle with alternating solid and liquid stages.

407. The world's longest 3D-printed concrete bridge has opened in which country?

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

Answer: C. China - In China, the world's longest 3D-printed concrete bridge has recently opened across a canal on the Wenzaobang River in Shanghai. The bridge is The newly-opened bridge is 26.3 metre-long and 3.6-meter-wide, and is designed by Professor Xy Weiguo from Tsinghua University in China. Its design was inspired by an ancient Chinese bridge named "Anji Bridge" in Hebei Province. The system is cost-efficient uses smart technology and digital design to print 3D concrete blocks. A total of 44 hollowed-out 3D printed concrete blocks were used to lay the bridge while 68 concrete units made the handrails. The bridge has sensors that collect displacement data which will be used to improve the design of future bridges constructed using 3D printing.

408. Which state government has decided to set up anti-poaching tiger protection force?

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

Answer: D. Telangana - The Telangana government has decided to set up an armed "State Tiger Protection Force" (STPF) to save the Big Cat population in the State. The 112-member-armed STPF will be headed by an Assistant Conservator of Forests to protect tiger population in Amarabad and Kawal Tiger Reserves. The State and Central government will share the cost of the force on 40:60 basis. The cases under the Preventive Detention Act would be registered against violators.

409. Which of the following novels has been adjudged as the best novel of 2017 at the Kerala Sahitya Akademi Awards?

- A. Nireeswaran
- B. Aarachaar
- C. Thakshankunnu Swaroopam
- D. Naalukettu

Answer: A. Nireeswaran - The Kerala Sahitya Akademi Awards for the year 2017 have been announced on 23rd January 2019. In it, 'Nireeswaran' by V.J. James has been adjudged the best novel of 2017, while Aymanam John's Ethara Characharangalude

Charitra Pusthakam has secured the award for the best short story. Mindapran, written by Veerankutty, is the best poetry. The award is given each year by the Kerala Sahitya Akademi (Kerala Literary Academy) to Malayalam writers for their outstanding books of literary merit.

410. Who has become the India's first woman IPS officer to complete South Pole expedition?

- A. Aparna Kumar
- B. Vimla Mehra
- C. Archana Ramasundaram
- D. Meera Borwankar

Answer: A. Aparna Kumar - Aparna Kumar has become the India's first woman Indian Police Service (IPS) DIG and Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) officer to successfully complete the South Pole expedition. She unfurled the National and the ITBP flags at the South Pole on 13th January 2019 after covering 111Km of walking on the snow. Aparna will now attempt to conquer the North Pole this April. She has covered six of the highest peaks across continents including the Mount Everest. The one left for her to scale is the Mount Denali in Alaska. The ITBP is a Central Armed Police Force which is primarily deployed to secure the icy Himalayan borders of the nation since its inception in 1962.

411. Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu launched the book 'Universal Brotherhood Through Yoga' in which of the following city?

- A. Surat
- B. Mumbai
- C. New Delhi
- D. Patna

Answer: C. New Delhi - Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu launched the book 'Universal Brotherhood through Yoga' in New Delhi. The book is compiled by Bharatiya Sanskrit Pitham.

412. Which country successfully tested the Arrow 3 missile system?

- A. Russia
- B. Israel
- C. China
- D. Brazil

Answer: B. Israel - Israel successfully tested the Arrow 3 missile system from Central Israel, it is done in collaboration with American Missile Defense Agency. Arrow 3 is considered to be the next step in the defence system, which would help the Israel Military Force to attack their enemies from a greater distance and greater height. It is a long range anti-ballistic missile.

413. Where did Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India organise the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Awareness Programme?

- A. Pune, Maharashtra
- B. Vadodara, Gujarat
- C. New Delhi, Delhi
- D. Hyderabad, Telangana

Answer: B. Vadodara, Gujarat - The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India organised Insolvency and Bankruptcy Awareness Programme at Vadodara, Gujarat. It is organised in collaboration with three Insolvency Professional Agencies, namely, the Indian Institute of Insolvency Professionals of ICAI (lead partner), the ICSI Institute of Insolvency Professionals, and the Insolvency Professional Agency of Institute of Cost Accountants of India.

414. Which ministry constituted a committee to study the existing Special Economical Zone (SEZ) policy of India?

- A. Ministry of Labour and Employment
- B. Ministry of Corporate Affairs
- C. Ministry of Finance
- D. Ministry of Commerce and Industry

Answer: D. Ministry of Commerce and Industry- Baba Kalyani led committee constituted by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry to study the existing Special Economical Zone (SEZ) policy of India submitted its report to Union Minister for Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation Suresh Prabhu in New Delhi. The reports of the committee were made public on 22nd January and government is seeking suggestions or comments on the recommendations of the committee till 30th January 2019. Objectives of the Baba Kalyani led committee which was constituted in June 2018 were to evaluate the SEZ policy and make it World Trade Organization (WTO) compatible, suggest measures to maximize utilization of vacant land in SEZs. The report says that if India is going to become a USD 5 trillion economy by 2025 then the current environment of manufacturing competitiveness and services has to undergo a basic paradigm shift.

415. Uttar Pradesh government announced a monthly pension of _____ rupees to the destitute women in Varanasi.

- A. Rs 1000
- B. Rs 200
- C. Rs 300
- D. Rs 500

Answer: D. Rs 500 - UP government announced to give a monthly pension of Rs.500 to the destitute women in Varanasi. This measure came immediately after the

implementation of 10 per cent reservation for economically weak in the general category in the upcoming educational year. The Parliament passed the Constitution (124th Amendment) Bill, 2019 in Parliament to grant 10 reservation in education and government jobs to economically weaker individuals belonging to the general category, across religions. The reservation is meant for individuals whose annual earning is below Rs 8 lakh and who possess less than 5 acres of agriculture land. Yogi Adityanath also announced pension scheme to Hindu seers who are above the age of 60. The scheme is also likely to benefit the seers in Uttar Pradesh. The pension will be provided to Hindu sadhus who are above the age of 60.

416. ISRO will launch Microsat-R a military imaging satellite into space on 24th January 2019. The total weight of the satellite is;

- A. 122 kg
- B. 130 kg
- C. 102 kg
- D. 94 kg

Answer: B. 130 kg - Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) first mission of 2019, Microsat-R, is to be launched into space on 24th January 2019. The 130-kg Microsat-R is a military imaging satellite. Microsat-R and its payload come assembled from a handful of laboratories of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and is meant for military use. The satellite was assembled outside and ISRO only interfaced it with its own systems and the launch vehicle, just as it treats any customer satellite. PSLV-C44 will be launched from the older First Launch Pad at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh. For its part, ISRO is experimenting on two aspects of the vehicle. One is to reuse a waste stage.

417. India placed _____ in the world's most innovative countries according to the Bloomberg 2019 Innovative Index.

- A. 21st
- B. 66th
- C. 32nd
- D. 54th

Answer: D. 54th - India ranked at the 54th Position with a score of 47.93 out of 100 among the world's most innovative countries according to the Bloomberg 2019 Innovative Index. South Korea retained its top spot with a score of 87.38, Germany ranked second with a score of 87.30 whereas Finland has been ranked at the third spot with a score of 85.70. The Annual Bloomberg Innovation Index ranks countries by analyzing their performances using seven metrics including Research and Development spending, Manufacturing Categories and Concentration of high-tech public computers.

418. The Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose museum has inaugurated in which city?

- A. Hyderabad
- B. Kolkata
- C. Pune
- D. New Delhi

Answer: D. New Delhi - Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Subhash Chandra Bose museum at the iconic Red Fort in New Delhi to mark the leader's 122nd birth anniversary. The Museum on Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose and Indian National Army provides a detailed account of Subhash Chandra Bose and the history of Indian National Army (INA). It also showcases various artefacts related to Subhash Chandra Bose and INA. The artefacts include wooden chair and sword used by Netaji, medals, badges, uniforms and other artefacts related to INA. Beside this, Prime Minister also inaugurated the Yaad-e-Jallian Museum on the Jallianwala Bagh and World War I, the Museum on 1857- India's first war of Independence and Drishyakala-Museum on Indian Art within the Red Fort complex.

419. The theme of National Girl Child Day 2019 was;

- A. Innovating for girls' education
- B. With Her: A Skilled Girl Force
- C. EmPOWER Girls: Before, during and after crises
- D. Empowering Girls for a Brighter Tomorrow

Answer: D. Empowering Girls for a Brighter Tomorrow - National Girl Child Day is celebrated in India on 24 January. Women and Child Development Ministry celebrated the National Girl Child Day 2019 at Pravasi Bharti Kendra, New Delhi. The programme also observed the anniversary of Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) Scheme. The theme of National Girl Child Day 2019 was "Empowering Girls for a Brighter Tomorrow" and celebrating with objectives of generating awareness on the issue of declining Child Sex Ratio (CSR) and create a positive environment around valuing the girl child. A booklet on "Innovations under BBBP" will also be released on the occasion.

420. Where was the 2nd World Integrated Medicine Forum 2019 held?

- A. Tamil Nadu
- B. Andhra Pradesh
- C. Goa
- D. Maharashtra

Answer: C. Goa - Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for AYUSH, Shripad Naik inaugurated 2nd World Integrated Medicine Forum 2019 in Goa. International drug regulators who are dealing with homeopathic or traditional medicines from various countries participated in the forum. It is organized by the Central Council for Research in Homeopathy under the Ministry of AYUSH along with World Integrated Medicine Forum.

The forum is expected to witness participation from 20 countries. The theme for the forum is ' Regulation of Homeopathic Medical Products; Advancing global collaboration'.

421. Which high court released a movie "72 Hours - Martyr Who Never Died" a movie about Sino-Indian war hero Rifleman Jaswant Sing Rawat?

- A. Delhi High Court
- B. Bombay High Court
- C. Karnataka High Court
- D. Calcutta High Court

Answer: A. Delhi High Court - The Delhi High Court allowed the release of the movie '72 Hours - Martyr Who Never died' which is based on the life of the 1962 Sino-Indian war hero Rifleman Jaswant Sing Rawat who was posthumously awarded the Maha Vir Chakra for gallantry during 1962 war. Rifleman Jaswant Singh Rawat was a Sino-Indian war hero who was serving as an Indian army soldier in Garhwal Rifles. He was serving the 4th battalion during the battle of Nuranang of the Nort- East Frontier Agency in the war of 1962, and now it's in Arunachal Pradesh. He was honored by building a memorial by the Chinese people's Liberation army and it was named as Jaswant Garh.

422. Name the Indian tennis player who won the International Tennis Federation's (ITF) 25,000-dollar Women's tournament in Singapore.

- A. Karman Kaur Thandi
- B. Ankita Raina
- C. Rujutha Bhosale
- D. Nirupama Rao

Answer: B. Ankita Raina - India's Ankita Raina won the International Tennis Federation's (ITF) 25,000-dollar Women's tournament in Singapore by defeating top seed and world number 122 Arantxa Rus of the Netherlands, by 6-3, 6-2. Besides being the first title of the season, it is Ankita's fourth title at the USD 25k level, and eighth overall. Ankita has earned 50 points from this win and has achieved a jump of 35 places to a career-high 168 in the latest WTA singles rankings issued on 21st January 2019. She will next play the Fed Cup, starting in the first week of next month at Astana, Kazakhstan.

423. Indian and Japanese Coast Guards undertake disaster control exercise in which of the following city?

- A. Osaka
- B. Kawasaki
- C. Yokohama
- D. Kolkata

Answer: C. Yokohama- Indian and Japanese Coast Guards started disaster, search and rescue exercises off the coast of Yokohama in Japan. ICGS Shaunak is the main Indian Coast Guard Ship taking part in the drills. Rajendra Singh, Chief of Indian Coast Guard and his Japanese counterpart Shuichi Iwanami reviewed the drills. The Coast guards of India and Japan was working together after the establishment of deeper ties between the two countries. Japan Coast guard visited India last year whereas in this year Indian coast guard has visited Japan.

424. With which country the Union Cabinet has approved MoU for cooperation on the recruitment of domestic workers?

- A. Kuwait
- B. Bahrain
- C. Jordan
- D. Morocco

Answer: A. Kuwait- The Union Cabinet has approved recently the signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Kuwait for cooperation on the recruitment of domestic workers. The MOU provides a structured framework for cooperation on domestic workers related matters and provides strengthened safeguards for Indian domestic workers including female workers deployed in Kuwait. The MOU is initially valid for a period of 5 years and incorporates provision for automatic renewal. Around three lakh Indian domestic workers deployed in Kuwait will benefit from the decision. The MOU will promote bilateral cooperation in domestic workers related matters between the two countries.

425. Tamil Nadu's "Jallikattu" held in _____, has entered the world record for the maximum number of bulls released into the sport arena.

- A. Pudukottai
- B. Avaniyapuram
- C. Alanganallur
- D. Palamedu

Answer: A. Pudukottai - Jallikattu as a symbol of the valour and courage of the Tamil people. A grand "jallikattu" (bull-taming) event held in Pudukottai and this event entered the world record for the maximum number of bulls released into the sport arena. This event had the participation of 1,354 bulls and 424 tamers.

426. Indian Africa Field Training Exercise (IAFTX)-2019 was conducted in which city?

- A. Kolkata
- B. Mumbai
- C. Pune
- D. New Delhi

Answer: C. Pune - The final planning conference to work out the modalities for Indian Africa Field Training Exercise (IAFTX)-2019 was conducted at Pune, Maharashtra. Delegates from Egypt, Ghana, Nigeria, Senegal, Sudan, South Africa, Tanzania, Namibia, Mozambique, Uganda, Niger & Zambia attended the conference. The joint training exercise is being conducted with more than a dozen African countries & India. It aims at synergising humanitarian mine action and joint peace operations. The initial planning conference for the exercise was held in December 2018.

427. Manipur, Meghalaya and Tripura celebrate their 42nd statehood day on _____.

- A. January 21
- B. January 22
- C. January 23
- D. January 24

Answer: A. January 21 - Manipur, Meghalaya and Tripura are celebrating their statehood day. It is their 42nd statehood day. In the year 1972, all the three states became full-fledged states under the North Eastern Region (Reorganisation) Act, 1971. The erstwhile princely states of Tripura and Manipur were merged with India in 1949 and became full-fledged states in 1972. Meghalaya was a part of Assam before it was carved out as a full-fledged state under the North Eastern Region (Re-Organisation) Act, 1971.

428. Who among the following has conducted the massive coastal defence exercise 'Sea Vigil-2019' to check 26/11-style attacks?

- A. Indian Air Force
- B. Indian Army
- C. Indian Navy
- D. Indian Coast Guard

Answer: C. Indian Navy - The Indian Navy, in coordination with the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) and other stakeholders, conducted the massive coastal defence exercise codenamed 'SEA VIGIL-2019' off the Indian coast on January 22-23, 2019. The exercise, a first of its kind, covered the entire 7516.6 km coastline and Exclusive Economic Zone of India and involves all the 13 coastal States and Union Territories along with all maritime stakeholders, including the fishing and coastal communities. The main goal of the large-scale exercise is to comprehensively and holistically validate the efficacy of the measures taken since '26/11'. The exercise also aims to test India's preparedness to thwart any attempt by anti-national elements to carry out an attack on its territory or against its citizens by infiltrating through the sea route.

429. Who inaugurated the first inter-state bridge over Ravi River in J&K?

- A. Piyush Goyal
- B. Nitin Gadkari
- C. Rajnath Singh
- D. Dr. Harsh Vardhan

Answer: B. Nitin Gadkari - Nitin Gadkari inaugurated first inter-state 1210-meter span-bridge over Ravi River in Keerian Gandial in Kathua district, Jammu and Kashmir. It was built at a cost of Rs 158.84 crore in a span of three and a half years linking areas of Kathua district with Punjab. The bridge also called as Keediyar-Gandiyal bridge will benefit over 2,20,000 people living on the two sides - Kathua in Jammu, and Pathankot in Punjab. It will reduce the distance between the two cities from 45 kms to 8.6 kms.

430. How many Indians won the prestigious Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award?

- A. 3
- B. 4
- C. 5
- D. 7

Answer: A. 3 - Three Indian expats from the UAE are amongst those who won the prestigious Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award the highest honor conferred on Indian diaspora. President Ram Nath Kovind conferred the award on Girish Pant, Surender Singh Kandhari and Dr. Zulekha Daud and other awardees at the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) Convention in Varanasi.

431. What is the theme of the National Voters Day (NVD-2019)?

- A. Proud to be a voter - Ready to vote
- B. Accessible elections
- C. No Voter to be Left Behind
- D. Proud to be a voter

Answer: C. No Voter to be Left Behind - The National Voters Day (NVD) is celebrated every year in India on January 25 since 2011 to enhance participation of citizens in the electoral process. The day also marked the Foundation day of Election Commission of India (ECI), which was established on 25th January 1950. The main purpose of the celebration is to encourage, facilitate and maximize the enrollment, especially for the new voters. In view of the upcoming Lok Sabha Elections, 'No Voter to be Left Behind' has been selected as the theme for the 9th National Voters' Day. During the 9th NVD 2019, the National Awards for the Best Electoral Practices were conferred on Officers for their outstanding performance in the conduct of elections. President Ram Nath Kovind was the Chief Guest at the main function being organized by Election Commission in New Delhi.

432. Who among the following has/have been awarded Bharat Ratna posthumously in 2019?

- A. Bhupen Hazarika
- B. Nanaji Deshmukh
- C. Madan Mohan Malaviya
- D. Both a & b

Answer: D. Both a & b - On 26th January 2019, President Ramnath Kovind conferred the Bharat Ratna, the nation's highest civilian honour, on former President Pranab Mukherjee, along with social activist Nanaji Deshmukh (posthumous), and Assamese musician Bhupen Hazarika (posthumous). Nanaji Deshmukh was a senior RSS leader who also worked for rural development and welfare of farmers, and was considered a stalwart of the Sangh Parivar. Mr. Hazarika's award appears to be a nod to the importance the North East has been accorded by the current government amid huge unrest following the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill being pushed. Mr. Mukherjee is a Congressman for five decades before he became President (2012-2017) spoke at an annual RSS event in Nagpur in 2018. The last time Bharat Ratnas were conferred was in 2015, when educationalist-politician Madan Mohan Malviya and former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee were the recipients.

433. Who led the all-women Assam Rifles contingent, which has created history by participating for the first time in a Republic Day parade?

- A. Shikha Surabhi
- B. Khushboo Kanwar
- C. Aparna KUMar
- D. Bhavna Syal

Answer: B. Khushboo Kanwar - On 70th Republic Day parade 2019, women power displayed at Rajpath, with contingents of the Indian Navy, India Army Service Corps and a unit of Corps of Signals (transportable satellite terminal) were all led by women officers and a woman officer exhibiting stunts on bike. In it, Major Khushboo Kanwar led all-women Assam Rifles contingent has created history by participating for the first time in a Republic Day parade. Capt Shikha Surabhi from the Corps of Signals became the first woman to perform bike stunts alongside her male teammates as part of daredevils, a major attraction every Republic Day. For the first time, a lady officer, Lt. Bhavana Kasturi led a contingent of the India Army Service Corps and Capt Bhavna Syal, a third-generation officer in the armed forces, led the transportable satellite terminal's contingent.

434. Who has been named as the new King of Malaysia?

- A. Ahmad Shah
- B. Abdul Rahim

- C. Sultan Abdullah
- D. Sirajuddin

Answer: C. Sultan Abdullah- Sultan Abdullah of Pahang has been elected as the new King of Malaysia, after Malaysian King Sultan Muhammad V step down from the throne before completing his five-year tenure on 6th January 2019. Sultan Abdullah will be sworn-in as the Nation's 16th Yang di-Pertuan Agong (or head of state) in a traditional ceremony on 31st January 2019. Malaysia is the only country in the world to have a rotational monarchy since the country became independent from Britain in 1957. The country has nine royal households, who typically take turns to sit on the throne. King's constitutional powers include the ability to veto the appointment of key political office holders, including the prime minister. The king also has powers to grant full pardons to citizens convicted in the courts.

435. Who is the author of the book 'Panchashati Galpo'?

- A. Krishna Sobti
- B. Nirmal Verma
- C. Mannu Bhandari
- D. Atin Bandyopadhyay

Answer: D. Atin Bandyopadhyay - Atin Bandyopadhyay (85), the renowned Bengali writer, has passed away in Kolkata on 19th January, 2019. Born in 1934 in Dhaka, he had taken up various jobs as a sailor, school teacher, factory manager, journalist to finally become a writer. He won the 2001 Sahitya Akademi award for his compilation of short stories 'Panchashati Galpo'. His masterpiece is considered to be a four-part tetralogy on the Partition: "Nilkantha Pakhir Khonje", "Manusher Gharbari", "Aloukik Jalajan" and "Ishwarer Bagan".

436. Russell Baker, the two-time Pulitzer Prize-winning author has passed away. He was from which country?

- A. Italy
- B. United States
- C. France
- D. Germany

Answer: B. United States - Russell Baker (93), the two-time Pulitzer Prize-winning author, has passed away in Virginia, United States on January 21, 2019. He was the genial, but sharp-witted writer for his humorous columns in The New York Times and a moving autobiography of his impoverished Baltimore childhood and later hosted television's 'Masterpiece Theatre'. He won Pulitzers in 1979 for the 'Observer', the Times column he wrote for 35 years, and in 1983 for his autobiography 'Growing Up'. It was the first Pulitzer for commentary awarded to a humorist.

437. The Airports Authority of India (AAI) and Saab have signed a pact to explore air traffic management. Where is the headquarters of Saab located?

- A. Sweden
- B. Singapore
- C. Seychelles
- D. South Africa

Answer: A. Sweden - The Airports Authority of India (AAI) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Swedish aerospace and defence company (Saab) to explore Air Traffic Management (ATM) solutions for airports operating under the UDAN regional connectivity scheme. In the sector of ATM solutions, Saab has a portfolio ranging from Advanced-Surface Movement Guidance & Control System (A-SMGCS) and Surface Movement Radar (SR- 3), to Remote Towers which can be deployed at all types of airports. ATM solutions from Saab can support both single and multiple runway airfields, as well as remote operations and deployable systems. Hence, the MoU with Saab will support AAI's need for ATM solutions and training of its personnel in ATM services. The MoU highlights the efforts of AAI to build infrastructure for the Indian government's UDAN-RCS regional airport development and regional connectivity plan, helping to make air travel more affordable and widespread.

438. The researchers of which country have developed a system that can produce electricity and hydrogen fuel from carbon dioxide?

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

Answer: B. South Korea - Scientists from Ulsan National Institute of Science and Technology (UNIST) in South Korea have developed a system that can produce electricity and hydrogen fuel from carbon dioxide. The Hybrid Na-CO₂ system can continuously produce electrical energy and hydrogen through efficient carbon dioxide (CO₂) conversion with stable operation for over 1,000 hours. The key to this technology is the easy conversion of chemically stable CO₂ molecules to other materials. Much of human CO₂ emissions are absorbed by the ocean and turned into acidity. The researchers focused on this phenomenon and came up with the idea of melting CO₂ into water to induce an electrochemical reaction. If acidity increases, the number of protons increases, which in turn increases the power to attract electrons. If a battery system is created based on this phenomenon, electricity can be produced by removing CO₂. In particular, this system has shown stability to the point of operating for more than 1,000 hours without damage to electrodes. The system can be applied to remove CO₂ by inducing voluntary chemical reactions.

439. What is the theme of the 2019 International Customs Day (ICD)?

- A. Digital Customs – Progressive Engagement
- B. Smart borders, Smart Customs
- C. SMART borders for seamless Trade, Travel and Transport
- D. Secure & Smart business for economic development

Answer: C. SMART borders for seamless Trade, Travel and Transport - The International Customs Day (ICD) is observed every year on January 26 to recognize the role of custom officials and agencies in maintaining border security. It focuses on the working conditions and challenges that customs officers face in their jobs. The 2019 theme is "SMART borders for seamless Trade, Travel and Transport". This reflects the fact that the expectations of travellers and businesses around the world are changing.

440. Who has won the women's singles 2019 Australian Open Tennis Tournament?

- A. Petra Kvitova
- B. Maria Sharapova
- C. Naomi Osaka
- D. Simona Halep

Answer: C. Naomi Osaka - Naomi Osaka from Japan has won the women's singles 2019 Australian Open Tennis Tournament. She beat Czech Petra Kvitova in a seesaw Australian Open final by 7-6 (7-2) 5-7 6-4 to win back-to-back Grand Slams and become the new World No.1. Osaka is known for her multi-ethnic background and her shy, candid personality. On the court, she has an aggressive playing style with a powerful serve.

441. Which railway zone has bagged No.1 position for cleanliness in India?

- A. Western Railway
- B. Central Railway
- C. Southern Railway
- D. North Western Railway

Answer: C. Southern Railway - The Southern Railway has bagged the number one position for cleanliness in the country. This achievement was under the category of other than Premium Category trains in the recent Trains Cleanliness Survey conducted by IRCTC on all India level. During the year 2018, Southern Railway's gross earnings also stood at more than Rs six thousand crores rupees which is almost 10% higher than the last year earnings. To cater to the growing demands of passengers, Southern Railway has also introduced 54 trains over past four years.

442. Which Indian golfer has won the New South Wales men's Amateur Golf Championship in Australia?

- A. Anirban Lahiri
- B. Kartik Sharma
- C. Shiv Chawrasia
- D. Aman Raj

Answer: B. Kartik Sharma - Kartik Sharma from India has won the New South Wales men's Amateur Golf Championship in Australia. Kartik notched up a magnificent win over Australia's Nathan Barberie in the scheduled 36-hole final to emerge as champion. Kartik has been playing for India since the age of 10 as part of the National Squad. He had been selected to represent Indian Golf Union for three events in Australia.

443. SANH, which is in news recently, is a research programme to tackle which pollution?

- A. To study nitrogen pollution
- B. To study noise pollution
- C. To study radioactive pollution
- D. To study light pollution

Answer: A. To study nitrogen pollution - The South Asian Nitrogen Hub (SANH) is a major international research programme to tackle the challenge that nitrogen pollution poses for environment, food security, human health and the economy in South Asia. The SANH will be established with funding from UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) under its Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF). 18 Indian research institutions are part of a group of 50 which have received £20 million funding from the United Kingdom Government. The SANH will study the impact of the different forms of pollution to form a coherent picture of the nitrogen cycle. In particular, it will look at nitrogen in agriculture in eight countries – India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, Bhutan and Maldives. The Hub's recommendations will support cleaner and more profitable farming, as well as industrial recycling of nitrogen, fostering development of a cleaner circular economy for nitrogen.

444. Which of the following trains has been named as Vande Bharat Express?

- A. Deccan Odyssey
- B. Golden Chariot
- C. Lifeline Express
- D. Train 18

Answer: D. Train 18 - The Indian Railways has named the indigenously manufactured Train 18 as Vande Bharat Express. The train is set to run between Delhi and Varanasi at a maximum speed of 160kmph. The 16-coach train is designed and manufactured by the Chennai-based Integral Coach Factory (ICF) at a cost of approx Rs 97 crore. It is

regarded as a successor to the 30-year-old Shatabdi Express. Train 18 is also the first locomotive-less train in the country. The fully air-conditioned train will stop at Kanpur and Allahabad and will have two executive chair cars. It has diffused lighting, automatic doors and footsteps besides GPS-based Passenger Information System.

445. Oxford dictionaries has declared which word as the Hindi word for the year 2018?

- A. Jugaad
- B. Nari Shakti
- C. Aadhaar
- D. Surya namaskar

Answer: B. Nari Shakti - Oxford dictionaries has declared "Nari Shakti" as the Hindi word for the year 2018. The announcement was made during a session at the ongoing Jaipur Literature Festival (JLF) at the Diggi Palace. According to the Oxford dictionaries, the word has been derived from Sanskrit and is used today to symbolise women "taking charge of their lives". The word was selected by the Oxford Dictionaries (India) with the help of an advisory panel of language experts, including Namita Gokhale, Randhir Thakur, Kritika Agrawal and Saurabh Dwivedi. Oxford had named 'Aadhaar' as its Hindi word for the year 2017.

446. Which neighboring country of India has recently declared sugarcane juice as 'national drink'?

- A. Bangladesh
- B. Bhutan
- C. Pakistan
- D. Nepal

Answer: C. Pakistan - The Government of Pakistan has recently declared sugarcane juice as the 'national drink' of the country. The announcement came after the government conducted a Twitter poll where people were asked to decide on the country's national drink with two other options -- orange and carrot -- besides sugarcane. According to the poll, 7,616 people or 81% cast their votes favouring sugarcane juice, 15% voted for orange juice while 4% chose carrot. Upon securing majority votes, sugarcane juice was declared as the 'national drink' of Pakistan.

447. Who has won the 2018 DSC Prize for South Asian Literature?

- A. Mohsin Hamid
- B. Jayant Kaikini
- C. Kamila Shamsie
- D. Jeet Thayil

Answer: B. Jayant Kaikini - Jayant Kaikini, renowned Kannada poet short-story writer, columnist and playwright and lyricist, has won the prestigious 2018 DSC Prize for South Asian Literature for 'No Presents Please: Mumbai Stories' at the Tata Steel Kolkata

Literary Meet. The novel is a collection of short stories set in Mumbai dating back to the 1980s. It offers a fine-grained, ground-up view of arguably India's greatest metropolis. The book was originally written in the southern Indian language of Kannada and translated into English by the award-winning translator Tejaswini Niranjana. The \$25,000 (£19,100) prize rewards the best writing about south Asian culture from writers of any ethnicity and from all over the world, will be split equally between author and translator. It will be split equally between author and translator. No Presents Please is the first work in translation to win the award in the prize's eight-year history.

448. Who has won the men's singles 2019 Australian Open Tennis Tournament?

- A. Marin Cilic
- B. Novak Djokovic
- C. Rafael Nadal
- D. Andy Murray

Answer: B. Novak Djokovic - Novak Djokovic from Serbia defeated Rafael Nadal to win his 7th Australian Open Men's Singles title at Melbourne on 28th January 2019. The resurgent world No.1 outplayed the second-ranked Nadal 6-3, 6-2, 6-3 in a largely one-sided match. With this, Djokovic has surpassed American legend Pete Sampras to elevate himself to outright third on the all-time Grand Slam title leaderboard. Earlier, In 2019 Women's Singles, Japan's Naomi Osaka clinched her first-ever Australian Open Grand Slam Singles title in Melbourne. With this, Osaka became the first Asian player to achieve the world number one ranking.

449. Which country has recently stripped of the right to host the 2019 World Para Swimming Championships?

- A. Malaysia
- B. Israel
- C. Indonesia
- D. Germany

Answer: A. Malaysia - Malaysia has been stripped of the right to host the 2019 World Para Swimming Championships for threatening to refuse to allow Israeli athletes to take part. The decision was taken by International Paralympic Committee (IPC) after the Malaysian authorities failed to provide the necessary guarantees that Israeli Para swimmers could participate, free from discrimination, and safely in the Championships. IPC President Andrew Parsons said when a host country excludes athletes from a particular nation, for political reasons, then they have absolutely no alternative but to look for a new Championships host. The 2019 championships was a qualifying event for the 2020 Tokyo Paralympics & were due to take place in Kuching on July 29-August 4.

450. Saina Nehwal has won the 2019 Indonesia Masters title against which player?

- A. Huang Sui
- B. Ratchanok Intanon
- C. Wang Shixian
- D. Carolina Marin

Answer: D. Carolina Marin - On 27th January 2019, Ace shuttler Saina Nehwal won her first Indonesia Masters title after three-time world champion Carolina Marin of Spain limped out of the final due to a leg injury in Jakarta. Marin was leading 10-4 in the first game when she developed an injury in the knee.

451. In which year, India would participate in the International Student Assessment (PISA)?

- A. 2023
- B. 2020
- C. 2021
- D. 2022

Answer: C. 2021 - In New Delhi, the Union Human Resources Development (HRD) Ministry signed an agreement with Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) for India's Participation in Programme for International Student Assessment- PISA 2021. The student assessment by PISA will ensure learning outcome through education. Students will be selected by PISA through random sampling. The format for the student assessment will be offline and the question to Indian students will be related to India's perspective only. The PISA test will help reveal where they stand globally as far as learning outcomes are concerned. PISA is a triennial international survey in which students are assessed in reading, mathematics, science and collaborative problem-solving. The purpose of the survey is to evaluate the education system worldwide by testing the skills and knowledge of 15-year-old students. The CBSE and NCERT will be part of the process and activities leading to the actual test.

452. Which Indian personality has been appointed the WHO regional director for South-East Asia?

- A. Indira Hinduja
- B. Shashi Wadhwa
- C. M. Subhadra Nair
- D. Poonam Khetrpal Singh

Answer: D. Poonam Khetrpal Singh - Dr. Poonam Khetrpal Singh has been appointed the South-East Asia regional director of the World Health Organization (WHO) for a second five-year term. Under her leadership, the Region has made remarkable progress. In her first term, she focused on building an increasingly responsive and accountable WHO in the Region, while prioritizing persisting and

emerging epidemiological and demographic challenges; promoting universal health coverage and building robust health systems; strengthening emergency risk management and articulating a strong regional voice in global health agenda. In the last five years, four countries eliminated measles and six controlled rubella. Thailand became the first in Asia-Pacific and the first with a large HIV epidemic—to eliminate mother-to-child transmission of HIV and syphilis. Maldives and Sri Lanka were certified malaria free. Maldives, Sri Lanka and Thailand eliminated lymphatic filariasis, India was declared yaws-free and Nepal trachoma-free.

453. Which union ministry has launched 'RDP INDIA 2019 app' for Republic Day parade?

- A. Ministry of Home Affairs
- B. Ministry of Defence
- C. Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
- D. Ministry of Women and Child Development

Answer: B. Ministry of Defence - The Ministry of Defence launched a mobile app 'RDP India 2019' to let people watch highlights of the 70th Republic Day event all over the world. This app contains information about the Parade on Rajpath, New Delhi, including Order of the March, details of the tableaux presented by different States and Ministries, children cultural performances, fly past and names of recipients of Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar 2019. It was extremely informative to the spectators witnessing the Parade and was widely appreciated. The app also had the provision for live streaming of the Parade. People who desire to know the theme and ideas depicted in the tableaux and also those who for some reason could not witness the Parade on Rajpath or watch it on TV, can still download the app and gather all information about the event. This new initiative is in sync with the Digital India campaign of the Government.

454. Atal Setu, which is in news recently, is built across which river in Goa?

- A. Harmal
- B. Mandovi
- C. Terekhol
- D. Galjibag

Answer: B. Mandovi - Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari inaugurated Atal Setu — the third Cable bridge across river Mandovi in Panaji, Goa. The new bride is four-lane and 5.1Km long, and is expected to overcome the bottlenecks and curb traffic jams at Panaji Circle and Panaji entrance. It is constructed by the GIDC (Goa Infrastructure Development Corporation) and engineering and construction major Larsen and Toubro. This is the third bridge across Mandovi River. It is named as ATAL SETU in memory of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpeyee.

455. Who has been conferred the Assam Republic Day Journalism Award 2019?

- A. Dhirendra Nath Chakraborty
- B. Kishalay Bhattacharjee
- C. Homen Borgohain
- D. Siddhartha Sarma

Answer: A. Dhirendra Nath Chakraborty - Dhirendra Nath Chakraborty, the veteran journalist and former editor, has been conferred the Assam Republic Day Journalism Award 2019 for his lifelong contribution to journalism in the state. The award comprises a cash prize of Rs.1 lakh, a citation, the Assamese 'xoraai' (the bell metal memento presented as an honour), 'jaapi' (headgear) and an angavastra. Chakraborty is the former editor of Dainik Asom, Dainik Janambhumi and Ajir Batori group of newspaper.

456. Which state government has decided to launch Yuva Swabhiman Yojana for urban poor youth?

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

Answer: B. Madhya Pradesh - On the occasion of 70th Republic Day 2019, Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Kamal Nath announced the launch of the 'Yuva Swabhiman Yojana' for youths from the Economically Weaker Sections (EWSs) in urban areas. The purpose of the scheme is to empower the unemployed youth candidates. Under this scheme, 100 days of employment will be provided to youngsters from economically weaker sections of the society in urban areas. Apart from this, they will also be given skill training by the government.

457. Who has become the first Indian transgender to be honoured with Padma Shri?

- A. Madurai Chinna Pillai
- B. Narthaki Nataraj
- C. Bangaru Adigalar
- D. R V Ramani

Answer: B. Narthaki Nataraj - Narthaki Nataraj, a renowned dancer from Tamil Nadu, has become the first Indian transgender to be honoured with Padma Shri, the third highest civilian award of India. She is a Bharatanatyam exponent and specialises in the Thanjavur-based Nayaki Bhava tradition. Born in the temple town of Madurai, Nataraj learned the art under Tanjore Shri K P Kittappa Pillai and gave her on advances to the Tanjore Quartet of Bharatanatyam (Nayaki Bhava tradition) through a dance school she established.

458. Who is the head of IRDAI committee to identify Systemically Important Insurers (SII)?

- A. Anup Sah
- B. Devarapalli Prakash Rao
- C. Nagindas Sanghavi
- D. Pravin Kutumbe

Answer: D. Pravin Kutumbe - Insurance regulator IRDAI has constituted a committee that will not only facilitate in identifying the Systemically Important Insurers (SIIs), but also recommend enhanced supervision measures for them. The committee headed by IRDAI member (finance and investment) Pravin Kutumbe will submit its report within six months. The committee would study the methodology followed by International Association of Insurance Supervisors (IAIS) for identification of SIIs and those followed by other financial regulators, particularly by RBI for identification of SIFIs. As per the terms of reference, the panel has also to develop a paper on assessment methodology for SIIs in India and recommend enhanced supervision for them.

459. Who has become the Pakistan's first Hindu woman judge?

- A. Gita Mehta
- B. Smita Kolhe
- C. Suman Kumari
- D. Draupadi Ghimiray

Answer: C. Suman Kumari - Suman Kumari has become the first Hindu woman in Pakistan to be appointed as a civil judge after passing an examination for induction of judicial officers. She hails from Qambar-Shahdadkot & will serve in her native district. Suman passed her LLB examination from Hyderabad and did her masters in law from Karachi's Szabist University. This is not the first time that a person from the Hindu community has been appointed as a judge. The first judge from the Hindu community was Justice Rana Bhagwandas, who served as the acting chief justice for brief periods between 2005 and 2007. Hindus make up nearly 2% of Pakistan's total population and Hinduism remains the second largest religion in Pakistan after Islam.

460. Which of the following states has been declared best state for active participation in Swasth Bharat Yatra?

- A. Punjab
- B. Tamil Nadu
- C. Uttrakhand
- D. Gujarat

Answer: B. Tamil Nadu - On 28th January 2019, Tamil Nadu was declared the 'Best State Overall' for its active participation in the national campaign 'Swasth Bharat Yatra'. The campaign was a 100-day consumer outreach programme of the Food Safety and

Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), which was launched on 16th October 2018 to amplify its Eat Right India initiative. Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra were adjudged the Best States with population above 3 crore. Punjab, Goa and Delhi were recognised as the Best States having population less than 3 crore. Meghalaya, Jammu and Kashmir and Uttarakhand were given special awards for their participation despite their hilly and difficult terrain. The Yatra saw the involvement of 10 lakh participants and reached to around 2.5 crore people across various States and UTs. It also led to the creation of 21,000 local 'Eat Right Champions' who would sustain this movement in the future.

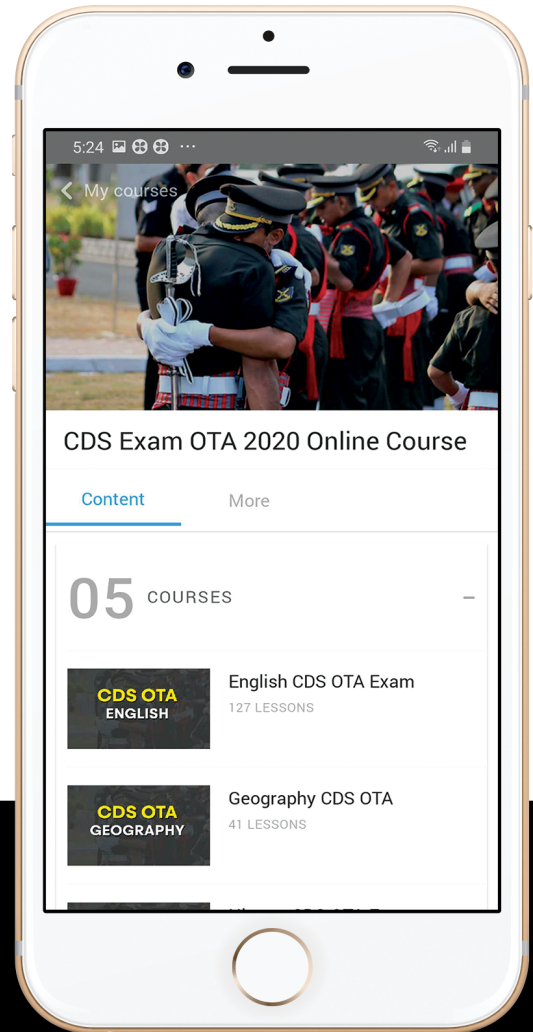




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