

ForumIAS

*10 PM Current Affairs  
Quiz Compilation*

OCTOBER, 2019

*THIS IS A MONTHLY DOCUMENT CONTAINING ALL MCQS ASKED IN 10 PM  
CURRENT AFFAIRS QUIZ BY FORUMIAS.*

**Q.1)** Consider the following statements with respect to the School Education Quality Index (SEQI):

1. It is prepared by Ministry of Human Resource and Development
2. Kerala tops the index

Which of the following below given codes are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Q.2)** Consider the following statements with respect to National Mission on Clean Ganga (NMCG):

1. It is registered as society under the Societies Registration Act 1860
2. It acted as implementation arm of National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA)

Which of the following below given codes are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Q.3)** Bandipur Tiger Reserve located in which of the following state?

- a) Kerala
- b) Karnataka
- c) Tamil Nadu
- d) Andhra Pradesh

**Q.4)** Which of the following institution releases the State of Global Air report?

- a) World Economic Forum
- b) World Health Organization
- c) Health Effects Institute
- d) UNICEF

**Q.5)** INS "Niligiri" is recently in news, which of the following correctly describes INS Niligiri?

- a) Stealth Frigate
- b) Submarine
- c) Light Weight Helicopter
- d) Aircraft Carrier

**Q.6)** 'The Gandhian Challenge' has been launched with an aim to:

- a) Make India open defecation free.
- b) To support children to thrive as young innovators and entrepreneurs.
- c) To promote democratic decentralization
- d) To promote peace

**Q.7)** Recently Typhoon 'Mitag' is in news. Typhoon is the regional names for Tropical Cyclones that occur in which of the following region?

- a) Indian Ocean
- b) Atlantic ocean
- c) Arctic ocean
- d) Pacific ocean

**Q.8)** Consider the following statements about the 'Consumer App' recently launched by Ministry of Consumer Affairs:

1. The App is available in all the languages mentioned in schedule 8 of the Indian Constitution.
2. The maximum period of redressal of complaint is claimed to be 60 days.

Which of the above given statement is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Q.9)** IRCTC, in first of its kind offer will compensate passengers for delay in the schedule of which of the following train?

- a) Gatimaan Express
- b) Vande Bharat Express
- c) Tejas Express
- d) Rajdhani Express

**Q.10)** International Day of Older Persons (IDOP) is celebrated on which of the following day?

- a) October 1
- b) October 2
- c) September 30
- d) October 10

**Q.11)** Dakshin Bharat Hindi Prachar Sabha at Madras in 1918 established by which of the following?

- a) Mahatma Gandhi
- b) Rajagopalachari
- c) Motilal Nehru
- d) Annie Besant

**Q.12)** Consider the following statements with respect to India-China Informal summit 2019:

1. The summit is going to be held in Mamallapuram
2. Mamallapuram ancient port town in Andhra Pradesh
3. Mamallapuram, which was a crucial town connecting India with Southeast Asia including China from the Pallava period

Which of the following below given codes are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 1 and 2 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

**Q.13)** The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, came into effect in which year?

- a) 1988
- b) 1989
- c) 1990
- d) 1992

**Q.14)** Which of the following state declared Tiger State of India, Recently?

- a) Maharashtra
- b) Rajasthan
- c) Assam
- d) Madhya Pradesh

**Q.15)** Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) is recently in news related to which of the following country?

- a) Iraq
- b) North Korea
- c) Iran
- d) Syria

**Q.16)** Consider the following statements with respect to e-Waste clinic:

1. India's first e-Waste clinic is going to set up in Bhopal
2. Bhopal Municipal Corporation and Ministry of Environment joined hands to start e-Waste clinic initiative

Which of the following below given codes are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Q.17)** Consider the following statements with respect to Mi-17 Helicopter:

1. It is designed and developed by Lockheed Martin
2. Designed to transport cargo inside the cabin and it is one of the world's most advanced helicopters

Which of the following below given codes are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Q.18)** Which of the following state is going to establish the Dinosaur park?

- a) Haryana
- b) Punjab
- c) Uttar Pradesh
- d) Maharashtra

**Q.19)** Consider the following statements with respect to Jal Jeevan Mission:

1. Objective of the mission is to give functional tap-water to every household in the country by 2022
2. Mission is based up on the principle of source sustainability
3. Jal Jeevan Mission will convergewith other Central and State Government Schemes to achieve its objectives of sustainable water supply

Which of the following below given codes are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 1 and 2 only
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

**Q.20)** 'Audio Odigos' App has been launched by Government of India to act as:

- a) Guide to people about Ayushman Bharat
- b) Guide facility at tourist destinations
- c) Translator of different language in Hindi
- d) Music library of patriotic songs

**Q.21)** Consider the following statements with respect to Information Fusion Centre (IFC) – Indian Ocean Region (IOR):

- 1. IFC is based at the Indian Navy's Information Management and Analysis Centre (IMAC) at Noida
  - 2. The IFC for Indian Ocean Region has the primary objective of jointly monitoring the vast Indian Ocean Region
  - 3. IFC-IOR will work closely with countries in the region on white shipping
- Which of the following below given codes are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 1 and 2 only
- c) 1, 2 and 3
- d) 2 and 3 only

**Q.22)** Consider the following statements with respect to National Horticulture Board (NHB):

- 1. It is established on the recommendations of first National Farmers Commission
- 2. The NHB is registered as a Society under the Societies Registration Act 1860, with its headquarters at Gurugram
- 3. The main objectives of the NHB are to improve integrated development of Horticulture industry in India

Which of the following below given codes are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 1 and 2 only
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

**Q.23)** MOSAiC expedition related to which of the following?

- a) Arctic Ocean
- b) Antarctic Ocean
- c) Pacific Ocean
- d) Indian Ocean

**Q.24)** Which country recently has passed the Protection from Online Falsehoods and Manipulation Act, 2019?

- a) Singapore
- b) Thailand
- c) Japan
- d) China

**Q.25)** Consider the following statements with respect to Commercial Paper:

- 1. Commercial paper is an secured and short-term debt instrument
- 2. Commercial paper is usually issued at a discount from face value and reflects prevailing market interest rates

Which of the following below given codes are correct?

- a) 1 only

- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Q.26)** 20 new moons of Saturn are discovered recently. Which of the following telescopes made this discovery?

- a) James Webb Space Telescope
- b) Subaru telescope
- c) Hubble space telescope
- d) Spitzer Space Telescope

**Q.27)** 'Global Competitive Index' is published by which of the following organization?

- a) World Bank
- b) World Trade organization
- c) World Economic Forum
- d) International Labour Organisation

**Q.28)** Consider the following statements about Information Fusion Center – Indian Ocean Region (IFC – IOR):

1. It is established at Chennai.
2. It is jointly administered by defense forces.
3. It is established as an independent institution under ministry of defense.

Which of the above given statement is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1, 2 and 3
- d) None of the above

**Q.29)** World habitat day is observed on first Monday of October by UN. Which among the following is correct about the theme and city for the year 2019?

- a) Theme: Municipal Solid Waste Management; City: Kenya
- b) Theme: Municipal Solid Waste Management; City: Mexico
- c) Theme: Frontier Technologies as an innovative tool to transform waste to wealth; City: Mexico
- d) Theme: Frontier Technologies as an innovative tool to transform waste to wealth; City: Kenya

**Q.30)** Nobel Prize in Physics for the year 2019 is won for which among the following studies?

- a) Theoretical discoveries in physical cosmology
- b) Discovery of an exoplanet orbiting a star similar to sun
- c) Both A and B
- d) None

**Q.31)** Recently which State initiated Golden Chance Exam to clear class X and XII:

- a) Punjab
- b) Haryana
- c) Uttar Pradesh
- d) Bihar

**Q.32)** Consider the following statements with respect to Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP):

1. It is a set of stratified actions that are taken once the pollution level reaches a certain specified limit
2. The GRAP is implemented by the Environment Pollution Control Authority (EPCA)
3. GRAP primarily focuses on Carbon Dioxide

Which of the following below given codes are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 1 and 2 only
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

**Q.33)** “Green Channel” is recently in news related to which of the following sector?

- a) Environment Funds to promote conservation of resources
- b) Disaster response funds for disaster affected areas
- c) Mergers and Acquisitions
- d) Promoting local level eco-conservation

**Q.34)** Consider the following statements with respect to Rafale Fighter Aircraft:

1. Rafale is a single-engine medium multi-role combat aircraft
2. It is manufactured by the French company Dassault Aviation
3. Indian government had inked a direct deal with the French government to purchase 36 new Rafale fighter jet

Which of the following below given codes are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 1 and 2 only
- c) 1, 2 and 3
- d) 2 and 3 only

**Q.35)** India International Co-operative Trade Fair 2019 is going to be held in which of the following city?

- a) Chennai
- b) Hyderabad
- c) Kolkata
- d) New Delhi

**Q.36)** Consider the following statements about ‘Global Fund to fight against AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria’:

1. Global Fund to fight against AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria is an implementing agency.
2. Its secretariat is in Geneva, Switzerland.
3. It was created in 2002 to raise, manage and invest the world’s money to respond to three of the deadliest infectious diseases the world has ever known viz. AIDS, TB and malaria.

Which of the above given statement is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

**Q.37)** SARAS Aajeevika Mela is an initiative under which of the following?

- a) Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Antyodaya Yojana
- b) MGNREGA
- c) Skill India Mission
- d) National Heritage Development and Augmentation Yojna

**Q.38)** A new species of eel-loach is discovered at which of the following place?

- a) Chennai, Tamil Nadu
- b) Kozhikode, Kerala
- c) Mangalore, Karnataka
- d) Puri, Orissa

**Q.39)** POSHAN Atlas will map which of the following?

- a) Districts with high malnutrition
- b) Regional crops
- c) Districts of high MMR
- d) High Anemic region

**Q.40)** Which of the UN organization initiated acceptance of cryptocurrencies as donation?

- a) UNICEF
- b) WHO
- c) FAO
- d) UNESCO

**Q.41)** During whose reign, 'Shore temples' were built where India-china informal meeting held?

- a) Rajasimha of Pallava Dynasty
- b) Rajendra Chola I of Chola kingdom
- c) Simha Vishnu of pallava dynasty
- d) Vijayaa Chola

**Q.42)** Sendai Framework is related to which of the following:

- a) To protect human health and the environment from the adverse effects of mercury.
- b) Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030
- c) Conservation of species within their natural habitats
- d) Global women's safety framework

**Q.43)** mHariyali' mobile application was launched by which of the following?

- a) Ministry of Environment, forest and climate change
- b) Central Pollution control board
- c) Ministry of housing and urban affairs
- d) Ministry of tourism

**Q.44)** Who among the following has been awarded Indira Gandhi Award for National Integration for the years 2017 and 2018?

- a) Carnatic music vocalist T. M Krishna
- b) Environmentalist Chandi Prasad Bhatt
- c) M.S Swaminathan
- d) A.R Rahman



**Q.45)** India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra) is part of which of the following credit rating agency?

- a) Moody
- b) CRISIL
- c) S and P global
- d) Fitch group

**Q.46)** Consider the following statements with respect to C40 World Mayors Summit 2019:

1. C40 World Mayors Summit is being held at Rotterdam, Netherlands
2. C40 is a network of the world's megacities taking action to address climate change

Which of the following below given codes are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Q.47)** Consider the following statements with respect to Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI):

1. It is an international knowledge and capacity development platform to protect Infrastructure
2. CDRI is proposed by India

Which of the following below given codes are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Q.48)** Consider the following statements with respect to Exercise DHARMA GUARDIAN-2019:

1. It is a Joint Military exercise between in India and Australia
2. It will be conducted at counter Insurgency and Jungle Warfare School, Vairengte, Mizoram

Which of the following below given codes are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Q.49)** Recently Government of India launched SUMAN scheme, related to which of the following?

- a) Solar Energy
- b) Education
- c) Public Health
- d) Insurance to poor

**Q.50)** "Special & Differential Treatment" provisions related to which of the following multilateral Institution?

- a) World Trade Organization
- b) IMF
- c) World Bank
- d) UNCTAD

**Q.51)** Consider the following statements with respect to Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail Project (MAHSR):

1. Project is totally funded by Asian Development Bank
2. National High Speed Rail Corporation (NHSRCL) is the implementing agency of the project

Which of the following below given codes are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Q.52)** 90:90:90: strategy is recently in news, related to which of the following?

- a) Malaria control
- b) Tuberculosis control
- c) AIDS control
- d) Viral Fever control

**Q.53)** Consider the following statements with respect to Index of Industrial Production (IIP):

1. It measures changes in the volume of production of a basket of industrial products
2. Index is compiled and published by CSO
3. Base year for IIP is 2014-15

Which of the following below given codes are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 1 and 2 only
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

**Q.54)** Exercise “Vajra Prahar” conducted between India and which of the following country?

- a) Russia
- b) Japan
- c) Nepal
- d) USA

**Q.55)** “Operation Peace Spring”, recently in news is launched by which of the following countries in Syria?

- a) USA
- b) Russia
- c) Turkey
- d) Iraq

**Q.56)** Consider the following statements with respect to programme “Vigyan Jyoti”:

1. Programme is only for girl students
2. Programme is to inculcate interest in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM)

Which of the following below given codes are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Q.57)** Consider the following statements with respect to LOTUS-HR:

1. It is a joint initiative between India-Germany
2. LOTUS-HR stands for Local Treatment of Urban Sewage streams for Healthy Reuse plant

Which of the following below given codes are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Q.58)** Which of the following Institute conducted the National Blindness and Visual Impairment Survey?

- a) AIIMS
- b) NSSO
- c) NITI Aayog
- d) Ministry of Health

**Q.59)** Consider the following statements with respect to “Baul Festival”:

1. It is celebrated in India and Nepal
2. Baul music represents a particular type of folk song, carrying influences of Hindu bhakti movements as well as the shuphi, a form of Sufi song
3. Bauls belong to an unorthodox devotional tradition influenced by Hinduism, Buddhism, Bengali, Vasinavism and Sufi Islam

Which of the following below given codes are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 1 and 2 only
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

**Q.60)** Consider the following statements with respect to World Standards Day:

1. World Standards Day (WSD) is celebrated each year all over the world on 10 October
2. The aim of the day is to raise awareness among regulators, industry and consumers as to the importance of standardization to the global economy
3. The theme for 2019 is “Video Standards create a global stage”

Which of the following below given codes are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 1 and 3 only
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

**Q.61)** Consider the following statements with respect to World Food Day:

1. World Food Day is celebrated every year on 16 October in honor of the date of the founding of the FAO
2. 2019 World Food Day theme “Our Actions Are Our Future, Ending World Hunger by 2030 is Possible”

Which of the following below given codes are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Q.62)** Which of the following Institution release the Report of World Giving Index?

- a) Charities Aid Foundation
- b) World Economic Forum
- c) IMF
- d) Amnesty International

**Q.63)** Which of the following multilateral Institution publish the report World Economic Outlook (WEO)?

- a) World Trade Organisation
- b) World Economic Forum
- c) IMF
- d) IBRD

**Q.64)** Consider the following statements with respect to Maritime State Development Scale (MSDC):

1. Maritime State Development Council (MSDC) is an apex advisory body for the development of the Maritime sector
2. The 17th Maritime State Development Council (MSDC) meeting in Mumbai
3. It aims to ensure integrated development of Major and non-Major Ports

Which of the following below given codes are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 1 and 2 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

**Q.65)** L2pro is recently in news related to which of the following?

- a) Skill Development
- b) Education sector
- c) IPR Awareness
- d) Health Initiative

**Q.66)** Which of the following multilateral institution publish the Asia and Pacific trade and Investment report?

- a) UN-ESCAP
- b) UNCTAD
- c) World Bank
- d) Both A & B

**Q.67)** Government of India recently launched GOAL Programme related to which of the following?

- a) Health improvement measures
- b) Quality education
- c) Skill improvement for tribal woman
- d) Environment protection measures

**Q.68)** Consider the following statements with respect to Shinyuu Maitri:

1. Shinyuu Maitri is a bilateral air exercise between the Japanese Air Self Defence Force(JASDF) and Indian Air Force(IAF)
2. The exercise will be held at Air Force Station, Belgaum Karnataka

Which of the following below given codes are correct?

- a) 1 only

- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Q.69)** Consider the following statements with respect to Food Safety Mitra Scheme:

1. FSSAI has introduced scheme of Food Safety Mitra (FSM) through which it plans to engage motivated individuals with the food safety ecosystem at ground level
2. A FSM is an individual professional certified by FSSAI who assists in compliances related to FSS Act, Rules & Regulations

Which of the following below given codes are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Q.70)** Which of the following country recently announced to extend the elimination of Kafala System to all the remaining workers?

- a) Qatar
- b) Yemen
- c) Syria
- d) Afghanistan

**Q.71)** Consider the following statements about livestock census in India:

1. Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying is responsible for data collection.
2. It covers only milk producing domesticated animals in a given period of time.
3. The recently released livestock census is the second one. First being released in 2012.

Which of the above given statement is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 1 only
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

**Q.72)** Recently in news, Tugali Island is in which of the following ocean?

- a) Solomon Sea
- b) South China Sea
- c) Andaman Sea
- d) Sea of Japan

**Q.73)** Consider the following statements about Tuberculosis (TB):

1. Government of India (GoI) aims to eliminate TB by 2025.
2. TB is caused by protozoa.

Which of the above given statement is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Q.74)** Global Hunger Index (GHI) is released by which of the following?

- a) WHO
- b) FAO
- c) International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)

d) World Bank

**Q.75)** Mount Paektu which is a volcanic mountain that had last erupted over 1,000 years ago, was recently in news. It is located on borders of which two countries?

- a) China and Vietnam
- b) China and North Korea
- c) North Korea and South Korea
- d) Laos and Vietnam

**Q.76)** Indian Institute of Petroleum and Energy (IIPE) located in which of the following state?

- a) Andhra Pradesh
- b) Odissa
- c) Tamil Nadu
- d) Maharashtra

**Q.77)** “Good Friday Agreement” is recently in news related to which of the following country?

- a) Spain
- b) Portugal
- c) Britain
- d) South Korea

**Q.78)** Consider the following statements with respect to Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D):

1. It was established through Police Research and Development Act 1970
2. It was established with the primary objective of modernization of police force

Which of the following below given codes are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Q.79)** Consider the following statements with respect to South Asian University (SAU):

1. The idea of establishing a South Asian University (SAU) was mooted at the 13th SAARC Summit in Dhaka in 2005
2. Degrees and certificates awarded by the South Asian University are recognized by the University Grants Commission and AICTE in India and by other SAARC countries

Which of the following below given codes are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Q.80)** “Good Economics for Hard Times” book written by which of the following personality?

- a) Manmohan Singh
- b) Amartya Sen
- c) Jagdish Bhagwati
- d) Abhijit Banerjee

**Q.81)** Bhashan Char Island is recently in news, located in which of the following?

- a) Arabian Sea
- b) Bay-of-Bengal
- c) South China Sea
- d) Red Sea

**Q.82)** Consider the following statements with respect to Financial Action Task Force (FATF):

1. The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) is an inter-governmental body established in 1989 on the initiative of the G7
2. It is a policy-making body which works to generate the necessary political will to bring about national legislative and regulatory reforms in various areas
3. The FATF Secretariat is housed at the OECD headquarters in Amsterdam, Netherlands

Which of the following below given codes are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 1 and 2 only
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

**Q.83)** Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary located on which of the following River Bank?

- a) Ganga River
- b) Brahmaputra River
- c) Siang River
- d) Betwa River

**Q.84)** Consider the following statements with respect to National Milk Sample Safety Quality Survey:

1. It was released by National Dairy Development Board
2. The Survey finds the problem of Aflatoxin-M1 is more dominant in processed milk than that of raw milk

Which of the following below given codes are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Q.85)** Consider the following statements with respect to Exercise DANX-19:

1. The DANX is a joint services exercise conducted by the ANC (Andaman and Nicobar Command)
2. The exercise was conducted for the first time in 2015
3. The main objective of the exercise is to practice and validate procedures and drills of all Command forces aimed at defending strategic Andaman & Nicobar Islands

Which of the following below given codes are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 1 and 2 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

**Q.86)** Defense Acquisition council (DAC) headed by which of the following?

- a) Prime Minister
- b) President of India

- c) Chief of Defense Staff
- d) Defense Minister

**Q.87)** Consider the following statements with respect to Marawah Island:

1. It is World's oldest known natural pearl site
2. It is located off the coast of Iran

Which of the following below given codes are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Q.88)** Consider the following statements with respect to Digital Bharat Digital Sanskriti (DBDS):

1. It is an E-portal of Centre for Cultural Resources and Training (CCRT)
2. portal will provide a platform for specifically dropout children so that they can join the mainstream and pursue their dreams
3. For this initiative, CCRT has tied up with Routes 2 Roots, an NGO for connecting seamlessly all the CCRT Regional Centres

Which of the following below given codes are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 1 and 2 only
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

**Q.89)** Recently National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) has red-flagged which state for its violation of Tiger Reserve Core area guidelines?

- a) Kerala
- b) Maharashtra
- c) Assam
- d) Madhya Pradesh

**Q.90)** Consider the following statements with respect to Annual Crime in India Report 2017:

1. It has been published by National Crimes Records Bureau
2. In 2017, there was an increase in registration of cases over 2016
3. According to report Mumbai witnessed the highest crime rate in the country

Which of the following below given codes are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 1 and 2 only
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

**Q.91)** Consider the following statements with respect to Hunar Haat:

1. The Hunar Haat is an exhibition of handicrafts, embroidery made by artisans from the Minority Communities
2. Hunar Haats are organized by Ministry of Minority Affairs under Seekho aur Kamao Scheme

Which of the following below given codes are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only



- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Q.92)** Which of the following Institution launched a cinema advertisement campaign 'Feed Our Future' for India?

- a) Food and Agriculture Organization
- b) UN World Food Programme (WFP)
- c) UNICEF
- d) World Bank

**Q.93)** Consider the following statements with respect to Jiyo Parsi Scheme:

1. Jiyo Parsi is a Central Sponsored Scheme launched by the Ministry of Minority Affairs in 2013
  2. The main objective of the scheme is to reverse the declining trend of Parsi population
- Which of the following below given codes are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Q.94)** Consider the following statements with respect to Prison Statistics of India 2017:

1. Prison Statistics of India 2017 was released by The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)
  2. The highest percentage of under-trial prisoners was in Maharashtra
  3. The majority of prisoners in India are under trial prisoners
- Which of the following below given codes are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 1 and 2 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

**Q.95)** Which of the following Institution release the "Global Wealth Report"?

- a) World Economic Forum
- b) IMF
- c) Credit Suisse Group
- d) World Bank

**Q.96)** Consider the following statements with respect to Snow Leopard:

1. Snow leopards (*Panthera uncial*) belong to the family of cats called Felidae
2. In India, snow leopards are found in the high altitude areas above the forested areas above 3000m.
3. Snow Leopard is the state animal of Himachal Pradesh

Which of the following below given codes are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 1 and 2 only
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

**Q.97)** Consider the following statements with respect to Peritoneal Dialysis (PD):

1. It is commonly known as blood dialysis
2. Union Health Ministry has released guidelines for establishing peritoneal dialysis services under the Pradhan Mantri National Dialysis Program (PMNDP)

Which of the following below given codes are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Q.98)** Consider the following statements with respect to Non-Aligned Movement (NAM):

1. 18th Non Aligned Movement(NAM) summit held in Baku, Azerbaijan
2. Prime Minister represented India for the NAM Summit
3. The concept of Non Aligned Movement(NAM) originated in 1955 at the Asia-Africa Bandung Conference held in Indonesia

Which of the following below given codes are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 1 and 2 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

**Q.99)** Consider the following statements with respect to Sindhu Sudharshan Exercise:

1. Indian Air force is going to conduct an exercise codenamed 'Sindhu Sudarshan' in Rajasthan
2. The aim of the exercise is to evaluate the capability of the Defense forces to strike deep into enemy territory in an integrated air-land battle.

Which of the following below given codes are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Q.100)** In which of the following city hosted first MeitY Start-up Summit?

- a) Chennai
- b) Bangalore
- c) Hyderabad
- d) New Delhi

**Q.101)** Consider the following statements with respect to Polio:

1. World Polio Day was established by Rotary International on 24th October
2. India was declared polio free in 2012 and the last case was reported in January 2011

Which of the following below given codes are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Q.102)** Consider the following statements with respect to Government e-Market place (GeM):

1. Government e Marketplace is an online marketplace for procurement of commonly used goods and services by government ministries, departments and CPSEs

2. It was set up in 2015

3. It functions under Directorate General of Supplies and Disposals (DGS&D), Ministry of Civil Supplies

Which of the following below given codes are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 1 and 2 only
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

**Q.103)** Kittur Utsav Festival celebrated in which of the following state?

- a) Andhra Pradesh
- b) Tamil Nadu
- c) Karnataka
- d) Kerala

**Q.104)** Consider the following statements with respect to Cape Town Agreement:

- 1. The Cape Town Agreement was adopted to help combat illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing
- 2. India ratified the Cape Town Agreement

Which of the following below given codes are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Q.105)** Consider the following statements with respect to Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC):

- 1. KVIC is a statutory body established under Khadi and Village Industries Commission Act, 1956
- 2. It is an apex organization under the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises

Which of the following below given codes are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Q.106)** Which of the following given below are Thrust Areas of Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT)?

- 1. Water Supply
- 2. Sewerage and Septage Management
- 3. Clean roads

Choose the correct code from given below options?

- a) 1 only
- b) 1 and 2 only
- c) 1, 2 and 3
- d) 2 and 3 only

**Q.107)** Kolam and Naikpod Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTG) are belong to which of the following State?

- a) Tamil Nadu
- b) Jharkhand

- c) Andhra Pradesh
- d) Telangana

**Q.108)** “Indian Brain Atlas” created by which of the following Institution?

- a) IIT-Madras
- b) IIIT-Hyderabad
- c) ISEC-Bangalore
- d) IIT-Kanpur

**Q.109)** Recently which state approved the two-child policy for Government Job eligibility?

- a) Andhra Pradesh
- b) Meghalaya
- c) Assam
- d) Bihar

**Q.110)** Super cyclone “Kyarr” emerged in which of the following Sea?

- a) South-China Sea
- b) Japan Sea
- c) Bay-of-Bengal
- d) Arabian Sea

**Q.111)** “Global Mobility Report” released by which of the following Institution?

- a) World Economic Forum
- b) World Bank
- c) UNCTAD
- d) Sustainable Mobility for All (SuM4All)

**Q.112)** Consider the following statements with respect to Sarayu River:

1. Varanasi located on the banks of Sarayu River
2. The Sarayu is a river that flows through the Indian states of Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh.

Which of the following below given codes are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Q.113)** Consider the following statements with respect to Exercise-Shakti 2019:

1. Indian and French armies will conduct joint counter-terrorism drills under ‘Exercise Shakti-2019’
2. It was first conducted in the year 2013
3. The exercise is a biennial exercise and is conducted alternately in India and France

Which of the following below given codes are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 1 and 2 only
- c) 1, 2 and 3
- d) 1, 2 and 3

**Q.114)** Consider the following statements with respect to UDAN Scheme:

1. It was launched in 2015
2. UDAN scheme was to make air travel affordable through subsidised tickets and to provide its access to smaller towns

Which of the following below given codes are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Q.115)** India recently signed Strategic Partnership Council Pact with which of the following Country?

- a) Iran
- b) Japan
- c) Saudi Arabia
- d) Malaysia

**Q.116)** Which of the following institution releases the Global Pension Index?

- a) World Economic Forum
- b) UNICEF
- c) Melbourne Mercer
- d) World Bank

**Q.117)** Consider the following statements with respect to Atal Bhujal Yojana:

1. The scheme aims to improve groundwater management in priority areas in the country through community participation
2. The Scheme is funded by Asian Development Bank

Which of the following below given codes are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Q.118)** Consider the following statements with respect to Million Farmers School (MFS) Programme:

1. MFS is launched by Andhra Pradesh State
2. The scheme aims to enhance farmers' incomes through dissemination of agriculture-related information

Which of the following below given codes are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Q.119)** "Uluru Rock" is recently in news located in which of the following country?

- a) Brazil
- b) South Africa
- c) Australia
- d) Egypt

**Q.120)** Consider the following statements with respect to “Kayla Mueller” operation:

1. The operation targeted Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) leadership, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi

2. The operation was a United States led military operation

Which of the following below given codes are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

ForumIAS

## 10 PM Compilation for the Month of October, 2019

### Answer Key

Qs.	Ans.	Qs.	Ans.	Qs.	Ans.	Qs.	Ans.	Qs.	Ans.
1	B	11	A	21	D	31	A	41	A
2	C	12	C	22	C	32	B	42	B
3	B	13	B	23	A	33	C	43	C
4	C	14	D	24	A	34	D	44	B
5	A	15	C	25	B	35	D	45	D
6	B	16	A	26	B	36	B	46	B
7	D	17	B	27	C	37	A	47	C
8	B	18	B	28	D	38	B	48	B
9	C	19	C	29	C	39	B	49	C
10	A	20	B	30	C	40	A	50	A

Qs.	Ans.	Qs.	Ans.	Qs.	Ans.	Qs.	Ans.	Qs.	Ans.
51	B	61	A	71	B	81	B	91	A
52	C	62	A	72	A	82	B	92	B
53	B	63	C	73	A	83	B	93	B
54	D	64	C	74	C	84	B	94	C
55	C	65	C	75	C	85	C	95	C
56	C	66	D	76	A	86	D	96	B
57	B	67	C	77	C	87	A	97	B
58	A	68	A	78	B	88	D	98	C
59	C	69	C	79	A	89	D	99	B
60	C	70	A	80	D	90	B	100	D

Qs.	Ans.	Qs.	Ans.
101	A	111	D
102	A	112	B
103	C	113	D
104	A	114	B
105	C	115	C
106	B	116	C
107	D	117	A
108	B	118	B
109	C	119	C
110	D	120	C

## Explanation

**1.** Kerala and Tamil Nadu have retained their places as the best states in terms of school education in the country. The revelation came in the Niti Aayog's School Education Quality Index (SEQI) for the year 2016-17 which was released recently. According to the SEQI report, Kerala topped the list of large states in India in the Overall Performance and Rank in school education for the year 2016-17 with a total evaluation point of 82.2% while Tamil Nadu retained the second spot with 73.4% points. Both the states have recorded an incremental performance of 4.6% and 10.2% respectively. Kerala and Tamil Nadu were the top two performing states at the national level in the academic year 2015-16 as well.

**2.** National Mission for Clean Ganga(NMCG) was registered as a society on 12th August 2011 under the Societies Registration Act 1860.It acted as implementation arm of National Ganga River Basin Authority(NGRBA) which was constituted under the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act (EPA),1986. NGRBA has since been dissolved with effect from the 7th October 2016, consequent to constitution of National Council for Rejuvenation, Protection and Management of River Ganga (referred as National Ganga Council) vide notification no. S.O. 3187(E) dt.7th October 2016 under EPA 1986.

**3.** Bandipur National Park was formed by including most of the forest areas of the then Venugopala Wildlife Park established under Govt. Notification dated 19th February 1941 and the area was enlarged in 1985 extending over an area of 874.20 Sq.Km and named as Bandipur National Park. This reserve was brought under Project Tiger in 1973. Subsequently some adjacent reserve forest areas were added to the reserve and extending to 880.02 Sq. Km. The present area under the control of Bandipur Tiger Reserve is 912.04 Sq. Km. An area of 39.80 Sq. Km of KFDC plantation area was handed over to this division during 2007-08. During 2010-11 the Nugu Wildlife Sanctuary was handed over to Wildlife Division, Mysore.

**4.** The State of Global Air report brings into one place the latest information on air quality and health for countries around the globe. It is produced annually by the Health Effects Institute and the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation's Global Burden of Disease project as an objective, peer-reviewed source of air quality and health impact patterns and trends for countries around the world.

**5.** Defense minister has launched Navy's first new stealth frigate, INS 'Nilgiri' at Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited in Mumbai. INS Nilgiri is the first of the Indian Navy's seven new stealth frigates with enhanced stealth features, weapons and sensors. It is the first ship of the P-17A frigates.

**6.** On the occasion of 150th birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog's Atal Tinkering Labs (ATL) and UNICEF India, including Generation Unlimited, launched 'The Gandhian Challenge' for school children. This innovation challenge provides a platform for every child across India to ideate innovative solutions for a sustainable India of their dreams, using Gandhi's principles.

The Gandhian Challenge' Objective: To support children to thrive as young innovators and entrepreneurs.

Problem statement for Gandhian Challenge is- 'Share your innovative solutions or ideas to create a futuristic and sustainable world of your dreams, following Gandhi's principles.'

The contest celebrates 70 years of partnership between Government of India and UNICEF India to enable Every Right for Every Child. It is open for every child in India from 2-20 October 2019. Through this partnership, AIM and UNICEF would recognize every child's ability and right to voice their dreams for a world of their choice, following Gandhi's principles.



**7.** Rapidly-moving Typhoon 'Mitag' is bearing down on northern Taiwan, where it is expected to bring high winds and heavy rain. With the worst of the weather expected to arrive in the island country, the warnings have been issued for parts of island's east and north, including the capital, Taipei. The Taiwan's weather bureau has categorized Typhoon Mitag been as at the second-strongest typhoon level.

Typhoon is the regional names for Tropical Cyclones that occurs in Western Pacific and South China Sea i.e. in Philippines islands, eastern China and Japan the tropical cyclones are called typhoons. A typhoon is a mature tropical cyclone that develops between 180° (or 180th meridian or antimeridian is meridian 180° both east and west of Prime Meridian) and 100°E in the Northern Hemisphere. This region is referred to as Northwestern Pacific Basin which is the most active tropical cyclone basin on Earth. This region accounts for almost one-third (33%) of the world's annual tropical cyclones.

**8.** The government launched a mobile app to help consumers register complaints easily and get redressal within 60 days. The complaints which are simple in nature will be resolved within 15 days, while complicated ones will be redressed in 60 days, it said.

The 'Consumer App' is available for free in two languages including English and Hindi. It can be downloaded on Android and iOS platforms. Consumers can register complaints and track the status. The effort would be made to resolve the complaints within a limited time frame. Consumers have to register on the mobile app for filing complaint on issues related to 42 sectors like airlines, banking and insurance.

Besides, consumers through the mobile app can offer suggestion to the government. They can also benefit from other features provided in the mobile app. The mobile app has important links related to consumers, details of each sectors like refund rules and others.

**9.** In a first of its kind offer from any national carrier, the IRCTC will compensate passengers of new Lucknow-Delhi Tejas Express in case of delay in train schedule. The train is schedules to be flagged off on 4 October 2019.

An amount of Rs.100 will be paid in case the delay is for more than an hour and Rs.250 for delay of more than 2 hours. This compensation is in addition to the Rs.25-lakh free insurance that will be given to passengers of the train. Many countries over the globe compensate passengers for delays although some do so as monetary compensation and some in kind.

Tejas Express is first semi-high speed fully air-conditioned train of India, introduced by Indian Railways. Its inaugural run was in 2017 from Mumbai Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus to Karmali in Goa. In March 2019, second Tejas Express of India was flagged off between Chennai Egmore and Madurai Junction.

**10.** The International Day of Older Persons (IDOP) is an occasion to highlight the important contributions that older people make to society and raise awareness of the issues and challenges of ageing in today's world. On 14th December 1990, the United Nations General Assembly designated 1st October the International Day of Older Persons.

The Theme for 2019 was "The Journey to Age Equality". The 2019 theme is aligned with Sustainable Development Goal 10 (SDG 10) and focuses on pathways of coping with existing and preventing future old age inequalities. Often, disparities in old age reflect an accumulated disadvantage characterized by factors such as: location, gender, socio-economic status, health and income. Between 2015 and 2030, the number of people aged 60 and over is expected to increase from 901 million to 1.4 billion. In this regard, trends of ageing and economic inequality interact across generations and rapid population ageing, demographic

and societal or structural changes alone, can exacerbate older age inequalities, thereby limiting economic growth and social cohesion.

The 2019 theme aims to:

- Draw attention to the existence of old age inequalities and how this often results from a cumulation of disadvantages throughout life, and highlight intergenerational risk of increased old age inequalities.
- Bring awareness to the urgency of coping with existing — and preventing future — old age inequalities.
- Explore societal and structural changes in view of life course policies: life-long learning, proactive and adaptive labour policies, social protection and universal health coverage.
- Reflect on best practices, lessons and progress on the journey to ending older age inequalities and changing negative narratives and stereotypes involving “old age.”

**11.** The Hindi Advisory Committee decided to look beyond Delhi and met outside the national capital for the first time on Thursday. Speaking at the meeting in Hyderabad, Rajya Sabha Chairman M Venkaih Naidu hoped that such events outside Delhi would help promote Hindi, even as he made it clear that no language should be thrust on people and there should be constant dialogue between various Indian languages for linguistic, cultural and emotional unity. He cited Mahatma Gandhi as an example he recalled Gandhi setting up Dakshin Bharat Hindi Prachar Sabha in Madras in 1918 and inspired by it, Hindi Prachar Sabha was established in Hyderabad in 1935.

**12.** The ancient port town of Mamallapuram is in the final stages of a makeover ahead of the scheduled visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping during a two-day India-China Informal summit from October 11. Mamallapuram near Chennai, which was a crucial town connecting India with Southeast Asia including China from the Pallava period, is under a security blanket, with armed security personnel present at all three monuments that the two world leaders will visit.

**13.** Since crimes against SCs and STs are fundamentally hate crimes, the Rajiv Gandhi government enacted the Act in 1989 in furtherance of the provisions for abolition of untouchability (Article 17) and equality (Articles 14, 15) in the Constitution.

**14.** Pradesh, the erstwhile tiger state of the country with maximum numbers of striped felines, has reclaimed its coveted title that it had lost to Karnataka about a decade ago. According to a fresh tiger census report, the central Indian state has reported the presence of 526 tigers. The 2018 report has put the total number of striped cats in the country at 2,967 with MP's tally going up to 526 from 308 recorded in 2014. Karnataka that has been topping the list since 2010 slipped to the second place though by a very close margin with 524 tigers.

**15.** The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) is a detailed, 159-page agreement with five annexes reached by Iran and the P5+1 (China France, Germany, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States) on July 14, 2015. The nuclear deal was endorsed by UN Security Council Resolution 2231, adopted on July 20, 2015. Iran's compliance with the nuclear-related provisions of the JCPOA will be verified by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) according to certain requirements set forth in the agreement. On May 8, 2018, President Trump announced that the United States would withdraw from the JCPOA and reinstate U.S. nuclear sanctions on the Iranian regime.

**16.** The Bhopal Municipal Corporation (BMC) and the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) have joined hands to set up the country's first e-waste clinic here, that would enable segregation, processing and disposal of waste from both household and commercial units.

**17.** Mi-17V-5 (domestic designation Mi-8MTV-5) is a military transport variant in the Mi-8/17 family of helicopters. It is produced by Kazan Helicopters, a subsidiary of Russian Helicopters. Designed to transport cargo inside the cabin and on an external sling, the Mi-17V-5 is one of the world's most advanced helicopters. It can also be deployed in troop and arms transport, fire support, convoy escort, patrol, and search-and-rescue (SAR) missions. The Indian Ministry of Defence (MoD) placed an order for 12 Mi-17V5 helicopters during the Aero India show held in February 2013.

The Indian MoD had awarded a \$1.3bn contract to Russian Helicopters for 80 helicopters in December 2008. Deliveries to the Indian Air Force (IAF) began in 2011 and 36 helicopters were delivered by early 2013.

**18.** Punjab Forest, Wildlife and Wildlife Preservation Minister, Sadhu Singh Dharamsot, on Friday, informed that the State Government has decided to establish a Dinosaur Park at the Chhatbir zoo apart from giving the permit to kill wild pigs who cause damage to the crops. The minister also released a pair of lions named Akshit and Driti and a white tigress Gauri in the Chhatbir Zoo. The minister visited the zoo as Chief Guest during the 'Wildlife Preservation Week.'

**19.** Water is a global issue. Our country is facing challenges regarding drinking water and making water available for irrigation. Availability of water or precipitation is favourable to us, but the problem lies with managing that water. Prime Minister Narendra Modi realised this, and therefore this Ministry was formed. The impact of climate change is visible all over the world, and in India also. The big programme announced by the Prime Minister — Jal Jeevan Mission — is to give functional tap-water to every household in the country by 2024. The Jal Jeevan Mission is set to be based on various water conservation efforts like point recharge, desilting of minor irrigation tanks, use of greywater for agriculture and source sustainability. The Jal Jeevan Mission will converge with other Central and State Government Schemes to achieve its objectives of sustainable water supply management across the country.

**20.** Union Ministry of Tourism launches Audio Guide facility App called 'Audio Odigos' for 12 sites of India (including Iconic Sites). The launch was made during the ongoing celebrations of nationwide 'Paryatan Parv 2019'. This year is the 3rd edition of Paryatan Parv.

Audio Guide: Audio Odigos app

The app is launched for the benefit of tourists. With Audio Odigos, tourists will now be able to enjoy a more enriching experience and take back historical insights of Indian culture and heritage. The app is now available for download on all Android and iOS supported mobile phones. This app is the outcome of MoU signed by Tourism Ministry with Resbird Technologies in 2018 under which they have developed the audio guide app as a part of their Corporate social responsibility (CSR).

12 sites where Audio Guide facility Audio Odigos can be used—

- Rajasthan- Amer Fort
- Delhi- Chandni Chowk, Red Fort, Purana Quila and Humayun's tomb
- Uttar Pradesh- Fatehpur Sikri and Taj Mahal,
- Gujarat- Somnath and Dholavira
- Madhya Pradesh- Khajuraho

- Tamilnadu- Mahabalipuram,
- Bihar- Mahabodhi Temple

**21.** IFC is based at the Indian Navy's Information Management and Analysis Centre (IMAC) at Gurugram in the National Capital Region. IMAC is the single point centre on Indian Navy, linking all the coastal radar chains to generate a seamless real-time picture of the nearly 7,500km coastline.

- The IFC for Indian Ocean Region has the primary objective of jointly monitoring the vast Indian Ocean Region.
- To strengthen maritime security in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR)
- Indian Navy has launched its Information Fusion Centre (IFC) that will share information on vessels of interest with other friendly nations.
- IFC will function as a platform where multiple friendly nations can freely exchange non-sensitive information from maritime domain.
- The IFC – IOR shall be a collaborative construct that will work with partners, countries as well as international agencies; to enhance maritime security and safety
- It would also aim to work closely with the multi-national constructs and other information fusion centres.
- IFC-IOR will work closely with countries in the region on white shipping and will be operated by the Indian Navy.
- The IFC-IOR would work towards capability building in the region, coordination of incident response and disaster relief, and in time, also share submarine safety information

**22.** National Horticulture Board (NHB) was set up by Government of India in April 1984 on the basis of recommendations of the "Group on Perishable Agricultural Commodities", headed by Dr M. S. Swaminathan, the then Member (Agriculture), Planning Commission, Government of India. The NHB is registered as a Society under the Societies Registration Act 1860, with its headquarters at Gurugram. The main objectives of the NHB are to improve integrated development of Horticulture industry and to help in coordinating, sustaining the production and processing of fruits and vegetables.

**23.** 126 years ago, the Norwegian researcher and explorer Fridtjof Nansen set sail on the first ever drift expedition with his wooden sailing ship Fram. But there has never been an expedition like the one now planned: for the first time, the MOSAiC project will take a modern research icebreaker laden with scientific instruments close to the North Pole in winter.

The name MOSAiC (Multidisciplinary drifting Observatory for the Study of Arctic Climate) mirrors the complexity and diversity of this expedition. MOSAiC will be the first year-round expedition into the central Arctic exploring the Arctic climate system. The project with a total budget exceeding 140 Million € has been designed by an international consortium of leading polar research institutions, led by the Alfred Wegener Institute, Helmholtz Centre for Polar and Marine Research (AWI).

**24.** Singapore has passed the Protection from Online Falsehoods and Manipulation Act, 2019. The act aims to control the spread of falsehood which the government deems to be a threat to national security, public tranquility and Singapore's friendly relations with other countries.

The act enables the government to order social media websites to take down posts deemed to be false. It gives Singaporean ministers the power to decide whether content on the internet is considered a falsehood. The minister will need to explain why the statement is false.

**25.** Commercial paper is an unsecured, short-term debt instrument issued by a corporation, typically for the financing of accounts payable and inventories and meeting short-term liabilities. Maturities on commercial paper rarely range longer than 270 days. Commercial paper is usually issued at a discount from face value and reflects prevailing market interest rates.

**26.** On 8th October 2019, 20 new moons of Saturn were discovered. With this Saturn has a total of 82 moons today. It is the highest of any planet in solar system. Till date Jupiter had the highest number of moons. It has 79 moons. The moons of Saturn discovered are relatively smaller moons. The discovery was made at the Subaru telescope set up atop Hawaii's Mauna Kea volcano. Of 82 moons, 17 of them orbit in opposite direction. These moons take more than three years to complete their orbit. The moons were discovered by a team of astronomers led by Sheppard.

**27.** The Global Competitive Index is compiled by World Economic Forum. India ranked 68th in the annual Global Competitive Index. It is the worst performing among the BRICS nations along with Brazil that is ranked at 71. India had dropped 10 places. A number of similar economies like South Africa, Turkey and Colombia have improved over the past year and have overtaken India. This year Singapore has replaced US as the world's most competitive country. China was ranked at 28th position and was the highest ranked among BRICS nations. The report also said that Asia Pacific was the most competitive region globally. It was followed by Europe and North America.

**Key findings of the report on India:**

- India ranked high in terms of macroeconomic stability and market size.
- India also ranked high in terms of corporate Governance.
- India was at 15th place in the category.
- In terms of market India ranked third.
- India had positive remarks in terms of renewable regulation.
- In terms of innovation, India has punched above its development status. It was well ahead of most of the emerging economies that are on par with the advanced economies.
- Poor health conditions and low Life Expectancy were the shortcomings in the country according to the report. In terms of life expectancy India ranked 109 out of 141 countries. This is one of the shortest as compared to South Asian average.
- According to the report, India also needs to grow its skill base, market efficiency. Trade openness and worker protection rights according to the report are insufficiently developed.
- The education system of the world's largest and most innovative economies failed to keep up the pace of innovation. IT included India, China, Brazil, France and South Korea.
- Economic stagnation was widespread. This has happened in spite of the central banks injecting more than 10 trillion dollars last year.
- Many of governments and central banks failed to use correct monetary policies to stimulate economic growth.

**28.** The IFC-IOR stems from the importance of the Indian Ocean to world trade and security, and the need for the various maritime nations and organisations to collaborate towards enhancing maritime safety and security on the seas of this region. In addition to utilising the collective wisdom and resources towards addressing myriad challenges in the region, IFC-IOR will help interface and integrate, wherein, all partners and stakeholders would benefit from each other's best practices and expertise.

The IFC has been established at Gurugram, India and is collocated with Information Management and Analysis Centre which is jointly administered by the Indian Navy and Indian Coast Guard. IFC-IOR is established with the vision of strengthening maritime security in the region and beyond, by building a common coherent maritime situation picture and acting as a maritime information hub for the region. Establishment of IFC- IOR would ensure that the entire region is benefitted by mutual collaboration and exchange of information and understanding the concerns and threats which are prevalent in the region.

The information Exchange at the IFC-IOR would be initially undertaken by virtual means, using telephone calls, faxes, emails and video conferencing over internet. Subsequently, to enable better interconnection, quicker analysis of information and provide timely inputs, the IFC-IOR would host Liaison Officers from partner countries. Additionally, towards enhancing capability building, the IFC-IOR would undertake conduct of exercises and training capsules in maritime information collection and sharing. The setting up of IFC-IOR underscores the governmental approach and effort in line with the vision of our Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi towards Security and Growth of All in the Region (SAGAR).

**29.** The United Nations designated the first Monday of October of every year as World Habitat Day to reflect on the state of our towns and cities, and on the basic right of all to adequate shelter. The Day is also intended to remind the world that we all have the power and the responsibility to shape the future of our cities and towns.

2019 theme: Frontier Technologies as an innovative tool to transform waste to wealth

Building on last year's theme "Municipal Solid Waste Management" which focused mainly on managing garbage, the focus of this year's World Habitat Day is promoting the contribution of innovative frontier technologies to sustainable waste management to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 11: inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities. Going beyond solid waste this includes all waste produced by human activity (solid, liquid, domestic, industrial and commercial), which continues to have a devastating impact on climate change, public health and the environment.

This year's Global Observance of World Habitat Day will be held in Mexico City on Monday, 7 October.

**30.** The 2019 Nobel prize for Physics was awarded to Swiss Scientists Michel Mayor and Didier Queloz and Canadian – American physicist James Peebles. One half of the prize was won by the American for his contribution towards "Theoretical discoveries in physical cosmology". The other half was shared between the Swiss scientists for their work on "Discovery of an exoplanet orbiting a star similar to sun". The prize consists of 914,000 USD that will be split with one half to the American scientist and the other half to be shared between the Swiss scientists.

James Peebles discoveries: The Canadian – American physicist James Peebles had contributed several discoveries in the field of physical cosmology for which he is awarded with the prize. His discoveries are as follows:

- In 1987, Peebles proposed Primordial Isocurvature Baryon Model which explains the development of early Universe.
- He is also known for the Ostriker – Peebles criterion that related to the stability of galactic formation.
- He has made significant contributions towards cosmic microwave background radiation, Big Bang nucleosynthesis, dark energy and dark matter.
- He was the pioneer in the theory of Cosmic structure formation.

**31.** The PSEB on August 16 had issued a public notice giving a chance to old candidates (since 2004) to clear their 'reappear' result for classes X and XII and sit for the 'Supplementary Golden Chance Exam' after paying Rs 15,000 as fee. Only 1,782 applicants would be taking the Punjab School Education Board's (PSEB) Golden Chance exam to clear class X and XII. This is not even half of the 4,000 who had applied online for the exam, being held as the part of 550th birth anniversary celebrations of Guru Nanak Dev. The Rs 15,000 fee seems to have acted as a deterrent for many aspirants.

**32.** Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) is a set of stratified actions that are taken once the pollution level reaches a certain specified limit. It works only as an emergency measure.

Under GRAP, there are 4 stages of pollution – Moderate to Poor, Very Poor, Severe and Severe+ or Emergency and action are listed that need to be undertaken as the levels are breached. The categories have been made on the basis of PM 2.5 and PM 10 in the atmosphere. The GRAP is implemented by the Environment Pollution Control Authority (EPCA).

**33.** The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has given its approval under the 'green channel' route to acquisition of Essel Mutual Fund by BAC Acquisitions Pvt Ltd, a Sachin Bansal-owned entity. The green channel concept was recommended by the high level panel that reviewed the competition law. The Green Channel allows for automatic approval for certain Mergers and Acquisitions (M&A's) or combinations based on specified criteria and pre-filing consultation. The process is aimed at sustaining and promoting a speedy, transparent and accountable review of combination cases to create a culture of compliance and support economic growth.

**34.** Rafale is a twin-engine medium multi-role combat aircraft. It is manufactured by the French company Dassault Aviation. The Rafale is referred to as an 'omnirole' aircraft by Dassault. It is the capability to perform several actions at the same time. It can carry out both air-to-ground as well as air-to-air attacks. The aircraft is also fitted with an on-board oxygen generation system (OBOGS). It suppresses the need for liquid oxygen refilling or ground support for oxygen production. Rafale also provides standoff capability when any country attacks India. Active electronically scanned array (AESA) radar enables the pilot to look 200 to 400 kms away.

The aircraft also has Situational awareness capability in which Aircraft has got those sensors which enable the pilot to be aware situational and detect the enemy Aircraft for which the Rafale has AESA radar. In 2016, Indian government had inked a direct deal with the French government to purchase 36 new Rafale fighter jet.

**35.** A three-day India International Cooperative Trade Fair will be held in New Delhi from 11th of this month. The first-ever such fair is aimed at promoting cooperative to cooperative trade within India and abroad leading to enhanced rural and farm prosperity.

Briefing media in New Delhi, Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar said representatives from over 150 cooperative societies and 35 countries including, Australia, Japan, China, Brazil, US, UK, Germany and Iran are going to participate in the fair. He said, the event will offer a huge opportunity for the industry and business houses from India and abroad to build an alliance, business networking, product sourcing and interact with primary producers of a wide range of products and service providers.

**36.** The Global Fund is a partnership designed to accelerate the end of AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria as epidemics. As an international organization, the Global Fund mobilizes and invests more than US\$4 billion a year to support programs run by local experts in more than 100 countries. In partnership with governments, civil society, technical agencies, the private

sector and people affected by the diseases, we are challenging barriers and embracing innovation.

The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria was created in 2002 to raise, manage and invest the world's money to respond to three of the deadliest infectious diseases the world has ever known. The mission of the Global Fund is to invest the world's money to defeat these three diseases.

The idea for the Global Fund arose from a wellspring of grass-roots political advocacy coming face-to-face with the imperatives of global leadership. AIDS, TB and malaria are all preventable and treatable – but solving this problem requires the commitment not only of world leaders and decision-makers but also of those working on the ground to help the men, women and children living with these diseases.

It is financing mechanism rather than implementing agency. It is also the world's largest financier of AIDS, TB, and malaria prevention, treatment, and care programs.

**37.** SARAS Aajeevika Mela is an initiative under Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY – NRLM). The objective of the initiative is to bring the rural women SHGs – Self Help Groups under one platform. This is to help them show – case their skills, sell their products and build linkages with buyers. Through the initiative the women will get exposure to understand the demand of urban customers.

The Mela is being organized by the CAPART – Council for Advancement of People's action and rural Technology, the marketing arm of the ministry of rural development. The Mela is to be organized in the lawns of India Gate between 10th October 2019 and 23rd October 2019. Over 200 stalls are to be set up. More than 500 SHG women from all over the country are expected to participate. During the Mela the ministry has also planned to conduct workshops to sharpen the skills of the participating women in GST, marketing, e – marketing, product design, book keeping, etc.

**38.** Researchers from Kerala have discovered new species of eel-loach named 'Pangio bhujia' in Kozhikode district of state. It is unique species of miniature well-dwelling subterranean fish. It is the first species of eel-loach in the world that has been discovered to be living in subterranean environments. Eel-loaches are generally found in fast-flowing streams in the south and the south-east Asia.

**39.** In order to tackle malnutrition, GoI is planning to develop an atlas to map crops and food grains grown all over the country. The initiative was launched by the Union Minister of Women and Child Development Smriti Irani during the fifth National Council on India's Nutrition Challenges.

Aim of the initiative: This is done to promote regional cropping pattern and nutritious protein rich food in local areas. It is being developed and implemented by the Ministry of Women and Child Development. The initiative will aid Poshan Abhiyan that is focusing on ensuring nutrition of women, children and pregnant mothers. The atlas is to be developed along with Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and Deenadayal Research Institute.

**40.** United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Children's agency of the United Nations has now become the first UN organization to hold and make transactions in cryptocurrency. UNICEF now joins a number of other aid agencies that accept donations in cryptocurrencies, such as American Red Cross.

The UNICEF has established UNICEF Cryptocurrency Fund, making UNICEF able to receive, hold as well as disburse donations via cryptocurrencies such as bitcoin and ether. Through



the received donations, UNICEF will be funding open source technology that aims to benefit children and young people globally.

**41.** Shore Temple is a standing testimonial to the regal heritage of India. Built in the 7th century, Shore Temple depicts the royal taste of Pallava dynasty. During the reign of Rajasimha, the temple saw its construction when Pallava art was at its apex. Ravaged by wind and sea, the temple has witnessed the historical events of India. This work of genius was recognized and listed amongst the World Heritage Sites by UNESCO.

Shore Temple comprises three shrines, where the prominent ones are dedicated to Lord Shiva and Lord Vishnu. In the garbhagriha (sanctum sanctorum), an image of Shivalinga embraces the site. At the rear end, one can find two shrines facing each other. Here, one shrine is dedicated to Ksatriyasimnesvara and other to Lord Vishnu. In the shrine, Lord Vishnu is imaged reclining on the 'Seshanag', which is a symbol of consciousness in Hinduism.

**42.** The Sendai Framework is a 15-year, voluntary, non-binding agreement which recognizes that the State has the primary role to reduce disaster risk but that responsibility should be shared with other stakeholders including local government, the private sector and other stakeholders. It aims for the following outcome:

- The substantial reduction of disaster risk and losses in lives, livelihoods and health and in the economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental assets of persons, businesses, communities and countries.

The Sendai Framework is the successor instrument to the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters. It is the outcome of stakeholder consultations initiated in March 2012 and inter-governmental negotiations held from July 2014 to March 2015, which were supported by the UNISDR upon the request of the UN General Assembly.

International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction began in 1989, after a call by the United Nations General Assembly for a day to promote a global culture of risk-awareness and disaster reduction. Held every 13 October, the day celebrates how people and communities around the world are reducing their exposure to disasters and raising awareness about the importance of reining in the risks that they face. The 2019 edition continues as part of the "Sendai Seven" campaign, centred on the seven targets of the Sendai Framework.

**43.** The 'mHariyali' mobile application was launched by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs to encourage public engagement in planting trees and Green drives. The application provides automatic geo – tagging of plants. It will hence enable the nodal officers to periodically monitor the plantation.

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs in September 2019, had selected 103 Central Government colonies to implement the following Awareness and Construction of Roof top rain water harvesting Cleaning and Greening of open space through plantation Sensitization on Source Segregation of household waste Orientation and Capacity building on Home Composting. The application is a part of the campaign to keep the participants motivated.

**44.** Environmentalist Chandi Prasad Bhatt was awarded Indira Gandhi Award for National Integration for the years 2017 and 2018 for his services in promoting and preserving national integration in the country. The award would be presented on 31 October 2019, in a function at Jawahar Bhawan, New Delhi.

The 85 year old noted environmentalist and social activist Chandi Prasad Bhatt hails from Uttarakhand. In 1964 he had founded the Dasholi Gram Swarajya Sangh (DGSS) in

Gopeshwar, Uttarakhand which later became a mother organisation to Chipko Movement, in which he was one of the pioneers. He has earlier been awarded Ramon Magsaysay Award (in 1982) for community leadership, followed by Padma Bhushan (2005) and has also been a recipient of Gandhi Peace Prize.

**45.** India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra) is India's most respected credit rating agency committed to providing India's credit markets accurate, timely and prospective credit opinions. Built on a foundation of independent thinking, rigorous analytics, and an open and balanced approach towards credit research, Ind-Ra has grown rapidly during the past decade, gaining significant market presence in India's fixed income market.

Ind-Ra currently maintains coverage of corporate issuers, financial institutions (including banks and insurance companies), finance and leasing companies, managed funds, urban local bodies, and structured finance and project finance companies.

Headquartered in Mumbai, Ind-Ra has seven branch offices located in Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Chennai, Delhi, Hyderabad, Kolkata and Pune. Ind-Ra is recognised by the Securities and Exchange Board of India, the Reserve Bank of India and National Housing Bank.

Ind-Ra is a 100% owned subsidiary of the Fitch Group.

India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra), a part of Fitch group has lowered India's gross domestic product (GDP) forecast for financial year (FY) 2019-20 to 6.1%. This was second downgrade in the last two months.

**46.** Fourteen global cities have pledged to promote sustainable food policies to tackle the climate crisis as well as boost the health of its citizens, according to C40 Cities — a global climate leadership group comprising 94 cities around the world. The C40 Good Food Cities Declaration was signed by the mayors of Barcelona, Copenhagen, Guadalajara, Lima, London, Los Angeles, Milan, Oslo, Paris, Quezon City, Seoul, Stockholm, Tokyo and Toronto at the ongoing C40 World Mayors Summit in Copenhagen on October 10, 2019. As part of the declaration, mayors of these cities will work towards implementing a 'planetary health diet' for all by 2030. It will be balanced and nutritious food, based on the culture, geography, and demography of the cities.

**47.** While speaking at the UN Secretary General's Climate Action Summit in New York on September 23, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had announced the launch of the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) and invited all countries to join it. CDRI is an attempt to bring countries together to share and learn from the experiences of one another to protect their key infrastructure — highways, railways, power stations, communication lines, water channels, even housing — against disasters. The CDRI secretariat too would be based in New Delhi. While it is not envisioned to take the shape of a treaty-based organisation, CDRI can be seen as complementing ISA's efforts. ISA is about climate change mitigation — deployment of more solar energy would bring down the reliance on fossil fuels, thereby reducing greenhouse gas emissions. CDRI, on the other hand, is about adapting to climate change, a need that is inevitable.

**48.** Joint Military Exercise DHARMA GUARDIAN-219 between India and Japan will be conducted at counter Insurgency and Jungle Warfare School, Vairengte from 19 Oct 2019 to 02 Nov 2019. Indian Army and Japanese Ground Self Defence Forces (JGSDF) comprising 25 soldiers each will participate in the exercise with an aim to share experience gained during various Counter Terrorism Operations in respective Countries. Exercise DHARMA GUARDIAN is an annual training event which is being conducted in India since 2018. Notably, in the series of military training exercises undertaken by India with various countries Exercise

DHARMA GUARDIAN with Japan is crucial and significant in terms of security challenges faced by both the nations in the backdrop of global terrorism. The scope of this exercise covers platoon level joint training on counter terrorism operations in jungle and urban scenario. The joint military exercise will enhance the level of defence co-operation between Indian Army and Japanese Ground Self Defence Forces (JGSDF) which in turn will further foster the bilateral relations between the two nations.

**49.** Aiming zero preventable maternal and newborn deaths in India, the central government on Thursday launched the Surakshit Matritva Aashwasan (SUMAN) scheme, under which pregnant women, mothers up to 6 months after delivery, and all sick newborns will be able to avail free healthcare benefits.

**50.** India along with several others countries, including China and African nations, has cautioned against diluting special and differential treatment provisions related to developing countries, saying it would lead to “intractable deadlock” at the WTO. A communication by west African country Benin, on behalf of the African Group, Bolivia, China, Cuba, India and Oman has said that developing countries’ should continue to enjoy benefits of special and differential treatment (S&D) under WTO rules and they must be allowed to make their own assessments regarding their own developing country status. They have also stated that existing S&D provisions must be upheld and it should be provided in the current and future negotiations in the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

**51.** The E5 Shinkansen series Bullet Train Project (Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail (MAHSR) is an India-Japan joint venture. The agreement was signed with Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). The project was inaugurated in 2017 and is scheduled for its first run in 2022. The project is a first of its kind in India. Originating at the Bandra Kurla Complex, Mumbai and terminating at the Sabarmati, the high speed train corridor will pass through Gujarat, Maharashtra and Dadra & Nagar Haveli. The proposed corridor lies in Western Railway zone. National High Speed Rail Corporation (NHSRCL) is the implementing agency of the project.

**52.** 90:90:90 Strategy: It is a HIV treatment narrative of UNAIDS programme which has set targets of

- 90% of all people living with HIV will know their HIV status (90% diagnosed),
- 90% of all people with diagnosed HIV infection will receive sustained antiretroviral therapy (90% on HIV treatment) and
- 90% of all people receiving antiretroviral therapy will have viral suppression (90% suppressed)

**53.** India’s industrial sector production (IIP) has contracted by 1.1% in August when compared to the production in the same month in 2018. The Index of Industrial Production (IIP) is a composite indicator that measures changes in the volume of production of a basket of industrial products. The index is compiled and published monthly by the Central Statistical Organization (CSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. It is implemented six weeks after the reference month ends, i.e a lag of six weeks. The Base Year of the Index of Eight Core Industries has been revised from the year 2004-05 to 2011-12 from April, 2017.

**54.** The 10th edition of the joint military exercise ‘Vajra Prahar’ between India and the US will be held at Joint Base Lewis-McChord (JBLM) in Seattle from October 13-28, 2019. Vajra Prahar is a Special Forces joint military training exercise conducted alternately in India and the US since 2010. The exercise enables sharing of best practices and experience in areas such as joint mission planning capabilities and operational tactics.

**55.** Turkey's military launched a cross-border operation against Kurdish-led forces in Syria in early October, after US troops who had been allied to the Kurds withdrew.

Turkey named the military incursion as "Operation Peace Spring" which aims to create a 'safe zone' that is 480 km wide and upto 35 km deep inside Syria. It wants to push back members of the YPG, which it views as an extension of a Kurdish rebel group that has been fighting in Turkey for decades and is designated a terrorist organisation – the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK). Turkey also hopes to resettle, in the zone, up to two million of the 3.6 million Syrian refugees it is hosting.

**56.** Alarmed by the low percentage of women in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM), the Centre has planned a programme to help girl students inculcate interest in these areas and also fund them if they get into any top institute for pursuing these underrepresented subjects, officials said on Sunday. The programme 'Vigyan Jyoti' aims to tap 100 girl students in 550 districts from 2020-2025, the officials said. The students will be chosen based on their percentile, they added.

**57.** During the visit of His Majesty King Willem-Alexander and Her Majesty, Queen Maxima of the Kingdom of the Netherlands a joint launch of the second phase of the Local Treatment of Urban Sewage streams for Healthy Reuse (LOTUS-HR) program was done by the Union Minister for Science & Technology, Earth Sciences and Health & Family Welfare Dr. Harsh Vardhan, today. The launch programme was held during the visit of Netherlands King & the Queen to the India-Netherlands water laboratory at the Barapullah drain in Delhi.

**58.** The National Blindness and Visual Impairment Survey 2019 have been released by the Union Health Minister. The survey was conducted by the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) for Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. It was conducted in 31 districts of 24 States. The survey has found that Cataract is the principal cause of blindness for people above 50 years in India. India was the first country to launch the National Programme for Control of Blindness in 1976 to reduce blindness prevalence to 0.3 per cent by 2020. But, the survey has found that the estimated prevalence of blindness still stands at 1.99% as of October, 2019.

**59.** A three day long festival of Baul songs named Indo Bangla Baul Music Festival ended last evening with spell binding performances by Bauls from India and Bangladesh. The program was organised to observe the 129th death anniversary of Baul saint Fakir Lalon Shah. Baul music represents a particular type of folk song, carrying influences of Hindu bhakti movements as well as the shuphi, a form of Sufi song. Bauls live either near a village or travel from place to place and earn their living from singing to the accompaniment of the ektara, the lute dotara, a simple one-stringed instrument and a drum called dubki. Bauls belong to an unorthodox devotional tradition influenced by Hinduism, Buddhism, Bengali, Vasinavism and Sufi Islam yet distinctly different from them.

**60.** Union Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Shri Ram Vilas Paswan inaugurated the celebrations of 'World Standard Day' by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) on the theme "Video Standards create a global stage" in New Delhi today. The theme is highly relevant in the Indian context as India is the fastest growing entertainment and media market globally and is expected to keep up the momentum by growing at a compounded annual growth rate of more than 11%. With this spectacular growth, media and entertainment industry in India will become a Rs. 4,51,373 crore industry by 2023. World Standards Day (WSD) is celebrated each year all over the world on 14 October.

**61.** United Nations (UN) Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has said in a booklet that people globally should eat healthy diets for a zero hunger world. The booklet has been

released ahead of World Food Day on October 16. World Food Day is celebrated every year on 16 October in honour of the date of the founding of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. The theme of 2019 World Food Day is “Our Actions Are Our Future, Healthy Diets for A #Zero Hunger World.” With the theme, the FAO aims to create awareness about healthy diets and how sustainable diets can help eradicate hunger and malnutrition.

**62.** Where does India stand as a charitable nation? It ranks 82 among the 128 countries surveyed by the Charities Aid Foundation (CAF), an international organisation that promotes giving to transform lives and communities across the world. The findings released on Tuesday, is an aggregate of trends for each country that emerged in surveys conducted by CAF over the past decade (2009 to 2018) and formulated as the World Giving Index (WGI). The survey covered 1.3 million (13 lakh) people worldwide. According to the WGI, USA stood at the top followed Myanmar, New Zealand and Australia. Others in the top ten countries included Ireland, Canada, UK, Sri Lanka and Indonesia. India at 82 on the index falls below Nepal (53), Pakistan (69), Mexico (73) and Brazil (74). At the bottom of the list are Yemen, Greece and China.

**63.** Global growth is forecast at 3.0 percent for 2019, its lowest level since 2008–09 and a 0.3 percentage point downgrade from the April 2019 World Economic Outlook released by International Monetary Fund. Growth is projected to pick up to 3.4 percent in 2020 (a 0.2 percentage point downward revision compared with April), reflecting primarily a projected improvement in economic performance in a number of emerging markets in Latin America, the Middle East, and emerging and developing Europe that are under macroeconomic strain. Yet, with uncertainty about prospects for several of these countries, a projected slowdown in China and the United States, and prominent downside risks, a much more subdued pace of global activity could well materialize. To forestall such an outcome, policies should decisively aim at defusing trade tensions, reinvigorating multilateral cooperation, and providing timely support to economic activity where needed. To strengthen resilience, policymakers should address financial vulnerabilities that pose risks to growth in the medium term. Making growth more inclusive, which is essential for securing better economic prospects for all, should remain an overarching goal.

**64.** Minister of State for Shipping has chaired the 17th Maritime State Development Council (MSDC) meeting in New Delhi. Maritime State Development Council (MSDC) is an apex advisory body for the development of the maritime sector. MSDC was constituted in May 1997 under the Chairmanship of the Minister of Shipping. It aims to ensure integrated development of Major and non-Major Ports. It also assess in consultation with State Governments for the future development of existing and new Minor Ports.

**65.** Secretary Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Guruprasad Mohapatra launched the website and mobile application [Learn to Protect, Secure and Maximize Your Innovation] on Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) today in New Delhi. The website and app has been developed by Cell for IPR Promotion and Management (CIPAM)-DPIIT in collaboration with Qualcomm and National Law University (NLU), Delhi. The modules of this e-learning platform [L2Pro India IP e-learning Platform and the L2Pro India Mobile App] will aid and enable youth, innovators, entrepreneurs and small and medium industries (SMEs) in understanding IPRs for their ownership and protection, integrate IP into business models and obtain value for their R&D efforts. The L2Pro has been successfully implemented in Germany, United Kingdom, Italy and France, benefiting immensely from close collaboration with respective IP organizations and public research institutions. The learning app has been customized for India in order to ensure that innovation which is fundamental to startups are protected, managed and commercialized.

**66.** Non-tariff measures (NTMs) have increased in the past two decades and are affecting trade as well sustainable development goals (SDGs) in Asian countries, according to a new report released on October 14. The Asia-Pacific Trade and Investment Report 2019 was published by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

**67.** Facebook is extending a programme aimed at inspiring, guiding and encouraging tribal girls from across India to become village-level digital young leaders for their communities for a second phase with a partnership with the ministry of Tribal Affairs. Called GOAL (Going Online as Leaders), the programme was launched in March this year and connects underprivileged young women from tribal areas with senior expert mentors in the areas of business, fashion and arts to learn digital and life.

**68.** The Indian Air Force will be carrying out a joint military exercise called 'Shinyuu Maitri' with Japanese Air Self Defence Force (JASDF) from 17 to 23 October 2019. Shinyuu Maitri is a bilateral air exercise between the Japanese Air Self Defence Force (JASDF) and Indian Air Force (IAF). The exercise will be held at Air Force Station, Arjan Singh in Panagarh town, West Bengal.

**69.** On the occasion of World Food Day, Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare Dr Harsh Vardhan launched Food Safety Mitra Scheme, Eat Right Jacket and Eat Right Jhola. Addressing a gathering in New Delhi today, he said, Eat Right India and Fit India Campaign can prove to be a big success with the right strategy and implementation. The Minister urged people to reduce ghee, salt and ghee in food. Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has introduced scheme of Food Safety Mitra (FSM) through which it plans to engage motivated individuals with the food safety ecosystem at ground level. A FSM is an individual professional certified by FSSAI who assists in compliances related to FSS Act, Rules & Regulations with three avatars- Digital Mitra, Trainer Mitra and Hygiene Mitra depending upon their respective roles and responsibilities. During the event, the Minister also launched Eat Right Jhola which is a reusable, washable and bio-degradable bag.

**70.** Qatar has announced to extend the elimination of Kafala System to all the remaining workers. The Kafala (Sponsorship) System emerged in the 1950's to regulate the relationship between employers and migrant workers in many countries in West Asia. The Kafala system requires foreign workers to have an in-country sponsor usually their employer or Kafel who is responsible for their visa and legal status. The migrant worker cannot enter the country, transfer employment or leave the country for any reason without first obtaining explicit written permission usually from his employer.

**71.** On Wednesday, the Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying released the results of the latest livestock census, which provides headcount data of domesticated animals in the country. The census shows a further decline in the indigenous cattle population. It also shows that the cow belt of the country has shifted eastwards with West Bengal emerging as a state with the largest cattle population, leaving behind Uttar Pradesh.

What is the livestock census?

Under the livestock census, various species of animals possessed by households, household enterprises or non-household enterprises and institutions are counted at site — both in rural and urban areas. In other words, it covers all domesticated animals in a given period of time. India has been conducting livestock censuses periodically since 1919-20. This is the 20th one, started in October 2018. The last livestock census was conducted in 2012.

Which animals and birds are counted in this census?

The census tracks the population of various species of domesticated animals such as cattle, buffalo, mithun, yak, sheep, goat, pig, horse, pony, mule, donkey camel, dog, rabbit and elephant and poultry birds (fowl, duck, emu, turkeys, quail and other poultry birds).

**72.** China Is Leasing an Entire Pacific Island. The island of Tulagi served as a South Pacific headquarters for Britain then Japan, and during World War II, its natural deepwater harbor made it a military gem. Now, China is moving in with plans to effectively take control.

Under a secretive deal signed last month with a provincial government in the Solomon Islands, a Beijing-based company with close ties to the Chinese Communist Party has secured exclusive development rights for the entire island of Tulagi and its surroundings.

**73.** The Mycobacterium tuberculosis bacterium causes TB. It is spread through the air when a person with TB (whose lungs are affected) coughs, sneezes, spits, laughs, or talks. TB is contagious, but it is not easy to catch

Elimination as defined by the World Health Organisation (WHO), means that there should be less than 1 case of TB for a population of a million people. In view of the current TB burden in India, there is a great deal that needs to be done if elimination is to be achieved by 2025. The National Strategic Plan 2017 – 2025, sets out the government plans of how the elimination of TB can be achieved.

the World Health Organization released its annual Global Tuberculosis Report for 2019, which found India was able to reduce incidence in 2018 by almost 50,000 cases from the previous year, but still had the highest burden with 2.69 million cases — 26.9% of the global burden of 10 million.

**74.** The International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) provides research-based policy solutions to sustainably reduce poverty and end hunger and malnutrition in developing countries. It was established in 1975. IFPRI's vision is a world free of hunger and malnutrition. Its mission is to provide research-based policy solutions that sustainably reduce poverty and end hunger and malnutrition.

The Global Hunger Index (GHI) is a tool designed to comprehensively measure and track hunger at the global, regional, and country levels. The GHI is designed to raise awareness and understanding of the struggle against hunger.

The reason for mapping hunger is to ensure that the world achieves “Zero Hunger by 2030”, one of the Sustainable Development Goals laid out by the United Nations. It is for this reason that GHI scores are not calculated for certain high-income countries.

**75.** About Mount Paektu:

- Paektu Mountain is also known as Baekdu Mountain. In China, it is known as Changbai Mountain.
- It is a volcanic mountain that had last erupted over 1,000 years ago.
- The mountain is situated at the border between North Korea and China.
- At a height of about 9,000 feet, it is also the highest peak in the Korean Peninsula.

North Korea leader has visited the Mount Paektu. It is considered sacred by the Koreans since they treat it as the spiritual origin of the Korean kingdom.

**76.** The Indian Institute of Petroleum and Energy (IIPE) Engineering is an Institute of National Importance at par with IITs and IIMs and enacted by Parliament vide the Indian Institute of Petroleum & Energy Act, 2017 (No: 3 of 2018). It has started its operations in Visakhapatnam the state of Andhra Pradesh at AU College of Engineering as its temporary campus. Govt. of

Andhra Pradesh has allotted Ac 201.80 cts of land at Vangali Village, Sabbavaram Mandal, and Visakhapatnam where the permanent campus is going to come. IPE is an autonomous institute under the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, Govt. of India and backed by public sector Oil and Gas giant viz. HPCL, IOCL, ONGC, GAIL, OIL whose CEOs are on the Board of IPE. The objective of establishing IPE is to meet the quantitative and qualitative gap and supply of skilled manpower for Petroleum Sector and to boost the research activities needed for growth of sector.

**77.** The Belfast Agreement is also known as the Good Friday Agreement, because it was reached on Good Friday, 10 April 1998. It was a peace agreement between the British and Irish governments, and most of the political parties in Northern Ireland, on how Northern Ireland should be governed. The talks leading to the Agreement addressed issues which had caused conflict during previous decades. The aim was establish a new, devolved government for Northern Ireland in which unionists and nationalists would share power.

**78.** The Government of India vied Resolution No.8/136/68-P.I (Pers.I) dated 28.08.1970 formally established the Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D), under the Ministry of Home Affairs giving a new orientation to then existing Police Research and Advisory Council (1966) for the following reasons and with the primary objective of modernization of police force:

1. To take direct and active interest in the issues
2. To promote a speedy and systematic study of the police problems,
3. To apply science and technology in the methods and techniques used by police.

In addition and as a secondary, the Resolution mandated an advisory role also for the Bureau.

2. The Bureau was established with the following two divisions initially with a well laid out charter of duties

1. Research, Statistics and Publication
2. Development

3. Training is a vital and growing requirement to improve the competency of police forces in the country. The Gore-Committee (1971) set up by the Government of India studied the training aspects of police and gave several recommendations. The government of India in accepting its recommendations created a Training Division (1973) in addition to the two divisions already existing to function under the Bureau.

4. The forensic science services uncompromising & Geese under the Development Division grew over a period and a separate Directorate of Forensic Sciences under the BPR&D came into existence in 1983.

**79.** The idea of establishing a South Asian University (SAU) was mooted by the Prime Minister of India at the 13th SAARC Summit in Dhaka in 2005. The idea was for member countries to pool their resources for creation of a Centre of Excellence in the form of a University that would provide world-class facilities and professional faculty to students and researchers drawn from every country of the SAARC region. A temporary campus of the University was initially set up in few buildings provided gratis by the Jawaharlal Nehru University. The campus was subsequently relocated in 2011 to Akbar Bhawan, Chanakyapuri in south Delhi. University expects to shift to its own residential campus by the year 2016-17. Degrees and certificates awarded by the South Asian University are recognized by the University Grants Commission in India and by other SAARC countries.



**80.** The book, 'Good Economics for Hard Times' by Nobel Prize winners Abhijit Vinayak Banerjee and Esther Duflo, to be released in India next month, show how policies affect the poor.

**81.** Approximately 6000-7000 Rohingya refugees have agreed to be relocated to the newly built camp on the Bhashan Char Island. The Bhashan Char is an uninhabited island around 30 kilometre east of Hatiya island in the South East Bangladesh. Hatiya has a population of 600,000. Bhashan Char Island was formed about two decades ago on the mouth of river Meghna, which is located in Bay of Bengal.

**82.** The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) is an inter-governmental body established in 1989 on the initiative of the G7 by the Ministers of its Member jurisdictions. The objectives of the FATF are to set standards and promote effective implementation of legal, regulatory and operational measures for combating money laundering, terrorist financing and other related threats to the integrity of the international financial system. The FATF is therefore a "policy-making body" which works to generate the necessary political will to bring about national legislative and regulatory reforms in these areas. The FATF has developed a series of Recommendations that are recognised as the international standard for combating of money laundering and the financing of terrorism and proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. They form the basis for a co-ordinated response to these threats to the integrity of the financial system and help ensure a level playing field. First issued in 1990, the FATF Recommendations were revised in 1996, 2001, 2003 and most recently in 2012 to ensure that they remain up to date and relevant, and they are intended to be of universal application. The FATF monitors the progress of its members in implementing necessary measures, reviews money laundering and terrorist financing techniques and counter-measures, and promotes the adoption and implementation of appropriate measures globally. In collaboration with other international stakeholders, the FATF works to identify national-level vulnerabilities with the aim of protecting the international financial system from misuse. The FATF's decision making body, the FATF Plenary, meets three times per year.

**83.** Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary is situated in the floodplains of River Brahmaputra in the district of Morigaon and about 45 kms from Guwahati, the capital of Assam, India. It harbors the highest density of Rhino in the world and the second highest concentration of Rhino in Assam after Kaziranga National Park. Besides rhinoceros, the other mammals found are Leopard, Leopard cat, Fishing cat, Jungle cat, Feral Buffalo, Wild pigs, Chinese pangolins among others.

**84.** Food Safety and Standard Authority of India (FSSAI) has released the National Milk Sample Safety Quality Survey. The survey has found that milk samples from Telangana followed by Madhya Pradesh and Kerala has shown the highest number of cases of adulteration. The problem of Aflatoxin-M1 is more dominant in processed milk than that of raw milk. Tamil Nadu, Delhi and Kerala were the top states where the Aflatoxin-M1 was found maximum. In terms of quality, 7% of the total sample of processed milk did not comply with quality parameters because the presence of contaminants such as fats, Maltodextrin and sugar were above permissible limits.

**85.** Andaman and Nicobar Command (ANC) have conducted the second edition of Defense of Andaman & Nicobar Islands 2019 (DANX-19). The DANX is a joint services exercise conducted by the ANC (Andaman and Nicobar Command). The exercise was conducted for the first time in 2017. The main objective of the exercise is to practice and validate procedures and drills of all Command forces aimed at defending strategic Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Indian Army, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard and Special Forces from newly formed Armed Forces Special Operations Division (AFSOD) participated in this exercise.

**86.** Defense Acquisition Council (DAC), chaired by Defense minister has accorded approval for three projects to be indigenously designed, developed and manufactured by the Indian industry.

**87.** The World's oldest known natural pearl was discovered at a Neolithic site on Marawah Island off the coast of Abu Dhabi. The pearl has been named as the 'Abu Dhabi Pearl' that has been radio dated to 5,800-5,600 BCE. The discovery proves that pearls and oysters were being used in the UAE nearly 8,000 years ago. Prior to this discovery, the earliest pearl was found in another Neolithic site off the coast of Abu Dhabi. Marawah is a low-lying island off the coast of the Western Region of the Emirate of Abu Dhabi, the United Arab Emirates.

**88.** Union Ministry of State for Culture & Tourism has launched the E-Portal of Centre for Cultural Resources and Training (CCRT) 'Digital Bharat Digital Sanskriti'. The 'Digital Bharat Digital Sanskriti' is an E-portal that will enable dissemination of cultural education through digital interactive medium into classrooms all over the country. The portal will provide a platform for specifically dropout children so that they can join the mainstream and pursue their dreams by making a career out of be it music, painting, or any other art forms. For this initiative, CCRT has tied up with Routes 2 Roots, an NGO for connecting seamlessly all the CCRT Regional Centres.

**89.** The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) has red-flagged the Madhya Pradesh government's move to increase tourism activities inside the state's tiger reserves in violation of the existing guidelines and asked it to take corrective steps. This follows a complaint by Bhopal-based wildlife activist Ajay Dubey who has alleged that the state government has increased the tourism carrying capacity of the reserves by allowing in more numbers of vehicles carrying visitors.

**90.** The annual Crime in India Report 2017 has been published by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB). In 2017, there was an increase of 3.6% in registration of cases over 2016. Delhi witnessed the highest crime rate in the country with 1,050 Indian Penal Code (IPC) crime incidents per lakh of the city's population. On the other hand, the IPC crimes decreased greatly in Mizoram, Gujarat, Himachal, Tripura and Nagaland. The number of crimes against women has been increased by 6% in the country. Uttar Pradesh topped the list with most number of cases followed by Maharashtra and West Bengal. There were around 58,000 incidents of rioting reported. The maximum number of incidents was reported from Bihar followed by Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra.

**91.** The Hunar Haat is an exhibition of handicrafts, embroidery made by artisans from the Minority Communities. Hunar Haats are organised by Ministry of Minority Affairs under USTTAD (Upgrading the Skills & Training in Traditional Arts/Crafts for Development) scheme. The Haats have become a successful mission to provide employment and opportunities for artisans, craftsmen and culinary experts in national as well international markets. Union Minority Affairs Minister has said that the Government will provide employment opportunities to lakhs of artisans, craftsmen and traditional culinary experts through Hunar Haat in the next 5 years.

**92.** The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) has launched a cinema advertisement campaign 'Feed Our Future' for India. The campaign aims to raise awareness and take steps against hunger and malnutrition in India. The purpose of the campaign is also to build a curiosity in the audience to search 'ShareTheMeal' app which integrates food donation. ShareTheMeal is an app of UN WFP against global hunger. The app enables users to make small donations to specific WFP projects and track its progress. The World Food Programme (WFP) is the leading humanitarian organization fighting hunger worldwide. It is the food assistance branch of the United Nations.

**93.** Jiyo Parsi is a Central Sector Scheme launched by the Ministry of Minority Affairs in 2013. The main objective of the scheme is to reverse the declining trend of Parsi population by adopting a scientific protocol and structured interventions, stabilize their population and increase the population of Parsis in India. The Scheme comprises of three components (a) Advocacy Component, (b) Health of the Community Component and (c) Medical Component.

**94.** The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) has released the report 'Prison Statistics India 2017.' The majority of prisoners in India are under trial prisoners which means they have not yet been pronounced guilty by a court of law. Among states, the highest percentage of undertrial prisoners was in Meghalaya while the lowest was in Mizoram. Among Union Territories, the highest was in Dadra and Nagar Haveli while the lowest was in Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The actual capacity of the prisons has increased by 6.8% during the year 2015-2017.

**95.** The Credit Suisse Group has released the 10th edition of its annual Global Wealth Report. The report tracks both the growth and distribution of wealth in terms of the numbers of millionaires and billionaires and the proportion of wealth that they hold as well as the status of inequality around the world.

**96.** Snow leopards (*Panthera uncia*) belong to the family of cats called Felidae. The snow leopard's fur is whitish to gray with black spots on head and neck, but larger rosettes on the back, flanks and bushy tail. Snow leopards are found in 12 range countries namely Afghanistan, Bhutan, China, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan. China contains as much as 60% of all snow leopard habitat areas. In India, snow leopards are found in the high altitude areas above the forested areas above 3000m. The states of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh constitute snow leopard Habitat range in India. Further, they are also the State animal of Uttarakhand and the National Heritage Animal of Pakistan.

**97.** There are two main types of dialysis which are:

**Hemodialysis (HD):**

- It is commonly known as blood dialysis. In HD, the blood is filtered through a machine that acts like an artificial kidney and is returned back into the body.
- HD needs to be performed in a designated dialysis center. It is usually needed about 3 times per week with each episode taking about 3-4 hours.

**Peritoneal dialysis (PD):**

- It is commonly known as water dialysis. In PD, the blood is cleaned without being removed from the body. The abdomen sac (lining) acts as a natural filter.
- A solution (mainly made up of salts and sugars) is injected into the abdomen that encourages filtration such that the waste is transferred from the blood to the solution.
- This process can be done at Home. Hence, it does away with the substantial costs of infrastructure, maintenance and staffing, reduces the demand on the healthcare system and offers patient autonomy.
- Union Health Ministry has released guidelines for establishing peritoneal dialysis services under the Pradhan Mantri National Dialysis Program (PMNDP).

**98.** Vice-President of India will represent India at the 18th Non Aligned Movement (NAM) summit in Baku, Azerbaijan marking the second time that Indian PM will skip the summit. The concept of Non Aligned Movement (NAM) originated in 1955 at the Asia-Africa Bandung Conference held in Indonesia. The NAM was formed after the Second World War by countries that did not seek to formally align themselves with either the United States or the Soviet

Union but sought to remain independent or neutral. The first NAM Summit Conference took place in Belgrade, Yugoslavia in 1961.

**99.** Indian Army is going to conduct an exercise codenamed 'Sindhu Sudarshan' in Rajasthan from 29 November to 4 December 2019. The aim of the exercise is to evaluate the capability of the Defense forces to strike deep into enemy territory in an integrated air-land battle. The exercise will be conducted by Southern command along with XXI Corps which is also known as the Sudarshan Chakra Corps. The army will assess the operational efficiency of the Strike Corps to fight in the desert terrain and the Indian Air Force (IAF) to provide intimate support in terms of destruction of targets and air lifting of the troops.

**100.** Ministry of Electronics & Information (MeitY) has unveiled a series of new initiatives during the first MeitY Start-up Summit held in New Delhi. The initiatives include the MeitY Startup Hub (MSH), the Indian Software Product Registry and select Incubation Centres under the TIDE 2.0. It will act as a platform to connect with incubators, accelerators, mentors, and eventually, angel funds and venture capitalists.

**101.** Polio is an acute infectious disease caused by polio virus. The virus is a human enterovirus of the Picornaviridae. It is transmitted from one person to another by oral contact with secretions or faecal material from an infected person. India was declared polio free in 2014 and the last case was reported in January 2011. World Polio Day was established by Rotary International on 24th October to celebrate the birth of Jonas Salk who had developed a vaccine against Polio.

**102.** Government e Marketplace is an online marketplace setup in 2016 for procurement of commonly used goods and services by government ministries, departments and CPSEs. It aims to enhance transparency, efficiency and speed in public procurement. It is a National Procurement Portal of India. It functions under Directorate General of Supplies and Disposals (DGS&D), Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

**103.** Kittur Utsav is a three-day festival which celebrates the Queen Rani Channamma's victory over East India's company in 1824. The festival organizes sports, cultural programmes and lectures by resource persons on the kingdom of Rani Channamma. Chief Minister of Karnataka has inaugurated the Kittur Utsav festival.

**104.** The Cape Town Agreement was adopted by the IMO in 2012 to help combat illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing. The agreement is aimed at facilitating better control of fishing vessel safety by flag, port and coastal states. It includes mandatory safety measures for fishing vessels of 24 meters (79 feet) in length and over. It covers key parameters such as stability and associated seaworthiness, machinery, and electrical installations, life-saving appliances, communications equipment, fire protection and fishing vessel construction. India is yet to ratify the Cape Town Agreement which was adopted by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) for safety of fishing vessels.

**105.** The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) is a statutory body established under Khadi and Village Industries Commission Act, 1956. It is an apex organisation under the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises. The KVIC is charged with the planning, promotion, organisation and implementation of programs for the development of Khadi and other village industries in the rural areas in coordination with other agencies engaged in rural development wherever necessary.

**106.** The Mission will focus on the following Thrust Areas:

- Water Supply
- Sewerage and septage management

- Storm Water Drainage to reduce flooding
- Non-motorized Urban Transport
- Green space/parks

**107.** The serious efforts being put in by the government to protect forests in erstwhile undivided Adilabad district of Telangana State has made life a little difficult for the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTG) — Kolam and Naikpod — which depend upon bamboo extracted from forests for a livelihood. There are about 6,000 Kolam and 2,500 Naikpod families, mostly living in forest habitations or on forest fringes in old Adilabad district, who depend upon bamboo for a livelihood but cannot afford to purchase it from the Forest Department which harvests and sells it in Kagaznagar, Asifabad, Bellampalli and Mancherial divisions. They make baskets and mats and their traditional market is the larger Raj Gond tribe and since the last 100 years or so, the non-tribals living in the Agency tracts.

**108.** The average Indian brain is smaller in height, width, and volume as compared to the western and eastern population like the Chinese and Korean according to the first-ever 'Indian Brain Atlas' created by researchers of the International Institute of Information Technology-Hyderabad (IIIT-H). These differences are found even at the structure level like the volume of hippocampus and so on. But overall, the 'IBA 100 is more' comparable to the Chinese and Korean atlases than the distant Caucasian one, according to the research team led by professor from the Centre for Visual Information Technology Jayanthi Sivaswamy.

**109.** Two years after the 126-member Assam Assembly adopted a population policy, the State Cabinet on Monday evening decided to make government jobs out of bounds for people with more than two children. The policy will come into effect from January 1, 2021. The State Assembly had in September 2017 passed the 'Population and Women Empowerment Policy of Assam' seeking to encourage small family. Apart from specifying that candidates with two children only would be eligible for government jobs, the policy warranted that existing government employees should strictly follow the two-child norm. "Implementing the population policy was necessary, given the pressure on land and resources in Assam.

**110.** Supercyclone 'Kyarr' in the Arabian Sea has moved westwards and away from India's coast, according to the India Meteorological Department (IMD). 'Kyarr' lay 830 km west-southwest of Mumbai and 1160 km east-northeast of Salalah (Oman). It is "very likely" to move west-northwestwards till October 30 to recurve west-south-westwards thereafter and move towards the Gulf of Aden off south Oman-Yemen coasts in the next three days. "It is very likely to maintain the intensity of a Super Cyclonic Storm till 28th October evening and weaken gradually thereafter," the IMD said in a press statement. Gales reaching 230-240 kmph and gusting to 265 kmph, were prevailing around the cyclone's centre over the central Arabian Sea and it was very likely to reduce gradually to 130 kmph by November 1. 'Kyarr' is the first supercyclone in the Arabian Sea after cyclone Gonu in 2007. Its formation had brought rains over the weekend to Goa and coastal Karnataka but adverse weather was unlikely over India. However, seas were expected to be rough and fishermen have been advised not to venture into the east-central Arabian Sea till Wednesday and into west-central Arabian Sea till November 2, it said.

**111.** Global mobility report has been released by the Sustainable Mobility for All (SuM4All) initiative. The SuM4All initiative was launched in 2017. It is an umbrella platform that brings together 55 public and private organisations and companies to act collectively to implement the SDGs and transform the transport sector. The report has analysed mobility performances of 183 countries on four key indicators which are (a) universal access (b) efficiency (c) green mobility and (d) safety.

**112.** The Sarayu is a river that flows through the Indian states of Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh. This river is of ancient significance as it is mentioned in the Vedas and the Ramayana. The river is formed at the confluence of rivers Karnali and Mahakali. It is a tributary of River Ganges. A new history was created at Ayodhya as a record 6 lakh earthen lamps lit up the Sarayu river bank on the eve of Diwali. On Ram Navami, the festival that celebrates the birthday of Lord Rama, thousands of people take a dip in the Sarayu River at Ayodhya.

**113.** Indian and French armies will conduct joint counter-terrorism drills under 'Exercise Shakti-2019' in the Mahajan field firing range in Rajasthan. The Exercise SHAKTI is conducted between India and France. It was first conducted in the year 2011. The exercise is a biennial exercise and is conducted alternately in India and France. The exercise aims at enhancing understanding, cooperation and interoperability between the two Armies.

**114.** UDAN scheme was launched in 2016 to make air travel affordable through subsidised tickets and to provide its access to smaller towns. The Scheme is a key component of the National Civil Aviation Policy (NCAP) which was launched in June 2016. The idea behind the scheme is to jump-start the regional aviation market by improving profitability of under developed regional routes. Under the scheme, the government offers incentives to airlines to flag off new flights to neglected smaller cities and towns by providing Viability gap funding to make these operations profitable.

**115.** India and Saudi Arabia are set to sign an agreement for creating a bilateral strategic partnership council. The strategic partnership council will be led by Indian Prime minister and Saudi Crown Prince and it will meet every two years. The council will include multiple sections involving the External Affairs Ministry and NITI Aayog and counterpart organisations from Saudi Arabia.

**116.** India has improved its ranking in the Melbourne Mercer Global Pension Index. The index is published by the Australian Centre for Financial Studies (ACFS) in collaboration with Mercer with most of the funding from the State Government of Victoria. The primary objective of this research is to benchmark each country's retirement income system. It covers 37 countries, is based on how they fare on providing pension and retirement benefits to citizens across different income groups.

**117.** Atal Bhujal Yojana is a 6000 crore World Bank assisted Central Sector Scheme of the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation. The scheme has been formulated by the government to address the criticality of groundwater resources in a major part of the country. The scheme aims to improve groundwater management in priority areas in the country through community participation. The scheme envisages active participation of the communities in various activities such as formation of Water User Associations, monitoring and disseminating ground water data among others. The funding pattern is 50:50 between Government of India (Ministry Of Jalshakti) and World Bank.

**118.** Million Farmers' School (MFS) Programme popularly known as Kisan Pathshala is a scheme of Uttar Pradesh Government. The scheme aims to enhance farmers' incomes through dissemination of agriculture-related information on technology, government schemes, and modern farming methods. The scheme is an extension programme that the government of UP initiated in 2017 with a view to encourage the use of modern farming techniques to make farming more profitable, sustainable and resilient. Unlike traditional extension services, MFS integrates various facets of agricultural knowledge into a packaged format, and delivers it through village-level trainings across all districts in the state.

**119.** Recently, Australian Government has banned the climbing of Uluru desert rock, considered sacred by the local Anangu people. Uluru is also known as Ayers Rock. It is located in central Australia. It is sacred to the local Anangu people, the Aboriginal people residing in that area. The rock is a large sandstone rock formation. It is composed of coarse-grained arkose (a type of sandstone characterised by an abundance of feldspar) and some conglomerate. The rock is also listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The Uluru rock is notable for appearing to change colour at different times of the day and year, most notably when it glows red at dawn and sunset.

**120.** The operation Kayla Mueller is an operation that claimed the life of Islamic State leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi. The operation was a United States led military operation in Barisha, Idlib in northwestern Syria. The operation targeted Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) leadership notably its leader, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi. The Special Forces raid was officially code-named Operation Kayla Mueller after Kayla Mueller who was held captive, tortured by Islamic State before her death in 2015.

