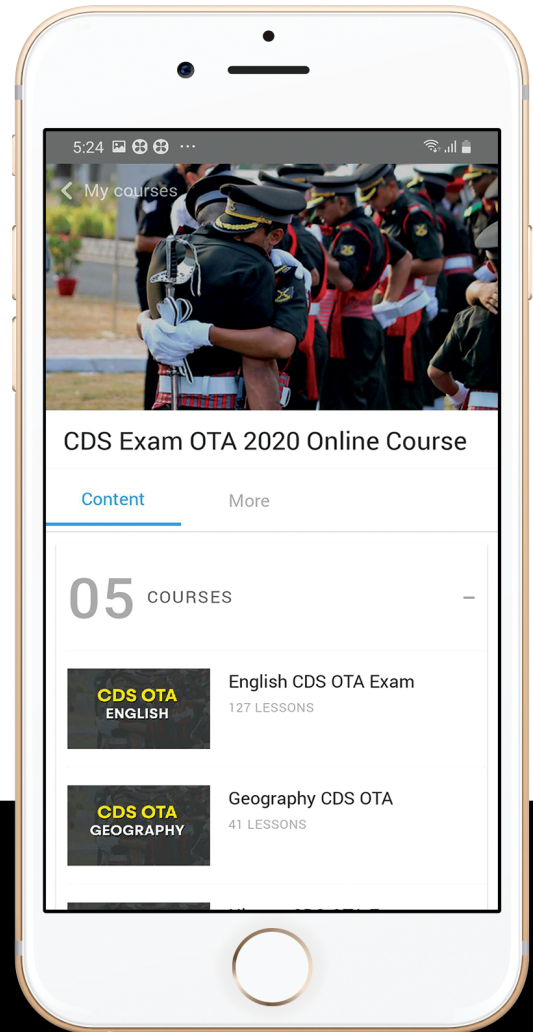




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TOPIC
Defence Exams MCQ's With Explanation: Current Affairs January 2020

MCQ's WITH CURRENT AFFAIRS JANUARY 2020

1. The government had recently launched central Equipment Identity Register portal. It operates under which department?

- A. Department of Science and Technology
- B. Department of Telecom
- C. Department of Biotechnology
- D. Department of Public Enterprise

Answer: B. Department of Telecom - The Indian government, on December 2019, had launched the Central Equipment Identity Register Portal to block and trace mobile phones. It has the database of the International Mobile Equipment Identity number of the blacklisted mobile phones.

2. Dhanu Jatra is currently celebrated in which state?

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

Answer: A. Odisha - The famous 11-day Dhanu Jatra, the annual drama-based open-air theatrical performance is conducted in and around the city of Bargarh in Western Odisha. It is based on mythological story of Lord Krishna and his Uncle, King Kansa. In November 2014, it was conferred with the National Festival Status.

3. Fausta, a female black rhino, believed to be the world's oldest rhino, had recently died in Tanzanian conservation area. What is the IUCN status of the black rhinos?

- A. Least concern
- B. Endangered
- C. Critically Endangered
- D. Near threatened

Answer: C. Critically Endangered - Also known as "hook-lipped rhinoceros", these species, though called "black" are in varying colours of brown and grey. They are found in South and East Africa, including Kenya, Tanzania, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe. Its IUCN status is critically endangered, though the South-Western status of the black rhinoceros is classified under vulnerable.

4. Which state is going to observe “No Vehicle Day” on the first day of every month in 2020?

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

Answer: D. Rajasthan - In order to promote road safety and reduce vehicular pollution, Rajasthan Transport department is going to observe a “No Vehicle Day” once a month in 2020. The employees of the transport department are to come to their offices as pedestrians, via bicycles or a public transport.

5. Where was the event held to commemorate the 76th Anniversary of the First Flag Hoisting by Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose?

- A. Kashmir
- B. Jammu
- C. Ladakh
- D. Andaman and Nicobar Islands

Answer: D. Andaman and Nicobar Islands - A function was held to commemorate the 76th Anniversary of the First Flag Hoisting of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose at Port Blair. Subhash Mela Committee Swarajdweep has organised bike rally. The cultural programmes were also conducted.

6. Which state is going to conduct its maiden snow leopard survey?

- A. Uttarakhand
- B. Himachal Pradesh
- C. Haryana
- D. Punjab

Answer: A. Uttarakhand - Uttarakhand is preparing for its maiden snow leopards survey after the winter is over. Experts estimate that there are over 80 snow leopards in Uttarakhand. However, a census of this cat has not yet been conducted.

7. Which ministry is set to launch “Santusht” portal for rapid grievance redressal for the employers and the employees?

- A. Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- B. Ministry of Finance
- C. Ministry of Labor and Employment
- D. Ministry of Human Resource Development

Correct: C. Ministry of Labor and Employment - The Ministry of Labour and Employment is going to launch “Santusht” platform next month to ensure an efficient implementation of the labour laws at the grass root levels. It will also look into the

services provided by the retirement fund body, EPFO and health insurance and service provider ESIC for those working in the formal sector.

8. Who is going to head the recently constituted task force for developing the National Infrastructure Pipeline?

- A. Cabinet Secretary
- B. Economic Affairs Secretary
- C. Revenue Secretary
- D. Finance Secretary

Answer: B. Economic Affairs Secretary - The Union Finance Minister had unveiled a Rs. 102 lakh crore National Infrastructure Pipeline. To create a road map for the national infrastructure pipeline from 2019-2020 to 2024-25, finance ministry had set up a task force. It is to be headed by the Economic Affairs Secretary.

9. The Dornier aircraft, that was recently inducted into the Otters Squadron, belongs to which category?

- A. Reconnaissance aircraft
- B. Light Utility aircraft
- C. Surveillance aircraft
- D. Strategic Airlifter

Answer: B. Light Utility aircraft - The light utility aircraft Dornier was recently inducted into the No.41 "Otters" Squadron during a ceremony at the Palam Air Force Station. The Dornier-228 aircraft is a multi-purpose, fuel efficient, rugged, lightweight twin turboprop aircraft with retractable tricycle landing gear.

10. Captain Vikram Batra, after whom Delhi is to rename its Mukarba Chowk, was martyred in which war?

- A. Sino-Indian war of 1962
- B. Indo-Pakistan war of 1947
- C. Kargil War
- D. Bangladesh Liberation War

Answer: C. Kargil War - The Delhi government's naming committee had recommended the renaming of Pragati Maidan metro station as Supreme Court metro station. It had also decided to rename the Mukarba Chowk and its flyover after the Kargil War martyr Captain Vikram Batra.

11. The annual report of UNICEF says that offenses against children are more than

- A. 17,000
- B. 1,70,000

- C. 1,700
- D. 71,000

Answer: B. 1,70,000 - The annual report of UNICEF was released on 31st December 2019. According to the report, more than 170,000 serious offenses against children in areas under conflict have been documented since the start of the decade in 2010. The number of violations represents an average of 45 rights violations per day for the last 10 years.

12. As per the CEBR report, the Indian economy will overtake which country by 2026?

- A. Germany
- B. Japan
- C. UK
- D. USA

Answer: A. Germany - By 2026 India will become the fourth-largest economy and third largest by 2034, as per a report by the UK-based Centre for Economics and Business Research (CEBR). The CEBR report says that India will overtake Germany in 2026 and Japan in 2034 to become the third-largest economy.

13. India and _____ shared the list of nuclear installations with each other.

- A. USA
- B. Israel
- C. France
- D. Pakistan

Answer: D. Pakistan - India and Pakistan shared the list of nuclear installations and facilities with each other. This deal is covered under the Agreement on the Prohibition of Attack against Nuclear Installations signed between the two countries. This information was given by the External Affairs Ministry. The exchange was done concurrently employing the diplomatic channels in New Delhi and Islamabad.

14. Which force has been renamed as Indian Railway Protection Force Service?

- A. GRP
- B. RPF
- C. CRPF
- D. BSF

Answer: B. RPF - The security force of the Indian Railways RPF (Railway Protection Force) has been renamed as Indian Railway Protection Force Service. This was done by the Indian Railways, and the ministry has given an organized 'Group A' status to RPF and renamed it, as per an order issued on 30th December 2019.

15. Who launched the Swachh Survekshan League 2020?

- A. Hardeep Singh Puri
- B. Rajnath Singh
- C. Kamal Nath
- D. Dr. Harshvardhan

Answer: A. Hardeep Singh Puri - The Minister of State for Housing and Urban Affairs, Hardeep Singh Puri launched 'Swachh Survekhsan' League 2020 on 31st December 2019. This will be interspersed with the fifth edition of 'Swachh Survekshan'. This is the annual cleanliness survey to assess cities and towns of India on their cleanliness quotient.

16. The Rabi sowing area has increased by _____ hectares.
- A. 571 lakh hectares
 - B. 517 lakh hectares
 - C. 63 lakh hectares
 - D. 36 lakh hectares

Answer: D. 36 lakh hectares The Rabi crops sowing area has increased by 36 lakh hectares as on view in December 2019. Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare said the total area of Rabi crops is over 571 lakh hectares as compared to 536 lakh hectares last year. The tempo in Rabi sowing has picked up greatly with improved soil moisture in almost all Rabi growing states.

17. Which bank launched the MANI app for the visually impaired?
- A. SBI
 - B. Bank of Baroda
 - C. RBI
 - D. Bank of Maharashtra

Answer: C. RBI - Mobile Aided Note Identifier (MANI) was launched by the Reserve Bank of India, which is a mobile app to help the visually challenged to figure out the denomination of currency notes. The RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das launched the app on 1st January 2020. The RBI mobile app is to provide help to the visually impaired. The MANI app will work offline.

18. The National Green Corps scheme was revived in which state or UT after almost a decade?
- (A)Gujrat
 - B. Madhya Pradesh
 - C. Pondicherry
 - D. Jammu & Kashmir

Answer: D. Jammu & Kashmir - The National Green Corps scheme has been revived for Jammu and Kashmir. The scheme was not in force for almost 10 years. In

this scheme, the J&K pollution control board will provide financial assistance to 3,742 Eco Clubs of registered schools in both the regions of the Union Territory along with 96 Eco Clubs of registered colleges.

19. Which state government has decided to set up five new medical colleges?

- A. Gujrat
- B. Madhya Pradesh
- C. Andhra Pradesh
- D. Punjab

Answer: A. Gujrat - Gujarat government has decided to set up five new medical colleges and attach 300-bed hospitals in the state. The new Medical colleges will be set up at Godhara, Veraval, Jamkhambhaliya, Botad, and Morbi.

20. Which Indian defense service has banned the use of Facebook by its personnel?

- A. Indian Navy
- B. Indian Army
- C. Indian Airforce
- D. Territorial Army

Answer: A. Indian Navy - The Indian navy has banned the use of Facebook by its personnel. The Indian Navy has also banned the use of smartphones at naval bases, dockyards, and warships. This will help in preventing the leaking of sensitive information.

21. What was the amount released by PM Modi as the third installment of PM-Kisan Yojna?

- A. 17,000 crores
- B. 12,000 crores
- C. 1,700 crores
- D. 71,000 crores

Answer: B. 12,000 crores - The release of the 3rd installment of Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM Kisan) worth 12,000 crores were announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at a public meeting in Tumkur, Karnataka on January 2, 2019.

22. ___ was the largest source of foreign direct investment (FDI) in India during the first half of the financial year 2019-2020.

- A. Germany
- B. Japan
- C. UK
- D. Singapore

Answer: D. Singapore - The government of India recently released a data according to which Singapore remains the largest source of foreign direct investment (FDI) in India during the first half of the financial year with investments amounting to \$8 billion. Mauritius with \$6.36 billion worth investments is the second-largest source followed by the United States, the Netherlands, and Japan.

23. S. Sundar recently resigned as CFO of which bank?

- A. Dena Bank
- B. State Bank of India
- C. Bank of Baroda
- D. Lakshmi Vilas Bank

Answer: D. - S. Sundar has stepped down as the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of Lakshmi Vilas Bank Ltd. His two-year tenure was to end in April 2020. The resignation has been accepted by the Board of Directors of the Bank.

24. What is the name of the e-auction platform launched by the finance minister to increase the transparency in auctioning of assets attached by banks?

- A. eAuction
- B. eBkray
- C. eBoli
- D. eAsset

Answer: B. eBkray - Nirmala Sitharaman, Finance Minister of India launched an online platform “ eBkray” to increase the transparency in auctioning of assets attached by banks. The platform provides single-window access to information on properties up for e-auction as well as a facility for comparison of similar properties photographs and videos of uploaded properties and is equipped with property search features, and navigational links to all PSB e-auction sites.

25. Which bank allowed ATM withdrawal above Rs 10,000 only after an OTP verification from 8 PM to 8 AM from January?

- A. SBI
- B. ICICI
- C. IDBI
- D. HDFC

Answer: A. SBI - With reference from 1st January 2020, SBI customers will be able to make ATM withdrawals above Rs 10,000 only after an OTP verification during 8 PM to 8 AM hours. The OTP-validated ATM transaction has been introduced to minimize the number of unauthorized transactions.

26. A digitized version for opening Savings Bank account through TAB banking on the spot has been launched by which bank?

- A. Dena Bank
- B. State Bank of India
- C. Bank of Baroda
- D. Karnataka Bank

Answer: D. Karnataka Bank - Karnataka Bank launched KBL Xpress SB Accounts a digitized version for opening Savings Bank account through TAB Banking on the spot. The Bank can on-board the prospective customer and open the Savings Bank Account through the TAB banking account opening process.

27. Which company has announced to end the “Double Irish, Dutch sandwich” tax scheme?

- A. Facebook
- B. Yahoo
- C. Google
- D. Twitter

Answer: C. Google - Google would scrap the licensing structure called “Double Irish, Dutch sandwich”, which allowed it to delay paying U.S. taxes. According to Dutch filings in 2018 Google moved 21.8 bn euros (\$24.5 bn) through its Dutch holding company to Bermuda, up from 19.9 billion in 2017.

28. India has allowed which Chinese telecom company to participate in conducting trials for 5G network in India?

- A. Coolpad
- B. Alcatel OneTouch/TCL
- C. Gionee
- D. Huawei

Answer: D. Huawei - The government of India has allowed Huawei, to participate in 5G trials to be conducted in India. This is for the first time that India, caught in a diplomatic and economic tussle between the US and China and has taken an official stance on the matter.

29. Which bank has tied up with JM Financial Home Loans Limited for offering retail loans to home buyers?

- A. Dena Bank
- B. State Bank of India
- C. Bank of Baroda
- D. Karnataka Bank

Answer: C. Bank of Baroda - Bank of Baroda has signed a strategic co-lending agreement with JM Financial Home Loans Limited (JMFHL), for providing retail loans to home buyers. The association will form a lending model synergizing the expertise of both Bank of Baroda and JMFHL to providing retail home loan products.

30. Which state government has launched 'Cyber Safe Women' initiative?

- A. Maharashtra
- B. Rajasthan
- C. Uttar Pradesh
- D. Bihar

Answer: A. Maharashtra - On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Savitribai Phule who was an Indian social reformer. The Maharashtra government on January 3, 2019, launched a 'cyber safe women' campaign across the state.

31. What is the name of the Karur Vysya Bank CEO and MD who resigned recently?

- A. R Bajaj
- B. P R Seshadri
- C. M R Mehta
- D. G B Modi

Answer: B. P R Seshadri - P R Seshadri, the CEO and MD of Karur Vysya Bank resigned from his post on 6th January 2020. The board of directors has accepted his resignation and he will be relieved from his services by March 2020.

32. Which country has recently extended \$200m aid for economic projects to Pakistan?

- A. Germany
- B. Oman
- C. UK
- D. UAE

Answer: D. UAE - USD 200 million aid has been extended by the United Arab Emirates to Pakistan for the development of small and medium-sized enterprises in the country. The announcement came after Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Abu Dhabi Crown Prince concluded his one-day visit to the country on Thursday.

33. Which Bank has Bank recovered Rs 900 crore from debt resolution under NCLT?

- A. Dena Bank
- B. State Bank of India
- C. Bank of Baroda
- D. UCO Bank

Answer: D. UCO Bank - State-owned lender UCO Bank has recovered Rs 800-900 crore in the third quarter ending December by way of corporate debt resolution of four

accounts under the bankruptcy law. These four accounts are Essar Steel, Rattan India Power, Ruchi Soya, and Prayagraj Power.

34. Andhra Pradesh government proposes seaport worth Rs _ crore at Ramayapatnam.

- A. 11,000
- B. 10,000
- C. 12,000
- D. 8,000

Answer: B. 10,000 The government of Andhra Pradesh is planning to set up a Greenfield seaport at Ramayapatnam in Prakasam district at an outlay of Rs 10,000 crore. The port will be developed over an area of 802 acres during the first phase.

35. Which bank has received government capital infusion of Rs 4,360 crore?

- A. IOB
- B. ICICI
- C. IDBI
- D. HDFC

Answer: A. IOB - Indian Overseas Bank on 4th January 2020 announced that it has received capital infusion of Rs 4,360 crore from the Government of India. In a regulatory filing to the stock exchanges, the bank quoted that it has received the amount as a contribution of the government in the preferential allotment of equity shares during the financial year 2019-20 as the government's investment.

36. A digitized version for opening Savings Bank account through TAB banking on the spot has been launched by which bank?

- A. Dena Bank
- B. State Bank of India
- C. Bank of Baroda
- D. Karnataka Bank

Answer: D. Karnataka Bank - Karnataka Bank launched KBL Xpress SB Accounts a digitized version for opening Savings Bank account through TAB Banking on the spot. The Bank can on-board the prospective customer and open the Savings Bank Account through the TAB banking account opening process.

37. What is the name of the DRDO portal that was launched at the 107th Indian National Congress?

- A. I-ROOT
- B. E-ROOT

C. I-STEM

D. E-STEM

Answer: C. I-STEM - This was the 107th Indian Science Congress. It was inaugurated by PM Modi on January 3, 2020, in Bangalore. I-Stem, Indian Science, Technology Engineering Facilities Map portal was also launched by him at the inaugural function. I-STEM portal will help researchers and users to locate and make an online reservation to use the facilities that are required for their research and development work. Earlier, a similar facility called the Centre for Nano Science and Engineering (CeNSE) was operating at IISc Bengaluru. The I-STEM portal is inspired by it.

38. Future Retail group has signed a pact with which eCommerce company to become the authorized sales channel for its products?

A. Groffers

B. Alibaba

C. Snapdeal

D. Amazon

Answer: D. Amazon - Amazon India and Future Retail Limited (FRL) have inked an agreement under which Amazon India will leverage FRL's existing infrastructure, product knowledge and brand portfolio across its retail network. Amazon India will become the authorized online sales channel for FRL stores and FRL will ensure the participation of relevant FRL stores on the Amazon India marketplace, and its programs.

39. India plans to double its Agriculture export from 30 billion USD dollars to 60 billion USD dollar by which year?

A. 2020

B. 2021

C. 2022

D. 2023

Answer: C. 2022 - In December 2018, with an aim to double the country's agriculture exports to 60 billion USD dollar from 30 billion USD by 2022 the Agricultural Export Policy was introduced in December 2018. The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) on January 5, 2020, announced that eight states namely Kerala, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Assam, Nagaland, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, and Karnataka have finalized their plan of action to boost agricultural exports.

40. Which state has the highest number of registrations under the National Pension Scheme for traders, Shopkeepers, and Self-Employed persons?

A. Maharashtra

- B. Rajasthan
- C. Uttar Pradesh
- D. Bihar

Answer: C. Uttar Pradesh- The Pradhan Mantri Laghu Vyapari Maan-Dhan Yojana also known as the National Pension Scheme for traders, Shopkeepers, and Self-Employed persons was launched in July 2019. The aim behind launching this policy was to provide pension benefits to 3 crore, small traders and shopkeepers. Uttar Pradesh with 6,765 registration is on the top of the list, while the states of Mizoram and Lakshadweep have 0 registrations.

41. _____ has signed a bilateral memorandum of understanding with Kazakhstan-based Astana Financial Services Authority for mutual cooperation and technical assistance?

- A. NABARD
- B. RBI
- C. SEBI
- D. EXIM

Answer: C. SEBI - Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has inked a bilateral memorandum of understanding with Kazakhstan-based Astana Financial Services Authority for mutual co-operation and technical assistance. Ajay Tyagi, SEBI Chairman and the acting chief executive officer (CEO) of AFSA Mukhtar Bubeyev signed the memorandum.

42. UBER will join hands with the motor company to develop electric flying taxis?

- A. Volkswagen
- B. Mercedes Benz
- C. Maruti
- D. Hyundai

Answer: D. Hyundai - Uber Technologies, US ride-hailing company, and Hyundai Motor, South Korean automaker plan to jointly develop electric air taxis. Hyundai will unveil a concept electric aircraft developed with Uber at the Consumer Electronics Show (CES). The model is designed to carry up to four passengers with a pilot and fly on trips of up to 60 miles (100 km).

43. Which Bank has bagged the contract from MCGM for online payment services?

- A. Dena Bank
- B. State Bank of India
- C. Bank of Baroda
- D. UCO Bank

Answer: C. Bank of Baroda - Bank of Baroda has bagged a contract from Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai (MCGM) to establish digital payment collection services for a period of five years. With this, the people of Mumbai will have an alternative digital payment service for making all payments and dues to the civic body.

44. Which organization will observe the year 2020 as a Year of Mobility?

- A. Border Security Force
- B. Central Industrial Security Force
- C. Indian Navy
- D. Indian Air Force

Answer: B. Central Industrial Security Force - The year 2020 will be observed as "Year of Mobility" for the welfare of the troops by the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF). The CISF in 2020 will focus on the implementation of welfare measures and the creation of residential units.

45. ISRO has proposed an infrastructure plan worth INR 2,700 crores to build the Human Space Flight Infrastructure Centre in which state?

- A. Karnataka
- B. Rajasthan
- C. New Delhi
- D. West Bengal

Answer: A. Karnataka - ISRO has proposed an infrastructure plan worth INR 2,700 crores to build the Human Space Flight Infrastructure Centre on NH-4 Bengaluru-Pune Highway at Challakere, Chitradurga district of Karnataka. The announcement was made on the 6th January 2020. ISRO is planning to make the facility operational in three years.

46. The Sale of Darjeeling Tea is affected by an illegal influx of tea from which country?

- A. China
- B. Japan
- C. Bangladesh
- D. Nepal

Answer: D. Nepal - The prices of Darjeeling Tea has been reduced by 20% to 25% due to the unchecked flow of Nepal Tea into the country. Nepal tea has the same flavor and aroma as that of Darjeeling Tea but it is 50 % cheaper in price.

47. India's Foreign Exchange touches all-time high of _____ billion USD in the week that ended on December 27, 2019?

- A. 458.468 billion
- B. 456.468 billion

C. 457.468 billion

D. 457.496 billion

Answer: C. 457.468 billion - Foreign Exchange Reserves of India has increased by 2.52 billion USD in the week that ended on December 27, 20, said RBI. RBI also announced that India's special drawing rights with the International Monetary Fund dipped by 2 million USD and the reserve position increased by 58 million USD.

48. India will set strict restrictions on non-essential imports from which country?

A. UK

B. Japan

C. US

D. China

Answer: D. China - Ministry of Commerce and Industry has announced that 371 items from China will get strict restrictions from March 2020. The aim behind this move is to curb imports of non-essential items such as plastic goods, toys, furniture, sports.

49. In which year did the United States roll off the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action nuclear deal?

A. 2016

B. 2017

C. 2018

D. 2019

Answer: C. 2018 - According to the United States, the JCPOA gives Iran access to billions of dollars. But, it does not stop Iran from supporting the groups mainly Hamas and Hezbollah, that the US and its allies consider terrorists. US walked off this deal in 2018, but the other countries involved in the deal such as Russia, China, European Union, France, Germany, and the UK kept the agreement alive. Recently, Iran has fully withdrawn from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action nuclear deal. The announcement was made on January 5, 2020, after the US troops killed General Qassem Soleimani.

50. Where is the National Stock Exchange Knowledge Hub powered by AI inaugurated?

A. Mumbai

B. Jaipur

C. New Delhi

D. Bangalore

Answer: C. New Delhi - The National Stock Exchange (NSE) knowledge Hub was inaugurated by Piyush Goyal, Union Minister of Railways and Commerce and Industry

on 6th January 2020 at New Delhi. This Hub will create content for learners from many external, internal, and premium sources for the personalized learning experience.

51. Who chaired the Second National GST Conference of Central and State Tax Commissioners?

- A. Dr. Sunil Trehan
- B. Dr. Asha Nyati
- C. Dr. Ajay Bhushan Pandey
- D. Dr. Ajay Makwana

Answer: C. Dr. Ajay Bhushan Pandey - The second National GST Conference and Central and State Commissioners were held on January 7, 2020. Dr. Ajay Bhushan Pandey, the Revenue Secretary of the Ministry of Finance chaired the conference. The aim of the conference was to streamline the Goods and Services Tax.

52. The government of India has approved disaster relief funds for how many states?

- A. 5
- B. 9
- C. 6
- D. 7

Answer: D. 7 - Disaster relief fund of Rs 5,908 crores has been approved by the Centre for Uttar Pradesh, Assam, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Tripura, Maharashtra, and Himachal Pradesh. South West Monsoon rains caused floods and landslides and created havoc in these states.

53. Which Bank has partnered with Common Service Centre (CSC) for sale of FASTags?

- A. Dena Bank
- B. State Bank of India
- C. Paytm Payment Bank
- D. UCO Bank

Answer: C. Paytm Payment Bank - A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Common Service Centre (CSC) and the Paytm Payment Bank Ltd (PPBL) for selling digital toll payment tags called FASTags. To sell the PPBL FASTags CSC will integrate its platform with that of the bank. Earlier Common Service Centre had integrated with Equitas Bank, State Bank of India, and HDFC Bank for sale of FASTags.

54. The International Meteorological Organisation released its "State of Climate Report" for the year 2019 on January 7, 2020. How many lives were claimed in India due to climate change in the year 2019?

- A. 1670
- B. 1659
- C. 2659
- D. 2670

Answer: B. 1659 - The International Meteorological Organisation released its "State of Climate Report" for the year 2019 on January 7, 2020. The report stated that 1,659 lives have been claimed in India due to climate change in the year 2019. The report also said that since 1901, 2019 was the warmest year of India.

55. ArogyaSri Scheme, an initiative to provide free medical treatment to the poor, is the flagship scheme of which state?

- A. Karnataka
- B. Rajasthan
- C. New Delhi
- D. Andhra Pradesh

Answer: D. Andhra Pradesh - ArogyaSri Scheme is an initiative to provide free medical treatment to the poor is the flagship scheme of Andhra Pradesh Government. The scheme is known as Dr. YSR ArogyaSri scheme and is available to people with annual income up to Rs. 5 Lakhs. Cards with QR code will be provided to people for availing treatment above Rs.1000. Several super-specialty hospitals are to be included in the network under the scheme. Various medicines are also to be made available in the state government-run hospitals.

56. What is the GDP growth rate of the country for the year 2019-20 according to statistics released by the Central Statistics Office?

- A. 4.9%
- B. 6.2 %
- C. 6.0 %
- D. 5.0%

Answer: D. 5.0% - Central Statistics Office operating under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme implementation, on January 7, 2020, released the first advance estimates of GDP number for the fiscal year 2020. The figures are in line with the predictions made by the Reserve Bank of India. For the year 2019-20, the GDP growth is estimated at 5% as against 6.8% in 2018-19.

57. Which institution released its study on the Effect of Automation on FDI flows?

- A. New Development Bank
- B. European Investment Bank
- C. World Bank
- D. Reserve Bank of India

Answer: C. World Bank The World Bank on January 6, 2020, released its study on how automation affects FDI flows in the world. According to the study, automation will definitely disrupt the flow of capital from rich countries to poor countries. On the contrary, if automation is adopted at the right time by poor countries it will help benefit them.

58. Which country received a line of credit (LOC) of \$75 million from India, for the installation of solar parks?

- A. Nepal
- B. Brazil
- C. Bangladesh
- D. Cuba

Answer: D. Cuba - A line of credit (LOC) of \$75 million has been extended by India through Exim Bank to Cuba for financing solar parks. Last year an MoU was signed between the nominated agency of Cuban Government, Banco Exterior De Cuba, and the Export-Import Bank of India (Exim Bank). 75 MW Solar Parks are to be installed in Cuba in the next five years with this credit.

59. In which state is the first silk processing plant of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) is set up to boost production of Patola sarees?

- A. Karnataka
- B. Rajasthan
- C. Gujarat
- D. West Bengal

Answer: C. Gujarat - The Khadi and Village Industries Commission inaugurated its first silk processing plant at the Surendranagar district in Gujarat. The Patola is regarded as a royal attire as it is priced very high and is a trademark saree variety of Gujarat. The reason for the high price is the non-availability of processing plants in Gujarat. The silk yarn required to weave the saree is usually purchased from other states. This new plant set up by KVIC would cut down the price of silk yarn and boost the production of Patola sarees.

60. Which ministry organizes a multilateral conference known as Raisina Dialogue annually?

- A. Home Ministry
- B. Ministry of Railways
- C. Ministry of External Affairs
- D. Ministry of Finance

Answer: C. Ministry of External Affairs - The Ministry of External Affairs in association with the Observer Research Foundation (ORF) organizes the Raisina

Dialogue annually. This joint conference is being organized since 2016. Various global leaders from all sectors discuss the challenges faced by the global community at this conference.

61. The agreement on the prohibition of attack against nuclear installations and facilities was signed in 1988 between which two countries?

- A. US and USSR
- B. USSR and China
- C. India and Pakistan
- D. India and USSR

Answer: C. India and Pakistan - On 1st January each year, India and Pakistan exchange a list of their nuclear installations in accordance with the Agreement on the Prohibition of attack against Nuclear Installations and Facilities. This agreement prohibits both the countries from attacking each other's atomic facilities.

62. From which Indian organization, the four personnel have been selected for training in Russia for the Gaganyaan Mission, that is going to be launched in 2022?

- A. ISRO
- B. IAF
- C. MARCOS
- D. Indian Navy

Answer: B. IAF - Recently, four men from Indian Air Force have been identified for Gaganyaan, India's first manned mission to space. They will undertake astronauts' training in Russia. Gaganyaan is a crewed orbital spacecraft intended to send astronauts into space for a minimum of 7 days by 2022 as a part of the Indian Human Spaceflight Programme.

63. Who will launch the "Earthshot Prize" to motivate new solution to tackle climate crisis?

- A. Duke of Cambridge
- B. Queen Elizabeth II
- C. Duke of Sussex
- D. Prince of Wales

Answer: A. Duke of Cambridge - Prince William, the Duke of Cambridge will launch the environmental prize called the Earthshot. The multi-million-pound award will be given to five winners each year for the next 10 years, starting from 2021. Its aim is to provide at least 50 solutions to the world's greatest problems by 2030.

64. Who will be the head of the recently created Sainya Karta Vibhag?

- A. Prime Minister

- B. Defence Minister
- C. Finance Minister
- D. Chief of Defence Staff

Answer: D. Chief of Defence Staff - A new Department of Military Affairs, also known as Sainya Karta Vibhag will be headed by the Chief of Defence Staff. This department is an addition to the four other departments of the Ministry of Defence – the Department of Defence, Defence Production, Defence and Development and Ex-service welfare.

65. Which nation has recently banned the 'reef toxic' sunscreen?

- A. Australia
- B. New Zealand
- C. Palau
- D. Nauru

Answer: C. Palau - Palau has banned "reef-toxic" sunscreens. The scientific evidence showed that chemicals found in most sunscreens were toxic to corals. Therefore, from New Year's Day, any reef-toxic sunscreens that are imported or sold in Palau will be confiscated and the owner will be fined.

66. The US was recently praised by the UAE for its role in the Global Coalition against Daesh. What is the other name for Daesh?

- A. Al Qaeda
- B. Hezbollah
- C. ISIS
- D. Houthis

Answer: C. ISIS - The UAE had expressed its support for all the measures taken by the US to defend and protect its interests and forces in the region and also praised the US' role in the Global Coalition against Daesh (ISIS). The term "Daesh" is an acronym for the Arabic phrase al-Dawla al-Islamiya al-Iraq al-Sham (Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant).

67. Which is the world's first major city to celebrate the start of the 2020 New Year and new decade?

- A. Sydney
- B. Auckland
- C. Christchurch
- D. Wellington

Answer: B. Auckland - Auckland in New Zealand has become the world's first major city to celebrate the start of the 2020. Australia and New Zealand were followed by

Europe, the Middle East and Asia to welcome the year 2020. The firework display in Sydney, Australia was put up despite the ongoing bushfire crisis.

68. What aspect of agriculture is focused upon by Krishi Karman Award?

- A. Supply
- B. Sales
- C. Production
- D. Water Management

Answer: C. Production - The Prime Minister is to visit Karnataka on January 2nd and 3rd. He will confer Krishi Karman Award to 21 states that have recorded good agriculture production in various categories during the previous crop seasons.

69. What is the aim of the recently formed Akhil Bharatiya Gujarati Samaj Sankalan Samiti?

- A. Include NRIs in the State's development process
- B. Include non-resident Gujaratis in the state's development process
- C. Include persons of Indian origin in state's development process
- D. Include Indians outside Gujarat in the development process

Answer: B. Include non-resident Gujaratis in the state's development process - The Akhil Bharatiya Gujarati Samaj Sankalan Samiti, with the state's chief minister as chief patron and the Minister of Non-resident Gujaratis (NRGs) as the president, aims to include Gujaratis living outside the state in the state's developmental process. The Samiti will meet twice a year – once in Gujarat and next in another state.

70. What is Landouria tonywhitteni that was named after Tony Whitten?

- A. Snail
- B. Grasshopper
- C. Snake
- D. Beetle

Answer: A. Snail - Tony Whitten was a British conservationist who documented biodiversity in Asia before he died due to cycling crash. A prize fund was set up in his name after his death. One of the recent winners of this prize named a snail in Indonesia after him. These species live in a limestone habitat and are threatened due to quarrying for the cement industry.

71. On January 2, 2020, Prakash Parv was celebrated as birth anniversary of which Sikh Guru?

- A. Guru Harkrishan Sahib
- B. Guru Har Rai
- C. Guru Gobind Singh

D. Guru Teg Bahadur

Answer: C. Guru Gobind Singh - The birth anniversary of the tenth Sikh Guru, Guru Gobind Singh was celebrated across the country and many parts of the world on January 2, 2020. The birth anniversary of a Sikh Guru is also called as "Prakash Parv". As per the traditional Sikh calendar (Nanakshahi), birthday of Guru Gobind Singh falls on January 2, this year (Though he was born on 5 January 1666 by Gregorian Calendar). Guru Gobind Singh was named as the tenth Sikh guru, at the age of 9, after the ninth Guru and his father Guru Teg Bahadur was killed.

72. Which country was the largest source of foreign direct investment (FDI) in India during the first half of the financial year 2019-2020?

- A. UAE
- B. Switzerland
- C. Singapore
- D. USA

Answer: C. Singapore - According to the recently released Government data, Singapore remains the largest source of foreign direct investment (FDI) in India during the first half of the financial year with investments amounting to \$8 billion. The second largest source was Mauritius with \$6.36 billion worth investments followed by the United States, the Netherlands and Japan. India remains as one of the world's favourite FDI destinations during this year. FDI limits in coal mining and contract manufacturing were recently relaxed by the Government.

73. ISRO is to set up its second launch port in Tamilnadu for SSLV. What does SSLV stand for?

- A. Space Satellite Launch Vehicle
- B. Speed Satellite Launch Vehicle
- C. Small Satellite Launch Vehicle
- D. Solar Satellite Launch Vehicle

Answer: C. Small Satellite Launch Vehicle - The Indian Space Research Organisation is to set up its second launch port in Thoothukodi district of southern Tamilnadu. The Government of Tamilnadu will arrange nearly 2300 acres of land for the construction of the launch centre. The proposed launch port will mainly handle the Small Satellite Launch vehicle (SSLV), which is under development. SSLVs will be used to carry a payload of up to 500 kg and are expected to be deployed in the first half of 2020.

74. What is the estimated cost of the new Chandrayaan -3 project, as per the announcement of ISRO?

- A. Rs. 600 Crore

- B. Rs. 500 Crore
- C. Rs. 400 Crore
- D. Rs. 300 Crore.

Answer: A. Rs. 600 Crore - The Indian Space Research Organisation has recently confirmed the country's third mission to the moon, named Chandrayaan-3. The Government has approved the project of Chandrayaan-3 and the estimated cost of the project would be more than Rs.600 Crores as announced by the Chairman of ISRO, K Sivan. As per his statement, the new soft-landing mission project is expected to be launched at the end of this year or during early 2021.

75. Which satellite would be launched on January 17, 2020 as the first satellite of the year 2020?

- A. GSAT-30
- B. GSAT 29
- C. GSAT 17
- D. GSAT 11

Answer: A. GSAT-30 - As per the recent announcement of the Chairman of ISRO, India will launch GSAT 30, a heavy geo-stationary communication satellite on January 17, 2020. This mission would be the first satellite of the year 2020 for India. The satellite will be launched using Ariane-5ECA launch vehicle from Kourou space centre in French Guiana. The satellite will be used to provide communication links to government and private service providers.

76. Who was recently reappointed as the Chairman of Railway Board?

- A. Vinod Kumar Yadav
- B. Rajesh Agrawal
- C. Purnendu Sekhar Mishra
- D. Vishwesh Chaube

Answer: A. Vinod Kumar Yadav -The incumbent Chairman of Railway Board, Vinod Kumar Yadav recently assumed office as the Chairman after his reappointment has been approved by the Appointments Committee of Cabinet. He was appointed as the Chairman for the first term on January 2019. Recently the Cabinet approved the restructuring of the Railway board and the merger of several cadres in the administration. A new post of CEO was also created during the restructuring exercise.

77. What is the name of the award to be given to the states for good agricultural production, by the Prime Minister?

- A. Krishi Samman
- B. Krishi Samridhi
- C. Krishi Karman
- D. Krishi Keerthi

Answer: C. Krishi Karman - The Prime Minister is expected to present the Krishi Karman awards during a function in Karnataka, to 21 states, for their excellent performance in agriculture production. The Krishi Karman award was instituted by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers welfare in the year 2010-2011 to recognise the efforts of states in food grain production. Awards are given on the basis of highest total food grain production and highest individual food grain crop production.

78. Which city is host to the 107th edition of the Indian Science Congress (ISC)?

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

Answer: D. Bengaluru - The Prime Minister, Narendra Modi will inaugurate the 107th edition of the Indian Science Congress (ISC) at the University of Agricultural Sciences, Bengaluru, Karnataka from January 3 to 7, 2020. The theme of the five-day event will be 'Science and technology: rural development'. The congress would also host various programmes like Women Science Congress, Children Science Congress, Science Communicators Meet and Farmer's Science Congress.

79. Who received the famous 'Sangita Kalanithi' award of the Music Academy, recently?

- A. S. Sowmya
- B. Sudha Ragunathan
- C. Bombay Jeyashree
- D. Aruna Sairam

Answer: A. S. Sowmya -

The leading Carnatic vocalist S.Sowmya was selected for the 'Sangita Kalanithi' award instituted by the Music Academy and recently received the award. Sowmya, a recipient of various awards and titles in her music career, is a visiting faculty at the Madras Advanced School of Carnatic Music, run by the Music Academy. She also serves as the member of the Academic Council of the Tamil Nadu Music and Fine Arts University.

80. After Indore at first rank, which cities ranked second and third (in first quarter) in Swachh Survekshan League, 2020, released recently?

- A. Ahmedabad and Jaipur
- B. Gurugram and Bengaluru
- C. Pune and Bhubaneswar
- D. Bhopal and Surat

Answer: D. Bhopal and Surat - The result of Swachh Survekshan League 2020 was recently released by the Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs, Hardeep Singh Puri for

the first and second Quarters of this year. Under the category of cities with 10 lakh plus population, Indore topped in both the first and second quarters. The famous city of Madhya Pradesh, Indore was also the topper of the league in the previous year. Bhopal and Surat were ranked second and third in the first quarter respectively and Rajkot and Navi Mumbai in the second quarter.

81. The Prime Minister of India recently inaugurated five Young Scientists Labs of which organisation?

- A. Indian Space Research Organisation, ISRO
- B. Defence Research and Development Organisation, DRDO
- C. Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, BARC
- D. Department of Atomic Energy, DAE

Answer: B. Defence Research and Development Organisation, DRDO - The Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi recently launched five new defence laboratories called DRDO Young Scientists Laboratories (DYSL) for the Defence Research and Development Organisation from Bengaluru, Karnataka. The labs will operate from five Indian cities, namely Bengaluru, Mumbai, Chennai, Hyderabad and Kolkatta. They will focus on developing new and innovative defence technologies for our country and thus enhance our self reliance in the field.

82. Which state has recently declared 2020 as the year of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and has signed MoUs with tech firms for AI research?

- A. Andhra Pradesh
- B. Telengana
- C. Odisha
- D. Assam

Answer: B. Telengana - Recently, Telengana Government organised an event to declare the year 2020 as the year of Artificial Intelligence (AI). In the event, Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) were signed with several technological firms and institutions for development of Artificial Intelligence (AI) research in the state. As per the partnerships, a Centre for Research in Applied Artificial Intelligence (CRiAA) and a Research & Development (R&D) park will be soon set up in Telengana.

83. According to the recent data from the Ministry of Forest Environment and Climate Change (MoEFCC), what is the total number of tiger deaths occurred in India during 2019?

- A. 95
- B. 100
- C. 105
- D. 110

Answer: A. 95 - According to the recent data from the Ministry of Forest Environment and Climate Change (MoEFCC), the total number of tiger deaths was under 100 after three years. In the year 2019, 95 tigers were dead in total, among them 84 tigers were actually dead and 11 of them were presumed dead by identifying their body parts. In the previous year 2018, there were 100 deaths of tigers in total and in 2017, the count was 115.

84. David Stern who passed away recently was the Commissioner of which famous Sports league?

- A. Formula 1, F1
- B. National Basketball Association, NBA
- C. Major League Baseball, MLB
- D. National Hockey League, NHL

Answer: B. National Basketball Association, NBA - A famous figure among the basketball Community David Stern passed away recently. He served as the Commissioner of National Basketball Association, NBA from 1984 to 2014. He also made a record of being the longest serving Commissioner of a major league. He played a crucial role in broadening the scope of NBA in the international arena and making it popular and successful. The Women's National Basketball Association was founded under his leadership.

85. Sunita Lakra, who announced her retirement recently, is a famous Indian player of which Sports?

- A. Tennis
- B. Badminton
- C. Hockey
- D. Cricket

Answer: C. Hockey - Former Indian Hockey team captain and the team's defender Sunita Lakra recently announced her retirement from International Hockey citing her knee injuries. In the 2018 Asian Champions Trophy, India bagged the second place under her captaincy. She was also a part of the Indian team that participated in the Rio Olympics, 2016. Though she could not participate in Tokyo Olympics, Sunita will hopefully return to play domestic Hockey after her knee surgery.

86. Which state has recently announced a scheme to deliver sand to customer's doorstep from January 2, 2020?

- A. Odisha
- B. Maharashtra
- C. Andhra Pradesh
- D. Kerala

Answer: C. Andhra Pradesh - The State Government of Andhra Pradesh recently announced that it would deliver sand to the customer's doorstep. The scheme was launched as a pilot project in the Krishna District and would be expanded to other districts as well. The Andhra Pradesh Mineral Development Corporation (APMDC) would be the implementing agency of the delivery scheme. The state recently launched the new sand policy in September 2019 and has been taking various steps to curb illegal sand trade.

87. Umaro Cissoko Embalo was recently elected as the President of which country?

- A. Gambia
- B. Senegal
- C. Guinea-Bissau
- D. Guinea

Answer: C. Guinea-Bissau - Former Prime Minister and Army General of Guinea-Bissau, Umaro Cissoko Embalo recently won in the second round of the presidential elections of the country. Jose Mario Vaz is the incumbent President of the country, who failed to win in the first-round elections held earlier. Umaro Embalo, served as the Prime Minister under the presidency of Jose Mario Vaz from 2016 to 2018. Guinea-Bissau is a country in West Africa, which gained independence from Portugal in 1974.

88. Who was recently presented with the 'Lokmanya Tilak National Journalism Award'?

- A. Ravish Kumar
- B. Arnabh Goswami
- C. Shekar Gupta
- D. Sanjay Gupta

Answer: D. Sanjay Gupta - Sanjay Gupta, the Chief Editor of the leading Hindi daily, 'Jagran' was recently honoured with the 'Lokmanya Tilak National Journalism Award'. This award was instituted by the Pune based Kesari-Maratha Trust for recognising the contributions made by individuals in the field of journalism. The award will be presented at the event organised to commemorate the Foundation day of 'Kesari', the newspaper started by famous freedom fighter Lokmanya Tilak.

89. What is the new integrated helpline number of the Indian Railways, launched recently?

- A. 138
- B. 139
- C. 1071
- D. 1072

Answer: B. 139 - The Indian Railways has recently launched an integrated helpline number '139' for its passengers by merging several other existing helpline numbers. The only other number which can still be used is '182', which is the helpline number for assistance related to theft and criminal issues. This new helpline 139 is based on Interactive Voice Response system (IVRS) and is made available in 12 languages. The number can be even dialled from basic phones.

90. What is the annual financial assistance given to eligible farmers under the PM-KISAN scheme?

- A. Rs. 10000
- B. Rs. 8000
- C. Rs. 6000
- D. Rs. 5000

Answer: C. Rs. 6000 - The 3rd installment of Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM- KISAN) scheme was released by the Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi in Tumakuru, Karnataka. This latest installment is expected to benefit nearly six crore beneficiaries. The PM- KISAN scheme was launched by the Prime Minister on February 2019 to provide financial assistance of Rs.6000 per year to eligible farmers in three installments of Rs.2000 each. The payment of second installment began from April 2019.

91. Qassim Soleimani, who was killed in the US air strike was the Military Commander of which country?

- A. Iraq
- B. Iran
- C. Israel
- D. Syria

Answer: B. Iran - The powerful Military Commander of Iran, General Qassim Soleimani was killed in the air strike conducted by the United States. The President of the US is said to have ordered a drone attack on the vehicles, in which the Iran military personnel were travelling near the Bhagdad Airport. Another commander and adviser to Soleimani, Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis was also killed in the attack. Soleimani was the commander of the Quds Force of Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC)

92. Manav Thakkar, who is in news recently, is a famous personality of which sports?

- A. Badminton
- B. Tennis
- C. Table Tennis
- D. Squash

Answer: C. Table Tennis - The 19-year-old Table Tennis player of India, Manav Thakkar is in news as he reached the top position in the latest International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) rankings in Under-21 men's single category. This coveted rank could be achieved after he won the Under-21 men's singles title at the ITTF Challenge Plus North American Open last year. Manav is only the fourth Indian to become World No.1 in the ITTF rankings.

93. When is the World Braille day celebrated every year?

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

Answer: C. January 4 - The World Braille Day is celebrated across the world on the 4th day of January. The United Nations General Assembly passed a resolution in November 2018, to announce January 4 as World Braille Day. Following the proclamation, the day has been observed since 2019. According to the World Health Organization, there are 36 million blind people and 216 million people with moderate to severe visual impairment. Invented by Louis Braille, Braille is a representation of letters and number using six dots, which could be interpreted by the visually impaired.

94. Raisina Dialogue is an annual multi-lateral conference organized by which Ministry?

- A. Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
- B. Ministry of External Affairs
- C. Ministry of Finance
- D. Ministry of Corporate Affairs

Answer: B. Ministry of External Affairs- The Raisina Dialogue is an annual joint conference organized since 2016, by the Ministry of External Affairs in association with the leading think-tank Observer Research Foundation (ORF). The conference hosts various global leaders from all sectors to discuss the challenges faced by the global community. The title of this year's event is 'Navigating the Alpha Century' and will be held from January 14 to 16 in New Delhi. The Australian Prime Minister who was expected to be the key speaker cancelled his participation recently after severe bush fires in his country.

95. The first silk processing plant of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) is set up in which state, to boost production of Patola sarees?

- A. Maharashtra
- B. Gujarat
- C. Rajasthan

D. Madhya Pradesh

Answer: B. Gujarat - The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) inaugurated their first silk processing plant at Surendranagar district in Gujarat. The Patola is a trademark saree variety of Gujarat. It is regarded as a royal attire as it is priced very high. The reason for high price is the non-availability of processing plants in Gujarat. The silk yarn required to weave the saree is usually purchased from other states. This new plant set up by KVIC would cut down the price of silk yarn and boost production of Patola sarees.

96. The Transport Department of which state recently launched a helpline for women called 'Damini'?

- A. Uttar Pradesh
- B. Uttarakhand
- C. Maharashtra
- D. Rajasthan

Answer: A. Uttar Pradesh - The Uttar Pradesh State Road Transport Corporation (UPSRTC) launched a helpline for women called 'Damini', to improve the safety of women in public road transport. The helpline number subscribed for this scheme is '81142-77777', which will have both calling and Whatsapp service. The helpline will be handled by women officers at the headquarters and zonal offices of UPSRTC, which will be operational from 9 am to 6 pm daily. This scheme is launched as a part of the Central Government initiative of 'Nirbhaya Scheme'.

97. Which is the first country to ban sunscreens, that are toxic to coral reefs and sea life?

- A. Palau
- B. Philippines
- C. Taiwan
- D. Papua New Guinea

Answer: A. Palau - Palau, a small island nation in the West Pacific Ocean imposed a ban on sun screens that contain chemicals affecting the coral reefs and other aquatic species. The step is also taken to conserve its Rock Islands Southern Lagoon, which is a UNESCO World Heritage site. The sun cream with the toxic chemicals including oxybenzone, will not be permitted to be used or sold in the country. Palau is a famous destination among international tourists and is mainly acclaimed for its coral reefs.

98. Which Indian city hosts the All India Police Judo Cluster Championship 2019?

- A. Guwahati
- B. Cuttack

- C. New Delhi
- D. Goa

Answer: C. New Delhi - The Central Reserve Police Force organised the 4th edition of the All India Police Judo Cluster Championship in New Delhi. The event will be held from January 4 to January 7, 2020. More than thousand sportspersons across the country are participating in the tournament. The event was inaugurated by the Minister of State for Home Affairs, Nityanand Rai. The previous edition of the championship was organized by the Odisha Police.

99. The National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) Academy is to be established in which city?

- A. Mussoorie
- B. Dehradun
- C. Nagpur
- D. Hyderabad

Answer: C. Nagpur - The foundation of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) Academy was recently laid in Nagpur, Maharashtra by the Union Home Minister Amit Shah. He also inaugurated a campus of the Nagpur based National Fire Service College. The NDRF Academy, once completed will contain state-of-the-art infrastructure to simulate disasters and provide training to the personnel in various rescue operations. The National Disaster Response Force, a dedicated force for disaster response related operations was constituted in the year 2006.

100. Ratna Ojha, who recently passed away was a theatre artist and activist of which state?

- A. Odisha
- B. Meghalaya
- C. Assam
- D. West Bengal

Answer: C. Assam - Veteran Theatre artist and Social Activist of Assam, Ratna Ojha passed away at Guwahati. He played an instrumental role in reviving the theatre play movement of the state. He had also actively participated and addressed demonstrations in several social issues of the country including those against Citizenship amendment act. For his great contribution towards the theatre art, he was honoured with the 'Natasurya Award' by the Assam Government.

101. Who is the Director General of Aeronautical Systems in DRDO and is also known as Missile Woman of India?

- A. Dr.Tessy Thomas
- B. Ritu Karidhal

- C. Muthiah Vanitha
- D. Anuradha T K

Answer: A. Dr.Tessy Thomas - The renowned Indian scientist and Director General of Aeronautical Systems, DRDO, Dr.Tessy Thomas was the Chief Guest of the Women Science Congress, held at Bengaluru. It was a part of the ongoing 107th Indian Science Congress. Tessy Thomas was the first woman scientist to head a missile project in India, when she was the Project Director of India's Agni-IV missile.

102. Nankana Sahib Gurdwara, recently seen in news is situated in which country?

- A. India
- B. Pakistan
- C. Nepal
- D. Bhutan

Answer: B. Pakistan - The Nankana Sahib Gurdwara is a highly revered gurdwara located in the city of Nankana Sahib near Lahore in Pakistan. The gurdwara is built at the place where the first Sikh Guru was believed to born and preached Sikhism. It is also called as the Janam Asthan Gurdwara. It is seen in news recently as there was a severe mob attack and vandalism in the Gurdwara.

103. Which famous Indian cricketer recently announced his retirement from all forms of cricket?

- A. Irfan Pathan
- B. Yusuf Pathan
- C. Bhuvanesh Kumar
- D. R Ashwin

Answer: A. Irfan Pathan - The ace Indian all-rounder and bowler famous for his swings, Irfan Pathan announced his retirement from all forms of cricket recently. Irfan made his debut in 2003 when he was only 19 years old. In his professional cricket career spanning 16 years, he made several records including the hat-trick wicket in the first over of the test match. Irfan was also a part of the winning team of the 2007 T20 World cup.

104. Australia recently witnessed which disaster that killed many lives and caused huge destruction?

- A. Flood
- B. Cyclone
- C. Wild fires
- D. Tsunami

Correct: C. Wild fires - Australia recently witnessed severe wild fires that killed nearly 25 people and destroyed several homes across the country. More than hundred bush

fires were burning in New South Wales and they could not be controlled. Several million animals are also reported to be killed by the severity of bush fires. Scientists have cited Global warming to be the reason of this early and devastating wild fires.

105. Which state will have the country's first rehabilitation centre for freshwater turtles?

- A. Madhya Pradesh
- B. Bihar
- C. Chhattisgarh
- D. Odisha

Answer: B. Bihar - India's first rehabilitation centre for freshwater turtles will be inaugurated in the Bhagalpur forest division of Bihar. The centre, which is to be open soon can accommodate 500 turtles at a time. The forest division is near to the river Ganga, which makes it a perfect breeding area for freshwater turtles. The turtles are abducted and hurt by smugglers will be rescued by the team of the rehabilitation centre and will be provided proper treatment.

106. Which country received a line of credit (LOC) of \$75 million from India, for installation of solar parks?

- A. Argentina
- B. Chile
- C. Cuba
- D. Brazil

Answer: C. Cuba - India has extended a line of credit (LOC) of \$75 million through its Exim Bank to Cuba for financing solar parks. An MoU was signed between the Export-Import Bank of India (Exim Bank) and the nominated agency of Cuban Government, Banco Exterior De Cuba last year. Based on the agreement, the Exim bank extends the finance, which is nearly Rs.500 Crores. With this credit, 75 MW Solar Parks are to be installed in Cuba in the next five years.

107. Common Service Centre (CSC) recently partnered with which bank for sale of FASTags?

- A. Airtel Payment Bank
- B. Paytm Payment Bank
- C. State Bank of India
- D. Equitas Bank

Answer: B. Paytm Payment Bank - The Common Service Centre (CSC) recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Paytm Payment Bank Ltd (PPBL) for selling digital toll payment tags called FASTags. CSC will integrate its platform with that of the bank to sell the PPBL FASTags. The digital tags are made mandatory to be fixed in all vehicles from December last year. The Common Service Centres sell the

FASTags through its Village Level Entrepreneurs (VLEs). Earlier CSCs had integrated with State Bank of India, Equitas Bank and HDFC Bank for sale of FASTags.

108. ArogyaSri Scheme, which is an initiative to provide free medical treatment to the poor, is the flagship scheme of which state?

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

Answer: B. Andhra Pradesh - ArogyaSri Scheme is the flagship scheme of Andhra Pradesh Government is an initiative to provide free medical treatment to the poor. Named as Dr. YSR ArogyaSri scheme, the scheme is available to people with annual income up to Rs. 5 Lakhs. The people will be given cards with QR codes and they can use it for availing treatment above Rs.1000. Under the scheme, several super-speciality hospitals are to be included in the network and various medicines are to be made available in the state government run hospitals.

109. Which film won the 'Best Motion picture- drama' award in the Golden Globe awards 2020?

- A. Once Upon A Time in Hollywood
- B. 1917
- C. Missing Link
- D. Parasite

Answer: B. 1917- The movie titled '1917' bagged the 'Best Motion picture- drama' in the recently released Golden Globe awards 2020. The movie was released in December 2019 and was co-written and directed by Sam Mendes, who also won the 'Best Director' award in the ceremony. The film is based on the World War I in 1917 and two British soldiers in the war. George MacKay and Dean-Charles Chapman featured in the film in the lead roles.

110. Which famous actor won the 'Best Actor in a Motion Picture – Drama' award in the Golden Globe awards 2020?

- A. George MacKay
- B. Dean-Charles Chapman
- C. Joaquin Phoenix
- D. Brad Pitt

Answer: C. Joaquin Phoenix - For his commended performance in the movie 'Joker', American actor Joaquin Phoenix won the 'Best Actor in a Motion Picture – Drama' award in the Golden Globe awards 2020. The Joker movie was nominated in four categories in the ceremony and won two awards namely Best Actor (Drama) and Best

Original Score. Joker is a psychological thriller film which was directed by Todd Philips. The movie was released in October 2019 and created records by collecting revenues in box offices world-wide.

111. Which middle East country recently announced multiple-entry tourist visas to people of all countries?

- A. Singapore
- B. France
- C. United Arab Emirates
- D. Spain

Answer: C. United Arab Emirates - With an objective to improve its tourism sector, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) recently announced multiple-entry tourist visas to people of all countries.

The UAE cabinet recently approved the amendment for tourist visas, which will be valid for five years from the date of issue and can be used for multiple entries into the country. Being the favourite tourist destination of many nationals, the country attracts more than 20 million tourists in a year.

112. The Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS) which recently discovered a new habitable exoplanet, belongs to which space agency?

- A. Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)
- B. National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)
- C. Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA)
- D. China National Space Administration (CNSA)

Answer: B. National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) - The planet finder satellite of NASA, named the Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS) recently discovered a new exoplanet in the habitable region of its host star.

The newly found exoplanet, known as 'TOI 700 d' has approximately the same size of the Earth. The Space Scientists of NASA also announced that the exoplanet is only 101.5 light years from the earth, making it easy for further observations and research.

113. A one-horned rhinoceros' calf was recently born at the Manas National Park. The National park is situated in which state?

- A. Arunachal Pradesh
- B. Assam
- C. Sikkim
- D. Himachal Pradesh

Answer: B. Assam - The Manas National Park is a UNESCO World Heritage site and a biosphere reserve is situated in Assam. Recently a one-horned rhinoceros of the

national park named R3A gave birth to its calf. The R3A was also born in the same park to the elder rhino 'Laisri' in 2013.

The One-horned rhinoceros or the Indian rhinoceros is an endangered species and is listed as 'Vulnerable' in the IUCN Red list of threatened species. At present, the national park is home to 42 rhinos.

114. Daniele De Rossi, who announced his retirement recently, is a world-cup winning footballer of which country?

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

Answer: B. Italy - The ace footballer of the Italy team, Daniele De Rossi recently announced his retirement from professional football. He was associated with the Roma football club and played Serie A league matches for nearly 18 years.

Daniele represented Italy in the 2004 Olympics, and he was also a part of the FIFA world cup winning Italy team in 2006. The fourth highest capped player of Italy retired from the national team in 2017. Recently, he was playing for Argentina's Boca Juniors club.

115. Hyundai partnered with which ride-sharing company to develop electric air taxis?

- A. Didi
- B. Uber
- C. Lyft
- D. Grab

Answer: B. Uber - Automobile Major Hyundai recently unveiled an air electric taxi, developed in collaboration with Uber, in the Consumer Electronics Show 2020. According to their partnership, Hyundai will develop and deploy vehicles and Uber will provide support service, ground transport connection and customer Interface. Uber is to launch urban commercial flights by 2023 and Hyundai is its first carmaker partner in the project.

116. The second phase of Intensified Mission Indradhanush 2.0 began recently. What is the scheme associated with?

- A. Merger of Banks
- B. Universal Vaccination
- C. Defence Procurement
- D. Space Mission

Answer: B. Universal Vaccination - Mission Indradhanush is a Universal Vaccination Programme launched by the Ministry of Health and Family welfare in 2014. The Intensified Intensified Mission Indradhanush 2.0 is carried out from December 2019 to March 2020.

Under the Indradhanush scheme, unvaccinated or partially vaccinated children and pregnant women are vaccinated. The target fixed for the scheme is 2020. Recently the Ministry launched IMI 2.0 portal to record the target and real time data of the campaign.

117. Which Indian Grandmaster won the title in the Hastings International Chess Congress?

- A. Pendyala Harikrishna
- B. Sasikiran Krishnan
- C. P Magesh Chandran
- D. Abhijeet Gupta

Answer: C. P Magesh Chandran - Indian Grandmaster, P Magesh Chandran who presently lives in the USA, won the prestigious title of the Hastings International Chess Congress. The tournament was held in Hastings, England.

He completed the game with 7.5 points and remained unbeaten in all rounds. The 36-year-old chess player became the Grand master in 2006. With 6 points each, other Indian players Deep Sengupta and Swayam Mishra were placed in the 13th and 14th ranks respectively.

118. Which public sector bank has approved a financial assistance to the Women Entrepreneurs Welfare Association (WEWA), Tamil Nadu?

- A. State Bank of India
- B. Canara Bank
- C. Indian Bank
- D. Bank of India

Answer: C. Indian Bank - Tamil Nadu based leading Public sector bank, Indian Bank recently signed an MoU with the Women Entrepreneurs Welfare Association (WEWA), Tamil Nadu. By this partnership, Indian bank will provide financial assistance and training to the members of the association for starting their business.

The entrepreneurs will also be provided credit facilities with discounted rates. The members of WEWA will be trained in INDSETIs (Indian Bank Self-Employment Training Institutes) of Indian Bank society.

119. Which is the first Urban Cooperative Bank (UCB), that is approved to convert into a Small Finance Bank?

- A. Bharat Cooperative Bank
- B. Shivalik Mercantile Cooperative Bank

- C. Punjab And Maharashtra Cooperative Bank
- D. Bombay Mercantile Cooperative Bank

Answer: B. Shivalik Mercantile Cooperative Bank - The Reserve Bank of India has recently granted 'in-principle' approval to Shivalik Mercantile Cooperative Bank, to convert into a Small Finance Bank (SFB). It is the first Urban Cooperative Bank (UCB) to be granted such permission after the announcement of RBI in September 2018, about voluntary conversion of UCBs into Small Finance Banks.

The bank should comply with the requirements of an SFB such as minimum net worth and Capital to risk ratio, as stipulated by the RBI within 18 months of the in-principle approval.

120. 'Jal- Jiwan- Hariyali mission' is a flagship climate change initiative of which state?

- A. Odisha
- B. Chhattisgarh
- C. Bihar
- D. Andhra Pradesh

Answer: C. Bihar - The Chief Minister of Bihar launched the climate change initiative called 'Jal- Jiwan- Hariyali' scheme in the state recently. Under the scheme, various awareness programs about climate change and importance of water conservation are conducted across the state. The Chief Minister, Nithish Kumar recently launched schemes worth more than Rs.700 Crores in the 'Jagruta Sammelan', organised as a part of the 'Jal-Jiwan-Hariyali' mission. The state has also planned to organise a human chain movement across the state for spreading awareness on climate change.

121. Which Indian cricketer is selected for the 'C K Nayudu Lifetime Achievement Award' of BCCI?

- A. Kapil Dev
- B. K Srikanth
- C. Sunil Gavaskar
- D. Dilip Vengsarkar

Answer: K Srikanth - Former Indian Cricketer Krishnamachari Srikanth is selected for the prestigious 'C K Nayudu Lifetime Achievement Award', presented by the National Cricket Board of India, BCCI. The famous cricketer from Tamil Nadu represented India from 1981 to 1992.

The other cricketer who is also to be presented with the award is Anjum Chopra, former Captain of Indian women's cricket team. The awards will be presented at the BCCI Annual awards function, to be held in Mumbai, on January 12, 2020.

122. What is the name of the mandatory standard individual health insurance policy launched by IRDAI?

- A. Arogya Raksha
- B. Arogya Suraksha
- C. Arogya Sanjeevani
- D. Arogya Samriddhi

Answer: C. Arogya Sanjeevani - The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) recently directed the health and general insurance companies to offer a standard individual health insurance policy. The policy is named as 'Arogya Sanjeevani policy'.

It will cover minimum health requirements of the insurers and would be offered from April 1, 2020. IRDAI also stipulated that there will be no exit age for the scheme, so that the insurance will be continued till the person's last breath. The minimum and maximum age limit to enroll are 18 years and 65 years respectively. The sum assured will be between Rs.1 Lakh and Rs. 5 Lakhs.

123. Which state government has started a project to save paper by using digital medium for administrative work?

- A. Odisha
- B. Kerala
- C. West Bengal
- D. Telengana

Answer: C. West Bengal - The State Government of West Bengal has started an environmental-friendly project to save paper. It has also decided to use digital medium for most administrative works. The State Secretariat, Nabanna already follows the method, which will be extended to other districts as well.

The government also proposed to recycle the paper used for administrative purpose, by converting them into writing pads and reusing them. The process is to be continuously monitored by the state secretariat.

124. Which city will play host to the 2022 Commonwealth Games?

- A. London
- B. New Delhi
- C. Birmingham
- D. Gold Coast

Answer: C. Birmingham - The international sports event for the members of the Commonwealth, the Commonwealth Games of 2022 will be conducted in the city of Birmingham, England. England plays host to the event for the third time. The prestigious event is scheduled to take place between July 27 and August 7, 2020.

Recently, Commonwealth Games India (CGI) submitted its proposal to host a Commonwealth shooting event and an archery event in India during 2022. But the federation is yet to announce that if the medals won in the proposed Shooting Championship will be added to the final CWG tally of the countries.

125. Scientists recently discovered dwarf galaxies with massive black holes using Very Large Array (VLA) observatory. Where is the observatory situated?

- A. Japan
- B. China
- C. U.S.A
- D. Russia

Answer: C. USA - According to the recent study published in 'Astrophysical Journal', Scientists have discovered thirteen huge black holes in some dwarf galaxies. The galaxies are found to be located several light years from the earth and in half of the galaxies, the black holes are not in the centre of the galaxies.

The high-resolution images of the galaxies with black holes were captured using the Very Large Array (VLA) observatory. It is a radio telescope observatory, which is situated in New Mexico, U.S.A. VLA was set up by the National Radio Astronomy Observatory.

126. A devastating earthquake hit Puerto Rico recently. Which is the capital city of Puerto-Rico?

- A. Santo Domingo
- B. San Juan
- C. Kingston
- D. Havana

Answer: B. San Juan - The Government of Puerto Rico recently declared a state of emergency, after it was hit by a deadly earthquake. The 6.4 magnitude quake was the strongest and the most devastating earthquake, the country has ever had for hundred years.

Puerto Rico is a group of islands located in the Caribbean Sea. It is one of the unincorporated territories of the United States. The capital city and the largest city of the country is San Juan.

127. The 'National Traders convention' was held in which Indian city recently?

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

Answer: C. New Delhi - The National Traders Convention was recently inaugurated by the Defence Minister Rajnath Singh in New Delhi. The three-day event is organised by the Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) and it will highlight the issues faced by the traders.

On the second day, The Union Finance Minister participated in the event and addressed the traders. She assured that the Goods and Service Tax (GST) would be further simplified. Recently Government constituted a committee under the Revenue Secretary for rationalising the GST tax structure.

128. The Reserve Bank of India has recently revised the 'Supervisory Action Framework' of which category of banks?

- A. Public Sector Banks
- B. Private Sector Banks
- C. Foreign Banks
- D. Urban Cooperative Banks

Answer: Urban Cooperative Banks - India's Central bank, the Reserve Bank of India recently released various stipulations for the Urban Cooperative Banks (UCB). A UCB shall be placed in the Supervisory Action Framework upon certain conditions announced by the RBI, which include Net NPA exceeding 6% and CRAR ratio falling below 9%. Depending on the financial stress, the lending powers of the UCBs may also be cut short.

The Reserve Bank has made this announcement at the backdrop of the Punjab and Maharashtra Cooperative Bank scam. The new norms would provide faster resolution to the bad assets of UCBs.

129. What is the name of the new relay satellite series, to be launched by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)?

- A. Indian Relay Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS)
- B. Indian Data Relay Satellite System (IDRSS)
- C. Indian Relay Satellite System (IRSS)
- D. Indian Relay Tracking System (IRTS)

Answer: Indian Data Relay Satellite System (IDRSS) - The Chairman of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) recently announced that indigenous relay satellite series called the Indian Data Relay Satellite System (IDRSS) will be launched soon.

The IDRSS is a set of relay satellites that will continuously track the Indian satellites and exchange information with them. The first of the two proposed satellites will be launched by the end of 2020, before the unmanned space flight to be conducted preceding the Gaganyaan Mission. Such crucial missions can be continuously monitored by the new relay satellite series.

130. The Farmers' Innovation Fund, which was seen in news, is proposed to be set up by which organisation?

- A. World Food Programme
- B. Food and Agricultural Organisation

- C. National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development
- D. Indian Council of Agricultural Research

Answer: D. Indian Council of Agricultural Research - The Director General of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) recently announced that the 'Farmers' Innovation Fund' would be set by next financial year. The announcement was made during the Farmers' Science Congress, the first of its kind event, organised as a part of the National Science Congress. He announced that an innovation centre would be established in New Delhi, which would assist the farmers in their research and would authenticate the innovations of the farmers. At present, the Krishi Vigyan Kendras record the innovations of farmers.

131. Recently, Supreme Court of India has asked the centre to consider deployment of which force to guard various courts of India?

- A. Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)
- B. Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)
- C. National Security Guard (NSG)
- D. Indian Army

Answer: B. Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) - Supreme Court recently asked the Centre to consider the deployment of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) to guard the various courts in India — taking over the job of securing the courts from the local police forces.

132. On 9th January 2020, birth anniversary of Har Gobind Khorana was observed. He won Nobel Prize in Physiology in which year?

- A. 1965
- B. 1968
- C. 1972
- D. 1979

Answer: B. 1968 - Khurana shared the 1968 Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine with Marshall W. Nirenberg and Robert W. Holley for research that showed the order of nucleotides in nucleic acids, which carry the genetic code of the cell and control the cell's synthesis of proteins. In 1972, he also created the first ever artificial gene.

133. Which airline is currently headed by Ashwani Lohani?

- A. Indigo
- B. Spicejet
- C. Air India
- D. Vistara

Answer: C. Air India - Current Ashwini Lohani heads Air India. It began operations in 1932 with a single engine, de Havilland Puss Moth monoplane. In 1962, it became the world's first airline to boast an all-jet fleet. Last October, it also became the world's first

airline to use a Taxibot on an A320 aircraft with passengers onboard. Recently, Group of Ministers (GoM) of the central government have approved the proposal to divest stake in the national carrier. Led by Union Home Minister Amit Shah, the GoM met on Tuesday and approved all proposals on debt transfer from Air India to a special purpose vehicle. The Expression of Interest (EoI) and the share purchase agreement would be issued in January 2020.

134. What is India's projected growth rate as per first advance estimates of gross domestic product (GDP) growth for 2019-20?

- A. 5%
- B. 5.5%
- C. 6%
- D. 6.5%

Answer: A. 5% - In first week of January 2020 the government has released the first advance estimates of gross domestic product (GDP) growth for 2019-20. The economy will grow at 5% this year, a massive downgrade from the 7% projected by the Economic Survey last year and much lower than the 6.8% growth in the previous year.

135. According to the India Meteorological Department's (IMD's) Statement on Climate of India During 2019 report, Arabian Sea on India's west coast saw a 400% rise in cyclones, a record that is repeated only after 1902. Which five cyclones hit Arabian Sea in 2019?

- A. Vayu, Pabuk, Kyarr, Bulbul and Pavan
- B. Vayu, Pabuk, Kyarr, Bulbul and Fani
- C. Pabuk, Vayu, Kyarr, Bulbul and Fani
- D. Vayu, Hikka, Kyarr, Maha and Pavan

Answer: D. Vayu, Hikka, Kyarr, Maha and Pavan - According to the India Meteorological Department's (IMD's) Statement on Climate of India During 2019 report, the number of cyclones in the Arabian Sea was 400% higher than normal frequency because five out of eight cyclones affected Arabian Sea. These five cyclones were Vayu, Hikka, Kyarr, Maha and Pavan. This after the sea on India's west coast normally undergoes only one cyclone annually — read a 400% rise. (India normally has five cyclones in total every year.) However, the Bay of Bengal — usually the more cyclone-prone coast of India — was relatively subdued in 2019 with three (Pabuk, Fani, Bulbul) instead of four cyclones that occur there annually on an average.

136. Election Commission recently declared February 8, 2020 as date of assembly elections in Delhi. What is the total number of seats in Delhi Legislative Assembly?

- A. 65

- B. 67
- C. 70
- D. 72

Answer: C. 70 - About 1.46 crore voters (80.55 lakh males + 66.35 lakh females) will have a chance to vote in the Delhi assembly elections on February 8. The results will be declared on February 11. Delhi Legislative Assembly has 70 seats of which 67 seats were won by AAP in last elections.

137. The North East Natural Gas Pipeline Grid is being implemented by a joint venture of five Indian Central Public Sector Undertakings. What is the name of this joint venture firm?

- A. North-East Gas Grid Corporation (NEGGC)
- B. Indian Gas Grid Company (IGGC)
- C. Indradhanush Gas Grid Limited (IGGL)
- D. BharadGrid Limited (BL)

Answer: C. Indradhanush Gas Grid Limited (IGGL) – North East Gas Grid project is being implemented by IGGL, a Joint Venture company of five CPSEs (GAIL, IOCL, ONGC, OIL and NRL). The total length of the pipeline is planned to be 1,656 km and will be built at estimated cost of Rs. 9,265 crores (Including interest during construction). It will cover eight states of the North-Eastern region i.e., Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, MeghMizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura.

138. The recently approved Mineral Laws (Amendment) Ordinance 2020 has done away with so called captive end-use criteria of which mineral / natural resource?

- A. Coal
- B. Gas Hydrates
- C. Natural Gas
- D. Crude Oil

Answer: A. On January 8, 2020, Union Cabinet has approved promulgation of Mineral Laws (Amendment) Ordinance 2020. The Ordinance will amend Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act 1957 and Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Act 2015. The Ordinance will ease rules for auctioning of coal mines and to open up to all sectors. Government has also done away with end-use restrictions of the coal mining blocks.

139. For how many times, India has emerged as winner in the Malaysia Masters badminton tournament since it began in 2009?

- A. One
- B. Two
- C. Three
- D. Four

Answer: C. Three - India has emerged winner in the Malaysia Masters badminton tournament for three times since it began in 2009. P.V. Sindhu won it in 2013 and 2016, and Saina Nehwal in 2017. This year, B. Sai Praneeth has been already knocked out.

140. Recently, the Government of India has issued revised guidelines for mutual legal assistance in criminal matters with other nations. At present (January, 2020) India has Mutual Legal Assistance Treaties with how many countries?

- A. 32
- B. 40
- C. 42
- D. 48

Answer: C. 42 - India has Mutual Legal Assistance Treaties with 42 countries and is signatory to various International Conventions for cooperation in criminal matters. The Home Ministry is the designated central authority for this. The recently revised guidelines have incorporated various legal and technological developments in recent years and aim to make documentation more compliant with international requirements. The revised guidelines provide step-by-step guidance to the investigation agencies for drafting and processing letters rogatory or mutual legal assistance requests and service of summons, notices and other judicial documents. The guidelines have taken into account the concerns raised by various courts for prompt and timely responses in service of documents to person residing abroad. These revised guidelines have provision for service of documents to authorities of foreign country preferably within ten days of receipt of request in respect of offences committed against women and children.

141. Which state is set to conduct a dedicated state-level Adalat for LGBT community?

- A. Telengana
- B. Maharashtra
- C. Kerala
- D. Gujarat

Answer: C. Kerala - For the first time in the state, the Kerala State Youth Commission has announced that it would conduct a state-level Adalat for LGBT community. The programme would be held at the state capital, Thiruvananthapuram. The main objective of the Adalat is to encourage the transgender community to come out with their grievances and to make arrangements for redressal of the issues. The Government of Kerala had introduced a Transgender policy in 2015 and it has a dedicated 'Transgender Cell' working under the state's Social Justice Department.

142. The Union External Affairs Minister recently launched a book titled 'PAX SINICA: Implications for the Indian Dawn'. Who is the author of the book?

- A. Samir Saran
- B. Samrat Upadhyay
- C. Sharad Rathore
- D. Sumit Agarwal

Answer: A. Samir Saran - Dr Samir Saran is the President of Observer Research Foundation (ORF), one of Asia's most influential think tanks. Samir curates the Raisina Dialogue, India's flagship platform on geopolitics and geoeconomics, and chairs CyFy, India's annual conference on technology, security and society. He is a Commissioner of The Global Commission on the Stability of Cyberspace, member of the World Economic Forum's South Asia advisory board and Global Future Council on Geopolitics.

143. Which city is set to host the international naval event 'MILAN' in March 2020?

- A. Goa
- B. Vishakhapatnam
- C. Cochin
- D. Mumbai

Answer: B. MILAN is a multilateral naval exercise, which is scheduled to be held at Vishakhapatnam in March 2020. The event was previously planned at Andaman and Nicobar Islands and then has been changed to Vishakhapatnam as navies from many countries are participating in the event.

Nearly 30 international navies have confirmed their participation in the event. The theme of the exercise is "Synergy Across the Seas". This event would help the navies to have professional discussions and learn the best practices in the naval arena across the world.

144. Manmad and Bhusawal railway stations, where AI based Facial Recognition technology was recently installed, belong to which state?

- A. Madhya Pradesh
- B. Maharashtra
- C. Karnataka
- D. Gujarat

Answer: B. Maharashtra - The Indian Railways has installed Artificial Intelligence based Facial Recognition Technology in Manmad and Bhusawal stations of Maharashtra and Bengaluru station of Karnataka. The PSU under the Railway Ministry, RailTel carries out the project to provide Video Surveillance System with facial recognition and video analytics. The Railway Protection Force (RPF) will subsequently link the output of this facial recognition system with their existing criminal database, so that identification of criminals at the Railway station would be made easier.

145. The highest railway bridge in the world is to be constructed in which state/ UT?

- A. Himachal Pradesh
- B. Uttarakhand
- C. Sikkim
- D. Jammu and Kashmir

Answer: D. Jammu and Kashmir - As a part of the major Udhampur- Srinagar-Baramulla rail link project, which would connect the Kashmir valley with the Indian Railway network, a new railway bridge is to be constructed connecting Bakkal and Kauri. This bridge in the newly formed Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir will be the world's highest railway bridge. The project is expected to be completed by December 2021.

The proposed bridge will be 1.315 km long and will be built 359 m above the river bed. Presently, the highest railway bridge in the world is the Beipan river Shuibai railway bridge of China.

146. Vishva Hindi Diwas / World Hindi Day is celebrated every year on which date?

- A. January 8
- B. January 9
- C. January 10
- D. January 11

Answer: C. January 10 - Vishva Hindi Divas or World Hindi day is celebrated every year on January 10. The day is celebrated to commemorate the First World Hindi Conference, which was held from January 10 to January 12, 1975, at Nagpur. The first Hindi Conference was inaugurated by the then Prime Minister of India, Indira Gandhi. Subsequent conferences were held in various countries including the USA, South Africa, UK, Mauritius. The first World Hindi day was observed on January 10, 2006. The Day aims to promote Hindi language around the world.

147. Who has been recently chosen for "Muppavarapu Venkaiah Naidu National Award for Excellence"?

- A. K Sivan
- B. MS Swaminathan
- C. Azim H Premji
- D. Dutee Chand

Answer: B. The Father of Green Revolution Dr M S Swaminathan is chosen as the recipient of 'Muppavarapu Venkaiah Naidu National Award for Excellence'. This award is instituted by the Muppavarapu Foundation based at Hyderabad. Eminent Agricultural Scientist and plant geneticist, M.S. Swaminathan is awarded for his contributions

towards the field of agriculture. This award was presented during the 10th Anniversary Celebrations of Muppavarapu Foundation in Hyderabad by the Vice President of India, Venkiah Naidu.

148. Which State has recently adopted a new Logo for its Legislative Assembly, which consists of Foxtail Orchid?

- A. Assam
- B. Himachal Pradesh
- C. Arunachal Pradesh
- D. Mizoram

Answer: C. Arunachal Pradesh - Arunachal Pradesh has adopted a new logo for its Legislative Assembly (APLA) recently. The new logo reflects the distinct identity and culture of the state. The Speaker of the Legislative Assembly PD Sona had circulated pictures of the new logo among the members of the house.

The new logo consists of the national emblem and the state flower of Arunachal Pradesh, foxtail orchid. The existing logo has been amended to create the blue colour-based logo.

149. A cluster of institutions in which state's Ayurveda University is to get the status of "Institutes of National Importance"?

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

Answer: C. Gujarat - Union Cabinet has approved to confer the status of "Institution of National Importance" to a cluster of Ayurvedic institutions in Gujarat State's Ayurved University campus in Jamnagar. This elevation of the status would provide it with the autonomy to upgrade the Ayurveda education standards and frame new courses in Ayurveda as per national and international requirements.

This decision is also expected to boost tertiary care in India and reduce government expenditure on health as Ayurveda is cost-effective. A bill to give effect to this approval will be introduced in the forthcoming Session of Parliament.

150. What is India's GDP growth rate for the FY20, as estimated by the World Bank?

- A. 6%
- B. 5.8%
- C. 5.6%
- D. 5.4%

Answer: B. 5.8% - The World Bank has recently released its 'January 2020 Global Economic Prospects report'. The GDP growth of India for FY20 is estimated to be 5%. The GDP growth for the year 2021-22 is also lowered to 5.8% in the report. The credit instability of the weak Non-Banking Finance Companies (NBFCs) is cited to be the reason for the downgrade. Recently the Reserve Bank of India and the Central Statistical Office of the country also lowered the growth rate to 5% for this fiscal year.

151. The Union Home Minister Amit Shah recently released a book titled 'Karmayoddha Granth' on the life of which Indian political leader?

- A. Atal Bihari Vajpayee
- B. Narendra Modi
- C. L K Advani
- D. Arun Jaitley

Answer: B. Narendra Modi - The Union Minister for Home Affairs, Amit Shah recently released a book titled 'Karmayoddha Granth'. The book is based on the life of the present Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi. During the book releasing event, Amit Shah hailed Modi for successfully transforming the Gujarat BJP organisation and his leadership qualities as the Indian Prime Minister. Narendra Modi is the 14th and the incumbent Prime Minister of India since 2014. Prior to that he was the Chief Minister of Gujarat since 2001.

152. Which Union Ministry is set to launch a program for development of eastern states called 'Purvodaya'?

- A. Ministry of Road Transport and Highways
- B. Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare
- C. Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region
- D. Ministry of Steel

Answer: D. Ministry of Steel - The Union Ministry of Steel is to launch a program called 'Purvodaya-Accelerated Development of Eastern Region through an Integrated Steel hub'. The Union Minister for Steel and Petroleum & Natural Gas, Dharmendra Pradhan will launch the program. The Eastern states of India such as Odisha, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, West Bengal and Northern Andhra Pradesh possess a huge share of reserves but lag in development. This proposed Integrated Steel Hub in the Eastern region would lead to an inclusive socio-economic development in the region.

153. Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports is to organise the 23rd National Youth Festival in Lucknow. It is celebrated to commemorate the birthday of which famous personality?

- A. A P J Abdul Kalam
- B. Swami Vivekananda
- C. B R Ambedkar
- D. Bhagat Singh

Answer: B. Swami Vivekananda - The 23rd National Youth Festival is to be organised by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports in Lucknow from January 12 to 16, 2020, in association with the Uttar Pradesh Government. The festival is celebrated to commemorate the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda. Every year, the birthday of the famous Indian monk from Kolkata, Swami Vivekananda is celebrated as the National Youth day on January 12 and the week commencing from the day as the National Youth week. During the youth festival, several competitions are held for the youth and National Youth awards are also presented.

154. The first in-depth review of India's energy policies was recently released by which international organisation?

- A. World Energy Council
- B. International Energy Agency
- C. Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries
- D. International Renewable Energy Agency

Answer: B. International Energy Agency - The International Energy Agency (IEA) recently released the first in-depth review of India's energy policies in collaboration with the Indian think tank NITI Aayog. The report was launched at the Head Quarters of NITI Aayog, New Delhi. India was made as the association member of the Paris-based global energy organisation, International Energy Agency (IEA) on March 2017 and this is the first review after that. The report highlighted the growth of renewable energy sector in India, which is nearly 23% of the country's total installed capacity now.

155. Which state government recently announced to prepare special text-books for children with learning disabilities?

- A. Andhra Pradesh
- B. Madhya Pradesh
- C. Uttar Pradesh
- D. Odisha

Answer: C. Uttar Pradesh - The State Government of Uttar Pradesh recently announced that special text-books would be prepared for the children of the state, who have learning disabilities. The children with intellectual disabilities due to disorders such as Down syndrome, Attention deficit disorder (ADD), Autism and Dyslexia will be enrolled in the primary and secondary schools run by the state. Textbooks for classes 1 to 5 on the subjects of English, Hindi and Mathematics are being designed.

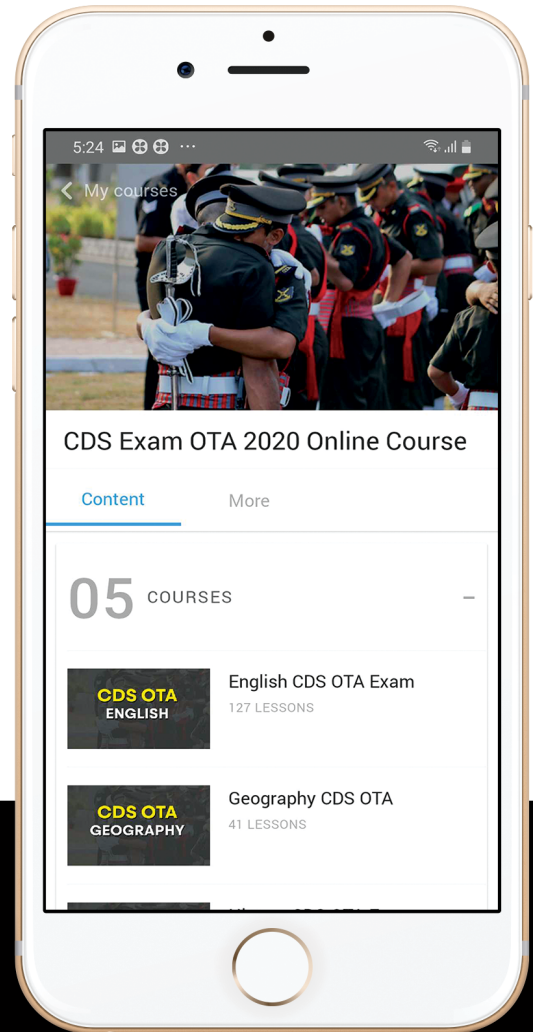
156. The freedom of speech and freedom to carry on a business through internet is covered under which article of Indian constitution?



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- A. Article 17
- B. Article 18
- C. Article 19
- D. Article 20

Answer: C. Article 19 - The article 19 (1) A. confers the right to freedom of speech and expression while the sub clause (g) of the article provides the right to practise any profession, or to carry on any occupation, trade or business. Recently the Supreme Court of India declared that freedom of speech and expression and freedom to carry on a business through Internet also enjoys constitutional protection under the Article 19(1)A. and 19(1)(g). This landmark judgement came at the backdrop of the five-month restriction on Internet imposed in the Jammu and Kashmir UT.

157. The report titled 'National Strategy for Financial Inclusion' was recently released by which organisation?

- A. Reserve Bank of India
- B. Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India
- C. National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development
- D. Securities and Exchange Board of India

Answer: A. Reserve Bank of India - The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) recently released a report titled 'National Strategy for Financial Inclusion'. The report suggested that along with formal banking outlets, payment banks, small finance banks, cooperative banks and non-banking units like fair price shops should also practice digital banking. The Regulator directed the banks to increase the outlets in all villages and hilly areas by March 2020. The report also suggested to make the Public Credit Registry (PCR) fully functional by 2022.

158. Which state is the worst place for women's security, according to the recent National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) report?

- A. Uttar Pradesh
- B. West Bengal
- C. Bihar
- D. Jharkhand

Answer: A. Uttar Pradesh - The edition of 'Crime in India' statistics for the year 2018 was released by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB). As per the report Uttar Pradesh is the worst place for women's security with the most crimes against women at 59445.

Madhya Pradesh recorded the highest number of rape cases in the year and West Bengal registered the highest number of acid attack cases. The report also said that Crime in India has increased by 1.3% in 2018 compared to that of 2017. The overall number of crime against women has also steadily increased in the last 3 years.

159. Who has been recently named as the new ruler/sultan of Oman?

- A. Qasem Soleimani
- B. Qaboos bin Said al Said
- C. Haitham bin Tariq
- D. Mahjoob Zweiri

Answer: C. Haitham bin Tariq - The ruler of Oman and one of the longest serving rulers in the Middle East countries, Sultan Qaboos bin Said al Said recently passed away. He was not keeping well for a long time and was undergoing medical treatment in Belgium last month. After his demise, the former culture minister of Oman, Haitham bin Tariq was named as the successor of Sultan Qaboos. It is mandatory to name the successor of the vacant throne within three days, as per the constitution of Oman.

160. The Biennial Global Pulses Conference named 'The Pulses Conclave 2020' is to be held in which state?

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

Answer: D. Maharashtra - The apex body of India's pulses and grains industry and trade, India Pulses and Grains Association (IPGA) will organise the 5th edition of the biennial global pulses conference, called 'The Pulses Conclave 2020' from February 12 to 14, 2020 at Lonavala, Pune in Maharashtra. The Association is based at Mumbai. More than a thousand participants across the world are expected to attend the conference. This would help the people from pulses-producing nation to explore business opportunities in the field.

161. Which city plays host to the annual 'World Future Energy Summit' of the year 2020?

- A. Abu Dhabi
- B. Riyadh
- C. Dubai
- D. Sharjah

Answer: A. Abu Dhabi - On January 13, 2020, the World Future Energy Summit is to begin at Abu Dhabi. It is to be held for four days. The Summit will have 33,500 participants from 170 countries. It will also include 800 special exhibits. The event is to be conducted under the theme

162. Union Minister Smriti Irani recently launched a welfare scheme named 'Yashaswini' from Goa. What does the scheme aim at?

- A. Vaccination to Children
- B. Assistance to women Self Help Groups
- C. Cleaning of Beaches
- D. Assistance to schools

Answer: B. Assistance to women Self Help Groups - On January 11, 2020 Union Minister for Women and Child Development and Textiles, Smriti Zubin Irani launched Yashaswini scheme for Women entrepreneurship at Dr Shyama Prasad Mukherjee stadium in Taleigao town near Panaji district of Goa. Swasthya Sakhi Project and breast cancer screening initiative were also inaugurated on the occasion.

163. Which state has recently started an awareness campaign for farmers to protect their sugarcane crop from locust?

- A. Gujarat
- B. Rajasthan
- C. Uttar Pradesh
- D. Bihar

Answer: C. Uttar Pradesh - The Department of Cane Development of the state government of Uttar Pradesh has recently started an awareness campaign for the farmers to protect their sugarcane crop from locusts. During the month end of December 2019, a huge swarm of locusts destroyed more than 25000 hectares of crop lands in Gujarat and Rajasthan. Several thousand litres of pesticides were used by the state governments to kill the locusts. Gujarat recently announced Rs.18500 per hectare as relief assistance for the affected farmers.

164. An international Film Festival with the theme of 'Better Film, Better Audience and Better Society', was recently inaugurated in which city?

- A. Tokyo
- B. Dubai
- C. Dhaka
- D. Colombo

Answer: C. Dhaka - The 18th edition of the famous Dhaka International Film Festival was recently inaugurated at Dhaka, the capital city of Bangladesh. The festival will be organised from January 11 to 19, 2020 with the theme of 'Better Film, Better Audience and Better Society'. During the eight-day-long festival, which is to be held at various venues in Dhaka, more than 200 films from 74 countries are to be screened. A conference on the theme of 'Women in cinema' will also be conducted during the film festival.

165. Who will participate in the interaction program with students named 'Pariksha Pe Charcha' scheduled for the year 2020?

- A. Venkiah Naidu
- B. Narendra Modi
- C. Ramesh Pokriyal Nishank
- D. K Sivan

Answer: B. Narendra Modi - The Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi will participate in the interaction program with students named 'Pariksha Pe Charcha' scheduled for the year 2020. The event is to be organised at Talkatora Stadium in New Delhi on January 20. The Human Resources and Development Ministry recently asked for suggestions and questions from students, teachers and parents ahead of the grand event. This is the third edition of the event, where the Prime Minister will meet thousands of students and address them about overcoming examination fear.

166. The Workshop and exhibition on "Bamboo- A wonder grass" was recently held in which state/ UT?

- A. Assam
- B. Meghalaya
- C. Jammu and Kashmir
- D. Arunachal Pradesh

Answer: C. Jammu and Kashmir - A two-day workshop and exhibition was recently organised in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir on "Bamboo- A wonder grass". The workshop focussed on the growth of Bamboo industry in Jammu & Kashmir along the lines of North Eastern Region. The event was organised by the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region and the Government of Jammu and Kashmir. During the workshop, Planning Advisor of the North Eastern Council shared various recommendations for the growth of bamboo industry. Union Minister Jitendra Singh inaugurated the workshop.

167. The Indian Academy of Paediatrics (IAP) has started a program called 'TB-free air for every child' in which state?

- A. Bihar
- B. Madhya Pradesh
- C. Karnataka
- D. Kerala

Answer: D. Kerala - The Indian Academy of Paediatrics (IAP) has started the 'TB-free air for every child' in the state of Kerala. The IAP will train its 2500 paediatricians in the treatment protocol of Tuberculosis and they will maintain a uniform and standardised

procedure for the treatment. The drive will ensure to that all the children of the state will be free of TB, ahead of the target year of 2025. They will also conduct campaigns in schools and explain about malnutrition, ill effects of tobacco usage by adults and cough etiquette.

168. What is a "Shopper", which was sometimes seen in news recently ?

- A. e-Commerce website
- B. Malware
- C. Robot
- D. Electric vehicle for shopping

Answer: B. Malware - Kaspersky Labs, an international cyber-security and anti-virus provider recently made an announcement about a trojan application or a malware named 'Shopper'. It is said to randomly increase the ratings of some popular e-commerce applications through the social media counts of the victims. Nearly 14% of the users, who were affected by the malware were Indians while the highest number of people affected were from Russia.

169. Which of these festivals of other parts of India does not coincide with Makar Sankranti celebrated in North India in January?

- A. Pedda Padanga
- B. Magh Bihu
- C. Thai Pongal
- D. Vishu

Answer: D. Vishu - Lohri is a festival celebrated in North India, especially in Punjab ahead of the Makar Sankranti Festival. The festival marks the completion of Winter and the arrival of sunny weather in the region. It is also regarded that the festival commemorates the passing winter solstice. According to the traditional calendar, this year the festival Lohri falls on January 13. People of North India celebrate the festival by lighting bonfires, with their friends and relatives. It is mainly celebrated in Punjab, Haryana and Delhi. This festival is celebrated as Makara Sankranti (Pedda Pandaga) in Maharashtra, Goa, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal (also called Poush sôngkrânti), Karnataka and Telangana, Sukarat in central India, Magh Bihu by Assamese, and Thai Pongal by Tamils. Vishu concides with Vaishakhi.

170. What is the deadline to separate roles of chairman and MD in top 500 companies, as per the recent directions of SEBI?

- A. April 1st,2020
- B. April 1st,2021
- C. April 1st,2022
- D. April 1st,2023

Answer: C. April 1st,2022 - As per the recent notification of the Securities Market Regulator SEBI, the deadline to separate roles of chairman and MD in top 500 listed companies by market capitalisation is deferred by two more years to April 2022. Earlier, the top 500 companies were mandated to perform the separation by April 2020. The proposal of splitting the roles of Chairman and MD was first made by the SEBI's Committee on Corporate Governance headed by Uday Kotak.

171. What was the total number of internet users in 2019 in India?

- A. 585.69 Million
- B. 745.69 Million
- C. 665.31 Million
- D. 445.96 Million

Answer: C. 665.31 Million - The Competition Commission of India (CCI) on January 8, 2020, released its report on "Market Study on E-Commerce in India: Key Findings and Observations. CCI started the market research for this report was started in April 2019. The report states that the primary reason for the fast growth of the E-Commerce sector in the country is the increase in the number of internet users. Internet users have increased from 445.96 million in 2017 to 665.31 million in the year 2019.

172. _____ mandatory standard individual health insurance policy was launched by IRDAI.

- A. Aarogya Plus
- B. Aarogya Suraksha
- C. Aarogya Sansar
- D. Aarogya Sanjeevani

Answer: D. Aarogya Sanjeevani - The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDA) with an aim to make easy availability of health insurance, has introduced a standard health cover policy Aarogya Sanjeevani. This policy must be offered by all general and standalone health insurers. It is the first of its kind Insurance health products.

173. India has banned the import of refined palm oil from which country?

- A. Indonesia
- B. China
- C. Malaysia
- D. Iran

Answer: C. Malaysia - The Indian government has announced that it has banned the imports of refined palm oil. New Delhi will curb imports from Malaysia following criticism from Kuala Lumpur on India's actions in the Kashmir region and its new citizenship law— The Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019. India imports most of its refined palm oil

from Malaysia and crude palm oil from Indonesia. Indonesia and Malaysia are the top two producers of palm oil, while India is the biggest importer of Palm oil.

174. How much fund has been approved by the government for the North East natural gas grid project?

- A. Rs.4449 crore
- B. Rs.5559 crore
- C. Rs.3339 crore
- D. Rs.4300 crore

Answer: B. Rs.5559 crore - 'Viability Gap Funding' worth Rs 5559 crores has been approved by the Government to set up a natural gas pipeline grid in the North East. On January 8, 2020, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs gave its approval to the project. This capital grant will be provided to Indradhanush Gas Grid Limited to build a natural gas pipeline grid covering eight northeastern states.

175. An MoU was signed between India and the United Kingdom to make which department energy efficient?

- A. Jal Shakti
- B. Aviation
- C. Finance
- D. Railways

Answer: D. Railways - An MoU was signed between the Ministry of Railway and the UK Government to make Indian Railways self-sufficient in energy sector. As per the MoU, both countries will adopt energy-efficient practices and will work towards adopting solar and wind energy.

176. What was the distance of the earth from the neutron stars recently discovered by LEGO?

- A. 525 million light-years
- B. 523 million light-years
- C. 522 million light-years
- D. 520 million light-years

Answer: D. 520 million light-years - The Laser Interferometer Gravitational-wave Observatory (LIGO) detected gravitational waves due to the collision of two neutron stars. Gravitational waves are being detected for the second time. The neutron stars were at a distance of 520 million light-years from the earth.

177. Indian Navy has started working on the GOCO model. In this context what does GOCO stand for?

- A. Government-Owned Civil Operation

- B. Government Operating Contractor Owned
- C. Government Owned Contractor Operated
- D. Government Operation on Civil Organizations

Answer: C. Government Owned Contractor Operated - The Indian Army has started its work based on the Government Owned Contractor Operated model. The model will mark the potential industry partners for its base workshops and ordnance depots intended to improve operational efficiency.

178. India has signed MoU with which country for outer space cooperation?

- A. China
- B. Brazil
- C. United Kingdom
- D. Mongolia

Answer: D. Mongolia - An agreement inked between India and Mongolia for exploration and uses of outer space for peaceful and civilian purposes, was approved by the Union Cabinet on 8 January 2020. The agreement was signed between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of Mongolia at New Delhi on 20 September 2019. The cabinet was chaired by PM Narendra Modi.

179. Which financial institution has allowed Category-I Banks to offer forex rates 24*7 to Indian clients?

- A. Finance Ministry of India
- B. Securities and Exchange Board of India
- C. Reserve Bank of India
- D. World Bank

Answer: C. Reserve Bank of India - The Reserve Bank of India has provided permission to Category-I banks in India to offer forex rates to Indian clients round the clock, which is 24*7. Now the selected banks can work beyond the inter-bank market hours, which now run from 9 am to 5 pm.

180. What is the name of the platform launched by NPCI for fast and secure payment?

- A. Samiksha
- B. Surakshit
- C. Vajra
- D. Virat

Answer: C. Vajra -Vajra Platform based on blockchain technology has been launched by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) to make payments fast and secure.

181. The World Bank on 9 January 2020, released its Global Economic Prospect. According to it, what is the expected growth rate of the world?

- A. 3.5 %
- B. 4.5 %
- C. 2.5 %
- D. 4.9 %

Answer: C. 2.5 % - The World Bank on 9 January 2020, released its Global Economic Prospect. According to it, the growth rate of the world is expected to be 2.5%. This is the lowest prediction since 2008-09 when it was predicted at 3.1%. By then, the global financial crisis derailed the economy. According to the report, the trade and investment in the countries are expected to recover. But, the downward risks from 2019 are to continue. The advanced economies' growth rate will slip by 1.4% as the manufacturing sector continues to soften.

182. What was the theme of the 2019 Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry?

- A. New Bharat Aspiring for high GDP
- B. New Bharat Aspiring for 4 trillion USD
- C. New India Aspiring for 4 trillion USD
- D. New India Aspiring for 5 trillion USD

Answer: D. New India Aspiring for 5 trillion USD - The Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry was held in New Delhi. It was addressed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on December 20, 2019. The event was organized to celebrate 100 years of ASSOCHAM. The theme of the event was "New India Aspiring for 5 trillion USD"

183. Andhra Pradesh has signed Mou with which country to implement Zero Budget Natural Farming?

- A. Indonesia
- B. China
- C. Germany
- D. United Kingdom

Answer: C. Germany - With an aim to implement Zero Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF), the Andhra Pradesh Government inked a Memorandum of Understanding with a German firm. A loan of Rs 1015 crores will be taken by the Andhra Pradesh government to spend towards climate-resilient Zero Budget Natural Farming. 2.39 lakh farmers in 600 villages will be covered under the project.

184. Which bank has launched customized apps for municipalities, housing societies?

- A. ICICI
- B. HDFC

- C. Bank of Baroda
- D. State Bank of India

Answer: B. HDFC - HDFC Bank has launched first of its kind apps known as “myApps”, a suite of white-label apps that will enable urban local bodies including Smart cities and municipalities, housing societies, clubs or gymkhanas, and even religious institutions to completely digitize their ecosystem. The bank will offer a customized app as a value-added service in addition to its complete suite of banking products.

185. Which bank will provide a guarantee to homebuyers on completion of projects?

- A. ICICI
- B. HDFC
- C. Bank of Baroda
- D. State Bank of India

Answer: D. State Bank of India - State Bank of India will provide a guarantee of project completion to homebuyers with the objective of pushing up demand for residential units. The scheme also aims to complete housing projects that are stalled.

186. Which state has launched the Amma Vodi scheme for below poverty line mothers to educate their children?

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

Answer: D. Andhra Pradesh - Jagan Mohan Reddy, CM of Andhra Pradesh has launched a Rs 6,318 cr ‘Amma Vodi’ scheme for below poverty line mothers to educate their children. Rs 15000 direct financial assistance will be provided to poor and financially weak mothers or guardians, to support them in educating their children. The amount will be transferred directly into the bank accounts of the beneficiaries in January every year.

187. Which country will leave the European Union before 31st January 2020?

- A. Austria
- B. Belgium
- C. Britain
- D. Denmark

Answer: C. Britain - UK’s House of Commons lawmakers approved Britain’s withdrawal agreement bill from the European Union by 330-231 votes. The withdrawal agreement sets the terms of Britain’s official departure from the 28-member EU bloc, which is scheduled on January 31.

188. What is the name of the Independent Director of Axis bank who resigned recently?

- A. M R Mehta
- B. Sandeep Kumar
- C. Manu Kapoor
- D. Uttam Prakash Agarwal

Answer: D. Uttam Prakash Agarwal - Independent director and chairman of YES Bank's Audit Committee, Uttam Prakash Agarwal, has resigned. Agarwal was appointed as an independent director on Nov 14, 2018, and his tenure was to end in November 2023.

189. Who among the following has been appointed as GM & VP, Global Commercial Services India by American Express?

- A. Anamika Kapoor
- B. Nirmala Mehta
- C. Megha Chopra
- D. Timsy Dua

Answer: C. Megha Chopra - American Express Banking Corporation (AEBC) India, appointed Megha Chopra as general manager and vice president, Global Commercial Services (GCS) India. In this role, Chopra will be responsible for leading the company's commercial services business, providing payment solutions to corporates throughout India.

190. Pravasi Bharatiya Divas observed on __.

- A. January 5
- B. January 6
- C. January 9
- D. January 8

Answer: C. January 9 - Pravasi Bharatiya Divas was observed on January 9, 2020, to recognize the contribution of Indians staying overseas. This day was first observed in 2003 with an aim to promote unity among Indian diaspora living abroad and also to mark the contribution of overseas Indians.

191. How many countries are participating in the World Future Energy Summit and CLIX held at Abu Dhabi?

- A. 172
- B. 173
- C. 170
- D. 169

Answer: C. 170 - The four days World Future Energy Summit began in Abu Dhabi on January 13, 2020. Nearly 33,500 participants from 170 countries with 800 special exhibits are participating in the event. Along the summit, the CLIX-Climate Innovations Exchange is also being held.

192. What is the name of the new Trojan virus focusing on retail applications and has affected over 14% of Indian users recently?

- A. Dropper Malware
- B. Trojan Virtual
- C. Trojan Shopper
- D. Shopper Malware

Answer: D. Shopper Malware - Shopper malware, a new Trojan is increasing its presence among smartphone users. The malware is popping up unsolicited ads and flashing fake reviews. Retail applications are being focused by the malware. The malware can read data being entered on the screen. After the trojan gains permission, it interacts with the system interfaces and captures every data being featured on the screen.

193. Which company will manufacture the Tejas Mark 1A aircraft for Indian Air Force?

- A. Dassault Aviation company
- B. Piper Aircraft Inc
- C. Hindustan Aeronautics Limited
- D. Bell Helicopter Co. Ltd

Answer: C. Hindustan Aeronautics Limited - Around 200 aircraft will be acquired by the Government of India. Out of these, 83 fighter jets are LCA Tejas Mark 1A and are to be procured from HAL. The rest are to be procured based on Request for Proposals. Hindustan Aeronautics Limited finalized the design of the fighter jets and will start manufacturing 8 Light Combat Aircraft Tejas Mark 1A per year and later on will increase the count to 16 per year.

194. Which country topped the list of the biggest geopolitical risk in 2020 released by Eurasia Group?

- A. India
- B. US
- C. Iran
- D. China

Answer: B. US - Elections in the US topped the list of the biggest geopolitical risk in 2020 followed by events and developments like the US-China technology tug of war on 5G and the trade war between China and the US. India under the leadership of

Narendra Modi ranks fifth of the world's top geopolitical risks for 2020 according to the report released by Eurasia Group.

195. What is the name of the Cyber Crime Prevention Unit launched in Gandhinagar, Gujarat?

- A. Cyber GYAAN
- B. Cyber BACHAV
- C. Cyber SURAKSHA
- D. Cyber AASHVAST

Answer: D. Cyber AASHVAST - Amit Shah, Home Minister launched the country's first Cyber Crime Prevention Unit "Cyber AASHVAST" in Gandhinagar on January 11, 2020. The Video Integration and State Wide Advance Security project called VISWAS was also launched along with AASHVAST. With the help of VISWAS and NETRANG, the Cyber AASHVAST unit will monitor, prevent and control cyber-crimes in the state.

196. Purvodaya to be launched by Gol to accelerate Eastern India Development will be ___ hub.

- A. Bauxite
- B. Coal
- C. Copper
- D. Steel

Answer: D. Steel - On 11 January 2020 Ministry of steel in association with Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and JPC organized the launch of Purvodaya-Accelerated Development of Eastern Region through an Integrated Steel hub. Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Union Minister for Petroleum & Natural Gas and Steel launched the hub at the Oberoi Grand Kolkata, West Bengal.

197. Which organization released the 'National Strategy for Financial Inclusion' report?

- A. Securities and Exchange Board of India
- B. National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development
- C. Reserve Bank of India
- D. Insurance regulatory and development authority

Answer: C. Reserve Bank of India - Reserve Bank of India (RBI) released National Strategy for Financial Inclusion for a five-year period. The financial inclusion is increasingly a key driver of growth and poverty alleviation the world over. According to the RBI, Access to formal finance can boost job creation, reduce vulnerability to economic shocks and increase investments in human capital.

198. What is the name of the new Sultan of Oman?

- A. Qaboos bin Said Al Saeed

- B. Al-Julanda bin Mas'ood
- C. Abdullah Al Ghurai
- D. Haitham Bin Tariq Al

Answer: D. Haitham Bin Tariq Al - On January 11, 2020, Haitham bin Tariq al-Said was sworn in as the new Sultan of Oman after the death of long-time ruler Qaboos bin Said Al Saeed. Haitham bin Tariq was chosen as successor by the late sultan Haitham Bin Tareq Al Saeed himself new Sultan of Oman, as the Sultan had no children. Haitham bin Tariq is the cousin of the late Sultan.

199. Who among the following has been appointed as Head – Wealth Management, India by the Standard Chartered?

- A. Anamika Kapoor
- B. Nirmala Mehta
- C. Samrat Khosla
- D. Tanmay Dua

Answer: C. Samrat Khosla - Samrat Khosla has been appointed as the new Head of Wealth Management by Standard Chartered Bank, India. Mr. Khosla will take charge from February 1, 2020.

200. National Youth Day is observed on __.

- A. January 13
- B. January 6
- C. January 12
- D. January 8

Answer: C. January 12 - National youth day is observed annually on January 12 to mark the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda. The Ministry of Youth affairs and sports also organizes the National Youth Festival on this day. The national youth festival has been organized since 1985 by the GoI. The aim of the festival is to bring the youths of the country together.

201. Which Indian monument has found place in the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation's '8 Wonders of SCO' list?

- A. Taj Mahal
- B. Statue of Unity
- C. Konark Sun Temple
- D. Ajanta Caves

Answer: B. Statue of Unity - The recently built monument of Gujarat, 'Statue of Unity' was recently included in the '8 Wonders of SCO' list released by the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation. It is the tallest statue of the world, which was built as a tribute to the Indian leader Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. The 182-metre statue was

inaugurated by the Prime Minister of India in October 2018 in Gujarat's Kevadiya colony. The statue was built on the river Narmada, facing the Sardar Sarovar Dam. SCO comprises of eight member states, which are India, Pakistan, China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

202. Who has recently been appointed as the new Director General of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)?

- A. Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar
- B. A.P. Maheshwari
- C. Vijay Kumar
- D. Arvind Kumar

Answer: B. A.P. Maheshwari - Senior IPS Officer A.P. Maheshwari has been appointed as the new Director General of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet. The previous DG of CRPF, Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar retired last month and ITBP Director General S.S. Deswal was given the additional charge in CRPF. Maheshwari is a 1984-batch IPS officer of Uttar Pradesh cadre, who is the Special Secretary (Internal Security) in the Union Home Ministry at present, has been appointed as the new Director General up to 28 February, 2021.

203. Which famous international money transfer company recently partnered with Ebixcash to expand its presence in Indian market?

- A. PayPal PayPal
- B. MoneyGram
- C. Western Union
- D. Transfer Wise

Answer: B. MoneyGram - International money transfer company, MoneyGram and the leading international supplier of software and e-commerce services, EbixCash signed an agreement recently, to expand their business in India. By this partnership, EbixCash will be the exclusive partner of MoneyGram in India. MoneyGram could reach additional consumers in the rural areas through several distribution outlets of Ebix group. The customers of Ebixcash could also use the MoneyGram platform for money transfer services across several countries.

204. Which is the first Indian airport to get Disabled Aircraft Recovery Equipment (DARE)?

- A. Chattrapati Shivaji International Airport, Mumbai
- B. Indira Gandhi International Airport, New Delhi
- C. Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru
- D. Cochin International Airport

Answer: C. Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru - The Kempegowda International Airport of Bengaluru is the first Indian airport to be with the capability of recovering disabled aircraft. Recently the Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL) has partnered with the leading aircraft equipment supplier KUNZ GmbH to manufacture and deploy Disabled Aircraft Recovery Equipment (DARE) for the Bengaluru Airport. By this partnership, KUNZ GmbH will establish a centre for disabled aircraft recovery training in association with BIAL.

205. Which company recently announced to offer guidance to 15 tech start-up companies from 5 Indian states?

- A. Google
- B. Microsoft
- C. Amazon
- D. Flipkart

Answer: B. Microsoft - Microsoft has recently announced that it has selected 54 tech start-ups from five states, namely Gujarat, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Kerala and Telangana. These start-up companies were selected through 'Emerge-X' competition. Among the 54 companies selected, fifteen start-up companies in the order of three from each state will be offered guidance by Microsoft. The start-ups companies selected are also the part of the Tech Major's initiative to strengthen the start-up ecosystem in states called 'Highway to a Hundred Unicorns'.

206. On which date, 'Armed Forces Veterans Day' celebrated across India?

- A. January 10
- B. January 12
- C. January 13
- D. January 14

Answer: D. January 14 - The Armed Forces Veterans Day is celebrated on January 14 every year and was instituted in the year 2017, to commemorate the retirement date of the first Indian Chief of Army Staff, K M Cariappa. He served as the Chief of Army Staff from 1949 to 1953. The present Indian Army Chief General M M Naravane attended the event organised to observe the Armed Forces Veterans Day and announced that special pensions would be provided to the emergency commissioned and short service commissioned officers who fought in the wars of 1965 and 1971 against Pakistan.

207. Which badminton player recently won the Malaysian Masters 2020 title?

- A. Viktor Axelsen
- B. Kento Momota
- C. Sai Praneeth

D. Kidambi Srikanth

Answer: B. Kento Momota – World No 1 Badminton player of Japan, Kento Momota defeated former world champion Viktor Axelsen in the final match of Malaysia Masters 2020 tournament and clinched the title. Kento Momota had won 11 major titles in the year 2019 and that is the highest number of titles held in a year by any badminton player. He won the 2019 BWF World Tour finals and also was awarded the BWF Best Male Player of the Year award. He is expected to represent Japan in the upcoming Tokyo Olympics. Chinese badminton player Chen Yu Fei won the women's singles title of the tournament.

208. Who has recently been appointed as the fourth Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India?

- A. U K Sinha
- B. Ajay Tyagi
- C. Michael Patra
- D. Krishnamurthy Subramaniam

Answer: C. Michael Patra - The government appointed an executive Director of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Michael Debaprata Patra as its fourth deputy governor. The Reserve Bank has three deputy governors at present, namely N S Vishwanathan, B P Kanungo and M K Jain.

Former Deputy Governor Viral Acharya resigned from his post in July 2019 citing personal reasons. Michael Patra is appointed for the said post after six months of resignation of Acharya. Patra will serve as the deputy governor of RBI, for three years from the time of his appointment.

209. The Vice President of India is to inaugurate the Centre of Excellence for studies of which Indian language, in Nellore?

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

Answer: B. Telugu - The Vice President of India Venkaiah Naidu is to inaugurate the Centre of Excellence for studies in Classical Telugu in Nellore. Venkaiah Naidu had earlier suggested the Union Government to shift the Centre of Excellence for Studies in Classical Telugu, situated in the Central Institute of Indian Languages, Mysuru, to one of the Telugu States. It has now been shifted to Nellore in Andhra Pradesh. The centre performs several activities research on the evolution of the Telugu script, digitisation, and publishing of classical Telugu literature.

210. The communication satellite of ISRO, GSAT-30 is scheduled to launch aboard which vehicle?

- A. PSLV C 44
- B. PSLV C 46
- C. PSLV C 47
- D. Ariane 5

Answer: D. Ariane 5 - The first mission of the year of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is the communication satellite GSAT-30. It is scheduled for launch on January 17, 2020 aboard the Ariane-5 launch vehicle (VA 251) from French Guiana. The satellite will provide communication services from Geostationary orbit and is expected to serve as the replacement satellite to INSAT- 4 A with extended coverage. GSAT-30 would be beneficial in several ways including supporting VSAT networks, Cellular connectivity and DTH-Television services.

211. When is the Army Day celebrated across India, every year?

- A. January 13
- B. January 14
- C. January 15
- D. January 16

Answer: C. January 15 - Army Day is celebrated every year on January 15, across the country to honour the contributions made by the soldiers to the country. The 72nd Army day was recently observed on January 15, 2020. On January 15, 1949, General KM Cariappa became the first Commander-in-Chief of Indian Army after Independence. This day is being commemorated every year as Army Day. The Indian Army holds Army Parade every year in the Parade ground, New Delhi. Captain Tania Shergill becomes the first female to lead an all-men contingent at the Army Day Parade.

212. Which bank has recently signed an MoU with South-Central Railway zone of the Indian Railways, for doorstep collection of earnings from the railway stations?

- A. Punjab National Bank
- B. Bank of Baroda
- C. State Bank of India
- D. Bank of India

Answer: C. State Bank of India - The State Bank of India and the South-Central Railway recently signed an agreement for doorstep collection of earnings from all the 585 railway stations of the zone. At present, the earnings of the smaller stations are sent through cash chest available with the Train Guards, the process being very tedious. The agreement will ensure collection of traffic earnings by the bank and it will be remitted to the Government account without any delay.

213. India recently provided nearly 1 lakh academic text books to which country, to assist its development in higher education and research?

- A. Madagascar
- B. Malawi
- C. Mozambique
- D. Zimbabwe

Answer: A. Madagascar - The Indian ambassador for Madagascar, Abhay Kumar recently handed over nearly 1 lakh academic text books to the East African country, Madagascar for assisting its development in higher education and research. The books were received by the Minister for Higher Education and Scientific Research of Madagascar, in an event held in its capital city, Antananarivo. The books were published by the National Council for Educational Research and Training (NCERT) and the total cost of the books is nearly 76 lakh rupees.

214. Which cricketer won the 'Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy' for 'Player of the Year', presented by the International Cricket Council (ICC)?

- A. Virat Kohli
- B. Ben Stokes
- C. Kane Williamson
- D. Rohit Sharma

Answer: B. Ben Stokes - The International Cricket Council (ICC) recently presented the ICC Annual awards. The biggest award named 'Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy' for Player of the Year was bagged by the England All-rounder Ben Stokes. Indian opener, Rohit Sharma was named the 'ODI Player of the year', while the Australian fast bowler Pat Cummins was presented the 'Test Player of the year award'. The 'Spirit of Cricket Award' was presented to Virat Kohli. Another Indian cricketer, Deepak Chahar was given the 'T20I Performance of the Year' award.

215. Which company has recently announced to invest \$ 1 billion to digitise Small and Medium Businesses in India?

- A. Google
- B. Amazon
- C. Microsoft
- D. IBM

Answer: B. Amazon - Recently, the head of Amazon, Jeff Bezos announced that the company will invest \$ 1 billion to digitise Small and Medium Businesses in India. Jeff also announced that Amazon India will export several 'Make in India' products, worth \$10 billion, by the year 2025. He made this announcement during his recent official visit to India, where he met many Small and Medium businessmen, top Indian business

leaders and government officials. Recently, The Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) alleged that the company follows unfair business practices.

216. Which organisation releases the Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) in India?

- A. Ministry of Human Resources and Development
- B. NITI Aayog
- C. NGO 'Pratham'
- D. UNICEF

Answer: C. NGO 'Pratham' - The Non-Governmental organisation, called 'Pratham' releases the Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) in India. The ASER for the year 2019 was released recently. The report states that five-year-old children in private institutions performed better in learning activities than the same-aged children in Government-run schools and anganwadis. The enrolment levels among girls in the age group of 4 to 8 years, were higher than those among boys. But more girls are being enrolled in state-run schools than boys, who are enrolled more in private schools, showing a clear gender gap.

217. Which global tele-communication company's arm has recently launched a new privacy-focused search engine called 'OneSearch'?

- A. AT&T
- B. Verizon
- C. Vodafone
- D. China Mobile

Answer: B. Verizon - Verizon Media, an arm of the international tele-communication company, Verizon communications, has recently launched a new privacy-focused search engine called 'OneSearch'. The search engine claims that the search history of the users will not be stored and the self-destructible search data of the users will not be shared with advertisers. The new search engine is also expected to give unbiased and unfiltered results, which will be personalised only based on locations and will separate IP addresses from users and their search results.

218. Eminent filmmaker and director Manmohan Mohapatra, who recently passed away, was from which state?

- A. West Bengal
- B. Odisha
- C. Karnataka
- D. Andhra Pradesh

Answer: B. Odisha - Veteran filmmaker and director Manmohan Mohapatra from Odisha recently passed away. He had won National Film awards for best Odia feature

film, for eight consecutive years. Seeta Raati was his first full-fledged Odia film, which he directed in 1976. It was the first Odia film to be screened at an international film festival, held abroad. He also directed several Hindi films. The Chief Minister of Odisha, Naveen Patnaik has condoled the demise of the eminent director.

219. The District administration of which state has won the Swachhata Darpan Award for adopting innovative methods in plastic waste management?

- A. Telangana
- B. Kerala
- C. Odisha
- D. Gujarat

Answer: C. Odisha - The district administration of Puri, Odisha has recently won the Swachhata Darpan Award for adopting innovative methods in plastic waste management. The award was presented by the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS) under Ministry of Jal Shakti. The award was presented during the workshop organised by ODF Sustainability in New Delhi, by the Bollywood actor Aamir Khan. The Odisha Government has launched a scheme last year, to make Puri completely free from plastic.

220. The 'Integrated Road Accident Database (IRAD)' recently launched at the road safety stakeholders' meet, was developed by which institution?

- A. Indian Institute of Technology -Madras
- B. Indian Institute of Science
- C. Indian Institute of Technology- Kanpur
- D. Indian Institute of Technology- Kharagpur

Answer: A. Indian Institute of Technology -Madras - Union Ministers Rajnath Singh and Nitin Gadkari launched the 'Integrated Road Accident Database (IRAD)' during the road safety stakeholders' meet. IRAD is a central accident database management system, to analyse the causes of road accidents and create solutions to reduce them. The database was developed by the Indian Institute of Technology-Madras (IIT-M) with the project cost of Rs. 258 Crores. This initiative is supported by the World Bank and it is implemented through the National Informatics Centre.

221. According to the recent study conducted by the Swiss bank Julius Baer, which is the most expensive city of the world for luxury goods?

- A. Mumbai
- B. Hong Kong
- C. New York
- D. Singapore

Answer: B. Hong Kong - The Swiss Bank Julius Baer has recently conducted a study on the 28 cities around the world to rank them as expensive in terms of luxury goods

and services. According to the study, the bank tracked a basket of luxury goods and the most expensive city for the selected luxury goods is Hong Kong. Asia is considered to be the most expensive continent as the 2nd, 3rd and 5th ranks were bagged by Shanghai, Tokyo and Singapore respectively.

222. The 'National Highway Excellence Awards', which was recently presented by the Union Road, Transport and Highway Minister, was instituted in which year?

- A. 2016
- B. 2017
- C. 2018
- D. 2019

Answer: C. 2018 - The 'National Highway Excellence Awards' was instituted by the Union Ministry of Road, Transport and Highway, in the year 2018. It was then changed to an annual version and the second edition of the awards was presented by the Union Minister Nitin Gadkari in New Delhi recently. The awards are presented to motivate the companies that perform well in the construction, operation, maintenance, tolling phase and road safety. There are seven categories in the award and 12 winners were selected from several shortlisted applicants.

223. The country's first-of-its-kind exhibition on 'Indian Heritage in Digital Space' was inaugurated in which city?

- A. Varanasi
- B. Puri
- C. New Delhi
- D. Jaipur

Answer: C. New Delhi - Union Culture Minister Prahlad Singh Patel inaugurated the country's first of its kind special exhibition on 'Indian Heritage in Digital Space' and a two-day-long first international heritage symposium in New Delhi. The exhibition was organised in association with Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi and it will be made open to the general public for one month. Digital installations of Indian monuments were showcased, which were created under the Indian Digital Heritage (IDH) initiative of the Department of Science and Technology (DST).

224. The 7th Conference of Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (India Region) was organised in which city?

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

Answer: C. Lucknow - The 7th Conference of Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA)- India Region, was recently inaugurated in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.

The Speaker of Lok Sabha, Om Birla inaugurated the conference at the legislative assembly building in Lucknow. Several parliamentarians and delegates from some foreign countries will participate in the conference, whose theme is 'Role of Legislators'. The CPA was formed to support the Parliamentarians and their staff to implement good governance measures and values of the Commonwealth.

225. How many Indian astronauts have been selected for India's first human space mission?

- A. Two
- B. Three
- C. Four
- D. Five

Answer: C. Four - Four astronauts, who are from Indian Air Force were selected for the first human space mission of India. Recently it was announced that the four astronauts will undergo a training in Russia for 11 months, which is to be started this month. After the training phase in Russia, the astronauts will be trained in operation and simulation of the crew and service module in India, which has been designed by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). Before the first manned mission, ISRO will send a humanoid to space by the end of 2020.

226. Which cricketer was named as the Captain of ICC's ODI and Test teams of the year?

- A. Mahendra Singh Dhoni
- B. Virat Kohli
- C. Kane Williamson
- D. Eoin Morgan

Answer: B. Virat Kohli - The International Cricket Council recently announced its team of the year and also presented the annual awards. Indian Cricket team skipper Virat Kohli was named as the Captain of both ICC's ODI and Test Teams of the year. Apart from Virat, only Mayank Agarwal found place in the ICC Test team, while the other Indians in the ODI Team were Rohit Sharma, Mohammed Shami and Kuldeep Yadav. Virat has also won the Spirit of Cricket award, presented by the ICC. Along with Virat, who captains both the teams, Ben Stokes of England and Mitchell Starc of Australia were placed in both the ODI and Test teams of ICC.

227. The United States recently signed the first phase of historic trade deal with which country?

- A. India
- B. China
- C. Russia

D. Switzerland

Answer: B. China - After a year of several negotiations, the US signed the first phase of the trade deal with China. The agreement, which was signed by the US President, Donald Trump and the Vice Premier of China, Liu He. The first phase of the deal, which Trump quoted as 'historic', includes Protection of Intellectual Property, Removal of American Financial Services and Ending Currency Manipulation. This deal is expected to re-balance the US- China bilateral relations and resolve the long-pending disputes between the countries.

228. Alok Kansal has been recently appointed as the General Manager of the Western Railway. Where is the headquarters of Western Railways located?

- A. Gandhi Nagar
- B. Ahmedabad
- C. Mumbai
- D. Surat

Answer: C. Mumbai - Western Railway zone of the Indian Railways connects Mumbai, the financial capital of India with Gujarat and some parts of Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan, with its headquarters being the Churchgate station of Mumbai. Alok Kansal, a 1983-batch officer of the Indian Railway Service of Engineers (IRSE) has been recently appointed as the General Manager of the Western Railway zone. The previous General Manager was Anil Kumar Gupta, who retired on November 2019

229. Which technology company has recently launched the new version of its 'Edge Chromium' browser for both Mac and Windows platforms?

- A. Google
- B. Microsoft
- C. Mozilla
- D. Apple

Answer: B Microsoft - Tech Major Microsoft has recently announced the launch of its new Edge Chromium browser for both the Mac and Windows platforms. Though the enterprise users are initially targeted by Microsoft, other Windows and macOS users could also download the browser manually from the official website of Microsoft and install it. It is expected that the Windows 10 users will be provided the browser through a windows update. The Edge has similar features like those in Chrome and also supports Chrome extensions.

230. The entire government of which country resigned recently after the constitutional amendments announced by its President?

- A. China
- B. France

- C. Russia
- D. Germany

Answer: C Russia - After the President of Russia, Vladimir Putin announced certain constitutional amendments that would extend his powers beyond Presidency, the entire government of Russia resigned. This also includes the Prime Minister of Russia, Dmitry Medvedev. Putin made this announcement during his annual state of the nation address. He also proposed Mikhail Mishustin, the head of Russia's tax service as the next Prime Minister. The leaving Prime Minister Medvedev may take on the position of deputy head of Russia's Security Council.

231. Which Indian monument has been included in 8 Wonders of Shanghai Cooperation Organization?

- A. Ajanta Caves
- B. Taj Mahal
- C. Statue of Unity
- D. Laal Kila

Answer: C. Statue of Unity - The Statue of Unity that was inaugurated in October 2018 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been included in 8 wonders of Shanghai Cooperation Organization. The statue was inaugurated on the 143rd birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhai Patel. It was a monumental tribute to him.

232. As per SEBI recent directions, _____ is the deadline to separate roles of chairman and MD in top 500 companies?

- A. April 1st, 2024
- B. April 1st, 2023
- C. April 1st, 2020
- D. April 1st, 2022

Answer: D. April 1st, 2022 - Sebi has extended its directive for listed companies to split the roles of chairman and managing director in view of demand from corporates, and to keep compliance burden lower in the wake of the current economic scenario. Now the listed companies have to separate the roles of chairman and MD by April 1st, 2022.

233. What is the name of the scheme launched by Smriti Irani for Women entrepreneurship in Goa?

- A. Sobhagya
- B. Karmyogi
- C. Yashaswini
- D. Tejasvini

Answer: C. Yashaswini - Smriti Irani, Union Minister for Women and Child Development and Textiles launched Yashaswini Scheme for Women entrepreneurship in Goa. The scheme aims to provide financial assistance up to 5 lakhs to self-help groups to start a business.

234. ___ state has recently started an awareness campaign for farmers to protect their sugarcane crops from locusts.

- A. Andhra Pradesh
- B. Uttar Pradesh
- C. Uttrakhand
- D. Rajasthan

Answer: B. Uttar Pradesh - The Uttar Pradesh government in association with the Department of Cane Development has started a farmer awareness campaign to protect the sugarcane crop from locust or Grasshopper. Sanjay R. Bhoosreddy, state Commissioner, Cane and Sugar, issued instructions to all departmental officers and scientists of Sugarcane Research Centers to conduct awareness campaigns among farmers to protect the sugarcane crop from these pests in the state.

235. Tata Power Solar Systems Ltd bagged a megaproject from NTPC for a 250-megawatt solar project under which scheme?

- A. Gujarat State Public Sector Undertakings scheme
- B. State Public Sector Undertakings scheme
- C. Rajasthan State Public Sector Undertakings scheme
- D. Central Public Sector Undertakings scheme

Answer: D. Central Public Sector Undertakings scheme - Under the Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSU) scheme, Tata Power Solar Systems Ltd bagged a megaproject from NTPC for a 250-megawatt solar project. The project cost is Rs.1,505 crore and is estimated to be completed in a period of 20 months.

236. Who among the following has been appointed as RBI's new Deputy Governor?

- A. Brawn Benjamin
- B. Cathy George
- C. Aashish Kapoor
- D. Michael Patra

Answer: D. Michael Patra - Michael Debabrata Patra has been appointed as the deputy governor of the Reserve Bank of India for a period of three years. Patra will be the fourth deputy governor of the RBI.

237. Which financial organization will impose fines on banks with poor progress?

- A. Securities and Exchange Board of India

- B. National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development
- C. Reserve Bank of India
- D. Insurance regulatory and development authority

Answer: C. Reserve Bank of India - The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has once again announced that heavy fines will be imposed on banks, and stipulate higher provisioning for stressed loans. This announcement was made on 7 June 2019 by the RBI.

238. Which institution has signed MoU with 8 universities and colleges to help small farmers?

- A. Indian Institute of Food Processing Technology, Mysore
- B. Indian Institute of Management, New Delhi
- C. National Agri-Food Biotechnology Institute
- D. Indian Institute of Food Processing Technology, Bathinda

Answer: D. Indian Institute of Food Processing Technology, Bathinda - The Indian Institute of Food Processing Technology, Bathinda inked Memorandum of Understanding with the VC's and Directors of 8 different reputed institutes of the region in the states of Haryana and Punjab to help small farmers.

239. Who among the following will be the first woman parade officer for the 2020 Republic Day parade?

- A. Captain Anamika Kapoor
- B. Captain Nirmala Mehta
- C. Captain Tania Shergill
- D. Captain Tanmaya Dua

Answer: C. Captain Tania Shergill - For the 2020 republic day parade, Captain Tania Shergill has been selected to be the first woman parade officer. The parade officer is responsible for the parade. Captain Tania Shergill, an officer with the Army's Corps of Signals was commissioned in March 2017 from the Officer Training Academy, Chennai.

240. Armed Forces Veterans Day is observed on __.

- A. January 13
- B. January 6
- C. January 14
- D. January 8

Answer: C. January 14 - January 14 is observed as Armed Forces Veterans Day every year. The day has been observed since 2017. It was earlier known as Armistice Day. In India, the day was first marked through a resolution passed in 1926 by the Congress. The year 2020 marks the fourth year of the Army Forces Veteran Day. This year the day is to be celebrated at the National War Memorial. Chief of Navy and Chief of Air Force will be present at the function.

241. According to the Global Risks Report, 2020 released by the World Economic Forum, risks related to _ have the greatest likelihood of severe impacts.

- A. Weapons of mass destruction
- B. War
- C. Climate
- D. Fire

Answer: C. Climate - The World Economic Forum released its Global Risks Report on January 15, 2020. This report lists 5 top risks in terms of Likelihood and in terms of impact. According to the report, risks related to climate have the greatest likelihood of severe impacts.

242. What is the name of the mega campaign on fuel conservation launched by the Government of India?

- A. SANGRAHAN
- B. SAMBHAVNA
- C. SAMPAN
- D. SAKSHAM

Answer: D. SAKSHAM - On January 16, 2020, the Petroleum Conservation Research Association (PCRA) working under the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas launched SAKSHAM, a mega campaign on fuel conservation. PCRA will conduct SAKSHAM campaigns all over the country and create awareness about energy-efficient burners for gas stoves which it has developed. PCRA will also spread the message “ Pollution ka Solution “ among the public.

243. Which bank has reduced the FD rates by 15 bps recently?

- A. HDFC Bank
- B. ICICI Bank
- C. State Bank of India
- D. Bank of Baroda

Answer: C. State Bank of India - On long-term deposits maturing in 1 to 10 years, State Bank of India has reduced the fixed deposit rates by 15 basis points (bps). This deposit rate reduction will help the bank to retain its net interest margins since SBI had reduced lending rates in December.

244. The estimated cost of the Mumbai Trans-Harbour Link (MTHL) project is ___

- A. Rs. 19000 crores
- B. Rs. 18000 crores
- C. Rs. 17000 crores

D. Rs. 16000 crores

Answer: B. Rs. 18000 crores - Uddhav Thackeray, Chief Minister of Maharashtra is expected to launch the first girder for the Mumbai Trans-Harbour Link (MTHL) in January 2020. It is expected that the project will be completed by 2022 and the estimated cost of the project is Rs.18,000 crore.

245. South-Central Railway zone of the Indian Railways has signed an MoU with which bank for doorstep collection of earnings from the railway station?

- A. HDFC Bank
- B. ICICI Bank
- C. State Bank of India
- D. Bank of Baroda

Answer: C. State Bank of India - South Central Railway (SCR) zone of Indian Railways has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with State Bank of India(SBI) for 'doorstep banking'. This will help in the direct pickup of earnings covering all 585 Railway stations over SCR Zone.

246. Which company has recently announced to invest \$ 1 billion to digitize Small and Medium Businesses in India?

- A. Apple
- B. Facebook
- C. Google
- D. Amazon

Answer: D. Amazon- Jeff Bezos, Amazon.com Inc chief recently announced USD 1 billion investment in India to help bring small and medium businesses online and committed to exporting USD 10 billion worth of India-made goods by 2025.

247. Which international money transfer company partnered with Ebix Cash to expand its presence in the Indian market?

- A. Paypal
- B. Transfer Wise
- C. Money Gram
- D. RagaTrades

Answer: C. Money Gram - MoneyGram, a money remittance service provider, has signed an agreement with EbixCash, to bring enhanced services for consumers across India. With this partnership, MoneyGram will be able to reach additional consumers through Ebix's 320,000 distribution outlets spread across 768 districts, 4,000 cities, and more than 75,000 villages giving them a large coverage in rural areas.

248. Which organization recently announced to provide guidance to 15 tech start-up companies from 5 Indian states?

- A. Apple
- B. Facebook
- C. Google
- D. Microsoft

Answer: D. Microsoft - Microsoft recently announced that it has selected 54 tech startups from five states – Gujarat, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Kerala and Telangana – and three from each state (total 15) will finally win a year-long mentorship programme and a two-day founder Bootcamp.

249. Who among the following will be the first woman parade officer for the 2020 Republic Day parade?

- A. January 13
- B. January 15
- C. January 14
- D. January 8

Answer: B. January 15 - The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) celebrated its 145th Foundation Day on 15th January 2020. IMD functions under the Ministry of Earth Science. IMD was established in 1875.

250. Indian Army Day is observed on _.

- A. January 13
- B. January 6
- C. January 14
- D. January 8

Answer: B. January 6 - India on January 15, 2020, celebrated its 72nd Army Day. It is being celebrated every year to honour soldiers who sacrificed their lives for the country. As part of the celebration, The Army Day Parade was held at the Parade Ground in Delhi Cantonment. Our Great Soldiers serve with the motto "Service before Self".

251. Global Wealth and lifestyle report were recently launched by Swiss bank Julius Baer. Which city ranks among the top in the list of world's costliest cities according to it?

- A. Frankfurt
- B. Barcelona
- C. Mumbai
- D. Hong Kong

Answer: D. Hong Kong - Global Wealth and lifestyle reports were recently released by Swiss Bank Julius Baer. A study was conducted on 28 cities around the world to rank them as expensive in terms of luxury goods and services for compiling the report. According to the report, Hong Kong, Shanghai, and Tokyo are the top costliest cities in the world. Mumbai was ranked as the least expensive city.

252. Who among the following has been appointed as the General Manager of the Western Railway?

- A. Alok Kansal
- B. Sandeep Jain
- C. Tapan Gaur
- D. Seema Bharti

Answer: A. Alok Kansal - Alok Kansal has been recently appointed as the General Manager of the Western Railway zone. He is a 1983-batch officer of the Indian Railway Service of Engineers (IRSE). He replaced Anil Kumar Gupta, who retired in November 2019.

253. The Prime minister and other members of the government of which country resigned recently after the constitutional amendments announced by its President?

- A. China
- B. France
- C. Russia
- D. South Africa

Answer: C. Russia - Dmitry Medvedev, Prime Minister of Russia announced about the resignation of the entire government of Russia after Vladimir Putin, the President of Russia, during his annual state of the nation address announced certain constitutional amendments that would extend his powers beyond Presidency. Mikhail Mishustin, the head of Russia's tax service was also proposed by him as the next Prime Minister.

254. China recently signed the first phase of a historic trade deal with which country?

- A. India
- B. United States
- C. Pakistan
- D. Germany

Answer: B. United States - China signed the first phase of the trade deal with the US after several negotiations. The agreement was signed by Donald Trump, the US President, and Liu He, the Vice Premier of China. Trump quoted the first phase of the deal as 'historic'. It includes Protection of Intellectual Property, Removal of American Financial Services and Ending Currency Manipulation.

255. Which union territory hosted the first-ever Food Processing Summit to attract investors?

- A. Delhi
- B. Jammu and Kashmir
- C. Ladakh
- D. Goa

Answer: C. Ladakh - Union Territory Ladakh hosted the first-ever Food Processing Summit on January 16, 2020, to attract investors to the region. The summit was organized with the help of the Ministry of Food Processing Industries, Ministry of Commerce and Industry and the UT Administration of Ladakh. Invest India and National Investment Promotion and Facilitation agency were some other stakeholders of the summit.

256. __ company has recently launched the new version of its 'Edge Chromium' browser for both Mac and Windows platforms.

- A. Apple
- B. Mozilla
- C. Google
- D. Microsoft

Answer: D. Microsoft - Microsoft has announced that it will soon launch its new Edge Chromium browser for both the Mac and Windows platforms. Enterprise and other Windows and macOS users could download the browser manually from the official website of Microsoft and install it. The Edge will have similar features as those in Chrome and also supports Chrome extensions.

457. As per the National Draft Policy on rare diseases, how much financial support will be provided by the government under the Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi scheme?

- A. 5 Lakh
- B. 16 Lakh
- C. 15 Lakh
- D. 12 Lakh

Answer: C. 15 Lakh - National Draft Policy on rare diseases was released by the Government of India released on January 13, 2020. As per the draft policy, financial support of up to Rs 15 lakh for the one-time treatment of rare diseases will be provided by the government under the Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi scheme. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare drafted this policy.

458. Which IIM is hosting the International Conclave "Globalizing Indian Thought"?

- A. IIM Kozhikode

- B. IIM Indore
- C. IIM Delhi
- D. IIM Mumbai

Answer: A. IIM Kozhikode - An international conclave on 'Globalising Indian Thought' is being organized at The Indian Institute of Management Kozhikode (IIM Kozhikode) from January 16-18, 2020. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the three-day Academic conclave through video conferencing.

259. The first session of India-Norway Dialogue on Trade & Investment (DTI) was based on Terms of Reference (ToR). On which date was the Term of Reference signed?

- A. 15th January 2020
- B. 18th January 2019
- C. 8th January 2018
- D. 8th January 2019

Answer: D. 8th January 2019 - On 15-16 January 2020, the first Session of India-Norway Dialogue on Trade & Investment (DTI) was conducted in New Delhi. The session was based on the Terms of Reference (ToR) which was signed on 8th January 2019, between India and Norway in New Delhi, during the visit of Prime Minister of Norway.

260. Indian Railways and Railway Energy Management Company Ltd. (REMCL) organized a Renewable Energy Investors' Meet 2020 at ___.

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

Answer: D. New Delhi - On 9 January 2020, Indian Railways and Railway Energy Management Company Ltd. (REMCL) organized a Renewable Energy Investors' Meet 2020 in New Delhi. The aim of the Investors Meet was to impart information about the opportunities present under renewable energy in Indian Railways.

261. Which major tech-company recently announced that it has planned to cut more than half of carbon emissions across its supply chain, by 2030?

- A. Google
- B. Microsoft
- C. Infosys
- D. IBM

Answer: B. Microsoft - The Chief Executive of Microsoft Corporation, Satya Nadella recently announced that the company has set a new ambition to address climate

change and promised to remove the carbon emissions the company has made. Microsoft has planned to cut more than half of carbon emissions across its supply chain by 2030. The plan also includes the creation of a "Climate Innovation Fund," which will invest \$1 billion for developing technologies to remove carbon. The company aims to remove the entire direct and indirect carbon emissions it had made since 1975 (founding year of Microsoft), by 2050.

262. Recently, the toll-free number '8884333331' for Missed Call Alert facility of users, was launched for which application?

- A. FASTags
- B. BHIM
- C. UMANG
- D. NPS

Answer: A. FASTags - Indian Highways Management Company, incorporated by National Highway Authority of India (NHAI), has recently introduced the 'Missed Call Alert Facility' to check the FASTag balance of the users. The toll-free number '8884333331' will be available throughout the day. The users of FASTags, who have registered their mobile numbers with NHAI Prepaid wallet, can give a missed call to the number, to check their FASTag balance. The prepaid payment can be done through the My FASTag App, which can be linked to the NHAI wallet or to the Savings account of 13 banks.

263. The second Tejas Express, which was recently flagged off, connects Mumbai with which city?

- A. Pune
- B. Hyderabad
- C. Ahmedabad
- D. Nagpur

Answer: C. Ahmedabad - The second Tejas Express in the Mumbai- Ahmedabad route was recently flagged off from Ahmedabad by the Chief Minister of Gujarat, Vijay Rupani. The commercial run is expected to start on January 18, and it will run in the route for all days of the week except Thursday. Tejas Express is a semi-high speed and fully air-conditioned train, which is run by the wholly owned subsidiary of Indian Railways, Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC). The first Tejas Express between New Delhi and Lucknow was inaugurated in October 2019. For Tejas Express, IRCTC follows a dynamic pricing scheme and it pays compensation to the customers on train delays.

264. The 'World Economic Situation and Prospects report' is released by which organisation?

- A. World Bank
- B. United Nations (UN)
- C. International Monetary Fund (IMF)
- D. Asian Development Bank (ADB)

Answer: B. United Nations (UN)- The United Nation's World Economic Situation and Prospects (WESP) report was recently released. As per the report, the UN projects the GDP growth of India in the current fiscal year to be 5.7 %. The UN also predicted that the GDP growth rate of the next fiscal year will rise to 6.6%.

In the WESP report of 2019, the UN had predicted India's growth rate to be 7.6% for the current fiscal year, which has now been lowered to 5.7%. As per the recent report, East Asia continues to be the world's fastest growing region and the largest contributor to global growth. The report also predicted that the global growth would dip to 1.8 per cent this year.

265. The first edition of "Krishi Manthan" summit is being held in which state?

- A. Assam
- B. Tamil Nadu
- C. Andhra Pradesh
- D. Gujarat

Answer: D. Gujarat - The 1st edition of Krishi Manthan is being held at Ahmedabad, Gujarat. Krishi Manthan is the Asia's largest "Food-Agri-business-Rural Development" Summit. It is organized by the Food and Agri Business Committee of the Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Ahmedabad. It is a platform for Business, industry, academia, policymakers and other stakeholders to share their knowledge and expertise. It is a 2-day event where more than 1,500 delegates including students, working professionals from Food, Agriculture and allied sectors would be participating.

266. Who has been recently conferred with the 29th Saraswati Samman Award?

- A. Vikram Seth
- B. Mahabaleshwar Sail
- C. Vasdev Mohi
- D. Padma Sachdev

Answer: C. Vasdev Mohi - The famous Sindhi Writer and poet Vasdev Mohi has been chosen for the prestigious 29th Saraswati Samman Award. The Saraswati Samman Award is a famous award in the field of Literature, presented by the KK Birla Foundation.

Vasdev Mohi is being conferred with this award for his short story collection named 'CHEQUE BOOK'. The collection of short stories describes the sufferings and agonies of the marginalised section of the society. This was published in 2012 in Sindhi language.

Vasdev Mohi has received several other important national awards like Sahitya Akademi Award, Sindhi Sahitya Academy Award, Gangadhar Mehar National Award and Lifetime Achievement Award of Sindhi Academy.

267. The Government of India and the Government of Assam has signed a Loan Agreement with which International Financial Organisation, to modernise Assam's Passenger Ferry Sector?

- A. Asian Development Bank
- B. Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank
- C. World Bank
- D. New Development Bank

Answer: C. World Bank - To help modernise the passenger ferry sector of Assam, the Government of India, Government of Assam and the World Bank has signed a loan agreement at New Delhi for \$ 88 million. The Assam's passenger ferry sector operates passenger freight service in major rivers including the Brahmaputra. There are more than 360 ferry routes in Assam, and most of them cut through the Brahmaputra or serve its islands. Hence, this is a very important means of transportation in the Brahmaputra Valley. The Assam Inland Water Transport Project (AIWTP) will help the state to improve the passenger ferry infrastructure.

268. Which Indian satellite has been recently launched from French Guiana?

- A. RISAT 2B
- B. GSAT 30
- C. GSAT 7A
- D. IRNSS 1H

Answer: B. GSAT 30 - The Indian Space Research Organisation's high-power communication satellite, GSAT 30 has been launched successfully from French Guiana on 17th January, 2020. The aim of this satellite is to provide high quality telecommunication, Cellular and Broadcasting service. The satellite was put in place in the Geo Synchronous Orbit by the Ariane-5 rocket. GSAT 30 weighs 3357 kg and it is to serve as the replacement satellite to INSAT-4A with enhanced coverage. The operational life of the GSAT 30 is expected to be more than 15 years.

269. Which country is to offer e-visa facility to Indian Tourists?

- A. Canada
- B. South Africa
- C. Kenya
- D. Ireland

Answer: B. South Africa - Indian Tourists will be offered with the facility of e-Visa by South Africa. This information has been furnished by the South African Tourism

Minister, Mmamoloko Kubayi-Ngubane. The online Visa Portal would be launched by next week on a pilot basis in India. The most number of Visa requests from Mumbai is processed by Nigeria followed by South Africa. As per the official data, over 81316 Indians have travelled to South Africa as of October 2019 registering a 30% increase on year-on-year basis and this is expected to grow up to 50% in near future.

270. What is the name of the Biggest Airborne Exercise recently conducted by the Indian Army?

- A. Him Vijay
- B. Dhruv Sakthi
- C. Winged Raider
- D. Yudh Abhiyas

Answer: C. Winged Raider - The biggest airborne exercise called the "Winged Raider" was conducted by the Indian Army in North Eastern Theatre recently. This exercise witnessed the participation of more than 500 special force troops, who parachuted from C-130 Hercules and C-17 Globemaster transporter Air-crafts of Indian Air Force. During the exercise, the newly inducted aerial equipments were tested with acute precision and seamless integration between the Indian Army and Indian Air Force in some of the most difficult terrains. This exercise demonstrated the operational readiness of Paratroopers and Air Warriors to undertake airborne missions.

271. Which Indian entrepreneur was recently honoured with the Australia's highest civilian honour, 'Order of Australia'?

- A. Anand Mahindra
- B. Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw
- C. Azim Premji
- D. Uday Kotak

Answer: B. Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw - The Founder and Chairperson of the famous Bio-technology company Biocon, Kiran Mazumdar Shaw was recently honoured with the Australia's highest civilian honour, 'Order of Australia'. The award was presented to her for significant service to promote bilateral relationship between Australia and India, especially in commercial and educational aspects. Kiran Mazumdar Shaw is the fourth Indian citizen to receive this honour after Mother Teresa, former Attorney General Soli Sorabjee and ace cricketer Sachin Tendulkar.

272. How is the 'Revised National TB Control Programme (RNTCP)', the scheme of Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, recently renamed?

- A. National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP)
- B. National Tuberculosis Control Programme (NTCP)
- C. National Tuberculosis Removal Programme (NTRP)

D. National Tuberculosis Abolition Programme (NTAP)

Answer: A. National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP) - The Revised National TB Control Programme (RNTCP), the scheme of Ministry of Health & Family Welfare was recently renamed as the National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP).

The Union Ministry of Health & Family Welfare recently intimated the Chief Secretaries of all States and Union Territories about the change of name. In 2018, the Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi announced 2025 as the target year for eliminating Tuberculosis from India, 5 years ahead of the Sustainable Development Goal. On account of the target, the programme was renamed to NTEP.

273. Bapu Nadkarni, who recently passed away, belonged to which field?

A. Politics

B. Literature

C. Sports

D. Arts

Answer: C. Sports - Former Indian cricketer Bapu Nadkarni passed away recently in Mumbai. He was a left-arm spinner and an all-rounder, who played for India in international cricket matches. He had created the record of bowling 21 successive maiden overs, when he achieved it in the test match against England. Known for his bowling skills, Nadkarni had a bowling economy of just 1.64 after playing in 191 first-class matches. Nadkarni represented India in 41 Test matches and subsequently served as a member of the National Selection Committee and the joint secretary of Mumbai Cricket Association.

EXAMS

274. Which famous international company is to release its original film named 'The Banker'?

A. Amazon

B. Apple

C. Netflix

D. HBO

Answer: B. Apple - Apple is scheduled to release one of its first-ever original films 'The Banker', which is one of the earliest films for Apple TV plus. The movie, which was set to be released in December last year was postponed due to some allegations. So, it will be released in theatres and subsequently to its subscribers in the month of March, this year. The movie is based on the real-life story of two African-American businessmen of 1960s, Bernard Garrett Sr. and Joe Morris who helped people to overcome the racial barriers in the field of banking.

275. Which Indian wrestler won the Gold medal at the Rome Ranking Series 2020 event, held recently?

A. Geeta Phogat

- B. Babita Phogat
- C. Vinesh Phogat
- D. Sakshi Malik

Answer: C. Vinesh Phogat - Top Indian wrestler Vinesh Phogat won the Gold medal in the 53 kg category, at the Rome Ranking Series 2020 event, held recently. In the final bout for gold, she defeated the Ecuadorian wrestler Luisa Elizabeth Valverde 4-0. In the journey towards the final match, Vinesh overpowered two top-rated and tough Chinese wrestlers. This is her first Gold medal in the year 2020. Earlier, in the tournament, another Indian wrestler Anshu Malik won the silver medal in the 57 kg category.

276. The birth rate of which country fell to the lowest, since the founding of the country seven decades ago?

- A. India
- B. China
- C. United States
- D. Brazil

Answer: B. China - An official data from China revealed that the country's birth rate fell to the lowest, since 1949, the year in which the People's Republic of China was founded seven decades ago. According to the data, the birth rate was 10.94 per thousand, which was lesser than the previous birth rate of 12.43 per thousand, in 2017. As China has a rapidly growing aging population, it allowed urban couples to give birth to two children, against the one-child policy which was in effect. As per another recent study, India will overtake China in population in 2027.

EXAMS

277. The 6.5-kilometre long Z-Morh tunnel, which was seen in news recently, is to be constructed in which state/UT?

- A. Himachal Pradesh
- B. Sikkim
- C. Jammu and Kashmir
- D. Assam

Answer: C. Jammu and Kashmir - The construction project of the Z-Morh Tunnel, to be built in in Jammu and Kashmir has been awarded to APCO Amarnathji Tunnelway. An MoU was recently inked between National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation (NHIDCL) and the company in this regard, in the presence of Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari. The project entails a cost of Rs. 2,379 crores and it would provide road connectivity to the tourist spot Sonamarg, in Jammu & Kashmir. The tourist destination mostly remains closed due to heavy snowfall.

278. The passengers returning from which country are to be screened for novel Corona virus (nCov), in selected Indian airports?

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

Answer: B. China - For nearly three weeks, China is hit by a new viral disease which was reported to spread by novel Corona virus (nCoV). It killed one person and infected more than 40 in the country. Two other people in Japan and Thailand who had travelled to China were also infected by the virus. Recently, the Union Health Ministry instructed the airport authorities of Delhi, Mumbai and Kolkata to screen passengers returning from China and to check through thermal scanners if they carry the virus. Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses, that cause diseases such as the Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) and Severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS).

279. The 'APNA UREA - Sona Ugle' brand of Hindustan Urvarak and Rasayan Limited (HURL) was recently launched by which Union Minister?

- A. Ramvilas Paswan
- B. D.V. Sadananda Gowda
- C. Harsimrat Kaur Badal
- D. Harsh Vardhan

Answer: B. D.V. Sadananda Gowda - The Union Chemicals and Fertilizers Minister D.V. Sadananda Gowda recently launched the 'APNA UREA – Sona Ugle' brand and logo of Hindustan Urvarak and Rasayan Limited (HURL). HURL is a Joint Venture Company, which is promoted by the three PSUs and Maha Ratna Companies – Coal India Limited, NTPC Limited and Indian Oil Corporation Limited. HURL has undertaken the revival process of three sick Urea plants, situated at Gorakhpur (Uttar Pradesh), Barauni (Bihar) and Sindri (Jharkhand). The plants are to be commissioned in February 2021.

280. China's Great Wall Motors (GWM) is set to acquire the manufacturing plant of which automobile company located in Maharashtra?

- A. General Motors
- B. Ford Ford
- C. Volkswagen
- D. Toyota

Answer: A. General Motors - China's leading automobile manufacturer, Great Wall Motors (GWM) has signed an agreement with the American manufacturer General Motors (GM) to acquire GM's manufacturing plant located in Talegaon, near Pune in Maharashtra.

General Motors announced that Chevrolet Sales India, which is the sales arm of GM in India will continue as an independent entity. It will continue to provide after-sales service

and spare part support to existing Indian customers. GWM has planned to enter into the Indian market by 2021 and this acquisition would speed-up its launch.

281. Which famous International Tennis tournament is held in the month of January, every year?

- A. US Open
- B. Australian Open
- C. French Open
- D. Wimbledon

Answer: B. Australian Open - The Australian Open tournament is the first of the four Grand Slam tennis tournaments held every year, before the French Open, Wimbledon and the US Open events. It is organized by Tennis Australia and generally held during the last fortnight of every January. The event comprises of many categories including Singles and Doubles matches for Men and Women, Mixed Doubles, Junior Championship and wheel-chair matches. The 2020 Australian Open is the 108th edition, scheduled from January 20 to February 2 at Melbourne Park, Victoria, Australia. The defending Champions of the event in Men's singles and Women's singles are Novak Djokovic and Naomi Osaka respectively.

282. Which state recently organized the world's longest awareness human-chain for more than 18000 km?

- A. Uttar Pradesh
- B. Bihar
- C. Odisha
- D. West Bengal

Answer: B. Bihar - The state government of Bihar under its 'Jal-Jeevan-Hariyali' campaign, recently organized a record 18034 km long human chain, which witnessed the participation of more than 5 Crore people. The Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar participated in the event along with the Deputy Chief Minister and his Cabinet members. The human chain was organized to create awareness among the public on climate change and social ills such as dowry and child-marriage. The human-chain, which is claimed to be the longest in the world is the third of its kind event after the chains formed in Bihar in 2017 and 2018.

283. Which Indian city has been adjudged as the 'World's most dynamic city', as per the JLL City Momentum Index, 2020?

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

Answer: D. Hyderabad - The capital of Telangana and a major hub of technology industries, Hyderabad was recently adjudged as the 'World's most dynamic city', as per the JLL City Momentum Index, 2020. The US-based by global real estate services firm Jones Lang Lasalle (JLL), recently released the index by assessing 129 cities around the world. In this seventh edition of the ranking, Hyderabad was placed at the top spot followed by another Indian tech-hub Bengaluru. Southern city Chennai is placed at the fifth place while Delhi is at the sixth place. India leads the 2020 Index with its seven cities being placed in the top 20 ranks.

284. Which country recently test-fired a nuclear-capable ballistic missile, named 'K-4', which can be launched from submarine?

- A. China
- B. Russia
- C. India
- D. Israel

Answer: C. India - Recently, India has successfully test-fired a 3,500 km range nuclear capable missile from the coast of Andhra Pradesh. The ballistic missile named 'K-4' that can be launched from a submarine, is developed by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO). The missile, which is to be fitted into the Arihant-class submarines of the Indian Navy, has ideal configuration to strike its targets. Arihant is India's first nuclear-powered submarine of 6000 tonnes, which was successfully tested in November 2018.

285. Recently, 146 Irrawady dolphins were recently spotted in Chilika lake. Where is the Chilka lake situated?

- A. Himachal Pradesh
- B. Odisha
- C. Jammu & Kashmir
- D. Uttarakhand

Answer: B. Odisha - Chilika Lake is the largest brackish water lake of India, situated in the state of Odisha. It is also home to the highest single lagoon population of the endangered species called Irrawady dolphins. The Chilika Development Authority (CDA) recently undertook the Dolphin Census and 146 Irrawady dolphins were directly sighted. The estimated range of population of the dolphins is 133-172. The population of the aquatic mammal species last year was 151. After removal of certain encroachments in the lake, the dolphins are found colonising in the central and southern regions of the lake for the first time.

286. Which state is to set up a committee to suggest measures to improve forest tourism?

- A. Madhya Pradesh

- B. Maharashtra
- C. Karnataka
- D. Kerala

Answer: B. Maharashtra - The Maharashtra government is to set up a committee to suggest measures to increase the number of visitors to the state's forest areas. The decision was taken at a meeting chaired by Aaditya Thackeray, the state's Tourism Minister.

The proposed committee will comprise of members from the state tourism and forest development corporation. The main objective of the panel would be promoting forest conservation as well as boosting tourism in the state. The infrastructure of the existing tourism centres would also be improved

287. The Union Home Minister Amit Shah is to launch POL NET 2.0 platform. What is POLNET 2.0 associated with?

- A. Political campaign
- B. Political Network Service
- C. Police Network Service
- D. Police complaint registration

Answer: C. Police Network Service - The Union Home Minister Amit Shah is to launch the new platform POL NET 2.0. during the national conference of 'Heads of public protection and Disaster relief organisations' on January 20 in New Delhi. The Directorate of Coordination Police Wireless manages and operates POLNET or the police network services in the country. The Directorate has created a new robust communication platform with improved multi-media facilities, for Police and Security forces called POL NET 2.0. It will be beneficial during disasters or law and order problems.

288. What is the name of the exhibition of the Indian electrical industry, recently inaugurated by the Union Minister of Heavy Industries & Public Enterprises?

- A. ELECASA
- B. ELECRAMA
- C. ELECTRON
- D. ELECTRIC 2.0

Answer: B. ELECRAMA - Union Minister of Heavy Industries & Public Enterprises, MoEFCC, MoI&B, Prakash Javadekar inaugurated ELECRAMA 2020 in Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh. Minister of Power and New and Renewable Energy (IC) R K Singh was also present during the inaugural ceremony. ELECRAMA is organised by the Indian Electrical & Electronics Manufacturers' Association (IEEMA), once in every two years. It is an exhibition cum conference in the field of Indian electrical industry. The event displays various products and technologies in the field and creates a trade platform between buyers and sellers. It also hosts various seminars for knowledge exchange.

289. Name the female actor who won the 'Outstanding Performance by a Female Actor in a motion picture' award in the Screen Actors Guild Awards?

- A. Renée Zellweger
- B. Jennifer Aniston
- C. Olivia Colman
- D. Elisabeth Moss

Answer: A. Renée Zellweger - The 26th edition of the annual Screen Actors Guild (SAG) Awards were presented recently. The 'Outstanding Performance by a Female Actor in a motion picture' was won by Renée Zellweger for featuring in the movie titled 'Judy'.

Renée Zellweger recently received the Golden Globe award for her performance in the biopic of 'Judy'. The 'Outstanding Performance by a Male Actor in a Leading Role' in a motion picture was presented to Joaquin Phoenix for the movie 'Joker'. The South Korean film-Parasite became the first foreign-language film to win the Award for best performance by a cast in a motion picture.

290. Which state cabinet has recently approved the proposal for creating three capitals for the state?

- A. Maharashtra
- B. Andhra Pradesh
- C. Madhya Pradesh
- D. Uttar Pradesh

Answer: B. Andhra Pradesh - The state cabinet of Andhra Pradesh has approved a proposal to create three state capitals namely Amaravati, Visakhapatnam, and Kurnool. The ruling Jagan Mohan Reddy government introduced the bill in the state assembly. The 'AP Decentralisation and Inclusive Development of All Regions Bill, 2020' was approved by the cabinet for a decentralised and balanced growth and development of the state. It also provides for creating several zones within the state and establishing zonal planning and development boards. The government is to set up its legislative capital in Amaravati, secretariat and executive capital in Visakhapatnam and judicial capital in Kurnool.

291. What is India's GDP growth rate for the current fiscal, as estimated by the International Monetary Fund (IMF)?

- A. 5.2 %
- B. 5.0 %
- C. 4.8 %
- D. 4.6 %

Answer: C. 4.8 % - The International Monetary Fund (IMF) decreased India's GDP growth forecast to 4.8 per cent for this fiscal year, which is 1.3 percentage point lesser than its previous estimates. The IMF also projected that India's economy will grow by 5.8 per cent next year and 6.5 per cent in 2021-2022. The Global economic growth rate was also lowered by the IMF to be 3.3 % in the current year and 3.4 % in 2022. India's GDP forecast dip was mainly due to the NBFC crisis and weak demand in rural India. The slowdown in India is said to be the reason for cut in global growth rate.

292. Which Indian state has topped the production of vegetables in 2018-19, as per the recent data from the Ministry of Agriculture?

- A. Uttar Pradesh
- B. West Bengal
- C. Madhya Pradesh
- D. Gujarat

Answer: B. West Bengal - The Ministry of Agriculture recently released the State-wise horticulture production data for the year 2018-19. As per the data, West Bengal was the top State in vegetable production with 29.55 million tonnes (mt) of vegetables last year. The state accounted for 15.9 % of the country's total vegetable production in 2018-19.

The number one state during 2017-18 was Uttar Pradesh, which is pushed to the second place this year, with 27.71 mt vegetables. In fruit production, Andhra Pradesh continued to hold the top spot with 17.61 mt, followed by Maharashtra with 10.82 mt.

293. Who was recently appointed as the new Managing Director of the State Bank of India (SBI)?

- A. Challa Sreenivasulu Setty
- B. Rajnish Kumar
- C. Atanu Kumar Das
- D. Sanjiv Chadha

Answer: A. Challa Sreenivasulu Setty - The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the proposal of the Department of the Financial Services (DFS) for appointing Challa Sreenivasulu Setty as the Managing Director of the State Bank of India (SBI). Challa Sreenivasulu Setty, who is currently serving as the Deputy managing director of the country's largest lender, has been appointed as the MD of the SBI for a period of three years. Last year, an MD of SBI, Anshula Kant was appointed as the MD and Chief Financial Officer of World Bank.

294. What is the rank of India in the 'Social Mobility Index', recently released by the World Economic Forum?

- A. 56

- B. 66
- C. 76
- D. 86

Answer: C. 76 - In the recently released World Economic Forum's Social Mobility Index, India was ranked at 76 out of 82 countries. Denmark was placed at the first rank in the inaugural edition of the index. The index assessed the countries across five key dimensions, which are health, education, technology, work and protections & institutions and ten pillars distributed among the five dimensions. According to the index, the most socially mobile societies in the world are all European, the first five spots being held by Denmark, Norway, Finland, Sweden and Iceland.

295. Which organisation recently released the 'Time to care' report?

- A. World Bank
- B. Asian Development Bank
- C. NGO Oxfam
- D. NGO Pratham

Answer: C. NGO Oxfam - Oxfam, a confederation of charitable organizations and rights group recently released the 'Time to care' report, which focussed on global inequalities. The report said that inequalities pertaining at the global level is deep-rooted and vast while the number of billionaires has doubled in the last decade. It also revealed a comparison that the total wealth of 63 Indian billionaires is higher than the total Union Budget of India for the fiscal year 2018-19 (Rs 24,42,200 crore). It also suggested that gender inequalities must be resolved for an inclusive development.

296. Who has been recently appointed as the President of Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI)?

- A. Ashish Garg
- B. Aditya Garg
- C. Nagendra Rao
- D. Narendra Rao

Answer: A. Ashish Garg - The Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI) recently appointed Ashish Garg as its new President for the year 2020. Another member of ICSI, Nagendra D Rao has been elected Vice-President of the Institute. Ashish Garg was elected to the central council of ICSI for the 2015-18 term and has been re-elected for the 2019-22 term. The Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI) is a New Delhi based statutory body to promote and regulate the profession of company secretaries in India.

297. Which country is the largest recipient of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in 2019, according to the latest UNCTAD report?

- A. India

- B. China
- C. United States
- D. Singapore

Answer: C. United States - The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) recently released its 'Global Investment Trend Monitor report' and listed the countries on the basis of receipts of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI). As per the report, the United States was the largest recipient of FDI in 2019 with inflow of investments amounting to \$251 billion. The second largest recipient was China at \$140 billion in 2019. India was also among the top 10 FDI recipients in 2019, which attracted investments worth \$49 billion. This is 16% higher than the previous year FDI inflow of the country. The report also stated that majority of India's FDI inflow went to its service sector.

298. The UN World Tourism Organization recently released its 'UNWTO World Tourism Barometer report'. Where is the headquarters of UNWTO located?

- A. Paris
- B. Madrid
- C. Tokyo
- D. New York

Answer: B. Madrid - The UN World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) is the United Nations Agency for promoting sustainable tourism, which is head-quartered at Madrid, Spain. UNWTO recently released its comprehensive report on global tourism titled 'UNWTO World Tourism Barometer report'. According to the report, 1.5 billion international tourist arrivals were recorded in the year 2019, around the globe. This is an increase of 4% from the previous year and this is also the tenth consecutive year recording growth. It also predicted a growth of 3% to 4% in tourism sector, for the year 2020.

299. Who was recently appointed as the Managing Director and Chief Executive of Bank of Baroda?

- A. Challa Sreenivasulu Setty
- B. Rajnish Kumar
- C. Sanjiv Chadha
- D. Atanu Kumar Das

Answer: C. Sanjiv Chadha - The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet appointed Sanjiv Chadha as the Managing Director and Chief Executive of the public sector bank, Bank of Baroda. Chadha was serving as the Deputy Managing Director at SBI Capital Markets. Another two key appointments were also made, which includes Lingam Venkat Prabhakar as MD & CEO of Canara Bank and Atanu Kumar Das as MD & CEO of Bank of India. While Lingam Venkat Prabhakar was the Executive Director of Punjab

National Bank earlier , Atanu Kumar Das was Executive Director at Bank of India who will be promoted to the post of MD& CEO.

300. Man Mohan Sood, who passed away recently, belonged to which field?

- A. Music
- B. Sports
- C. Literature
- D. Politics

Answer: B. Sports - The 80-year-old Former Indian cricketer and National Selector, Man Mohan Sood recently passed away. Sood was born on 06-07-1939 in Lahore, Punjab (now in Pakistan), India. He had played one Test match representing India and 39 first-class matches with a century. Man Mohan Sood also had served as an administrator at the Delhi and District Cricket Association (DDCA) and a member of the National Selecting Committee

301. Which is the most polluted city in India, according to Greenpeace India's recent report?

- A. Gurugram
- B. Jharia
- C. Lucknow
- D. Noida

Answer: B. Jharia - According to the recent report released by the environmental NGO Greenpeace India, Jharia, a city in Jharkhand is the most polluted city in India, which is followed by Dhanbad of the same state. The report also revealed that six of the country's ten most polluted cities are in the state of Uttar Pradesh. Lunglei city of Mizoram is the least polluted city and it is the only city with Particulate matter (PM) levels under the World Health Organisation's (WHO) prescribed level. Greenpeace India has used data from the Central Pollution Control Board and analysis of particulate matter (PM) data of 287 cities, to rank the most polluted cities in India

302. Which state is the first in the country to implement agricultural land leasing policy?

- A. Gujarat
- B. Tamil Nadu
- C. Uttarakhand
- D. West Bengal

Answer: C. Uttarakhand - The State government of Uttarakhand recently released a notification that it has made a policy to lease agricultural land, becoming the first Indian state to implement such policy. According to the policy, any institution, company or NGO can take farm land on lease for 30 years, provided the leased land is below 30 acres. The farmers who own the land will receive the corresponding rent during the

leased period. Difficulties in leasing land for agriculture and plantation in hilly areas and consolidation of fragmented land are being solved by the policy.

303. What is the name of the indigenous artillery guns, which are to be inducted into the Indian Army?

- A. Sharang
- B. Shrirang
- C. Sevak
- D. Senak

Answer: A. Sharang - As per the recent announcement from the Indian Army, the first batch of 18 indigenously upgraded 'Sharang' artillery guns are to be inducted into the Army by March 31, 2020. The barrel of the indigenously designed gun has been upgraded from 130 mm to 155 mm. As a result, the hitting range of the gun has been increased by 12 km kilometres, to 39 kilometres. The Gun Carriage Factory (GCF) in Jabalpur had been awarded the global contract for upgrading the Sharang artillery gun, and the project was done with the help of ordnance factories, Indian Army and DRDO.

304. Which defence Force of India has recently signed an MoU with Geological Survey of India?

- A. Indian Army
- B. Indian Navy
- C. Indian Air Force
- D. Indian Coast Guard

Answer: B. Indian Navy - A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was recently signed between Indian Navy and Geological Survey of India (GSI). The agreement was on 'Sharing of seabed sediments data, products and expertise for Naval Application in Meteorology and Oceanography'. The Marine and Coastal survey Division of GSI has mapped most of the country's Exclusive Economic Zone. This repository of data collected using the oceanic research vessels of GSI, will now be used by the Indian Navy. The data would be used for oceanographic modelling during their maritime operations in the Indian Ocean region (IOR).

305. The National Bravery Awards for children are presented by which ministry/organisation annually?

- A. Ministry of Women and Child Development
- B. Ministry of Defence
- C. UNICEF
- D. Indian Council for Child Welfare

Answer: D. Indian Council for Child Welfare - The National Bravery awards for the year 2019 were recently presented by the Indian Council for Child Welfare (ICCW) in

New Delhi. 22 children including 10 girls were selected for the National Bravery awards. Among them, one award was given posthumously. The highest award called Bharat award was conferred on a 15-year-old Kerala boy Adithya, for saving more than 40 lives after a bus accident. Indian Council for Child Welfare was formed in the year 1952, which initiated this award to recognize children for their brave and spontaneous selfless service or their daring act against a social crime.

306. Retired IAS Officer Yudvir Singh Malik has been recently appointed as the Chairman and Managing director (CMD) of which crisis-hit firm?

- A. IL&FS
- B. DHFL
- C. Unitech
- D. Altico Capital

Answer: C. Unitech - Retired IAS Officer Yudvir Singh Malik has been recently appointed as the Chairman and Managing director (CMD) of crisis-hit realty firm Unitech. He assumed office on January 21, 2020. A few days back, the Supreme Court directed the Centre to take total management control of Unitech and appoint a new board of nominee directors. As per the directions, the Centre has replaced the board of the realty firm and asked the new board to come out with a resolution framework within two months. The firm was reported of allegedly using flat-buyer's money and default the delivery of flats.

307. Which Private sector bank launched 'card-less cash withdrawal' facility from its ATMs, recently?

- A. HDFC Bank
- B. Axis Bank
- C. ICICI Bank
- D. Kotak Mahindra Bank

Answer: C. ICICI Bank - India's leading Private sector bank recently launched card-less cash withdrawal' facility from its ATMs. The facility will be available throughout the day, across all ICICI Bank ATMs, which count to nearly 15000. For availing the card-less service, the customer needs to log into the ICICI mobile app – 'iMobile' and generate a temporary PIN. The customer then can withdraw cash by entering the OTP received and the PIN, without the need of carrying any card. The daily transaction limit and limit per transaction is ₹20,000.

308. As per the recent survey of Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) by consultancy firm PwC, which country has the highest growth prospects?

- A. China

- B. India
- C. United States
- D. Germany

Answer: C. United States - The leading international consultancy firm PwC recently released the results of its annual survey of Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) across the world. The firm surveyed more than 1,580 CEOs in 83 countries about global economy prospects. As per the survey, the United States has the highest growth prospects, according to the CEOs. China remained in the second place while India retained the position of the fourth rank. The report also stated that 53 per cent of global CEOs believe international economic growth would decline in the next 12 months.

309. The recently set-up 'National Start-up Advisory Council' is to be chaired by which Union Minister?

- A. Minister of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
- B. Minister of Corporate Affairs
- C. Minister of Commerce and Industry
- D. Minister of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship

Answer: C. Minister of Commerce and Industry - The Union government recently announced that a National Start-up Advisory Council has been set up. The Council will advise the Centre on steps to be taken to create a strong environment for start-up companies in India. The Council will be chaired by the Union Commerce minister while it will have non-official members with 2-year-term, to be nominated by the Centre. Other members include founders of successful start-ups and veterans who have started and grown companies in India. The nominees of the ministries and organisations concerned, not below the rank of joint secretary will be ex-officio members.

310. India's first ever convention centre in Africa was recently inaugurated in which African country?

- A. Libya
- B. Ghana
- C. Niger
- D. Algeria

Answer: C. Niger - Indian External Affairs Minister Jai Shankar recently inaugurated the first ever convention centre of India in Africa. The Mahatma Gandhi International Convention Centre (MGICC) was inaugurated in the Western-African country Niger with the assistance from India. The International Convention Centre was jointly inaugurated by President of Niger Mahamadou Issoufou. This is also the first-ever visit by an Indian Foreign Minister to the West African country. India has recently extended

\$15 million grant to Niger in support of organizing the African Union (AU) summit held in Niger last year.

311. Hassan Diab, who was seen in news recently, is the Prime Minister of which country?

- A. Israel
- B. Jordan
- C. Syria
- D. Lebanon

Answer: D Lebanon

312. Which Indian tele-com service provider recently got approval from the telecom department to raise the FDI limit to 100%?

- A. Jio
- B. Bharti Airtel
- C. Vodafone Idea
- D. BSNL

Answer: B. Bharti Airtel - Bharti Airtel recently got approval from the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) to increase the FDI limit up to 100% of the paid-up capital from the earlier limit of 49%. The company already received permission from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for overseas portfolio investors to invest up to 74% in Bharti Airtel.

This DoT approval will help the tele-com company to source more funds from overseas investors. Singapore Telecommunications Ltd or Singtel, which owns a 35% stake in Bharti Airtel is expected to increase its stake in Bharti Airtel.

313. According to the recent notification issued by the Ministry of Law and Justice, India, which country was declared as the 'reciprocating territory'?

- A. United Arab Emirates
- B. Oman
- C. Saudi Arabia
- D. Yemen

Answer: A. United Arab Emirates- The Ministry of Law and Justice recently issued a Gazette Notification, which declared the United Arab Emirates to be a "reciprocating territory" under Section 44A of the Civil Procedure Code, 1908. The notification also declared a list of courts in the UAE to be 'Superior Courts' under the same section of CPC. The orders passed by certain designated courts from a 'reciprocating territory' can be implemented in India, as if they were passed in India. Besides UAE, the other countries which were declared as reciprocating territories include United Kingdom, Singapore, Bangladesh, Malaysia and New Zealand among others. The decision is

believed to help bring down the time required for executing verdicts between the two countries.

314. What is India's rank in the Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP) India annual report?

- A. Fifth
- B. Sixth
- C. Seventh
- D. Eighth

Answer: A. Fifth - Carbon Disclosure Project-India (CDP), an environmental non-profit organisation released its annual report of 2018, titled "Corporates #StepUp Climate Action". As per the report, 25 companies committed to science-based targets in alignment with the Paris Agreement by December 2018. This has earned the 5th rank to India, which is only after the US, Japan, Britain and France in corporate climate action.

The report examines carbon reduction activities of companies and revealed that 58 Indian companies of the 59 firms surveyed between 2018 and 2019, have board-level oversight of climate-related issues.

315. Which Indian actor was recently honoured with the Crystal Award of the World Economic Forum?

- A. Priyanka Chopra
- B. Deepika Padukone
- C. Kareena Kapoor
- D. Anushka Sharma

Answer: B. Deepika Padukone - Famous Bollywood actor Deepika Padukone received the Crystal Award during the 50th Annual meeting of the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland. The award was presented to her in recognition of her efforts to create awareness about the importance of mental health. Hilde Schwab, Chairwoman and Co-Founder of the World Economic Forum's World Arts Forum presented the award to the actor. Deepika Padukone runs a foundation named 'Live Love Laugh', which works towards conducting awareness programs in Indian schools. It also funds for free psychiatric treatment and medical education programs.

316. Which state government has recently launched the 'Mukhyamantri Krishak Durghatna Kalyan Yojana'?

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

Answer: B. Uttar Pradesh- The state government of Uttar Pradesh Government has recently launched Mukhyamantri Krishak Durghatna Kalyan Yojana. Under the scheme financial assistance of Rs. 5 Lakh will be provided to the family of farmers on their death or occurrence of physical disability while working. The farmers in the age group of 18 to 70 are covered under the scheme. The assistance program will also cover the people who work in the fields of other owners and receive the crops after harvesting. The state has also decided to implement Mukhyamantri Paryatan Samvardhan Yojana to boost tourism in state.

317. What is the name of the humanoid robot, which was recently unveiled by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)?

- A. Gagan Mitra
- B. Vyom Mitra
- C. Vayu Mitra
- D. Human Mitra

Answer: B. Vyom Mitra - The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) recently unveiled the humanoid robot, called Vyom Mitra at the inaugural session of the conference "Human Spaceflight and Exploration — Present Challenges and Future Trends", held in Bengaluru. This humanoid with feminine features is to be launched into the space ahead of the first manned space mission of India. The humanoid will simulate the human functions required for space during its test flight. It can perform all crew functions like switch-panel operations, environmental control and life-support system. ISRO has scheduled two trail flights with humanoids in December 2020 and July 2021.

318. What is the capital of the newly formed Union Territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu?

- A. Daman
- B. Nagar Haveli
- C. Dadra
- D. Silvassa

Answer: A. Daman - Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently announced that the city of Daman will be the headquarters of the newly constituted Union Territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu. Daman is a city in the erstwhile UT Daman & Diu, located on the west coast of India. Two separate Union Territories of India, Daman & Diu and Dadra & Nagar Haveli were merged to a single Union Territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu on December 3, 2019. Silvassa was the previous capital of the erstwhile UT Dadra and Nagar Haveli.

319. Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOCL) of India recently signed an MoU to assist the Petroleum Authority of which country?

- A. Ghana
- B. Argentina
- C. Brazil
- D. Peru

Answer: A. Ghana - A memorandum of understanding (MoU) was recently signed between the Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOCL) and National Petroleum Authority (NPA) of Ghana to expand the country's Liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) network. Indian Oil will provide assistance and share its technical expertise with the Petroleum authorities of the African country to implement the National LPG Promotion Policy of Ghana. The announcement was made by the Ministry of Petroleum and natural gas. Indian Oil is also expected to assist Ghana in areas of infrastructure development for the new LPG Value chain.

320. Union Minister for Petroleum & Natural Gas and Steel has recently launched a volunteer scheme 'SERVICE' for the employees of which Indian PSU?

- A. Coal India Limited (CIL)
- B. Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL)
- C. National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC)
- D. Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL)

Answer: B. Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL)- Union Minister for Petroleum & Natural Gas and Steel has recently launched a volunteer scheme 'SERVICE' for the employees of the Indian PSU Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL). The scheme called, SAIL Employees Rendering Volunteerism & Initiatives for Community Engagement (SERVICE), will be made operational from the foundation day of the company, which is on January 24. Under the scheme, the employees are encouraged to voluntarily indulge themselves in social activities, with main focus on education, health and women empowerment.

321. When is the International Day of Education observed every year?

- A. January 21
- B. January 24
- C. February 21
- D. February 24

Answer: B. January 24 - January 24 is observed as the International Day of Education every year by UNESCO. It celebrates the role of education for Development and Peace. The theme for this year's International Day of Education is "LEARNING FOR PEOPLE, PLANET, PROSPERITY AND PEACE". On December 2018, the United Nations (UN) General Assembly adopted a resolution, which declared January 24 as

'International Day of Education'. This year's celebration is the second-year of observing the day and it has considered Education and Learning as the greatest Renewable Resource and it reaffirms that the Education is a Fundamental Right.

322. Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) has recently signed an MoU with which of the following organizations?

- A. World Bank
- B. Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
- C. Asian Development Bank
- D. BRICS Bank

Answer: B. Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation - An MoU has been signed by the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) with Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF). This MoU is under the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM). The MoU aims to strengthen the rural poor institutions at grass root level. DAY NRLM and BMGF has a shared focus on improving the lives of poor people and the marginalized, by creating employment opportunities through rural institutions. DAY NRLM was launched by the MoRD IN June 2011. The scheme has an agenda of covering 7 crore rural population in the country through self-managed Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and other such institutions in a period of 8 to 10 years.

323. Who has been recently awarded with the Subash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar, 2020?

- A. Vijay Kumar
- B. Sylendra Babu
- C. Kumar Munnan Singh
- D. Naveen Kumar

Answer: C. Kumar Munnan Singh - Kumar Munnan Singh has been selected for the Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar 2020 under the Individual category. Under the Institution category, Disaster Mitigation & Management Centre, Uttarakhand has been selected for the award. Kumar Munnan Singh was the founding member of the National Disaster Management Authority in 2005. He is also lauded for establishing the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), from scratch. The award is given by the Government of India to recognize the commendable work done by individuals and organisations in the field of disaster management. The award is announced every year on 23rd January which marks the birth anniversary of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose.

324. Which state has recently made reading of preamble to constitution as a mandatory practice in schools?

- A. Uttar Pradesh
- B. Madhya Pradesh
- C. Gujarat
- D. Maharashtra

Answer: Madhya Pradesh - As per an order issued by the State Education Department of Madhya Pradesh, the state government has made the reading of the Preamble to the Constitution in schools mandatory. As per the order, the Preamble would be read out every Saturday, by the head master or the teacher in all the primary, middle, high and higher secondary schools after prayer, along with the students. It is said that such practice in school would inculcate the interest in our constitution among the students. **Maharashtra:** Maharashtra has also has made reading of Preamble of the Constitution in all primary and secondary schools, starting from January 26, 2020. The resolution in this direction was adopted in 2013 but was not implemented so far.

325. Which state's Tourism department has received the special mention honour as "Emerging Global Destination" in UN World Tourism Organisation Global Destination Award 2019?

- A. Uttarakhand
- B. Manipur
- C. Assam
- D. Kerala

Answer: D. Kerala - The Barrier Free Tourism Project implemented by Kerala Tourism in Trissur District has received the special mention honour as "Emerging Global Destination" in UN World Tourism Organisation Global Destination Award 2019. In March 2019, the Kerala Tourism has launched the barrier free project to make 120 destinations in Kerala disabled friendly. 80 such projects have been implemented and 8 of them are in the district of Trissur. Kerala is the first state to work as per the guidelines issued by UN WTO, on making the destinations disabled friendly.

326. What is the name of the award recently presented by the Indian President to children, in the fields of innovation, social service, sports, art and culture and bravery?

- A. Janani Puraskar
- B. Shakti Puraskar
- C. Bal Shakti Puraskar
- D. Bal Puraskar

Answer: C. Bal Shakti Puraskar - The Bal Shakti Puraskar award is given to children in the fields of innovation, social service, scholastic activities, sports, art and culture and bravery. The Indian President Ramnath Kovind recently presented the awards to

49 children in the age group of 5-18 years. Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar award was instituted by Ministry of Women and Child Development and is given under two categories. Bal Shakti Puraskar is awarded to meritorious children while Bal Kalyan Puraskar is awarded to individuals and institutions, who have contributed for child welfare.

327. What is the current investment limit for Foreign portfolio investors in government and corporate bonds, after the recent directions of RBI?

- A. 20%
- B. 25%
- C. 30%
- D. 35%

Answer: C. 30% - The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) recently increased the investment limit for FPIs in government and corporate bonds from 20 per cent to 30 per cent. As of now, the Foreign portfolio investors (FPI) could not invest more than 20 per cent of their total investment in either central government securities or state development loans or corporate bonds. This relaxation is expected to attract more investments and increase the inflow of funds into the Indian market. FPIs are allowed to invest in exchange-traded funds that invest only in debt instruments.

328. Which organisation is set to develop the National Data and Analytics Platform (NDAP)?

- A. Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation
- B. NITI Aayog
- C. Finance Commission
- D. National Development Council

Answer: B. NITI Aayog - The Think tank of India, NITI Aayog is to develop the National Data and Analytics Platform (NDAP). Recently the Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog released the Vision document for the National Data and Analytics Platform. The stake holders can access all government data through the platform, in a user-friendly manner. The platform will comprise of the latest data from various government websites. It will also host tools for analysis of the data and different types of visualisation. The first version of NDAP will be released in 2021. A Technical Advisory Group (TAG) will also be set up with experts in the field, who guide in the development and management of the platform.

329. India recently handed over the consignment of Measles and Rubella vaccines to which country, after a suspected outbreak?

- A. Sri Lanka
- B. Maldives

- C. Bangladesh
- D. Nepal

Answer: B. Maldives - More than thirty thousand doses of Measles and Rubella vaccines to the Maldives to control the outbreak of Measles in the island country. Though Maldives has eliminated the spread of Measles, the government in Male suspected an outbreak of the disease after it detected the case. The country made an emergency request to India, for the vaccines, which was handed over within three days of the request. Maldives had earlier approached Denmark and UNICEF for the vaccines. It is also said that four people of Maldives tested positive for the disease in the past one week.

330. World Holocaust Forum was recently convened in which city, to remember Holocaust and counter anti-Semitism?

- A. Moscow
- B. Jerusalem
- C. Paris
- D. Berlin

Answer: B. Jerusalem - World Holocaust Forum was recently convened in the capital city of Israel, Jerusalem. The forum marked the 75th anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz death camp. More than 40 global leaders attended the forum, which includes the Russian President Vladimir Putin, US Vice-President Mike Pence, Presidents of France and Germany and the Prince of Wales. The forum was organised by the World Holocaust Forum Foundation, which is an international organisation found to preserve the memory of the Holocaust and to promote tolerance between all religions and nationalities.

331. The first edition of Ganga-Volga dialogue was recently held in New Delhi, to enhance the bilateral co-operation between India and which country?

- A. China
- B. Russia
- C. Nepal
- D. Bangladesh

Answer: B. Russia - The inaugural edition of the Ganga Volga Dialogue was recently held in New Delhi, the idea of which was originated during the India-Russia Summit between President Putin and Prime Minister Modi, held in October 2018. The Dialogue was organised by the Union Ministry of External Affairs, India in association with Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee Research Foundation. Several scholars of India and Russia participated in the event and had discussions in the context of India-Russia bilateral cooperation, with the main focus on culture and civilization.

332. The International Summit on Women in STEM– “Visualizing the Future: New Skylines”, was recently held in which city?

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

Answer: B. New Delhi - The Department of Biotechnology, under the Ministry of Science and Technology organized an International Summit on Women in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) – “Visualizing the Future: New Skylines” at India Habitat centre, New Delhi. The Summit was organized to encourage the participation of women in STEM field and for developing their career in the field. Renowned women scientists from different countries, who pursue their career in the STEM field addressed the participants and motivated them to pursue their scientific career.

333. What is the theme of the National Voters’ Day celebrated across the country?

- A. Electoral Literacy for Stronger Democracy
- B. Voting Rights for All
- C. Ethical Voting
- D. Sab Se Pehle Voting

Answer: A. Electoral Literacy for Stronger Democracy - National Voters’ Day is being celebrated across the country on January 25. It was first celebrated on January 25, 2011, to commemorate the foundation day of the Election Commission of India (ECI). Which was established on the same day in 1950. The National Voters’ day of this year marks the tenth year of celebration and the 70th year of functioning of the Election Commission of India. The theme for the National Voters’ Day, 2020 is ‘Electoral Literacy for Stronger Democracy’. Indian President Ram Nath Kovind will be the Chief Guest of the celebration organised at New Delhi, by the ECI.

334. India signed and MoU with the World Bank for the Agri-business and Rural Transformation Project of which state?

- A. Gujarat
- B. Maharashtra
- C. Madhya Pradesh
- D. Haryana

Answer: B. Maharashtra - The Government of India, the state government of Maharashtra and the World Bank signed a loan agreement of \$210 million for the Agri-business and Rural Transformation Project of the state. The fund will help small and marginal farmers to increase their market access and assist them to participate in the value chains. The farmers are encouraged to adopt climate resilient production

techniques in agriculture. The project will be implemented in all thirty-six districts of the state of Maharashtra and nearly one million farming households are expected to benefit from the project.

335. Which Indian Private sector bank has recently launched its wealth management platform called 'Pioneer Banking'?

- A. ICICI Bank
- B. HDFC Bank
- C. Axis Bank
- D. IndusInd Bank

Answer: D. IndusInd Bank - Leading Private Sector bank IndusInd bank has launched its wealth management platform called 'Pioneer Banking', which serves the banking needs of its high net-worth customers. The new service of wealth management recently introduced is expected to be merged with the other set of personal and commercial banking products offered by the bank to its customers. The new service mainly focuses the high net-worth individual (HNI) customers and provides various benefits including Free doorstep banking up to Rs 4 lakh per day and Services of dedicated wealth managers and investment specialists.

336. Which steel plant of India was recently awarded at the WEF Annual meet, for being included in the WEF's Lighthouse Network?

- A. Salem Steel Plant
- B. Tata Steel Kalinganagar
- C. Vijayanagar Steel Plant
- D. Vishakhapatnam Steel Plant

Answer: B. Tata Steel Kalinganagar - Tata Steel Kalinganagar was recently awarded at the WEF Annual meet, for being included in the WEF's Lighthouse Network. In July 2019, Tata Steel Kalinganagar became the first and only Indian manufacturing plant to be included in the coveted 'Lighthouse Network' of the World Economic Forum. Other ten manufacturing plants from around the world were also included in the network. Tata Steel's IJmuiden plant located in the Netherlands has already been included in the network.

337. The Global Consortium for Digital Currency Governance was recently announced by which organisation?

- A. World Bank
- B. World Economic Forum
- C. International Monetary Fund
- D. World Trade Organisation

Answer: B. World Economic Forum - The first Global Consortium which focussed on creating a framework for Governance of Digital Currencies was recently announced by the World Economic Forum. The announcement was made during the last day of the 50th annual meeting of WEF, held in Davos, Switzerland. This initiative is the first-of-its-kind to create a global platform for financial institutions, government representatives and technical experts in the field. The consortium is announced with the objective of increasing access to the financial system through inclusive policies. The Governance of Digital currencies, including cryptocurrencies and stable-coins would also be focussed.

338. Jair Messias Bolsonaro, who has arrived India to attend the Republic Day celebrations as chief guest, is the President of which country?

- A. Argentina
- B. Brazil
- C. France
- D. Germany

Answer: B. Brazil - The President of Brazil, Jair Messias Bolsonaro recently arrived India along with his ministers, parliamentarians and top businessmen, to grace the Indian Republic Day celebrations as the Chief guest. India and Brazil are expected to sign as many as 15 agreements to enhance bilateral cooperation in the fields of like oil and gas, mining and cyber security. Agreements on social security, on mutual legal assistance in criminal matters on cooperation in bio-energy are also expected to be inked between the countries. Bolsonaro became the President of Brazil in October 2018 and this is his first visit to India.

EXAMS

339. The International Children's Film festival was recently inaugurated in which South Asian country, with the theme 'Under The World'?

- A. Sri Lanka
- B. Bangladesh
- C. Nepal
- D. India

Answer: B. Bangladesh - The International Children's Film festival was recently inaugurated in the capital city of Bangladesh, Dhaka. It is one of the biggest film festivals in the country and the only international festival which is celebrated exclusively for children and young adults since 2008. The festival is organized by the Children's Film Society of Bangladesh and will feature 173 films from 39 countries. The 7 day-long festival is set to conclude on 31st of January. To mark the 100th birth anniversary of the country's founding President Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, 'Khoka Jokhon Chhoto Chhilen' movie was screened. The theme of this year's festival is 'Under The World'.

340. India has signed an agreement with which country to upgrade Ashuganj-Akhaura road into 4-lane highway?

- A. Myanmar
- B. Bangladesh
- C. Sri Lanka
- D. Nepal

Answer: B. Bangladesh - India has recently signed an agreement with Bangladesh to upgrade 50.58 km road between Ashuganj river port and Akhaura in Bangladesh into 4-lane highway. This is the part of \$2 billion Line of Credit extended by India to Bangladesh in 2016. Out of the 50.58 km, a stretch of 39 km would be upgraded by Roads and Highways Department (RHD) of Bangladesh and an Indian Company – Afcons Infrastructure Limited. The RHD and an India-Bangladesh joint venture firm will take up the work of upgrading the remaining part of the road. The project is expected to improve the road connectivity between the two countries and facilitate regional connectivity between South and South-east Asian countries.

341. Which legendary Indian sportsperson was awarded with the prestigious 'Padma Vibhushan' award recently?

- A. Sachin Tendulkar
- B. Dhanraj Pillai
- C. M C Mary Kom
- D. Abhinav Bindra

Answer: C. M C Mary Kom - Six-time World Champion and Olympian boxer Mary Kom was conferred with the prestigious 'Padma Vibhushan' award on the Republic day of the year 2020. Seven eminent personalities were presented the 'Padma Vibhushan' award, which is the second highest civilian award in India, only next to the 'Bharat Ratna'. Other awardees are Former Union Ministers Arun Jaitley, Sushma Swaraj and George Fernandes (posthumously), Singer Chhannulal Mishra of Uttar Pradesh and former Mauritius prime minister Anerood Gugnauth.

342. How many personalities were selected for the 'Padma Bhushan' award, on the republic day 2020?

- A. 14
- B. 15
- C. 16
- D. 17

Answer: C. 16 - Sixteen eminent personalities were selected for the 'Padma Bhushan' award, for their distinguished service of high order. Out of the 141 total Padma awardees selected this year, there were seven Padma Vibhushan, 16 Padma Bhushan and 118 Padma Shri Awardees. Famous personalities who were selected for the

'Padma Bhushan' award includes, top-rated Badminton Player PV Sindhu, Former Chief Minister of Goa- Manohar Parrikar (posthumous), father of modern legal education in India, N R Madhava Menon and businessmen Anand Mahindra and Venu Srinivasan.

343. 'The National Tourism Conference' of the year 2020 was recently organised in which Indian city?

- A. Varanasi
- B. Konark
- C. Shimla
- D. Leh

Answer: B. Konark - The National Tourism Conference was recently hosted in the city of Konark, Odisha. The two-day conference was jointly organized by the state government of Odisha and The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI). Union Tourism Minister Prahalad Singh Patel attended the conference and announced that the Ministry of tourism would fund the travel expenditure of the tourists, who visit 15 places in the country in a year. Such tourists have to travel outside their home states and submit the photos on the ministry's website. A Memorandum of Intent (MoI) was signed between Odisha and Gujarat for cross-promotion of tourist sites.

344. Mark Rutte, who was seen in news recently, is the Prime Minister of which country?

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

Answer: B. Netherlands - The Prime Minister of Netherlands Mark Rutte was recently seen in news, as he made the country's first apology for the persecution of Jews during the World War II. He made this historic apology, first-of-its kind made by any government in this regard, during the country's annual Holocaust commemoration in Amsterdam, on the eve of the 75th anniversary of the liberation of the Nazi death camp at Auschwitz. More than 1.1 million Jews out of the 1.4 million who lived in Netherlands were killed in the Auschwitz concentration camp, at the outbreak of World War II.

345. Which city plays host to the annual event 'Bharat Parv, 2020' which celebrates the spirit of India?

- A. Mumbai
- B. New Delhi
- C. Ahmedabad

D. Jaipur

Answer: B. New Delhi - The annual event 'Bharat Parv, 2020' is being celebrated from 26th to 31st January, 2020 in New Delhi. The aim of the festival is to encourage Indians to visit different tourism destinations of India and to encourage them with the spirit of 'Dekho Apna Desh'. The theme of this year's festival is set as 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat' and 'Celebrating 150 Years of Mahatma Gandhi'. The six-day-event which is to held in front of Red Fort at Gyan Path and Red Fort grounds in New Delhi has several attractions including performance by armed forces bands cultural Performances from different regions of the country.

346. National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR) has recently partnered with which global organisation to establish a 'Communication Resource Unit'?

A. World Bank

B. UNICEF

C. UNESCO

D. International Monetary Fund

Answer: B. UNICEF - National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR), an autonomous organisation under the Union Ministry of Rural Development, has recently partnered with UNICEF (United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund) to establish a 'Communication Resource Unit'. The unit will act as a mechanism to provide communication support to national flagship programmes including POSHAN Abhiyaan, National Health Mission and Swachh Bharath Mission. The Communication Resource Unit is currently operating in three states of Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Karnataka, to furnish communication support including capacity building and consultation, to different government departments.

347. India's first and biggest walk-through aviary with over 100 species of birds, was recently inaugurated in which city?

A. Mumbai

B. Guwahati

C. Bengaluru

D. Thiruvananthapuram

Answer: A. Mumbai - The Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Uddhav Thackeray inaugurated the country's first and biggest walk-through aviary at the Veermata Jijabai Bhosale Udyan and Zoo commonly called as the Byculla zoo in Mumbai. The aviary comprises of an area of over 18,200 square feet and height of 44 feet. It will be home to over 100 different species of exotic and common birds, which will live in their natural environment. A small bridge passes through the aviary which will be opened for the public to walk through and view the birds.

348. What is the name of the national award, that is given to a person for meritorious act of human nature in saving the life of a person?

- A. Jeevan Raksha Padak
- B. Raksha Puraskar
- C. Jeevan Shakti Padak
- D. Bharat Jeevan Padak

Answer: A. Jeevan Raksha Padak - President Ram Nath Kovind has approved to confer the Jeevan Raksha Padak Series of Awards, 2019 to 54 persons. This includes Sarvottam Jeevan Raksha Padak to 7 persons, Uttam Jeevan Raksha Padak to 8 and Jeevan Raksha Padak to 39 persons. Five awards are to be given posthumously. Jeevan Raksha Padak awards, a branch of the Ashoka Chakra series of Gallantry awards, were instituted in the year 1961. The award is given for meritorious act of human nature in saving the life of a person in incidents like accidents, electrocution, natural calamities or rescue operation in mines.

349. 'Shiv Bhojan' scheme, which is aimed at providing a meal to the poor at subsidised rates, was recently launched in which state?

- A. Uttar Pradesh
- B. Bihar
- C. Maharashtra
- D. Karnataka

Answer: C. Maharashtra - The state government of Maharashtra launched the 'Shiv Bhojan' scheme, which aims to provide a meal to the poor for Rs 10. The scheme was launched on the occasion of the 71st Republic Day celebrations. Under the scheme, thalis or lunch plates would be available to the people at designated centres in all districts. Nearly 50 'Shiv-Bhojan' outlets were set up in a pilot basis, which will be extended to other parts of the state. The remaining fund needed for providing food will be given as grant to the district collectorate by the state government.

350. Sher Singh Kukkal, who passed away recently, was a famous personality in which field?

- A. Politics
- B. Sports
- C. Art
- D. Business

Answer: C. Art - The 86-year-old veteran artist and sculptor Sher Singh Kukkal passed away after age-related illness in New Delhi recently. Sher Singh Kukkal was a noted artist with a great experience in several branches of fine arts including drawing, painting, sculpture, printing and photography. He also taught arts at the Sainik School Satara. The artist had won several national and international awards including the Rajiv

Gandhi Foundation Award and the Senior Fellowship in Visual Art Photography by Union Ministry of Culture during 2008-09.

351. With which IIT has OPPO smartphone company recently inked an MoU for Research and Development Projects?

- A. IIT Hyderabad
- B. IIT Mumbai
- C. IIT Jodhpur
- D. IIT Delhi

Answer: A. IIT Hyderabad - OPPO, the international smartphone firm recently inked an MoU with the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)- Hyderabad for collaborating in Research and Development projects in emerging technologies. The MoU was signed between the R&D Department of the IIT and Head of OPPO India. As per the MoU joint research and development for multiple projects will be undertaken for a period of two years, in technologies such as Image processing, 5G networks and Artificial Intelligence.

352. Which country hosted the World Sustainable Summit, 2020?

- A. Nepal
- B. Japan
- C. China
- D. India

Answer: D. India - India is hosting the World Sustainable Summit organized by The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI). The event started on 29 January 2020 and will conclude on 31st January 2020. This is the first time that this summit is happening in India. The theme of the World Sustainable Summit 2020 is 'Towards 2030: Making the Decade Count'

353. ___ is the upper limit for legal abortion, as per the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Bill, recently approved by the Cabinet.

- A. 30 weeks
- B. 28 Weeks
- C. 24 Weeks
- D. 20 Weeks

Answer: C. 24 Weeks - The Union Cabinet has approved the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Bill, 2020 to amend the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971. The Cabinet was chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The Bill will be introduced in the next session of the Parliament. According to the amended bill, if a woman wants to terminate the pregnancy before 20 weeks of gestation, the opinion of one provider will be required. Whereas, for termination of pregnancy, of 20-24 weeks of

gestation opinion of two providers will be required. 24 weeks is the upper limit for legal abortion, as per the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Bill.

354. RBI has imposed Rs 1 crore penalty on which bank for non-compliance of KYC norms?

- A. ICICI Bank
- B. PayTm Payment Bank
- C. HDFC Bank
- D. IDBI Bank

Answer: C. HDFC Bank - HDFC has been imposed with a fine of Rs. 1 crore by the Reserve Bank of India for non-compliance with Know Your Customer (KYC) norms. It was observed by Reserve Bank of India that the transactions effected in the current accounts of customers were disproportionate to the declared income and profile.

355. Reserve Bank has appointed _ as member of Monetary Policy Committee.

- A. M D Patra
- B. Janak Raj
- C. Sarath Kumar
- D. Raman Mehta

Answer: B. Janak Raj - Executive Director of RBI (Reserve Bank of India) Mr Janak Raj has been appointed as a member of the Monetary Policy Committee by the Reserve Bank of India. The announcement was made on 29th January 2020. The Monetary Policy Committee is the highest interest rate-setting body. Janak Raj has been appointed in place of M D Patra, who was recently promoted as Deputy Governor of the RBI.

356. What is the percentage of additional duty benefit to mobile phone export that has been restored by the government?

- A. 6%
- B. 5%
- C. 2%
- D. 3%

Answer: C. 2% - 2% additional duty incentive on mobile phones export has been restored by the government of India. According to the commerce industry, this is done with a view to boost shipments of the product. The duty benefit under the Merchandise Export from India Scheme is effective from January 1 and will be applicable till March 31, 2020.

357. Rajasthan govt released _ amount as the fourth instalment of PM Kisan Nidhi scheme to farmers.

- A. Rs. 110.93 crore
- B. Rs. 118.93 crore
- C. Rs. 108.93 crore
- D. Rs. 128.93 crore

Answer: B. Rs. 118.93 crore - The fourth instalment of Rs 118.93 crore under the Centre's Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi scheme has been released by Rajasthan government. According to the data 5,94,694 farmers bank accounts have been credited with the amount of Rs 2000.

358. Who among the following has been appointed as the UN Resident Coordinator in Thailand?

- A. Indra Banerjee
- B. Gita Sabharwal
- C. Taranjit Sandhu
- D. Harpreet Singh

Answer: B. Gita Sabharwal - Gita Sabharwal of India has been appointed as the Resident Coordinator in Thailand by the United Nations. At the country level, the UN Resident Coordinator is the highest-ranking representative of the UN development system.

359. According to the survey of Transparency International, which state has been ranked as the top state in budget formulation practices?

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

Answer: D. Assam - According to a survey done by Transparency International Assam has bagged the first position in terms of best practices followed in budget formulation, followed by Odisha and Andhra Pradesh. 4 parameters were considered during the survey which included public disclosure, budgetary process, post-budget fiscal management and efforts to make the budget more transparent and citizen-friendly.

360. According to TomTom survey which is world's most traffic-congested city ?

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

Answer: B. Kerala - India on 30th January 2020 reported its first positive case of novel coronavirus (nCoV). A student from Kerala, who was studying at Wuhan University and travelled to India, has been tested positive for the virus.

361. Which country is the world's second-largest weapons manufacturer, according to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute?

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

Answer: d. China - The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) released a new report on January 27, 2020. According to the report China is the world's second-largest arms producer. The US bagged the first position in the list and Russia stands third.

362. The Government of India will release a report card on 100 selected smart cities by which month of 2020?

- A. December
- B. September
- C. March
- D. June

Answer: D. June - The government of India in June 2020 will publish a report card for the 100 selected smart cities. This will be done to assess the progress of the Smart Cities Mission in the last five years. There will be three parameters on which the selected 100 cities will be ranked. Those parameters are – ease of living, municipal performance index and climate. The weightage of 30%, 20%, 20%, will be given to each category respectively. Additional, 20% points for citizens participation. Health, housing, education, mobility, safety, development, and economic opportunities will also be included in the ease of living index.

363. Which bank has launched a unique self-service delivery facility 'I-Box'?

- A. Bank of Baroda
- B. Kotak Mahindra Bank
- C. ICICI Bank
- D. HDFC Bank

Answer: C. ICICI Bank - ICICI Bank on 29th January announced the launch of "I-Box". It is a unique self-service delivery facility which will enable the bank's customers to collect their debit card, credit card, cheque from a branch close to their home or office, in a hassle-free manner. The facility will be available 24*7.

364. Which country has released the world's smallest coin featuring Albert Einstein?

- A. Russia
- B. Switzerland

- C. United States
- D. United Kingdom

Answer: B. witzerland - World's smallest gold coin has been minted by Switzerland. The coin has a picture of the great Scientist Albert Einstein with his tongue out. The diameter of the coin is 2.96-millimetre and it weighs 0.063 grams. The value of the coin is 1/4 Swiss francs or approximately Rs 18.50.

365. When is International Customs Day observed?

- A. 29th January
- B. 25th January
- C. 28th January
- D. 26th January

Answer: D. 26th January - Every year on 26 January International Customs Day is observed. The day was first observed by the World Customs Organization to commemorate the inaugural session of the Customs Cooperation Council (CCC) which was held in Brussels, Belgium in 1953. The theme of 2020 International Customs Day was "Customs fostering Sustainability for People, Prosperity and the Planet".

366. NASA plans to shut down its _ Space Telescope on 30th January 2020.

- A. Hubble
- B. Gamma Ray
- C. Fermi
- D. Spitzer

Answer: D. Spitzer NASA plans to shut down its Spitzer Space Telescope on 30th January 2020. This telescope for the past 16 years has provided key observations of the universe. Spitzer space telescope helped scientists by providing crucial infrared data by observing light in the infrared portion of the spectrum, which is light at longer wavelengths than what our eyes see. In the wavelengths closest to visible light, dust becomes transparent, letting scientists peek into star-forming regions of galaxies or study cooler stars.

367. How many Indian wetlands have got Ramsar Convention tag recently?

- A. 10
- B. 8
- C. 7
- D. 6

Answer: A. 10 - 10 more wetland sites from India have been declared as sites of international importance by Ramsar. With this declaration, India has now 37 numbers

of Ramsar sites and the surface area covered by these sites is now 1,067,939 hectares. Nandur Madhameshwar situated in Maharashtra, Beas Conservation Reserve, Keshopur-Miani, Nangal situated in Punjab and Parvati Agra, Nawabganj, Saman, Samaspur, Sandi and SarsaiNawar situated in Uttar Pradesh are the new wetlands included in the Ramsar sites list.

368. Which bank's app will help to identify rogue apps that could trigger fraud transactions?

- A. ICICI Bank
- B. PayTm Payment Bank
- C. HDFC Bank
- D. IDBI Bank

Answer: B. PayTm Payment Bank- Paytm Payments Bank Ltd (PPBL) recently announced that it has added new features in its app that can analyse "rogue" apps on user devices that may trigger fraudulent transactions and advises users to uninstall such apps.

369. When is the International Day of Education observed?

- A. 24th January
- B. 25th January
- C. 28th January
- D. 27th January

Answer: A. 24th January - 24 January is observed as International day of Education all over the world. The United Nations General Assembly announced this day to celebrate the role of education for peace and development. The theme for the year is: "Learning for People, the Planet, Prosperity and Peace".

370. IBM India has opened its second automation innovation centre in which city?

- A. Pune
- B. Mumbai
- C. Bangalore
- D. Bhubaneswar

Answer: A. Pune - IBM at its Pune facility has opened its second automation innovation centre. The centre is themed around intelligent automation of work and it showcases IBM's flagship automation platform and digital worker suite of solutions. The first centre was opened in 2017 at Bangalore.

371. Which state has recently launched the "Shiv-Bhojan" scheme for providing meals to needy at affordable prices?

- A. Gujarat

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

Answer: D. Maharashtra - On January 26, 2020, the Maharashtra government launched the 'Shiv Bhojan' scheme with an aim to provide meals to the poor and needy at subsidized rates. The scheme is launched on a pilot basis. Under the scheme, the meal will be provided to the poor for just Rs 10.

372. Railways first waste-to-energy plant has been commissioned in which city?

- A. Cuttack
- B. Mumbai
- C. Bangalore
- D. Bhubaneswar

Answer: D. Bhubaneswar - In a big step towards sustainable development and energy-efficiency solutions Indian Railways first waste-to-energy plant has been commissioned in Mancheswar Carriage Repair Workshop at Bhubaneswar. The inauguration of the plant was done on January 22, 2020, by Rajesh Agarwal, Member, Railway Board (Rolling Stock).

373. Who has been appointed as the new CEO and MD of the Canara Bank?

- A. Rohit Saini
- B. R A Sankara Narayanan
- C. L V Prabhakar
- D. Anna Roy

Answer: C. L V Prabhakar - L V Prabhakar is appointed as the managing director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Canara Bank by the government. He will be taking charge of his new role from 1 February 2020. He will remain at this position till he retires or until further orders.

374. By which Year Indian Railway is planning to run 100% on electricity?

- A. 2022
- B. 2024
- C. 2023
- D. 2025

Answer: B. 2024 - Piyush Goyal, Railway Minister of India attended the India Brazil business forum on 27 Jan 2020. Addressing the forum he said that the Railways is working on to switch completely to electricity by 2024. Diesel locomotives are slowly being shunted out of service.

375. When is International Holocaust Remembrance Day observed?

- A. 29th January
- B. 25th January
- C. 28th January
- D. 27th January

Answer: D. 27th January - UNESCO on 27th January every year observes International Holocaust Remembrance Day. The day is observed in memory of the victims of the Holocaust that occurred during the Second World War. The day recalls the genocide by the Nazi regime and its collaborators that resulted in the deaths of 6 million Jews and 11 million others on 27 January 1945.

376. When is National Voters Day observed?

- A. 25 January
- B. 24 January
- C. 26 January
- D. 27 January

Answer: A. 25 January - On 25th January 2020, 10th National Voters' Day was observed over ten lakh locations across India including Polling Stations, District and State headquarters. The theme for National Voters Day 2020 was 'Electoral Literacy for Stronger Democracy'.

377. The Union government has recently inked a peace agreement, with one of the dangerous militant groups of which state?

- A. Assam
- B. Maharashtra
- C. Bihar
- D. Punjab

Answer: A. Assam - On January 2, 2020, the Union government inked a peace agreement, with one of the dangerous militant groups in Assam, the National Democratic Front of Bodoland (NDFB). The deal was also signed by the All Bodo Students Union (ABSU).

378. Who among the following has stepped down as director of Ujjivan Small Finance Bank?

- A. Sanjay Kumar Jhunjhunwala
- B. Swapna Singh
- C. Sachin Bansal
- D. Sunil Vinayak Patel

Answer: C. Sachin Bansal - Sachin Bansal has stepped down as an independent director of Ujjivan Small Finance Bank. He took up this role in May 2019. He is

planning to launch his own digital banking entity. His wholly-owned firm Navi Technologies has applied for a banking license.

379. Who is the new CEO of ESSAR Oil UK ?

- A. David Nisbet
- B. Jim Alley
- C. Mark Wilson
- D. S Thangapandian

Answer: C. Mark Wilson - Essar Oil (UK) Ltd, announced the appointment of Mark Wilson as its new Chief Executive Officer. He will succeed S Thangapandian. He will be based at the Stanlow Manufacturing Complex in the United Kingdom.

380. Which city hosted the National Tourism Conference for the year 2020 ?

- A. Leh
- B. Mumbai
- C. Bangalore
- D. Konark

Answer: D. Konark - Konarak, a medium town in the Puri district in the state of Odisha hosted the National Tourism Conference on 23rd and 24th January 2020. The conference was held in an auditorium at the Marine Drive-Eco Retreat. It was jointly organized by the State Government of Odisha and the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

381. Which district has topped the list of aspirational districts for the month of December, released by NITI Aayog?

- A. Sahibganj (Jharkhand)
- B. Hailakandi (Assam)
- C. Belangir (Odisha)
- D. Chandauli (Uttar Pradesh)

Answer: D. Chandauli (Uttar Pradesh) - The think tank to Indian Government, NITI Aayog has ranked the aspirational districts on the basis of incremental progress made across six developmental areas in December 2019. As per the list, Chandauli district of Uttar Pradesh has been placed in the top position, followed by Belangir district of Odisha. Andhra Pradesh's YSR district is in the third place. The six developmental areas which are taken into account are: Health and nutrition, agriculture and water resources, financial inclusion, education, skill development and infrastructure.

382. What is the upper limit for legal abortion, as per the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Bill, recently approved by the Cabinet?

- A. 20 weeks

- B. 24 weeks
- C. 28 weeks
- D. 32 weeks

Answer: B. 24 weeks - The Union Cabinet has recently approved the 'Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Bill, 2020 and increased the upper limit for legal abortion to 24 weeks. Prior to the amendment, the upper limit was only 20 weeks. The existing act of 'Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971' has been amended and the 'Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Bill, 2020', which was drafted by the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare was approved by the Cabinet. The bill is expected to be introduced in the upcoming session of the Parliament.

383. In which city, the Indian Coast Guard has recently commissioned its 'C-448' high-speed boat?

- A. Kochi
- B. Vishakhapatnam
- C. Mangaluru
- D. Chennai

Answer: C. Mangaluru - The Indian Coast Guard has recently commissioned its 'C-448' high-speed boat at Mangaluru, Karnataka. The Chief Secretary of Karnataka attended the ceremony of commissioning the Coast Guard vessel. C-448 is a water-jet-propelled interceptor vessel, which is set to be deployed in for patrolling and rescue operations off the coast of Mangaluru. The boat also comprises of world-class navigation and communication equipment systems, which helps in search operations and maritime surveillance.

384. What was Tushar Kanjilal, the famous personality who passed away recently in Kolkata?

- A. Sports person
- B. Social worker
- C. Politician
- D. Musician

Answer: B. Social worker - The 85-year-old veteran social worker and educationist Tushar Kanjilal passed away recently in Kolkata. He was the recipient of the prestigious 'Padma Shri', the fourth highest civilian honour of India, in 1986. Fondly called as 'Mastermoshai', he worked as the head of a high-school in Rangabelia village of Kolkatta and strived for promoting education among the local population. He also authored a book titled 'Who Killed the Sunderbans?', which is based on the issue of destruction of the Sunderbans' mangrove forests.

385. What is the theme of the World Sustainable Development Summit, 2020?

- A. Towards 2030 Goals: Making the Decade Count
- B. Sustainable Energy across the world
- C. Attaining SDG before 2030
- D. Energy and Resources for all

Answer: A. Towards 2030 Goals: Making the Decade Count- The World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS) is the annual flagship event organised by The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI). This year, the global summit is scheduled to be held at the India Habitat Centre, New Delhi. The three-day event was inaugurated on January 29, 2020 with the theme, 'Towards 2030 Goals: Making the Decade Count'. The summit has been organised for 18 years from 2001, to provide a platform for global leaders to discuss climatic issues. This year, the event focusses on the global efforts to meet the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations.

386. The Surajkund International Crafts Mela is the flagship annual event organised by which state?

- A. Bihar
- B. Haryana
- C. Himachal Pradesh
- D. Assam

Answer: B. Haryana - The 34th Surajkund International Crafts Mela is set to be held from February 1 to 16, 2020, at Surajkund, Haryana. It is an annual flagship event organised by the state government of Haryana. This year, Himachal Pradesh is selected as the theme state for the festival. The Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh, Jai Ram Thakur attended the inaugural ceremony of the Mela. Various cultural programmes and exhibitions are arranged to promote the tourism of the state. This will enable the state to showcase its tourism potential and attract more people to the state.

387. As per the recent survey of Transparency International, which state has been ranked as the top state in budget formulation practices?

- A. Odisha
- B. Andhra Pradesh
- C. Assam
- D. West Bengal

Answer: C. Assam - According to the recent survey conducted the international NGO Transparency International, Indian state Assam has been ranked as the top state in terms of best practices followed during budget formulation. The survey considered four parameters for ranking the states, which are: public disclosure, budgetary process, post budget fiscal management and efforts to make budget more transparent and citizen friendly. The survey also revealed that the states which are placed at the bottom of the list were Goa, Maharashtra and Punjab.

388. Which Indian has been recently appointed as the UN Resident Coordinator in Thailand?

- A. Harsh Vardhan Shringla
- B. Gita Sabharwal
- C. Jai Shankar
- D. Taranjit Singh Sandhu

Answer: B. Gita Sabharwal- Gita Sabharwal of India has been recently appointed as the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Thailand, with the approval of the host country.

Gita Sabharwal was serving as the Peace-building and Development Adviser representing the United Nations, in Sri Lanka. The UN Resident Coordinators are the representatives of the UN Development system and leaders of the UN country teams. They also support to member countries in achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) targets.

389. Amazon India recently partnered with Eastern Railways, to set up a pick-up kiosk in which railway station?

- A. Dum Dum junction
- B. Bidhan Nagar
- C. Sealdah
- D. Durga Nagar

Answer: C. Sealdah - e-Commerce giant, Amazon India recently partnered with Eastern Railways, to set up a pick-up kiosk in Sealdah railway station in Kolkata. By selecting the railway station as their pick-up location while ordering their products in the company's website or application, the customers can pick up their packages conveniently at the station. In 2019, Amazon successfully launched pick-up kiosks at four railway stations in Mumbai by partnering with Indian Railways.

390. Which international smartphone firm recently signed an MoU with IIT- Hyderabad for Research and Development projects?

- A. Xiaomi
- B. OPPO
- C. Huawei
- D. Vivo

Answer: B OPPO - The international smartphone firm OPPO recently signed an MoU with the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)- Hyderabad for collaborating in Research and Development projects in emerging technologies. As per the agreement signed between the R&D Department of the IIT and Head of OPPO India, joint research and development for multiple projects will be undertaken for a period of two years, in

technologies such as Image processing, 5G networks and Artificial Intelligence. The partnership also aims to create industry-ready and skilled workforce from the institution.

391. The Government of India and the state government of Assam recently signed a tripartite agreement with which tribal group?

- A. Bodo
- B. Kuki
- C. Adi
- D. Nishi

Answer: A. Bodo - The Centre and the state government of Assam recently signed a tripartite agreement with National Democratic Front of Bodoland (NDFB). The Bodo tribal group was demanding a separate state of Bodoland from Assam for several years.

The All Bodo Students' Union (ABSU) and another group called United Bodo People's Organisation, which led the insurgency, also signed the agreement. More than 1500 militants of NDFB are expected to surrender with arms. Rs.1500 crore has been sanctioned by the government for implementing the accord in next three years.

392. Which state assembly recently passed a resolution to abolish the state's legislative council?

- A. Telangana
- B. Maharashtra
- C. Andhra Pradesh
- D. Karnataka

Answer: C. Andhra Pradesh - The state assembly of Andhra Pradesh recently passed a resolution to abolish the state's legislative council. The decision was supported by 133 legislators of the ruling YSR Congress Party. This decision is taken at the backdrop of the constant opposition faced in the upper house of the legislature, the Andhra Pradesh Legislative council. The main opposition party, Telugu Desam Party led by Chandrababu Naidu has 27 seats out of 58 in the council. It recently sent two bills related to the decentralization of Andhra Pradesh's capital to a select committee for further deliberation, after it was passed in the assembly.

393. What is the planned percentage of the government's stake in Air India to be divested?

- A. 50%
- B. 60%
- C. 75%

D. 100%

Answer: D. 100% - According to the recent bid document released by the Government, it would sell all its 100 per cent of its equity share capital in Air India, which includes the Air India's 100 per cent stake in AI Express Limited and 50 per cent in Air India SATS Airport Services Private Limited. The government has also announced that it would absorb 30 per cent more in debt and liabilities, than it did in the previous year. March 17 has been set as the dead line for the submission of bids for the sale, which is to be implemented through the open bidding route. The net worth for the interested entities is also reduced to Rs.3500 Cr from the earlier limit of Rs.5000 Cr.

394. Which Indian city plays host to the third Global Potato Conclave of 2020?

- A. Mumbai
- B. Ahmedabad
- C. Gandhinagar
- D. Surat

Answer: C. Gandhinagar - The third Global Potato Conclave recently commenced in Gandhinagar, with the Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's address through video-conferencing. Two Global Potato Conferences were organised in 1999 and 2008, one in every 10 years. The conclave for this decade is being organised by the Indian Potato Association (IPA) in association with the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), Shimla based ICAR-Central Potato Research Institute and International Potato Centre (CIP), Peru. The three-day global event will showcase the achievements in potato research and to set a blueprint for the decade.

395. Which Indian ship-builder is to deliver the anti-submarine stealth warship INS Kavaratti to Indian Navy?

- A. Mazagon Dock Limited
- B. Cochin Shipyard Limited
- C. Hindustan Shipyard Limited
- D. Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers

Answer: D. Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers - Kolkata-based Defence PSU- Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers is to deliver the anti-submarine stealth warship, INS Kavaratti to the Indian Navy soon, as per the recent announcement. Kavaratti is the last of the four Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) stealth corvettes built by the GRSE for the Indian Navy under Project P28, the first three :'Kamorta', 'Kadmatt' and 'Kiltan', named after islands in the Lakshadweep archipelago, were delivered from 2014 to 2017. The new Kavaratti warship has 90 per cent indigenous components and is expected to require lower maintenance. With all the trials being completed, the ship is to be delivered by the month end.

396. The world's smallest gold coin, which features Albert Einstein, is recently released by which country?

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

Answer: B. Switzerland - Switzerland has recently minted the world's smallest gold coin, which bears the famous picture of the great Scientist Albert Einstein with his tongue out. The government-run Swissmint announced that the world's smallest coin has a diameter of 2.96-millimeter and weighs 0.063 grams. The value of the coin is pegged at 1/4 Swiss francs or approximately Rs 18.50. Einstein came to Switzerland at the age of 17 and completed his education in the country. He also became a Swiss citizen in 1902. Another coin featuring the Swiss tennis star Roger Federer was also minted.

397. Marjan Sarec, who was seen in news after his resignation, was the Prime Minister of which country?

- A. Slovenia
- B. Slovakia
- C. Serbia
- D. Croatia

Answer: A. Slovenia - The Prime Minister of Slovenia, Marjan Sarec was seen in news as he recently submitted his resignation from the post to the country's parliament. He also called for an early election as his minority government could not pass important legislations. The next regular election is due to be held in the middle of 2022. The ruling coalition of five parties, which assumed power in Late 2018, had only 43 out of 90 seats in parliament. Before the announcement of the Prime Minister, the Finance Minister Andrej Bertonec also submitted his resignation.

398. Who has been appointed as the chief executive of Indian Bank's Association (IBA)?

- A. Rajnish Kumar
- B. V G Kannan
- C. Sunil Mehta
- D. Rakesh Sharma

Answer: C. Sunil Mehta - As per the recent announcement from the Indian Bank's Association (IBA), Former Managing Director and CEO of Punjab National Bank, Sunil Mehta has taken charge as the Chief Executive of IBA. Sunil Mehta has recently retired

as the MD and CEO of Punjab National Bank. He has previously held the post of Chairman of Indian Banks Association, which was replaced by the head of State Bank of India, Rajnish Kumar in October 2019. Now, Sunil Mehta has replaced VG Kannan, who assumed office on December 31, 2019.

399. Which Indian theatre artist is to be conferred the prestigious French honour, Knight of the Order of Arts and Letters?

- A. Naseeruddin Shah
- B. Sanjana Kapoor
- C. Girish Karnad
- D. Lillette Dubey

Answer: B. Sanjana Kapoor - Veteran theatre personality and the daughter of Bollywood star Shashi Kapoor, artist Sanjana Kapoor is to be presented with the French honour, Knight of the Order of Arts and Letters. The award is conferred on her for the outstanding contribution the artist has made to the theatre arts. The Culture Minister of France, Franck Riester, who is currently on an official visit to India, is expected to confer the prestigious award on Sanjana Kapoor in a proposed ceremony. Sanjana Kapoor acted in several plays and revived the Prithvi Theatre in Mumbai, which was founded by her parents in tribute to Prithviraj Kapoor. She also co-founded an organisation called Junoon, which increases the reach of theatre and the arts.

400. Which Indian squash player became the runner-up in the Pittsburgh Open squash tournament?

- A. Joshna Chinappa
- B. Dipika Pallikal
- C. Saurav Ghosal
- D. Sunayna Kuruvilla

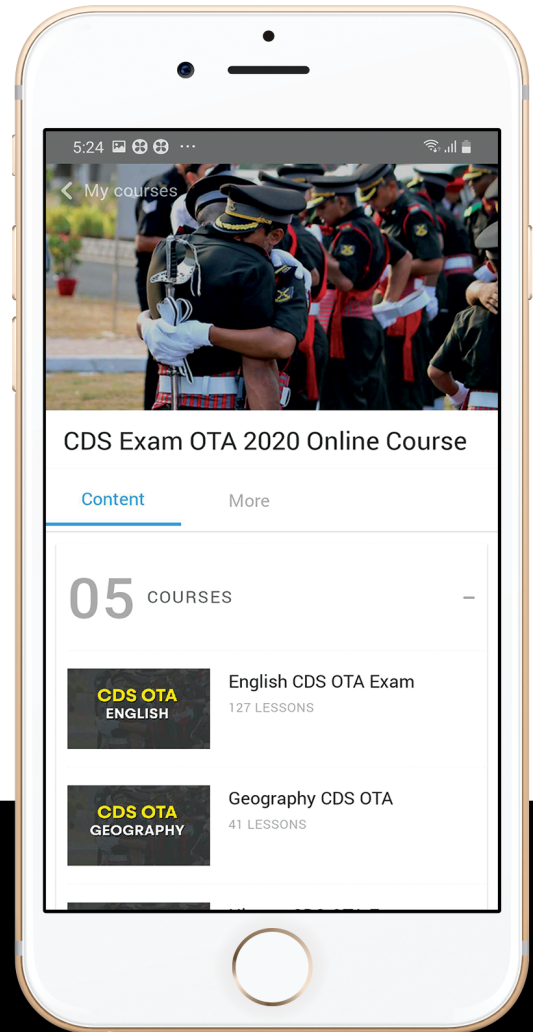
Answer: C. Saurav Ghosal- Ace Indian squash player Saurav Ghosal became the runner-up in the Pittsburgh Open squash tournament after he lost to the top seed Egyptian player, Fares Dessouky in the final. The second seed Saurav Ghosal lost 7-11, 4-11, 9-11 to the Egyptian player after he advanced to the finals by defeating the fifth seed Egypt's Omar Mossad in the hard-fought semi-final match, which lasted for an hour and 13 minutes. Saurav has reached his career-high world ranking of 10 in April 2019.



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