

ForumIAS

*10 PM Current Affairs
Quiz Compilation*

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

Q.1) Which of the following below had given countries conduct the Eastern Economic Forum?

- a) Russia
- b) South Korea
- c) Japan
- d) China

Q.2) Which of the following Institute developed transgenic rice by inserting a novel fungal gene, to address arsenic accumulation in Rice grains?

- a) Indian Institute of Technology-Kanpur
- b) National Botanical Research Institute
- c) ICRISAT
- d) Central Agriculture University

Q.3) Consider the following Informal Summit between India-China, 2019

- 1. It is first informal Summit between India and China
- 2. Summit is going to held in Ancient town Mamallapuram

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.4) Consider the following countries with respect to Arctic council countries:

- 1. Canada
- 2. Denmark
- 3. Finland
- 4. Iceland
- 5. United Kingdom

Which of the following given below codes are correct?

- a) 1, 2 and 3 only
- b) 2, 3 and 4 only
- c) 1, 2, 3 and 4 only
- d) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

Q.5) “Bonn Climate Challenge” is associated which of the following?

- a) Ozone depleting substances
- b) Deforestation
- c) Green house gases (Global Warming)
- d) Rising Sea-Level

Q.6) Consider the following statements with respect to Index of Industrial Production (IIP):

- 1. The base year for IIP is 2011-12
- 2. IIP is published by DPIIT
- 3. New series of IIP excludes renewable energy from Energy sector

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.7) Consider the following statements with respect to ASEAN-US Maritime Exercise (AUMX), 2019:

1. AUMX 2019, is first edition between ASEAN and USA
2. India participated as a guest in the exercise

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.8) Consider the following statements with respect wildlife biodiversity in India:

1. Assam is the most species-rich State in India in terms of turtle diversity
2. Pobitora wildlife sanctuary located in Assam

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.9) “P&W 1100G-JM engine” is recently in news related to which of the following sector?

- a) Automobile sector
- b) Satellite launch vehicle sector
- c) Aviation sector
- d) Railway engines sector

Q.10) “Ease of Living index” is released by which of the following?

- a) NITI Aayog
- b) CSO
- c) Ministry of Housing and urban affairs
- d) Ministry of Home Affairs

Q.11) Recently induced AH-64E Apache attack helicopter into Indian Air Force have been brought from which of the following countries?

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

Q.12) Consider the following statements about National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA):

1. It has been set through an act of Parliament.
 2. It is under Ministry of Chemical and Fertilizers.
- Which of the given below statement is/are correct?

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

Q.13) Which among the following is leading cause of household air pollution?

1. Use of biomass for cooking
2. Vehicular emission

3. Use of dhoop sticks or the agarbattis

Select the correct answer from below given code:

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

Q.14) Jupiter Icy Moons Explorer (JUICE) to be launched in 2022 has been undertaken by which of the following space agency?

- a) ESA
- b) NASA
- c) ISRO
- d) ROSCOSMOS

Q.15) Consider the following statements about National Register of Citizens (NRC):

- 1. NRC is a register containing names of all genuine Indian citizens.
- 2. At present, only Assam has such a register.
- 3. The provision governing Assam NRC updation is The Citizenship Act, 1955 only.

Which of the above given statements is/are correct?

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

Q.16) Consider the following statements about 'Samudrayaan Project':

- 1. It would be undertaken by National Institute of Ocean Technology.
- 2. It is under Ministry of Science and technology.
- 3. It aims for deep ocean mining of rare minerals.

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.17) Consider the following statement about amended Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act:

- 1. It empowers the government to designate individuals as terrorists.
- 2. It empowers the National Investigation Agency (NIA) to seize properties without permission.

Which of the above given statement is/are not correct?

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

Q.18) Global liveability Index is given by which of the following?

- a) UNESCO
- b) Economist Intelligence Unit
- c) World Bank
- d) UN Habitat

Q.19) Consider the following statements about Eastern Economic Forum:

1. The Eastern Economic Forum was established by decree of the President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin in 2015.
2. It was established to support the economic development of Russia's Far East and to expand international cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region.
3. The 2019 session is 3rd in the row.
4. India will give a line of credit worth USD 1 billion for the development of the Far East.

Which of the above given statement is/are correct?

- a) 1, 2 and 3 only
- b) 2, 3 and 4 only
- c) 1, 2 and 4 only
- d) 1, 3 and 4 only

Q.20) Consider the following statements about Kartarpur Corridor:

1. The corridor will connect Dera baba Nanak shrine on Pakistan side and Kartarpur Gurudwara on Indian side.
2. It would allow the pilgrims to cross over into Pakistan from the Indian side to visit the shrine and return the same day.

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.21) Which of the following institutions awarded the status of Institute of Eminence?

1. IIT-Madras
2. IIT-kharagpur
3. Delhi University
4. IIT-Hyderabad

Choose the correct code from below given options?

- a) 1, 2 and 3 only
- b) 2, 3 and 4 only
- c) 1, 2, 3 and 4
- d) 1, 3 and 4 only

Q.22) South-East Asia (WHO) member countries set the target to eliminate Measles and Rubella by which year?

- a) 2020
- b) 2021
- c) 2022
- d) 2023

Q.23) "TSENTR-2019" army drills are recently in news is conducted by which of the following country?

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

Q.24) Consider the following statements about the European Food Information Council (EUFIC):

1. EUFIC is an inter-governmental organization
2. EUFIC mission is to empower healthier and more sustainable food and lifestyle choices.

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.25) Consider the following statements with respect to Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK):

1. It was launched in 2014
2. Scheme for universal screening of children below 18 years for leprosy and tuberculosis (TB)

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) Recently India signed Military logistics agreement with which of the following country?

- a) South Korea
- b) Bangladesh
- c) Vietnam
- d) Singapore

Q.27) Which of the following state launched a facial-recognition based biometric online attendance system for teachers?

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

Q.28) Consider the following statements with respect to Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yozana (PMKVY):

1. Scheme launched on 15th July 2016
2. PMKVY is implemented by National Skills Development Corporation (NSDC)
3. Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) is a component of the Scheme

Which of the following below given codes are correct?

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

Q.29) Consider the following statements with respect to Akash Missile:

1. It is a surface-to-surface missile
2. The missile was developed as part of the Integrated Guided-Missile Development Programme (IGMDP)
3. Missile has a strike range of 100km

Which of the following below given codes are correct?

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

Q.30) Which of the following multilateral institution released the Digital Economy Report?

- a) UNCTAD
- b) WEF
- c) WTO
- d) World Bank

Q.31) Recently which state banned sex normalization surgeries in intersex children and infants?

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

Q.32) Consider the following statements with respect to One Nation One Ration Card scheme:

1. It is scheduled to come into full effect by June 2022
2. Main beneficiaries of the scheme are migrant workers

Which of the following below given codes are correct?

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

Q.33) Plastic waste management rules, 2016 applicable to which of the following areas?

1. Local body (municipal area)
2. Gram Panchayat
3. Importers
4. Producers

Choose the correct code from given below options?

- a) 1 only
- b) 1, 2 and 3 only
- c) 1, 3 and 4 only
- d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Q.34) Typhoon Faxai is recently in news, affected which of the following country?

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

Q.35) Travel & Tourism Competitiveness Index (TTCI) report released by which of the following institution?

- a) World Bank
- b) WEF
- c) WTO

d) UNCTAD

Q.36) Amrabad Tiger reserve is recently in news, located in which of the following state?

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

Q.37) According to national strategic plan (NSP) for malaria elimination, by which year Malaria will be eradicated in India?

- a) 2022
- b) 2023
- c) 2030
- d) 2025

Q.38) Roghun Hydro-Power Plant is recently in news, located in which of the following country?

- a) Turkmenistan
- b) Tajikistan
- c) Uzbekistan
- d) Kazakhstan

Q.39) Consider the following statements with respect to National Highway Authority of India (NHAI):

1. NHAI was set up by executive resolution
2. It was entrusted with National Highways Development Projects

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.40) Consider the following statements with respect to Mid-Day Meal Scheme:

1. It was a restructured scheme of the National Programme of Nutritional Support to Primary Education (NP-NSPE)
2. It was centrally sponsored 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.41) Recently two new species of ginger spotted in which of the following state?

- a) Nagaland
- b) Meghalaya
- c) Mizoram
- d) Assam

Q.42) B. P. Singhal VS Union of India (2010) case related to which of the following?

- a) President executive powers
- b) Judicial review

- c) Scope of union powers to remove Governor
- d) Election reforms

Q.43) Consider the following statements with respect to UNCCD CoP-14:

1. CoP-14 meeting is held in Bali, Indonesia
2. In India nearly 30% of land is degraded

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.44) Consider the following statements with respect to National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India LTD. (NAFED):

1. NAFED is registered under the Multi State Co-operative Societies Act
2. NAFED was setup with the object to promote Co-operative marketing of agricultural produce to benefit the farmers
3. NAFED was established on 1991

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.45) Which state implemented the scheme for tribals at birth, death ceremonies?

- a) Madhya Pradesh
- b) Andhra Pradesh
- c) Mizoram
- d) Meghalaya

Q.46) Consider the following statements with respect to Nobel Prize Series, 2019:

1. Punjab is going to host 3rd edition of series
2. Series conducted for every two years
3. Theme for 2019-teaching and learning

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.47) Government of India launched the National Animal Control Disease Programme (NADCP) to eradicate live stock disease by which year?

- a) 2022
- b) 2025
- c) 2030
- d) 2040

Q.48) Consider the following statements with respect to Narmada Bachao Andolan (NAB):

1. NAB is a mass movement started in 1975
2. Movement was against the construction of Dam on Narmada River
3. Narmada is the India's largest west flowing river

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.49) Consider the following statements with respect to HimVijay Exercise:

1. Him Vijay is a Mountain Strike Corps' maiden exercise
2. It is conducted by jointly Army and Air force
3. The exercise will be held away from the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with China

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.50) Consider the following statements about National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST):

1. NCST is a constitutional body.
2. It is established under article 338 of the Indian Constitution.
3. The Commission presents an annual report to the President.

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.51) Consider the following statements with respect to National Institute for Smart Government (NISG):

1. NISG headquarters located at New Delhi
2. 51% of NISG's equity held by Central and State governments

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) Consider the following statements with respect to Regional Comprehensive Economic Agreement (RCEP):

1. RCEP is largely driven by ASEAN
2. Total 16 member countries are part of RCEP
3. USA and Russia also part of RCEP

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.53) Consider the following statements with respect to population in India:

1. The demographic transition in India has been much slower than elsewhere in Asia
2. The Average annual population growth rate declining regularly from 1951 onwards

3. Birth Rate dropped from 37 in 1971 to 22 in 2011

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) Consider the following statements with respect to Wages in India:

1. Between 2011-12 and 2017-18, earnings of regular workers declined in both rural and urban areas

2. Rural regular wages declined more than Urban regular wages

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.55) Consider the following statements with respect to Times Higher Education rankings 2020:

1. No Indian institution featured in the top 300

2. IISc-Bangalore is the best performer from 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.56) Consider the following statements with respect to Defense Acquisition Council (DAC):

1. DAC is headed by Prime Minister

2. The objective of the DAC is to ensure expeditious procurement of the approved requirements of the Armed Forces

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) The conference on e-Mobility organized by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) in which of the following city?

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

Q.58) CoP-14 Of United Nations-led Conference to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) ended with a commitment to achieve land degradation neutrality by?

- a) 2022
- b) 2025
- c) 2027
- d) 2030

Q.59) Consider the following statements with respect to Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA):

1. ADA is a Society under the Department of Defense Research and Development, Ministry of Defense
2. The Light Combat Aircraft-Tejas is being designed and developed with ADA as the nodal agency

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.60) Consider the following statements with respect to Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT):

1. It is an attached office of Ministry of External Affairs
2. Organization has been essentially involved in the regulation and promotion of foreign trade through regulation

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.61) Consider the following statements with respect to T-Wallet, which is recently in news:

1. It is official digital wallet of Tamil Nadu state
2. It is used to transfer scholarships to students by the state welfare departments
3. It will be the first mobile wallet to offer such service by any state government across 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.62) RoDTEP and RoSCTL schemes are recently in news related to which of the following sectors?

- a) Agriculture sector
- b) Education sector
- c) MSMEs
- d) Exports sector

Q.63) Recently, researchers have identified a soil bacterial strain from which of the following IIT campus that helps in “complete remediation” of the carbaryl pesticide?

- a) IIT-Bombay
- b) IIT-Madras
- c) IIT-Delhi
- d) IIT-Hyderabad

Q.64) Nandankanan Zoological Park is located in which of the following state?

- a) Andhra Pradesh
- b) Karnataka

- c) Tamil Nadu
- d) Odisha

Q.65) Sardar Sarovar Dam located in which of the following state?

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

Q.66) Consider the following statements about the Public safety Act:

1. It is a preventive detention law.
2. The maximum period of detention in the case of persons acting in any manner prejudicial to the security of the State is two years.
3. The detention cannot be challenged.

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 only

Q.67) Consider the following statements about Malaria:

1. Malaria is caused by the virus.
2. Malaria is transmitted through the bites of female *Anopheles* mosquitoes.
3. There is no vaccine available for cure of malaria.

Which of the above given statements is/are correct?

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

Q.68) The 11th International Hrant Dink Award is rewarded to which among the following:

- a) Agnes Kharshiling
- b) Narendra Modi
- c) Gauri Lankesh
- d) Kailash Satyarthi

Q.69) The theme of Ozone Day of 2019 was:

- a) World Ozone Day 2019- 32 years of Montreal Protocol.
- b) World Ozone Day 2019- Celebrating Kyoto Protocol.
- c) World Ozone Day 2019- Keep cool and carry on.
- d) Caring for all life under the sun.

Q.70) A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) envisaged for capacity building activities for 1000 Civil Servants has been signed with which of the following countries:

- a) Sri Lanka
- b) Bhutan
- c) Mauritius
- d) Maldives

Q.71) Consider the following statements with respect to Project Elephant:

1. It is a central sector scheme
 2. It was launched in 1992
 3. Main aim of project is to provide financial and technical support to major elephant bearing States in the country for protection of elephants, their habitats and corridors
- 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.72) Consider the following statements with respect to National Health Authority (NHA):

1. It was earlier called as National Health Agency
 2. It oversees government health insurance scheme (PMJAY)
 3. The Ministry of Health, responsible for overseeing the day-to-day affairs of the NHA
- 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.73) Sakhalin-1, Taas-Yuryakh and Vankor oil fields are recently in news located in which country?

- a) Brazil
- b) China
- c) Russia
- d) Kazakhstan

Q.74) The National Centre for Clean Coal Research and Development inaugurated in which of the following institute?

- a) IISc-Bangalore
- b) IIT-Bombay
- c) IIT-Chennai
- d) IIT-Kharagpur

Q.75) Consider the following statements with respect to World Ozone Day:

1. The theme for the year 2019 is '32 Years and Healing'
2. Ozone day celebrates over three decades of international cooperation to protect the ozone layer and the climate under the Montreal Protocol.

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.76) India signed COMCASA and LEMOA agreements with which of the following country?

- a) Russia
- b) USA
- c) France
- d) China

Q.77) Consider the following statements with respect to the International Migrant Stock 2019:

1. India has emerged as the leading country of origin for immigrants across the world
2. International Migrant Stock report released by World Economic Forum

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.78) Consider the following statements with respect to teaser loans:

1. A Teaser loan is a special loan that is offered for a fixed duration and could then be withdrawn
2. It generally offers a low interest rate in the initial years and then gets back to the normal interest rates
3. Teaser loans are less risky

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.79) Aramco's Abqaiq and Khurais crude oil plants were hit by drone attacks recently in which country?

- a) Saudi Arabia
- b) Yemen
- c) Qatar
- d) Iraq

Q.80) Consider the following statements with respect to Tejas Air Craft:

1. Tejas is an indigenous light weight and multi role supersonic aircraft developed in fighter versions only
2. Advanced materials like composites are used in the manufacture of the Tejas to reduce weight and increase the component life
- 3 Tejas is designed to carry a veritable plethora of air-to-air, air-to- surface, precision guided and standoff weaponry

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.81) Recently which State High Court upheld that the right to have access to the Internet is part of fundamental right to education as well as right to privacy?

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

Q.82) Consider the following statements with respect to Astra Missile:

1. It is developed jointly by India and Israel
2. Astra is designed to be capable of engaging targets at varying range and altitudes
3. The Astra is a Beyond Visual Range (BVR) missile

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.83) Consider the following statements with respect to National Nutrition Mission (Poshan Abhiyan):

1. Mission was launched in 2015-16
2. It is world's largest nutrition programme

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.84) "Green Bonus" is recently in news is related to which of the following below given options?

- a) Providing concession to green bonds
- b) Concessions provided by EESL to LED bulbs for domestic purpose
- c) Providing environmental development money to 11 Himalayan States
- d) Funds provided by World Bank to developing countries for Solar energy development

Q.85) Consider the following statements with respect to Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO):

1. CDSCO is responsible for approval of New Drugs, Conduct of Clinical Trials, laying down the standards for Drugs
2. It draw its powers from The Drugs & Cosmetics Act,1940 and rules 1945
3. CDSCO along with state regulators, is jointly responsible for grant of licenses of certain specialized categories of critical Drugs

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.86) Consider the following statements with respect to WAVE Summit, 2019:

1. The summit will be the largest gathering of young women students who will promote entrepreneurship
2. The summit is jointly organized by the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) and Institute of Waste Management (IIWM) at Jodhpur

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.87) Consider the following statements with respect to National Payments Corporation India (NPCI):

1. NPCI, is an umbrella organization for operating retail payments and settlement systems in India
2. NPCI is a Not-for-Profit company
3. It is an initiative of RBI and Finance Ministry

Which of the following below given codes are correct?

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

Q.88) Ministry of Skill Development has signed an agreement with which of the following Global IT major for nationwide Train-the-Trainer program in Artificial Intelligence?

- a) Infosys
- b) Microsoft
- c) IBM
- d) Deloitte

Q.89) Which of the following laws will merge under Draft Social Security Code?

1. Employees Compensation Act, 1923
2. Maternity Benefit Act, 1961
3. Building and Other construction workers Cess Act, 1996

Which of the following below given codes are correct?

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

Q.90) *Karan Vandana*, a new hybrid variety which is resistant to yellow rust and white blast and can give significantly higher yield than normal varieties is belong to which of the following crop?

- a) Brinjal
- b) Wheat
- c) Rice
- d) Maize

Q.91) Byculla Zoo is located in which of the following state?

- a) Karnataka
- b) Goa
- c) Maharashtra
- d) Andhra Pradesh

Q.92) Consider the following statements with respect to Tobacco Board of India:

1. Board was established under executive resolution
2. Board comes under Health Ministry
3. Board head quarters at Guntur in Andhra Pradesh.

Which of the following below given codes are correct?

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

d) 3 only

Q.93) Consider the following statements about Cannabis:

1. Its cultivation is legal in India.
2. India is in the golden triangle of drugs trade.

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.94) Which of the following correct about Emergency Response Support System (ERSS):

- a) It is to respond to a natural disaster
- b) It plays a pivotal role in mitigation or preventing escalation of crime.
- c) It plays an important role in providing help to emergency cases under Ayushman Bharat
- d) In response to threat of a terrorist attack.

Q.95) MOSAIC Mission is related to which among the following:

- a) To check desertification in Sahara.
- b) Israel (Mossad) secret mission in Palestine.
- c) To study impact of climate change in Arctic sea.
- d) China's future mission to mars.

Q.96) Consider the following statements with respect to National Population Register (NPR):

1. The National Population Register (NPR) is a Register of usual residents of the country
2. It is prepared under provisions of Citizenship Act 1955
3. It is mandatory for every usual resident of India to register in the NPR

Which of the following below given codes are correct?

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

Q.97) Consider the following statements with respect to International Coastal Clean-up Day (ICCD):

1. ICCD is an initiative of United Nations (UN) to conserve coasts
2. ICCD observed on every 3rd Saturday of September

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) Silent valley national park located in which of the following state?

- a) Kerala
- b) Uttarakhand
- c) Himachal Pradesh
- d) Tamil Nadu

Q.99) Faheema Shirin vs State of Kerala is recently in news. The case related to which of the following?

- a) Judicial Review
- b) Basic structure
- c) Fundamental Rights
- d) Ordinance powers

Q.100) Consider the following statements with respect to National Digital Literacy Mission (NDLM):

1. NDLM has been initiated to empower at least one person per household with digital literate
2. Target year for NDLM is 2022
3. National Institute of Electronics & Information Technology (NIELIT) is one of the National Level Certifying Agency for Government of India's NDLM

Which of the following below given codes are correct?

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

Q.101) Trade Margin Rationalization (TMR) is recently in news, which of the following goods are covered under TMR?

- a) Agriculture
- b) Electronic goods
- c) Medical Devices
- d) Financial Services

Q.102) Consider the following statements with respect to SASTRA Ramunujan Prize:

1. 2019 SASTRA prize awarded to Adam Harper
2. Prize awarded to individuals and institutions
3. Prize awarded to mathematics field only

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.103) Consider the following statements with respect to Global Climate Strike Movement:

1. The movement was started by Swedish student 'Greta Thunberg' to protest outside Swedish parliament for more action against climate change
2. The #FridaysforFuture movement also known as the 'Youth Strike for Climate Movement' was started in August 2018

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.104) Consider the following statements with respect to ASEAN-India Free Trade Agreement (AIFTA):

1. The free trade agreement came into force from January 2014
2. Under the pact, two trading partners set timelines for eliminating duties on the maximum number of goods traded between the two regions

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) Bishkek Declaration is to conserve which of the following Wild animal?

- a) Tiger
- b) Elephant
- c) Snow Leopard
- d) Rhino

Q.106) Consider the following statements with respect to Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG):

- 1. NSG is a group of nuclear supplier countries that seeks to contribute to the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons
- 2. India is member of NSG

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.107) Consider the following statements with respect to Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (API):

- 1. APIs are the active raw materials used in medicines to give them their therapeutic effect
- 2. Currently India imports over 60% of APIs

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.108) Consider the following statements with respect to Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC):

- 1. Objective of the IPCC is to provide governments at all levels with scientific information that they can use to develop climate policies
- 2. The IPCC is an organization of governments that are members of the United Nations or WMO
- 3. The IPCC conduct its own research with regard to Climate change

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.109) Consider the following statements with respect to MiG-21:

- 1. It is French made fighter Aircraft
- 2. It is single engine and single seater multirole fighter/ground attack aircraft which forms the back-bone of the IAF

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.110) The ICGS Varaha is recently in news, related to which of the following?

- a) Nuclear Submarine
- b) Off-shore patrol vessel
- c) Aircraft carrier
- d) Indian Made AWACS

Q.111) Srisaïlam Dam recently in news, is built on which of the following river?

- a) Godavari
- b) Krishna
- c) Mahanadi
- d) Kaveri

Q.112) 'Tikki Mausi' Muscot recently unveiled by Odisha government to spread awareness about child and women nutrition is in collaboration with which of the following:

- a) World Bank
- b) WHO
- c) UNICEF
- d) ADB

Q.113) Consider the following statements about Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE):

1. The BEE is a statutory body under the Ministry of Power.
2. It was set up under the provisions of Energy Conservation Act, 2001.
3. Its mission is to assist in developing policies with the primary objective of reducing energy intensity of the Indian Economy.

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.114) The theme for World Tourism Day 2019 is:

- a) Tourism and the Digital Transformation
- b) Tourism and Jobs: a better future for all
- c) Tourism: Responding to the Challenge of Climate Change
- d) Tourism opens doors for women

Q.115) Which of the following Company won the United Nations Global Climate Action Award 2019?

- a) Infosys
- b) Google
- c) Wipro
- d) TCS

Q.116) Consider the following statements with respect to Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter (LRO):

1. The LRO mission was focused on supporting the extension of human presence in the solar system
2. Mission was launched by European Space Agency
3. It was launched in 2009

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.117) Consider the following statements with respect to National Film Archive of India (NFAI):

1. National Film Archive of India (NFAI) was set up in February, 1964
2. The primary objective of NFAI is acquiring and preserving Indian cinematic heritage
3. It preserves only film material

Which of the following below given codes are correct?

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

Q.118) Consider the following statements with respect to Global Tiger Forum (GTF):

1. GTF is the only inter- governmental international body to protect the Tiger
2. The GTF was formed in 1993 on recommendations from an international symposium on Tiger Conservation at New Delhi, India
3. The GTF has a General Assembly meeting of every 5 years

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.119) Recently RBI imposed restrictions on withdrawals of 1000rs per account from which of the following bank?

- a) Telangana Co-operative Bank
- b) Punjab and Maharashtra Co-operative Bank
- c) Madras Co-operative Bank
- d) Andhra Pradesh Co-operative Bank

Q.120) Consider the following statements with respect to Project NETRA:

1. It was initiated by DRDO
2. It is an early warning system in space to detect space debris and to safeguard India's functional satellites in low-earth orbits

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.121) Consider the following statements with respect to National Family Health Survey (NFHS):

1. It is conducted in a representative sample of households throughout India
2. First survey of NFHS conducted in 1992-93
3. The International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS) Mumbai, as the nodal agency, responsible for providing coordination and technical guidance for the survey

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.122) The Comprehensive National Nutrition Survey conducted between February 2016 and October 2018 by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and which of the following international institute?

- a) UNICEF
- b) FAO
- c) WHO
- d) World Bank

Q.123) Consider the following statements with respect to International Astronomical Union (IAU):

1. The International Astronomical Union (IAU) was founded in 1919
 2. Its mission is to promote and safeguard the science of astronomy through research, communication, education and development
 3. IAU has named an asteroid, discovered in 2006, after Indian classical singer Pandit Jasraj
- 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.124) Consider the following statements with respect to Farmer Field School (FFS) Approach:

1. It was developed by World Bank
 2. It is as an alternative to the prevailing top-down extension method of the Green Revolution
- 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.125) Hambantota Port was located in which of the following country?

- a) Myanmar
- b) Sri Lanka
- c) Pakistan
- d) Iran

Answer Key

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

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

Qs.	Ans.	Qs.	Ans.	Qs.	Ans.
101	C	111	B	121	D
102	C	112	C	122	A
103	C	113	D	123	C
104	B	114	B	124	B
105	C	115	A	125	B
106	A	116	C		
107	C	117	D		
108	B	118	B		
109	B	119	B		
110	B	120	B		

Explanation

1. The Eastern Economic Forum was established by decree of the President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin in 2015 to support the economic development of Russia's Far East and to expand international cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region. This year, as we celebrate the Forum's 5th anniversary we have an opportunity to look back on everything that has been achieved since 2015. It was the first time when Vladivostok hosted the trendsetters from Russian and international business communities, government officials,

foreign dignitaries, researchers, and experts – in other words, everyone who was prepared to cooperate with Russia and work in the Russian Far East; everyone, who was ready to launch new production facilities and develop those already in place; everyone, who aimed to create new jobs, construct roads, housing, and hospitals – namely improve the life of our Eastern territories.

2. To address the problem of arsenic accumulation in rice grains, researchers at Lucknow-based CSIR-National Botanical Research Institute developed transgenic rice by inserting a novel fungal gene, which results in reduced arsenic accumulation in rice grain. They cloned Arsenic methyltransferase (WaarsM) gene from a soil fungus and inserted it into rice genome. In another study, TERI School of Advanced Studies has developed an early flowering transgenic variety of mustard.

3. The historic coastal town of Mamallapuram on the scenic East Coast Road in Tamil Nadu is expected to be the venue for the second India-China informal summit between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping, scheduled in October this year. During the summit, besides holding talks, the leaders are likely to make a visit to the ancient monuments in the coastal town. The monuments there have been classified as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. During the first informal summit in Wuhan, the leaders had made a visit to the Hubei provincial museum. The first informal summit between both the leaders was held in Wuhan in China during April 27-28 last year, “to exchange views on overarching issues of bilateral and global importance, and to elaborate their respective visions and priorities for national development in the context of the current and future international situation.

4. The Arctic Council is a high-level intergovernmental forum that addresses issues faced by the Arctic governments and the indigenous people of the Arctic. Eight member countries constitute the council: Canada, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Russia, Sweden, and the United States as these are the eight countries with sovereignty over the lands within the Arctic Circle. Outside these, there are some observer states.

5. the Bonn Challenge is a global effort to bring 150 million hectares of the world’s deforested and degraded land into restoration by 2020, and 350 million hectares by 2030. It was launched in 2011 by the Government of Germany and IUCN, and later endorsed and extended by the New York Declaration on Forests at the 2014 UN Climate Summit. Underlying the Bonn Challenge is the forest landscape restoration (FLR) approach, which aims to restore ecological integrity at the same time as improving human well-being through multifunctional landscapes.

The restoration of 150 million hectares of degraded and deforested lands in biomes around the world – in line with the FLR approach – will create approximately USD 84 billion per year in net benefits that could bring direct additional income opportunities for rural communities. About 90 per cent of this value is potentially tradable, meaning that it encompasses market-related benefits. Achieving the 350 million hectare goal will generate about USD170 billion per year in net benefits from watershed protection, improved crop yields and forest products, and could sequester up to 1.7 gigatonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent annually.

The Bonn Challenge is not a new global commitment but rather a practical means of realizing many existing international commitments, including the CBD Aichi Target 15, the UNFCCC REDD+ goal, and the Rio+20 land degradation neutrality goal. It is an implementation vehicle for national priorities such as water and food security and rural

development while contributing to the achievement of international climate change, biodiversity and land degradation commitments.

6. The IIP is estimated and published on a monthly basis by the Central Statistical Organisation (CSO). As an all India index, it gives general level of industrial activity in the economy. The modification made by the CSO is to bring a new base year of 2011-12. Besides the new base year, different sectors have been amended based on National Industrial Classification (NIC), 2008. Following are the main changes brought in the new series of IIP:

Base year has been updated to 2011-12 by upgrading the item basket and weighting structure.

National Industrial Classification (NIC) 2008 has been adopted in the new series of IIP. Items in the item basket are selected at NIC 3-digit level to increase representativeness. Number of item groups has increased from 399 to 407 out of which 149 are new/ emerging items.

Electricity generation from renewable energy sources has been included under the 'Electricity' sector.

Weights are rationalised to appropriately to reflect the actual value addition of each sector incorporating effects of subsidies.

New use-based classification has been adopted with following categorisation: (i) Primary goods, (ii) Capital goods, (iii) Infrastructure/ construction goods, (iv) intermediate goods, (v) Consumer durables, and (vi) Consumer non-durables.

7. The United States and ten Southeast Asian countries kicked off maritime drills on Monday, as part of a joint exercise extending into the flashpoint South China Sea with eight warships, four aircraft and more than a thousand personnel. The first ASEAN-US Maritime Exercise (AUMX) between the regional bloc and Washington will last for five days, starting at the Sattahip Naval Base in Thailand and ending in Singapore. The drills come at a time of stepped-up US engagement in the region and tensions between Beijing and Southeast Asian nations over the South China Sea, parts of which are claimed by ASEAN members Brunei, Malaysia, Vietnam and the Philippines.

8. About 70 hatchlings of the rare Black Softshell and Indian Softshell turtles bred in the ponds of two temples in Assam were on Monday released in the Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary, about 50 km east of Guwahati.

The sanctuary is often called 'Mini Kaziranga' because of similar landscape and a sizeable population of the one-horned rhino.

The "wild restocking" of the two turtle species was done under a joint programme of the management committees of two temples — Ugratara in Guwahati and Hayagriv Madhav in Hajo about 35 km north-west — the Assam Forest Department and two NGOs specialising in the conservation of reptiles.

Assam is the most species-rich State in India in terms of turtle diversity. It is home to 20 species of freshwater turtles and tortoises out of 29 species found in India. But, 80% of these species are threatened with extinction.

9. The P&W 1100G-JM engine that powers A320neo planes is a "fan driven-gear turbine engine" manufactured by US-based P&W. The engine has been "type certified" by the Federal Aviation Administration of the US and, subsequently, by the European Union Aviation Safety Agency. It is more fuel efficient, generates more thrust, and produces less noise and is environment friendly. At present, there are 127 P&W engine-powered A320neo aircraft in India and 436 operating globally. In India, IndiGo operates 92 P&W powered A320neo planes, while GoAir has 35 such aircraft in its fleet.

10. Pune is the best city to live in India, while Delhi is among the worst cities in terms of economic prospects, according to the Ease of Living Index rankings published recently by the union ministry of housing and urban affairs. In terms of safety and security, Bengaluru is among the worst, the Ease of Living report suggests. The Ease of Living Index rankings are based on 79 indicators, which are grouped under four “pillars”: institutional, social, economic, and physical. Physical services, which include housing, water supply, sanitation, etc, are allotted the highest weight (45%) in determining the city rankings. Economy and employment are together assigned a mere 5% weight.

11. IAF has inducted a batch of 8 new Apache attack helicopters. The eight fresh US-made Apache AH-64E attack helicopters will give a major boost to the Air Force’s combat powers. India is the 14th nation in the world to be operating the Apache attack helicopters. The AH-64E Apache is one of the world’s most advanced multi-role combat helicopters and is flown by the US Army.

12. National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) was constituted vide Government of India Resolution dated 29th August, 1997 as an attached office of the Department of Pharmaceuticals (DoP), Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers as an independent Regulator for pricing of drugs and to ensure availability and accessibility of medicines at affordable prices.

Functions of the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority:

- (1) To implement and enforce the provisions of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order in accordance with the powers delegated to it.
- (2) To deal with all legal matters arising out of the decisions of the Authority.
- (3) To monitor the availability of drugs, identify shortages, if any, and to take remedial steps;
- (4) To collect/maintain data on production, exports and imports, market share of individual companies, profitability of companies etc. for bulk drugs and formulations;
- (5) To undertake and/or sponsor relevant studies in respect of pricing of drugs/pharmaceuticals;
- (6) To recruit/appoint the officers and other staff members of the Authority, as per rules and procedures laid down by the Government;
- (7) To render advice to the Central Government on changes/revisions in the drug policy;
- (8) To render assistance to the Central Government in the parliamentary matters relating to the drug pricing.

13. Household air pollution has emerged as one of the key causes of cardiovascular diseases (CVDs), and 12% of all CVDs in low-income countries are attributable to it, a new report has said. Hypertension is the largest risk factor for CVD in low-income countries (which include India), followed by high non-HDL cholesterol and household air pollution. Household air pollution is a greater risk factor for CVD in India than diabetes, tobacco use, low physical activity and poor diet. An earlier report from a Prospective Urban and Rural Epidemiologic (PURE) study (Lancet Respiratory Medicine 2014) showed that Indians had the lowest lung function among the 21 countries studied.

At least 65% of homes in India use biomass fuel for cooking and heating. In urban areas, the use of mosquito coils, dhoop sticks and agarbattis contribute to high household air pollution.

14. The Jupiter Icy Moons Explorer (JUICE) will launch in 2022 on a seven-year journey to the Jupiter system. Before its launch, the mission’s navigation camera (NavCam) has given the first glimpse of its destination while still on Earth.

The European Space Agency (ESA) will be launching its Jupiter Icy Moons Explorer (JUICE) in 2022 and though we are around three years away from its official launch, JUICE has captured an image of Jupiter and its four largest moons. The photograph was taken by a team of engineers on the roof of the Airbus Defence and Space site in Toulouse.

The exercise was a part of a test of JUICE's navigation camera (NavCam). Its purpose was to validate the hardware and software interfaces and for the preparation of the image processing and onboard navigation software which will be used in-flight for acquiring the images. According to ESA, the NavCam has been specifically designed to be resistant to the harsh radiations environment around Jupiter and to acquire images of the planet, moon and background stars.

15. The National Register of Citizens (NRC) is a register containing names of all genuine Indian citizens. At present, only Assam has such a register. The exercise may be extended to other states as well. Nagaland is already creating a similar database known as the Register of Indigenous Inhabitants. The Centre is planning to create a National Population Register (NPR), which will contain demographic and biometric details of citizens. The NRC will be updated as per the provisions of The Citizenship Act, 1955 and The Citizenship (Registration of Citizens and Issue of National Identity Cards) Rules, 2003.

The only time that a National Register of Citizens (NRC) was prepared was in 1951 when after conduct of the Census of 1951, the NRC was prepared by recording particulars of all the persons enumerated during that Census. The NRC will be now updated to include the names of those persons (or their descendants) who appear in the NRC, 1951, or in any of the Electoral Rolls up to the midnight of 24th March, 1971 or in any one of the other admissible documents issued upto mid-night of 24th March, 1971, which would prove their presence in Assam or in any part of India on or before 24th March, 1971. All the names appearing in the NRC, 1951, or any of the Electoral Rolls up to the midnight of 24th March, 1971 together are called Legacy Data. Thus, there will be two requirements for inclusion in updated NRC – 1.) existence of a person's name in the pre-1971 period & 2.) proving linkage with that person. For getting their names included in the updated NRC, citizens shall have to submit Applications Forms (family-wise). Application Forms received by Govt shall be verified and based on the results of verification of particulars submitted by the citizens in their Application Forms, the updated NRC shall be prepared. However, to afford another opportunity to the applicants before publication of the final NRC, a draft NRC shall be published after verification of the Application Forms and the citizens given chance to submit claims, objections, corrections etc. After verification of all such claims and objections, the final NRC would be published.

16. The 'Samudrayaan' project undertaken by the NIOT, Chennai, is in line with the ISRO's ambitious 'Gaganyaan' mission of sending an astronaut to space by 2022. The 'Samudrayaan' is a part of the Ministry of Earth Sciences' pilot project for deep ocean mining for rare minerals. The indigenously developed vehicle is capable of crawling on the sea bed at a depth of six kilometre for 72 hours. The success of the 'Samudrayaan' will help India to join the league of developed nations in exploration of minerals from oceans.

17. Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) chief Masood Azhar, Hafiz Saeed of the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), his deputy Zaki-ur-Rehman Lakhvi and underworld don Dawood Ibrahim who planned and executed the 1993 Mumbai serial blasts are the first four persons designated as "terrorists" under the anti-terror law passed by Parliament on August 2. The recently-amended Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act allows government to designate individuals as terrorists.

Combating terror

The Ministry of Home Affairs on Wednesday declared four individuals as terrorists under the recently amended Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act. A look at its provisions:

- It empowers the government to designate individuals as terrorists. Previously, only an organisation could be designated as one

- It empowers the National Investigation Agency (NIA) to seize properties, which previously required permission from the Director General of Police

- Also, it allows NIA officers, of the rank of Inspector or above, to investigate cases. Before, only Deputy Superintendent

or Assistant Commissioner of Police or above, could do so

- Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) chief Masood Azhar, Hafiz Saeed of the Lashkar-e-Taiba, his deputy Zaki-ur-Rehman Lakhvi and underworld don Dawood Ibrahim have been designated as terrorists

Under Masood Azhar's leadership, JeM carried out an attack on the Pathankot air base



18. The Austrian capital has been ranked the world's most livable city for the second year running, topping the table with almost perfect scores. It was followed by Melbourne which Vienna toppled from pole position last year after seven years at the top. Sydney, Osaka and Calgary make up the top five on the annual Global Liveability Index of 140 cities around the world, researched by The Economist Intelligence Unit.

The index considers more than 30 qualitative and quantitative factors spanning five broad categories, weighted as follows: stability (25%), healthcare (20%), culture and environment (25%), education (10%), and infrastructure (20%). The world's most livable cities 2019:

1. Vienna, Austria
2. Melbourne, Australia
3. Sydney, Australia
4. Osaka, Japan
5. Calgary, Canada
6. Vancouver, Canada
7. Toronto, Canada
8. Tokyo, Japan
9. Copenhagen, Denmark
10. Adelaide, Australia

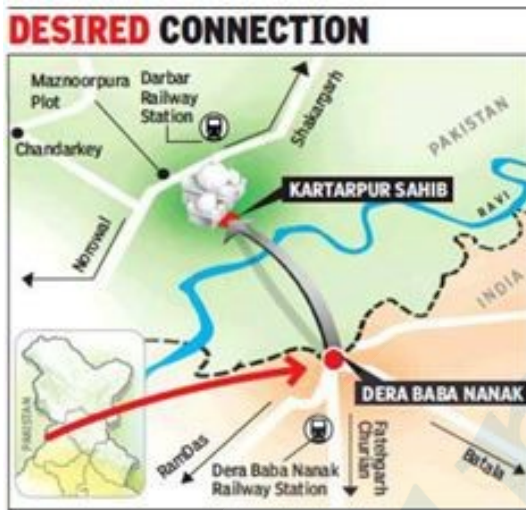
19. The Eastern Economic Forum 2019 will take place on 4–6 September in Vladivostok on the Far Eastern Federal University (FEFU) campus. The Eastern Economic Forum was established by decree of the President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin in 2015 to support the economic development of Russia's Far East and to expand international cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in his Plenary Session at the 5th Eastern Economic Forum, said India will give a line of credit worth USD 1 billion for the development of the Far East. "The relation of India and the Far East is not new but ages old. India is the first country which opened its consulate in Vladivostok. Even during Soviet Russia when there were restrictions on other foreigners, Vladivostok was open for Indians," PM Modi said. "For the development of Far East, India will give a line of credit worth USD 1 Billion. My government has actively engaged in East Asia as part of its 'Act East' policy. This will also give a new dimension to our economic diplomacy," he added.

20. Gurudwara in Kartarpur:

- The gurdwara in Kartarpur is located on the bank of river Ravi in Pakistan.

- It is about four km from the Dera Baba Nanak shrine, and about 120 km northeast of Lahore.
- It was here that Guru Nanak assembled a Sikh community and lived for 18 years until his death in 1539.
- The shrine is visible from the Indian side, as Pakistani authorities generally trim the elephant grass that would otherwise obstruct the view.
- Indian Sikhs gather in large numbers for darshan from the Indian side, and binoculars are installed at Gurdwara Dera Baba Nanak.
- The gurdwara was opened to pilgrims after repairs and restoration in 1999, and Sikh jathas have been visiting the shrine regularly ever since.
- Sikh jathas from India travel to Pakistan on four occasions every year- for Baishakhi, the martyrdom day of Guru Arjan Dev, the death anniversary of Maharaja Ranjit Singh, and the birthday of Guru Nanak Dev.



Kartarpur Sahib Corridor

- There had been demands from the Shiromanni Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee and political leaders to build a corridor that would allow the pilgrims to cross over into Pakistan from the Indian side to visit the Kartarpur Sahib shrine and return the same day
- The corridor, once built, will give Indian pilgrims an easy access to the shrine in Kartarpur
- A bridge will need to be constructed over the Ravi and there shall be no need for passports or visas
- India will build the corridor from Dera Baba Nanak in Punjab's Gurdaspur district to the International Border, as informed by Home Minister Rajnath Singh
- Singh also informed that a high-level committee chaired by him will regularly review, monitor and oversee the implementation of activities to celebrate the 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak
- India had first proposed the Kartarpur Sahib corridor in 1999 when the then Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee took a bus ride to Lahore.

21. The Human Resource Development Ministry has awarded the status of Institute of Eminence to the IIT-Madras, the IIT-Kharagpur, Delhi University, Benares Hindu University and the University of Hyderabad, said an official statement. Four private universities-the Vellore Institute of Technology, Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, Jamia Hamdard University and the Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology-were issued Letters of Intent to grant

them the status. The new Greenfield Bharti Institute, a project of Airtel's Satya Bharti Foundation, has also been issued the letter. The Ministry took the action on Wednesday, following a recommendation from the University Grants Commission (UGC) last month. Each university will be required to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry, laying out its plan to achieve the objective of becoming a world-class institution. The public institutions on the list will then be eligible for a government grant of ₹1,000crore.

22. Member-countries of the World Health Organisation (WHO) South-East Asia Region have resolved to eliminate highly infectious childhood killer diseases measles and rubella by 2023. A resolution to eliminate the diseases was adopted at the 72nd session of the WHO Regional Committee for South-East Asia in Delhi. Measles is particularly dangerous for the poor, as it attacks malnourished children and those with reduced immunity. It can cause serious complications, including blindness, encephalitis, severe diarrhoea, ear infection and pneumonia, while rubella/ congenital rubella syndrome (CRS) causes irreversible birth defects.

23. Even as the relationship between India and Pakistan continues to remain tense, the armies of the two nations will take part in a multi-national military exercise in Russia next week -China will also take part in the exercise. The exercise, to be held for two weeks, from September 9-23, is named TSENTR 2019. It is "part of the annual series of large scale exercises that form part of the Russian Armed Forces' annual training cycle" the Indian Army said on Thursday. It rotates between the four main Russian operational strategic commands. The country hosts a "major military exercise every year at one of the military Commands - Vostok in the east, Zapad in the west, TSENTR in the centre and Kavkas in the south. The exercise this year will be held at the Donguz training ranges in Orenburg. It took on a multi-country facet "with Belarus participating in ZAPAD-2017 and China and Mongolia participating in VOSTOK-2018".

24. EUFIC - The European Food Information Council, is a non-profit organisation, established in 1995.

As a group of passionate science and communication experts, we believe in a world where people live a healthier life because they know how to.

Our mission is to provide engaging science-based information to inspire and empower healthier and more sustainable food and lifestyle choices.

EUFIC in a nutshell:

- We cover a wide range of topics on nutrition, lifestyle and health, food safety, food quality, legislation, and food risk communication.
- We carry out consumer research to find out people's perceptions, views and preferences.
- Our information is based on research evidence supported by the wider scientific community.
- Our materials are understandable and accessible to the general public and used by health professionals and educators.
- We collaborate with a broad network of academics, national and international organisations, businesses and professionals in food and health.
- We work with Scientific Advisory and Editorial Boards, as well as independent experts on specific projects, World Health Organization advise on the scientific direction and ensure the accuracy and impartiality of our work.
- Our funding comes from individual food and drink companies, the European Commission, foundations, umbrella organizations and from sales of publications.

- Our website has the Health On the Net certification, a code of conduct which certifies that content on this page offers a multi-stakeholder consensus on standards to protect citizens from misleading health information.

25. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has launched a scheme for universal screening of children below 18 years for leprosy and tuberculosis (TB). It is a part of the Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK). It was launched in 2013 under the National Health Mission. It is implemented by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
Aim: early identification and early intervention for children from birth to 18 years to cover 4 'D's viz. Defects at birth, Deficiencies, Diseases, Development delays including disability.

Child Health Screening and Early Intervention Services under RBSK covers 30 selected health conditions for screening, early detection and free management. Tuberculosis and Leprosy were previously not a part of it.

26. India and South Korea concluded a military logistics agreement during the ongoing visit of Defense Minister Rajnath Singh to Seoul. The two countries also formulated a forward-looking road map to take bilateral defense industry cooperation to the next level, the Defense Ministry. "India will be able to get assured logistic support when it operates in the Indo-Pacific in the ports of South Korea." Such agreements extend the reach, presence and sustainability of Navy ships when deployed at great distances from home ports, the source added.

27. In a bid to curb absenteeism in government schools, the Gujarat government launched a facial-recognition based biometric online attendance system for teachers across 40,000 primary schools on Teacher's Day

28. The Union Cabinet had approved India's largest Skill Certification Scheme, Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY), on 20 March, 2015. The Scheme was subsequently launched on 15 July, 2015, on the occasion of World Youth Skills Day by Honorable Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi. PMKVY is implemented by National Skills Development Corporation (NSDC) under the guidance of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE). With a vision of a "Skilled India", MSDE aims to skill India on a large scale with speed and high standards. PMKVY is the flagship scheme that is driving towards greater realisation of this vision. Individuals with prior learning experience or skills shall be assessed and certified under the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) component of the Scheme. RPL aims to align the competencies of the unregulated workforce of the country to the NSQF.

29. The Akash is a medium range Surface-to-air missile with multi-target engagement capability. The missile is developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO). The missile has a strike range of 25 km. It can reach an altitude of 18 km and can be fired from both tracked and wheeled platforms. The missile is capable of neutralizing advanced aerial targets and in striking down enemy fighter jets and drones effectively. The missile was developed as part of the Integrated Guided-Missile Development Programme (IGMDP).

30. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) has released the Digital Economy Report 2019. The report outlines enormous potential gains from the increasingly interconnected global economy but calls for concerted global efforts to spread the wealth potential to the many people who currently reap little benefit from it. The report

said that the United States and China create the vast majority of wealth in the digital economy as the two countries account for 75% of all patents related to blockchain technologies and as much as 90% per cent of the market capitalization value of the world's 70 largest digital platform companies.

According to the report, India generated the ninth-highest e-commerce sales globally in 2017 by generating a total business of \$400 billion. The contribution of this to GDP was 15%.

31. The Tamil Nadu government has banned sex reassignment surgeries for intersex infants and children in a move which is being seen as progressive. The development comes after the Madras High Court's direction to the Department of Health and Family Welfare in April to issue an order "enshrining the mandate of the Supreme Court".

The order, however, mentioned that the reassignment surgeries will be allowed in cases of life-threatening situations, which will be decided after the recommendations of a committee comprising a pediatric surgeon or a urologist, an endocrinologist, a social worker, and a government representative not below the rank of an under-secretary. The committee will be constituted by the Director of Medical Education.

32. India runs the world's largest food security programme, distributing more than 600 lakh tonnes of subsidised food grain to more than 81 crore beneficiaries every year. This is done through a vast network of more than five lakh ration or fair price shops. Under the National Food Security Act (NFSA), each beneficiary is eligible for five kg of subsidised grains per month at the rate of ₹3/kg for rice, ₹2/kg for wheat and ₹1/kg of coarse cereals. However, until recently, this has been a location-linked benefit, leaving crores of migrant workers and families out of the food safety net. Each household's ration card is linked to a specific fair price shop and can only be used to buy rations in that particular shop. Over the last few years, 10 States (partially in one) have implemented the Integrated Management of Public Distribution System, which allows beneficiaries to buy rations from any fair price shop within that State. The Centre is now in the process of expanding these efforts into a nationwide portability network which is called the 'One Nation One Ration Card' scheme. It is scheduled to come into full effect by June 2020, after which a ration card holder can buy subsidised grain at any fair price shop in the country. The main beneficiaries of the scheme are the country's migrant workers. According to data from the Census 2011, there are more than 45 crore internal migrants in India, of whom more than half have not completed primary education, while 80% have not completed secondary education. Lower levels of education are linked to lower income, which would make a large percentage of these migrants eligible for NFSA benefits.

33. Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016: These rules shall apply to every waste generator, local body, Gram Panchayat, manufacturer, Importers and producer. Importers are brought under the purview since importing is also a route of bringing plastic carry bags/multilayered packaging to the country. The jurisdiction has been extended to rural area also since plastic has reached to our rural areas also. Producer, Brand Owner need to work out modalities for waste collection system for collecting back the plastic waste within a period of six months in consultation with local authority / State Urban Development Department and implement with two years thereafter.

34. A powerful typhoon with potentially record winds and rain battered the Tokyo region early Monday, sparking evacuation warnings to tens of thousands, widespread blackouts and transport disruption. Typhoon Faxai, packing winds of up to 216 kilometres (134 miles) per hour, made landfall in Chiba just east of the capital before dawn, after barrelling through Tokyo Bay. Authorities issued non-compulsory evacuation warnings to more than

390,000 people, as forecasters cautioned the rain and wind could reach “record” proportions. Nearly 290,000 households lost power in the region, while at least 10 houses were damaged in Shizuoka with windows shattered and cars flipped onto their sides, according to local media.

35. World Economic Forum (WEF) has released the Travel & Tourism Competitiveness Index (TTCI) Report. The index is published biennially by World Economic Forum (WEF). The Index ranks 140 economies. The countries are ranked in four sub-indexes namely (a) enabling environment (b) travel and tourism policy and enabling conditions, (c) infrastructure and (d) natural and cultural resources. The index has ranked India at 34th place. Earlier India was ranked 40th in 2018. Spain was ranked first followed by France, Germany and Japan with the United States replacing the UK in the top five. The index has said that China is the largest travel and tourism economy in the Asia-Pacific and 13th most competitive globally.

36. Amrabad Tiger Reserve spreads over 2,800 sq.kms in the districts of Mahabubnagar and Nalgonda, is the largest tiger reserve in the country. Earlier, it was part of ‘Nagarjunasagar-Srisailem Tiger reserve’ but post-bifurcation, the northern part of the reserve is vested with Telangana state and renamed as ‘Amrabad Tiger Reserve’. The southern portion continues to be ‘NSTR’ is with Andhra Pradesh. There are an estimated 23 Tigers in the reserve.

37. Close to 1.1 million cases of malaria were recorded in India in 2014. While the caseload has shown a declining trend since 2002, large parts of the Indian population remains vulnerable to the disease. At the same time, neighboring Sri Lanka has managed to eliminate the disease from the country using integrated vector-control approaches. Indian government has released a National Strategic Plan (NSP) for malaria elimination for years 2017-2022, targeting eradication by 2030. Under the plan, malaria transmission in the country’s districts have been divided into four categories: no cases in 3 years, less than 1 case per 1,000 people, more than 1 but less than 2 cases per 1,000 people, and more than 2 cases per 1,000 people.

38. On the occasion of the nation’s 28th Independence Day, Tajikistan President Emomali Rahmon inaugurated the second phase of Roghun Hydropower plant (HPP) on Monday, thereby adding additional 600 MW to the country’s existing power capacity. The hydropower project-slated to be the tallest in the world upon its completion in 2028, with a height of 335 metres-has now achieved a capacity of 1,200 mega watt (MW), with the inauguration of its second phase. Once complete, the Roghun HPP will have an installed capacity of 3,600 MW. With the launch the second phase of Roghun HPP, the dam has now achieved a height of 135 m and the total hydropower capacity of the country has reached nearly 6,000 MW.

39. National Highways Authority of India was set up by an act of the Parliament, NHAI Act, 1988 “An Act to provide for the constitution of an Authority for the development, maintenance and management of national highways and for matter connected therewith or incidental thereto”. It has been entrusted with National Highways Development Project, which along with other minor projects, has vested in it 50329 kms of National Highways for development, maintenance and management. Our objective is to ensure that all contract awards and procurements conform to the best industry practices with regard to transparency of process, adoption of bid criteria to ensure healthy competition in award of contracts, implementation of projects conform to best quality requirements and the highway system is maintained to ensure best user comfort and convenience.

National Highways are the arterial roads of the country for inter-state movement of passengers and goods. They traverse the length and width of the country connecting the National and State capitals, major ports and rail junctions and link up with border roads and foreign highways. The total length of NH (including expressways) in the country at present is 1,32,499 kms. While Highways/Expressways constitute only about 1.7% of the length of all roads, they carry about 40% of the road traffic.

40. With a view to enhancing enrolment, retention and attendance and simultaneously improving nutritional levels among children, the National Programme of Nutritional Support to Primary Education (NP-NSPE) was launched as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on 15th August 1995. In 2001 MDMS became a cooked Mid Day Meal Scheme under which every child in every Government and Government aided primary school was to be served a prepared Mid Day Meal with a minimum content of 300 calories of energy and 8-12 gram protein per day for a minimum of 200 days. The Scheme was further extended in 2002 to cover not only children studying in Government, Government aided and local body schools, but also children studying in Education Guarantee Scheme (EGS) and Alternative & Innovative Education (AIE) centres.

In September 2004 the Scheme was revised to provide for Central Assistance for Cooking cost @ Re 1 per child per school day to cover cost of pulses, vegetables cooking oil, condiments, fuel and wages and remuneration payable to personnel or amount payable to agency responsible for cooking. Transport subsidy was also raised from the earlier maximum of Rs 50 per quintal to Rs. 100 per quintal for special category states and Rs 75 per quintal for other states. Central assistance was provided for the first time for management, monitoring and evaluation of the scheme @ 2% of the cost of foodgrains, transport subsidy and cooking assistance. A provision for serving mid day meal during summer vacation in drought affected areas was also made.

In July 2006 the Scheme was further revised to enhance the cooking cost to Rs 1.80 per child/school day for States in the North Eastern Region and Rs 1.50 per child / school day for other States and UTs. The nutritional norm was revised to 450 Calories and 12 gram of protein. In order to facilitate construction of kitchen-cum-store and procurement of kitchen devices in schools provision for Central assistance @ Rs. 60,000 per unit and @ Rs. 5,000 per school in phased manner were made. In October 2007, the Scheme was extended to cover children of upper primary classes (i.e. class VI to VIII) studying in 3,479 Educationally Backwards Blocks (EBBs) and the name of the Scheme was changed from 'National Programme of Nutritional Support to Primary Education' to 'National Programme of Mid Day Meal in Schools'. The nutritional norm for upper primary stage was fixed at 700 Calories and 20 grams of protein. The Scheme was extended to all areas across the country from 1.4.2008.

41. Scientists from the Botanical Survey of India (BSI) have discovered two new species of Zingiber, commonly referred to as ginger, from Nagaland. While Zingiber perenense has been discovered from the Peren district of Nagaland, Zingiber dimapurense was found in the Dimapur district of the State. Details of both discoveries were published in two peer-reviewed journals earlier this year. Of the two species, Zingiber dimapurense is taller in size, with leafy shoots measuring 90-120 cm high, whereas the leafy shoots of Zingiber perenense reach up to 70 cm in height. For Zingiber dimapurense, the lip of the flower (modified corolla) is white in colour, with dense dark- purplish red blotches. Its pollen is a creamy-white and ovato-ellipsoidal, whereas the fruit is an oblong 4.5 cm-5.5 cm long capsule. In the case of Zingiber perenense, which was discovered about 50 km from where the other species was found, the lip of the flower is white with purplish-red streaks throughout, and the pollen is ellipsoidal.

42. A five-judge Bench of the Supreme Court looked at the scope of the Union's power to remove Governors in the landmark case of B.P. Singhal v. Union of India (2010). In this case, the Supreme Court spoke about the dual role of the Governor — as the constitutional head of the State government and as a vital link between the State and Union governments. Elucidating the specific functions of the Governor, the Supreme Court, speaking through Justice R.V. Raveendran, said that the Governor is “not an employee of the Union Government, nor the agent of the neither party in power nor required to act under the dictates of political parties”. The Court further anticipated that there “may be occasions when he may have to be an impartial or neutral Umpire where the views of the Union Government and State Governments are in conflict”.

43. On Monday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that India will scale up its ambition to restore degraded land. PM Modi's announcement, at the ongoing 14th Conference of Parties (CoP) of the United Nation's Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) in Greater Noida, is significant from the standpoint of the country's global environmental commitments. The country will now restore 26 million hectares by 2030, five million hectares more than what it had pledged at the Paris Climate Change Meet in 2015. Monday's announcement is also salutary given the growing crisis of desertification. According to ISRO's Desertification and Land Degradation Atlas, nearly 30 per cent of land in the country is degraded. This, PM Modi said, “would be reversed by adopting a landscape-restoration approach”. It will require the environment ministry to shift focus from its plantation-oriented afforestation schemes and recognize the importance of ecosystem services of land and forests such as watershed management, biodiversity conservation and improving soil health.

44. National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd.(NAFED) was established on the auspicious day of Gandhi Jayanti on 2nd October 1958. Nafed is registered under the Multi State Co-operative Societies Act. Nafed was setup with the object to promote Co-operative marketing of agricultural produce to benefit the farmers. Agricultural farmers are the main members of Nafed, who have the authority to say in the form of members of the General Body in the working of Nafed. The objectives of the NAFED shall be to organize, promote and develop marketing, processing and storage of agricultural, horticultural and forest produce, distribution of agricultural machinery, implements and other inputs, undertake inter-state, import and export trade, wholesale or retail as the case may be and to act and assist for technical advice in agricultural, production for the promotion and the working of its members, partners, associates and cooperative marketing, processing and supply societies in India.

45. In a bid to woo tribals, who constitute 21.09 per cent of the state's population, the Congress government in Madhya Pradesh has come out with a scheme to lend them support on traditional occasions. Customs often include throwing a feast on the occasion of a child birth and also 'mrityubhoj' — a gathering organised after a death in the family. Called the Mukhyamantri Assistance Scheme, the programme aims to help beneficiaries avoid borrowing from local moneylenders for organising these gatherings. The scheme will be implemented in 89 tribal blocks across 20 districts, where the tribal population is 80.67 lakh. As many as 47 of the 230 Assembly constituencies in the state are reserved for tribals.

46. PUNJAB IS hosting the Nobel Prize Series 2019, which started Wednesday, at Mohali and Ludhiana. This year's theme is 'teaching and learning'. This is the third such series in India and the first in Punjab. It is the result of collaboration between Nobel Media AB and

the ministry of science and technology based upon a MoU signed by the government in 2016.

47. Taking a step closer towards realising the electoral promise of doubling farm income by 2022, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to launch the National Animal Disease Control Programme (NADCP) for eradicating the foot and mouth disease and brucellosis in livestock on Wednesday. The project, which will cost ₹12,652 crores for a period of five years till 2024, will be funded entirely by the government. The programme, to be launched in Mathura, aims to control the livestock diseases by 2025 and eradicate these by 2030. “The programme aims at vaccinating over 500 million livestock including cattle, buffalo, sheep, goats and pigs against the FMD. The programme also aims at vaccinating 36 million female bovine calves annually in its fight against the brucellosis disease,” tweeted PMO India, office of the Prime Minister of India.

48. Narmada Bachao Andolan is the most powerful mass movement, started in 1985, against the construction of huge dam on the Narmada River. Narmada is the India's largest west flowing river, which supports a large variety of people with distinguished culture and tradition ranging from the indigenous (tribal) people inhabited in the jungles here to the large number of rural population. The proposed Sardar Sarovar Dam and Narmada Sagar will displace more than 250,000 people. The big fight is over the resettlement or the rehabilitation of these people. The two proposals are already under construction, supported by US\$550 million loan by the World Bank. There are plans to build over 3000 big and small dams along the river.

49. Over 15,000 soldiers backed by tanks, medium artillery, helicopters and transport aircraft will be part of the Mountain Strike Corps' maiden exercise, 'HimVijay', at over 10,000 feet in Arunachal Pradesh next month. The exercise will be held away from the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with China. It will coincide with the expected visit of Chinese President Xi Jinping next month. The exercise assumes greater significance because the Army will for the first time see in action its integrated battle groups (IBGs)-the brainchild of Army Chief Gen Bipin Rawat. Operation 'HimVijay' will see the participation of 15,000 personnel, with each IBG consisting of nearly 5,000 troops backed by a combination of tanks, artillery and other assets. The IAF will be roped in for strategic airlift of personnel and equipment. The exercise will see in action the AN32s, C130J Super Hercules and the C17s besides helicopters from both the Army Aviation and the IAF.

50 The National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (STs) is also a constitutional body in the sense that it is directly established by Article 338-A of the Constitution. In order to safeguard the interests of the STs more effectively, it was proposed to set up a separate National Commission for STs by bifurcating the existing combined National Commission for SCs and STs.

This was done by passing the 89th Constitutional Amendment Act of 2003. This Act further amended Article 338 and inserted a new Article 338-A in the Constitution. The separate National Commission for STs came into existence in 2004. It consists of a chairperson, a vice-chairperson and three other members. They are appointed by the President by warrant under his hand and seal. Their conditions of service and tenure of office are also determined by the President.

Report of the Commission:

The Commission presents an annual report to the President. It can also submit a report as and when it thinks necessary. The President places all such reports before the Parliament, along with a memorandum explaining the action taken on the recommendations made by

the Commission. The memorandum should also contain the reasons for the non-acceptance of any of such recommendations. The President also forwards any report of the Commission pertaining to a state government to the state governor. The governor places it before the state legislature, along with a memorandum explaining the action taken on the recommendations of the Commission. The memorandum should also contain the reasons for the non-acceptance of any of such recommendations.

The National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) on Wednesday wrote to Home Minister Amit Shah and Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda, recommending that Ladakh be declared a tribal area under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution.

The Sixth Schedule provides for the administration of tribal areas after setting up autonomous district and regional councils. The Commission, after careful consideration, recommends that the Union Territory of Ladakh be brought under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution.

51. Department of Information Technology (DIT) and the Department of Administrative Reforms (DAR&PG), Government of India jointly pursued the setting up of National Institute of Smart Government (NISG) in line with the recommendation # 97 of the National Taskforce on Information Technology and Software Development. In line with the above decision, NISG was registered as a Section 25 company in May 2002 with its headquarters at Hyderabad. 49% of NISG's equity is held by Central Government and various State Governments, and 51% is held by institutional investors like NASSCOM and ILF&S. This structure was intended to foster the efficiency and flexibility of Private Sector combined with accountability of Public Sector. The NISG Vision and Mission statements place emphasis on the Public Private Partnership. Thus, partnering with the private sector is an essential element of NISG's functioning. Bidding for projects against private industry players thus creates a contradictory situation to NISG's objectives.

52. The Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) is a so-called mega-regional economic agreement being negotiated since 2012 between the 10 ASEAN (Association of South-East Asian Nations) governments and their six FTA partners: Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand and South Korea. RCEP is largely driven by ASEAN. Indeed, the project originated in, and expands upon, the stitching together of five existing ASEAN+1 trade agreements, that ASEAN signed with Japan, South Korea, China, India, Australia and New Zealand. The stated goal of the negotiations is to "boost economic growth and equitable economic development, advance economic cooperation and broaden and deepen integration in the region through the RCEP," according to the ASEAN website. From what is known of the agreement's contents, the proposed RCEP would cover almost every aspect of economy such as goods, services, investment, economic and technical cooperation, intellectual property rights (IPR), rules of origin, competition and dispute settlement.

53. Population growth rates are always high in the early stages of development because of demographic factors. As death rates drop because of improvements in public health systems that eliminate epidemic diseases, birth rates do not because poverty and illiteracy persist. But as income levels rise, poverty is reduced and literacy (particularly among women) spreads, birth rates also come down. The bulge in population growth rates slowly diminishes. As development leads to higher income levels, birth rates decline further to levels that merely replace the existing population. Such demographic transitions are integral to development processes. At later stages, in rich countries, birth rates might drop further so that their population declines. The demographic transition in India has been much slower than elsewhere in Asia, essentially because poverty and illiteracy persist, while the public provision of education and healthcare has been grossly inadequate. Even so, the

average annual rate of population growth, which was 2.1% in 1951-1971 and 2.2% in 1971-1991, dropped to 1.8% in 1991-2011 and 1.3% in 2011-2016. Birth rates (per 1,000 population) dropped from 37 in 1971 and 29 in 1991 to 22 in 2011 and 19 in 2016, while fertility rates (births per woman) dropped from 5.2 and 3.6 to 2.4 and 2.3, respectively.

54. Between 2011-12 and 2017-18, earnings of regular workers declined in both rural and urban areas. Rural regular wages declined by 0.3% per annum, while urban regular wages declined by 1.7%. This is the second time in the last five decades that regular wages have declined in real terms. The first period of decline, between 1999-2000 and 2004-05, was also a phase when the National Democratic Alliance was in power. However, the decline then was marginal, unlike this time. Compare this with rural areas, where, despite the distress, wages do not show such a sharp decline. What is also worrying is that the decline is sharper in case of regular workers with graduate or higher educational qualifications, who generally represent the middle class. Wages of this section recorded faster growth all through the last five decades, but this time they declined by 3% per annum. This is precisely why the goods and services consumed by the middle class are also witnessing lower demand.

55. Not a single Indian university has featured in the World University Rankings 2020, for the first time since 2012. While Indian Institute of Sciences (IISc) Bangalore retains the top position in the country, it has failed to figure among the top 300 best institutes, the ranking of which is compiled by UK-based Times Higher Education (THE). The IISc Bangalore's position has slipped from the 251-300 ranking cohort in the previous year to the 301-350 grouping. However, it improved in the research environment, teaching environment and industry income. Meanwhile, the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Ropar debuts in the same bracket (301-350), followed by IIT Indore.

56. The Defense Acquisition Council (DAC), chaired by Defense Minister. The objective of the Defense Acquisition Council is to ensure expeditious procurement of the approved requirements of the Armed Forces in terms of capabilities sought, and time frame prescribed, by optimally utilizing the allocated budgetary resources.

- in-principle approval of 15 Year Long-Term Integrated Perspective Plan for Defence Forces,
- accord of Acceptance of Necessity to acquisition proposals,
- categorization of the acquisition proposals relating to 'Buy', 'Buy & Make' and 'Make',
- issues relating to Single vendor clearance,
- Decision regarding 'offset' provisions in respect of acquisition proposals above Rs. 300 crores.

57. Argentina wants Indian industrialists to set up lithium ion battery factories in their country said Daniel Chuburu, Ambassador of the Argentine Republic, on Friday. Delivering his special address at the conference on e-Mobility organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) in the city, Mr. Chuburu said the demand for lithium ion batteries was increasing as several countries including India are giving a push towards electric vehicles. Argentina has lithium mines for producing high quality lithium ion batteries and has proposed to increase the production capacity from 39 million tonnes to 290 MT by 2023.

58. A two-week long United Nations-led Conference to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) ended with a commitment to achieve land degradation neutrality by 2030. Such neutrality is defined by the U.N. as ensuring that enough land is available across the world to ensure a sustainable future.

The Delhi Declaration, a consensus document, agreed upon by more than 100 countries “welcomed” the proposed adoption of a “voluntary” land degradation neutrality target by India, which has committed to restoring at least 26 million hectares of degraded land by 2030. The Declaration doesn’t detail commitments by other countries.

Almost 122 nations, including India, have made voluntary commitments in previous years to ensure that a certain percentage of their degraded land was restored. India had agreed, again on a voluntary basis, to restore 20 million hectares by 2020. Nearly 96 million hectares of land is deemed ‘degraded’ in India.

59. Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) is a Society under the Department of Defence Research and Development, Ministry of Defence, Government of India. To undertake, aid, promote, guide, manage, co-ordinate and execute research in aeronautical science, design and development of various types of aircraft and rotorcraft. As the first task, the Society was entrusted with the design and development of a multirole Light Combat Aircraft to meet the requirements of Indian Air Force. While progressing the task of LCA development, ADA has also been assigned the task of studies for the Project definition Phase (PDP) of the naval variant of LCA, exploitation of resources created in the LCA programme for earning revenue is also being attempted. The LCA is being designed and developed with ADA as the nodal agency and with the participation of more than 100 work-centres spread all over the country. Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) is the principal partner in LCA development. Several establishments of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), CSIR, other Government laboratories, Public Sector Undertakings, private industries, academic institutions, Indian Air force and Government Certifying Agencies are participating in the programme as technology development partners.

60. Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) organisation is an attached office of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and is headed by Director General of Foreign Trade. Right from its inception till 1991, when liberalization in the economic policies of the Government took place, this organization has been essentially involved in the regulation and promotion of foreign trade through regulation. Keeping in line with liberalization and globalization and the overall objective of increasing of exports, DGFT has since been assigned the role of “facilitator”. The shift was from prohibition and control of imports/exports to promotion and facilitation of exports/imports, keeping in view the interests of the country.

61. T-Wallet, the official digital wallet of Telangana government, is to be used extensively by the Welfare Department for transferring scholarships to students throughout the State. This is after a successful pilot project of allowing 20,000 students in Nizamabad district to draw money directly making use of the wallet rather than through bank account. Launched in June 2017, it will be the first mobile wallet to offer such a service and is also purported to be the only digital wallet initiated by any State government across the country. It was recently given permission by Reserve Bank of India to facilitate such cash withdrawals. The Electronic Service Delivery (ESD) wing of the Information Technology, Electronics and Communication (ITEC) Department has once again sought the permission of the RBI to roll out the T-Wallet service of withdrawing money from various MeeSeva Centres in Telangana.

62. The government has taken prompt and adequate measures to boost exports, say exporters and analysts. “The provision for Remission of Duties or Taxes on Export Product (RoDTEP) and replacing the existing Rebate of State and Central Taxes and Levies (RoSCTL) scheme on export of garments and made-ups should ease the existing financial crunch,” said Govind Zanwar, vice president, Vibrant Terry Towel Global Expo and Textile

Development Foundation (TDF), which is planning large-scale exports of terry towels to the U.S.

63. Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay, is not just home to great science minds, it also harbors some unique microorganisms. Recently, researchers have identified a soil bacterial strain from the campus that helps in “complete remediation” of the carbaryl pesticide. Carbaryl pesticide continues to be used in the agricultural sector in spite of experimental studies in laboratory animals suggesting it to be a probable carcinogen to humans. Carbaryl is also persistent in nature leading to pollution of both soil and water ecosystems. The newly isolated bacterial strain utilizes the pesticide as its source of carbon and nitrogen for its growth. The team was also able to identify the genes responsible and the metabolic pathway involved in the complete metabolism and bioremediation process.

64. Nandankanan Zoological Park is a premier large zoo of India. Unlike other zoos in the country, Nandankanan is built right inside the forest and set in a completely natural environment. The animals are housed in enclosures with greenery with a feel of real forest and live with no fear or apprehension of becoming the hunter’s prey. Nandankanan is 15 kms from Odisha’s capital, Bhubaneswar.

65. The Sardar Sarovar Dam is a gravity dam on the Narmada River near Navagam, Gujarat in India. Four Indian states, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Rajasthan, receive water and electricity supplied from the dam. The foundation stone of the project was laid out by Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru on 5 April 1961. The project took form in 1979 as part of a development scheme funded by the World Bank through their International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, to increase irrigation and produce hydroelectricity, using a loan of US\$ 200 million. The construction for dam begun in 1987, but the project was stalled by the Supreme Court of India in 1995 in the backdrop of Narmada Bachao Andolan over concerns of displacement of people. In 2000-01 the project was revived but with a lower height of 110.64 metres under directions from SC, which was later increased in 2006 to 121.92 meters and 138.98 meters in 2017.

66. Former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Farooq Abdullah has been detained under the state’s stringent Public Safety Act (PSA), which enables authorities to detain any individual for two years without trial.

The Jammu & Kashmir Public Safety Act, 1978 is a preventive detention law, under which a person is taken into custody to prevent him or her from acting in any manner that is prejudicial to “the security of the state or the maintenance of the public order”. It is very similar to the National Security Act that is used by other state governments for preventive detention.

Period of detention:

- The maximum period of detention in the case of persons acting in any manner prejudicial to the security of the State is two years.
- In case of a person acting prejudicial to the maintenance of public order, the maximum period of detention is 12 months.
- Within four weeks of passing a detention order, the Government has to refer the case to an Advisory Board, which consists of a Chairperson, who is or has been a Judge of the High Court, and two other members who are, or have been, or are qualified to be appointed as Judges of the High Court.

The detention can be challenged in habeas corpus petitions filed before High Court under Article 226. However, the scope of challenge is limited to grounds of procedural violations.

67. Malaria is a life-threatening disease caused **by parasites** that are transmitted to people through the bites of infected **female Anopheles mosquitoes**. It is preventable and curable. **Vaccines against malaria:** RTS,S/AS01 (RTS,S) is the first and, to date, the only vaccine to show partial protection against malaria in young children. It acts against *P. falciparum*, the most deadly malaria parasite globally and the most prevalent in Africa.

The number of malaria cases reported till September 16 this year is higher than those recorded last year, as per data released by the Delhi municipal corporations. The data reveal that 247 cases of malaria were reported this year till the second week of September. Nearly 100 cases were reported in the past two weeks. During the same period in 2018, there were 225 cases; 410 in 2017; 286 in 2016; 66 in 2015; and 120 in 2014.

68. Meghalaya-based rights activist Agnes Kharshiing, who survived an assault by the coal mafia almost a year ago, received the 11th International Hrant Dink Award along with Turkish activist against male violence Nebahat Akkoç. The two activists were presented the award that commemorates the memory of Turkish-Armenian journalist Hrant Dink, who was killed in 2007, in Istanbul.

Since 2009, the Hrant Dink Award is presented every year to individuals, organisations or groups that work for a world free from discrimination, racism and violence, and who take personal risks for achieving those ideals, break the stereotypes and use the language of peace and by doing so give inspiration and hope to others.

The award committee said Ms. Kharshiing, 59, was chosen for “defending the rights of the poor, women, children and disadvantaged groups where she lives as well as for environmental rights”. Ms. Akkoç, based in Turkey’s Anatolia, was awarded for “working to raise awareness about women’s rights and to struggle against male violence”.

69. The United Nations’ International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer is celebrated on the 16th September every year. Commemorating the 1987 signing of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, the day advocates activities that create awareness on topics related to climate change and ozone depletion.

The ozone layer, a fragile shield of gas, protects the Earth from the harmful portion of the sun's rays, thus helping to preserve life on the planet. As such, it is paramount that we protect the ozone layer from harmful substances such as HCFCs (hydrochlorofluorocarbons), which are both ozone-depleting substances and powerful greenhouse gases that contribute to the thinning of the ozone layer. Nearly 2,000 times more potent than carbon dioxide in adding to global warming, the successful reduction of HCFC emissions remains one of the UN's greatest challenges.

The theme for 2019 is World Ozone Day 2019- 32 years of Montreal Protocol.

70. Special Training Program for Maldivian Civil Servants under the India-Maldives MoU on Training and Capacity Building Programme between the National Centre for Good Governance (NCGG) and the Maldives Civil Service Commission (CSC) will be conducted from September 16-28, 2019 at Mussoorie and Delhi.

The Prime Minister of India in his visit to Maldives in June 2019, had emphasised India's 'Neighbourhood First' policy and assured India's full support to Maldives in realising its aspirations for broad based socio-economic development and strengthening of democratic and independent institutions. One of the MoUs signed during the visit was between the National Center for Good Governance, India and the Civil Services Commission of Maldives which envisaged capacity building activities for 1000 Civil Servants of Maldives at the National Centre for Good Governance over the next 5 years. Under the MOU, 10 training programmes will be conducted from September 2019 to December 2020. The first 3 training

programs under the MOU would be held in 2019 (a) September 16-28, 2019 and November 18-30, 2019 for 60 officers of the middle management level (b) December 2-14, 2019 for 30 officers of top management level.

71. Project Elephant (PE), a centrally sponsored scheme, was launched in February 1992 to provide financial and technical support to major elephant bearing States in the country for protection of elephants, their habitats and corridors. It also seeks to address the issues of human-elephant conflict and welfare of domesticated elephants. The Project is being implemented in 13 States / UTs, viz. Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Orissa, Tamil Nadu, Uttaranchal, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. Based on the proposals received in the form of Annual Plan of Operations, Government of India provides financial and technical assistance to State/UT Governments for wildlife protection under the various Centrally Sponsored Schemes – Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries, Project Tiger and Project Elephant. These funds are released after scrutiny of the proposals and also subject to the availability of funds and fulfillment of procedural requirements.

72. The Union Cabinet finalised the make-up of the new National Health Authority (NHA). It will now directly oversee the government-funded flagship health insurance scheme—the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY)—which is a part of the Centre’s Ayushman Bharat umbrella policy for healthcare. It replaces the earlier National Health Agency. This new body will now oversee the PM-JAY instead of the Ministry of Health. Launched on September 23 last year, the PM-JAY entitles 10.74 crore families to an annual health insurance cover of Rs 5 lakh.

- The Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare will chair the NHA’s governing board, while other members include the NITI Aayog’s CEO and the NHA CEO.
- The Ministry of Health will no longer be responsible for overseeing the day-to-day affairs of the NHA. Instead, the NHA will now decide on setting the bar for premium amounts, and purchasing healthcare from the private sector without favouring any one entity or depleting the public exchequer, among others
- The NHA will also oversee the process of developing a robust information technology platform for the public sector, and working alongside the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority.
- The NHA board will meet once in three months. Although the health body hasn’t received any statutory backing yet, it will continue to enjoy autonomy in how it runs day-to-day operation working out of the department of health research’s office in the ministry.
- “No new funds have been approved. The existing budget that was approved earlier by the Cabinet for The National Health Agency, including costs related to IT, human resources, infrastructure and operational costs would be utilised by the proposed National Health Authority,”.

73. India on Tuesday signed a non-binding cooperation agreement with Russia that reiterated interest of Indian firms in taking stake in oilfields in Far East region of the former Soviet Republic. Oil Minister Dharmendra Pradhan discussed investment opportunities when he met Igor Sechin, chief executive of Russian oil major Rosneft, here on Tuesday. “We discussed elaborately for raising oil imports from Russia,” he told reporters after the meeting.

During the talks, the two sides reviewed existing stake of Indian firms in Russian oilfields such as Sakhalin-1, Taas-Yuryakh and Vankor fields. “In the presence of Minister Pradhan,

the Indian consortium of four oil and gas PSUs (Bharat PetroResources Ltd, Indian Oil Corp, ONGC Videsh Ltd and Oil India Ltd) and Rosneft exchanged a non-binding cooperation agreement, reiterating their interest in participation of the Indian companies in the Eastern Cluster project of Russia.”.

74. Minister of Science & Technology Harsh Vardhan on Monday inaugurated the National Centre for Clean Coal Research and Development at Indian Institute of Science (IISc) in Bengaluru. The centre has been established as a national consortium on clean coal research and development with IISc leading it. The new centre would address several critical R&D challenges towards the development of clean coal technologies in tandem with developing supercritical power plant technologies, both at the materials and system level. The minister also formally launched an Interdisciplinary Centre for Energy Research (ICER) equipped with modern facilities for conducting a wide spectrum of energy research through the knowledge network.

75. World Ozone Day has been celebrated on September 16, 2019. The International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone layer is observed every year on September 16th. The theme for the year 2019 is ‘32 Years and Healing’. The World Ozone Day 2019 celebrates over three decades of international cooperation to protect the ozone layer and the climate under the Montreal Protocol.

76. India and the United States have signed the Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA), the Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Association (LEMOA). The two countries now conduct more bilateral exercises with each other than they do with any other country. Bilateral exercises held annually include Malabar (naval exercise that also includes Japan), Cope-India (Air Force), Yudh Abhyas (Army) and Vajra Prahar (Special Forces). India also participates in the annual RIMPAC exercises as well as in Red Flag exercises which are US-led multinational exercises. Indian defense procurements from the US have also seen a tremendous growth. “We have also instituted the 2+2 Dialogue—a joint meeting between the Foreign and Defense Ministers of the two countries”.

77. India has emerged as the leading country of origin for immigrants across the world, with 17.5 million international migrants in 2019 coming from India, up from 15.9 million in 2015, according to a dataset released by the Union Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs in New York. The International Migrant Stock 2019, released by the UN DESA's Population Division, said the number of international migrants in the world had reached an estimated 272 million 2019-51 million more than in 2010. The percentage of international migrants of the total global population has increased to 3.5% from 2.8% in 2000. While India remained as the top source of international migrants, the number of migrants living in India saw a slight decline from 5.24 million in 2015 to an estimated 5.15 million in 2019-both 0.4% of the total population of the country.

78. A Teaser loan is nothing, but, a special loan that is offered for a fixed duration and could then be withdrawn. It generally offers a low interest rate in the initial years or some special offer and then gets back to the normal interest rates. In India the State Bank of India had two Teaser home Loans including the SBI Easy Home Loan and SBI Advantage Home Loan, but, they were later withdrawn. These loans offered a lower interest rate for the first three years and then the normal rate. The Reserve Bank of India had insisted that there be a higher provisioning for such loans as they carry a higher risk of default. However, banks have been insisting that these loans are given based on thorough scrutiny and the risk remains just as with other loans.

79. Yemen's Iran-aligned Houthi group on Saturday attacked two plants at the heart of Saudi Arabia's oil industry, including the world's biggest petroleum processing facility, in a strike that three sources said had disrupted output and exports. Saudi Aramco's Abqaiq and Khurais plants were hit by drone attacks on Saturday, severely curtailing their production capacity. Global oil prices shot up by about 20% following the attack.

80. Defense Minister Rajnath Singh flew in the Tejas fighter aircraft from the HAL airport in Bengaluru, becoming the first defence minister to fly in the indigenously-built light combat aircraft (LCA). The IAF has already inducted a batch of Tejas aircraft. The naval version of the LCA is in development stage. Initially, the IAF had placed an order with the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) for 40 Tejas aircraft. Last year, the IAF issued the request for proposal (RFP) to HAL for the procurement of another batch of 83 Tejas at a cost of over ₹50,000 crore. The Tejas is an indigenous light weight, multi role supersonic aircraft developed in both fighter and trainer versions. Advanced materials like composites are used in the manufacture of the Tejas to reduce weight and increase the component life. The Tejas is designed to carry a veritable plethora of air-to-air, air-to-surface, precision guided and standoff weaponry.

81. The Kerala High Court on Thursday held that the right to have access to the Internet is part of the fundamental right to education as well as the right to privacy under Article 21 of the Constitution. Justice P.V. Asha made the observation while ordering the Principal of Sree Narayanaguru College, Kozhikode, to re-admit a student who had been expelled from the college hostel for using her mobile phone beyond the restricted hours.

The court observed, "When the Human Rights Council of the United Nations has found that the right of access to Internet is a fundamental freedom and a tool to ensure right to education, a rule or instruction which impairs the said right of the students cannot be permitted to stand in the eye of law."

82. Astra is an active radar homing beyond-visual-range air-to-air missile (BVRAAM) developed by the Defence Research and Development Organization, India. Astra is designed to be capable of engaging targets at varying range and altitudes allowing for engagement of both short-range targets (up to 20 km) and long-range targets (up to 80 km) using alternative propulsion modes. The Astra is a Beyond Visual Range (BVR) missile capable of being launched from India's Sukhoi-30 MKI twin-jet air superiority fighter. The Indian Air Force currently operates roughly 200 total Su-30 MKI, but plans to eventually operate around 270. The Astra is 149 inches in length, making it the most compact missile developed indigenously in India capable of supersonic speeds.

83. Poshan Abhiyaan, the world's largest nutrition programme, expected to benefit 10 crore people and launched in 2018 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, aims to reduce stunting, underweight, and low birth weight, each by 2% per year; and anaemia among young children, adolescents and women each by 3% per year until 2022. A special target for stunting is set at 25% by 2022.

84. Mussoorie was host to the 'Himalayan Conclave' which began in the hillstation on Sunday to deliberate on issues like conservation of the Himalayan ecology, biodiversity and the cultural heritage. Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Chief Ministers of five states with four representative of other four states in the Himalayan region and a host of other dignitaries attended the one-day conclave. Stating his concern, Uttarakhand Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat spoke at the 'Conclave of the Himalayan States'. "All the participating

states want that 'green bonus' should be granted to Himalayan states for the ecological services being provided by them.

85. The Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) under Directorate General of Health Services, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India is the National Regulatory Authority (NRA) of India. Its headquarter is located at FDA Bhawan, Kotla Road, New Delhi 110002 and also has six zonal offices, four sub zonal offices, thirteen Port offices and seven laboratories spread across the country. The Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 1940 and rules 1945 have entrusted various responsibilities to central & state regulators for regulation of drugs & cosmetics. It envisages uniform implementation of the provisions of the Act & Rules made there under for ensuring the safety, rights and well being of the patients by regulating the drugs and cosmetics. CDSCO is constantly thriving upon to bring out transparency, accountability and uniformity in its services in order to ensure safety, efficacy and quality of the medical product manufactured, imported and distributed in the country. Under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, CDSCO is responsible for approval of New Drugs, Conduct of Clinical Trials, laying down the standards for Drugs, control over the quality of imported Drugs in the country and coordination of the activities of State Drug Control Organizations by providing expert advice with a view of bring about the uniformity in the enforcement of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act.

Further CDSCO along with state regulators, is jointly responsible for grant of licenses of certain specialized categories of critical Drugs such as blood and blood products, I. V. Fluids, Vaccine and Sera.

86. Union Human Resource Development Minister has launched the Waste Management Accelerator for Aspiring Women Entrepreneurs (WAVE Summit 2019). The summit will be the largest gathering of young women students who will promote entrepreneurship in waste management and provide alternatives to single-use plastic carry bags. The summit is jointly organized by the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) and Institute of Waste Management (IIWM) at Jaipur. The theme of the summit is: "Make your own bag-empowering women to take up income generation activity and entrepreneurship in waste management, through making a business out of this record-creating concept."

87. National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), an umbrella organisation for operating retail payments and settlement systems in India, is an initiative of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and Indian Banks' Association (IBA) under the provisions of the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007, for creating a robust Payment & Settlement Infrastructure in India. Considering the utility nature of the objects of NPCI, it has been incorporated as a "Not for Profit" Company under the provisions of Section 25 of Companies Act 1956 (now Section 8 of Companies Act 2013), with an intention to provide infrastructure to the entire Banking system in India for physical as well as electronic payment and settlement systems. The Company is focused on bringing innovations in the retail payment systems through the use of technology for achieving greater efficiency in operations and widening the reach of payment systems. The ten core promoter banks are State Bank of India, Punjab National Bank, Canara Bank, Bank of Baroda, Union Bank of India, Bank of India, ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank, Citibank N. A. and HSBC. In 2016 the shareholding was broad-based to 56 member banks to include more banks representing all sectors.

88. Ministry of Skill Development has signed an agreement with Global IT major IBM for nationwide Train-the-Trainer program in Artificial Intelligence. As part of the program, trainers will be trained on basic Artificial Intelligence (AI) skills towards using the technology in their day-to-day training activities. The program will be executed over a period of one year

under which IBM aims at training 10,000 faculty members from ITIs across the country. IBM will provide the necessary training at seven centres including six National Skills Training Institutes (NSTI) and one Industrial Training Institute (ITI) in Pune.

89. The draft code has proposed to offer a slew of benefits from provident funds to health cover, accident insurance and education for children of informal and gig workers. The code also says that the state governments may also unveil schemes related to provident fund, employment injury benefits, housing, educational schemes for children, and skill up gradation for workers among others. The code will merge the following 8 existing laws:

- Employees Compensation Act, 1923
- Employees State Insurance Act, 1948
- Employees Provident Funds and miscellaneous act, 1952
- Maternity Benefit Act, 1961
- Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972
- Cine workers welfare fund act, 1981
- Building and Other construction workers Cess Act, 1996
- Unorganized Workers Social Security Act, 2008.

90. *Karan Vandana*, a new hybrid wheat variety which is resistant to yellow rust and white blast and can give significantly higher yield than normal varieties, is likely to be soon launched across the country. It has been developed by the Indian Institute of Wheat and Barley Research (IIWBR) under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR). It is also known as DBW-187. It is resistant to both yellow rust and white blast diseases.

91. The Jijamata Udyan or also known as the Byculla Zoo is one of the oldest zoos in India that has evolved into a much visited tourist spot now. It is located at the heart of the city, Mumbai. It is built over a huge area of land and also comprises of a beautiful garden apart from the zoo. The garden holds some unique and rare collection of trees and there are almost 3213 trees in number. Many flowers and herbal plants are also found here. The zoo also houses many endangered species. The Asiatic lion, jungle cat, palm civet cat, porcupine, gaur, mouse deer, leopard and the common otter are some of the rare species found in this zoo. There is separate birds section here that houses variety of birds like peacock, flamingos, peahen and many others. The Byculla zoo had recently been renovated and many more species of birds and animals have been newly introduced in the zoo.

92. Recognizing the need to regulate production, promote overseas marketing and control recurring instances of imbalances in supply and demand, which lead to market problems, the Government of India under the Tobacco Board Act of 1975, established the Tobacco Board, in place of the Tobacco Export Promotion Council. The Board came into existence from 1-1-1976 and opened its head quarters at Guntur in Andhra Pradesh, India. the Tobacco Board under the Commerce Ministry.

93. Cannabis or Marijuana is the most commonly used illegal drug in the world with an estimated 125 million people consuming it in some form or the other every year. In India, marijuana use has been historically bound to faith and mysticism. It is said to be a drug that helps the user attain "ecstasy in the original sense of the word". India has consumed and celebrated charas (hash), bhang and weed for centuries. However, implementation of stringent narcotic laws in 1986 made the sale, consumption, production and transportation of marijuana illegal in the country. The Golden Triangle is the area where the borders of Thailand, Laos, and Myanmar meet at the confluence of the Ruak and Mekong rivers.

94. The Emergency Response Support System (ERSS) is one of the key projects of the Union Ministry of Home Affairs under Nirbhaya Fund. The system has been designed to play a pivotal role in mitigation or preventing escalation of crime, especially against women and children. ERSS envisages a single pan-India emergency number '112', which is an internationally recognised number to target all types of emergencies.

The features of ERSS are:

- (a) computer aided dispatch of field resources to the location of distress and
- (b) Citizens can send their emergency information through call, sms through the 112 mobile app.

95. MOSAiC mission stands for Multidisciplinary drifting Observatory for the Study of Arctic Climate. The objective of the mission is to study the impact of climate change on the Arctic and how it could affect the rest of the world. The mission has received funding from U.S. institutions such as the National Science Foundation, the Department of Energy, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and NASA.

Under the mission, scientists plan to sail the RV Polarstern ship into the Arctic Ocean, anchor it to a large piece of sea ice and allow the water to freeze around them effectively trapping themselves in the vast sheet of ice that forms over the North Pole each winter. As temperatures drop, they'll build temporary winter research camps on the ice allowing them to perform tests that wouldn't be possible at other times of the year or by satellite sensing.

96. The National Population Register (NPR) is a Register of usual residents of the country. It is being prepared at the local (Village/sub-Town), sub-District, District, State and National level under provisions of the Citizenship Act 1955 and the Citizenship (Registration of Citizens and issue of National Identity Cards) Rules, 2003. It is mandatory for every usual resident of India to register in the NPR. A usual resident is defined for the purposes of NPR as a person who has resided in a local area for the past 6 months or more or a person who intends to reside in that area for the next 6 months or more.

97. International Coastal Cleanup Day got its start in 1986 when Linda Maraniss met Kathy O'Hara while working for Ocean Conservancy. Maraniss had just moved to Texas from Washington, D.C. O'Hara had just completed a report called Plastics in the Ocean: More Than a Litter Problem. The two of them reached out to other ocean-lovers and organized a Cleanup for Ocean Conservancy. The first Cleanup consisted of 2,800 volunteers. Since that time, the Cleanup has grown into an international event in more than 100 countries. During the third Saturday in September, International Coastal Clean-Up Day encourages people to rid beaches of the garbage plaguing beaches. Awareness is also spread about preserving and protecting the world's oceans and waterways.

98. Silent Valley National Park is a beautiful representation of the last remaining rain forest of Kerala. Historically it's a paradigm of people's movement to protect the forest. Silent Valley was declared as National Park in 1984 and formally inaugurated in the year 1985. Initially there was only 89.52 sq.km. area under the Division which forms the core zone of the National Park. In 2007, an area of 148 sq.km. was added to this Division as buffer zone. In 1914, Silent Valley forests were declared as Reserved Forest. Till 1921, Silent Valley was part of South Malabar Forest Division with headquarters at Nilambur. During 1921, it came under control of Palakkad Forest Division and managed so until 1988.

99. Recently, in Faheema Shirin v. State of Kerala, the Kerala High Court declared the right to Internet access as a fundamental right forming a part of the right to privacy and the right to education under Article 21 of the Constitution.

100. National Digital Literacy Mission ('NDLM') has been initiated with the vision to empower at least one person per household with crucial digital literacy skills by 2020. This is expected to touch the lives of more than 250 million individuals over the next few years. NDLM is an

effort to complement government's vision to transform one from each household as digitally literate. The project aims at helping adults with low technological literacy develop the skills they need to interact in an increasingly digital world. NIELIT is one of the National Level Certifying Agency for Govt. of India's 'National Digital Literacy Mission' (NDLM). The mission of NDLM scheme is to provide digital literacy to every Indian. Making one person in every family digitally literate is one of the integral components of the Prime Minister's vision of "Digital India".

101. The trade margin is the difference between the price at which the manufacturers/importers sell to trade (price to trade) and the price to patients (maximum retail price). The issue of unreasonably high trade margins in medical devices has been adversely affecting both the industry as well as consumer interest. Various representations regarding rationalization of trade margins on medical devices from industry/trade associations/indigenous manufacturers/ importers have also been received. It is expected that the approach to trade margin rationalization on medical devices, by encouraging market development, manufacturing and ease of doing business in India, would provide the right environment for ensuring quality and affordable access to medical technologies in the country.

102. The SASTRA Ramanujan prize for 2019 will be awarded to mathematician Adam Harper, Assistant Professor with the University of Warwick, England. The prize carries a citation and an award of \$10,000 and is conferred annually on mathematicians from across the world who is less than 32 years of age, working in an area influenced by the genius Srinivasa Ramanujan. "The SASTRA-Ramanujan Award has gained global repute ever since it was instituted in 2005 and today is easily amongst the top five awards of this type for mathematics.

103. The #FridaysforFuture movement also known as the 'Youth Strike for Climate Movement' was started in August 2018. The aim of the Global Climate Strike is to call on millions of people across the world to disrupt business as usual by taking part in protests emphasizing the danger of Climate Change. The movement was started by Swedish student 'Greta Thunberg' to protest outside Swedish parliament for more action against climate change. Gradually, students and adults from across the world started mobilizing and demonstrating in front of parliaments and local city halls in their respective countries. Thousands of events have been planned from September 20th to 27th, 2019.

104. The Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Economic Cooperation between ASEAN and India was signed in October 2003 and served as legal basis to conclude further agreements, including Trade in Goods Agreement, Trade in Services Agreement, and Investment Agreement that form the ASEAN-Indian Free Trade Area (AIFTA) The ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement was signed and entered into force on 1 January 2010. Under the Agreement, ASEAN Member States and India have agreed to open their respective markets by progressively reducing and eliminating duties on 76.4% coverage of good. The ASEAN-India Trade in Services Agreement was signed in November 2014. It contains provisions on transparency, domestic regulations, recognition, market access, national treatment and dispute settlement. The ASEAN-India Investment Agreement was also signed in November 2014. The Investment Agreement stipulates protection of investment to ensure fair and equitable treatment for investors, non-discriminatory treatment in expropriation or nationalization as well as fair compensation.

105. The Bishkek Declaration on the Conservation of the Snow Leopard: **We**, as leaders in the governments of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, the Kingdom of Bhutan, the People's

Republic of China, the Republic of India, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Mongolia, the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Tajikistan, and the Republic of Uzbekistan, the custodians of the world's snow leopards and the valuable high-mountain ecosystems they inhabit, having gathered at a Global Snow Leopard Conservation Forum in Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic, from 22-23 October 2013, with the shared goal of conserving snow leopards and their fragile habitats; **Acknowledge** that the snow leopard is an irreplaceable symbol of our nations' natural and cultural heritage and an indicator of the health and sustainability of mountain ecosystems; **Recognize** that mountain ecosystems inhabited by snow leopards provide essential ecosystem services, including storing and releasing water from the origins of river systems benefitting one-third of the world's human population; sustaining the pastoral and agricultural livelihoods of local communities which depend on biodiversity for food, fuel, fodder, and medicine; and offering inspiration, recreation, and economic opportunities.

106. The Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) is a group of nuclear supplier countries that seeks to contribute to the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons through the implementation of two sets of Guidelines for nuclear exports and nuclear-related exports. There are currently 48 Participating Governments (PGs) of the NSG. The year of participation is in brackets.

Argentina (1994)	Cyprus (2000)	Ireland (1984)	New Zealand (1994)	South Africa (1995)
Australia (1978)	Czech Republic (1978*)	Italy (1978)	Norway (1989)	Spain (1988)
Austria (1991)	Denmark (1984)	Japan (1974)	Poland (1978)	Sweden (1978)
Belarus (2000)	Estonia (2004)	Kazakhstan (2002)	Portugal (1986)	Switzerland (1978)
Belgium (1978)	Finland (1980)	Latvia (1997)	Romania (1990)	Turkey (2000)
Brazil (1996)	France (1974)	Lithuania (2004)	Rep. of Korea (1995)	Ukraine (1996)
Bulgaria (1984)	Germany (1974)	Luxembourg (1984)	Russia (1974)	U.K. (1974)
Canada (1974)	Greece (1984)	Malta (2004)	Serbia (2013)	U.S. (1974)
China (2004)	Hungary (1985)	Mexico (2012)	Slovakia (1978*)	
Croatia (2005)	Iceland (2009)	Netherlands (1978)	Slovenia (2000)	

(* Czechoslovakia separated into the Czech Republic and Slovakia – participation date 5 Mar 1993)

107. Bulk drugs or APIs are the active raw materials used in medicines to give them their therapeutic effect. Currently, over 60% of APIs are sourced from other nations; for some specific APIs, the dependence is over 80-90%, according to the department of pharmaceuticals. In a bid to reduce India's dependence on China for active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs), the chemicals and fertilizers ministry has joined hands with other ministries to draw up a road map for increasing their production in the country. A high-level task force has been constituted to study global practices and draw up a plan aimed at boosting domestic production of APIs. The task force, headed by minister of state Mansukh L. Mandaviya, will include secretaries from the departments of pharmaceuticals and

industrial policy and promotion, the ministry of health and family welfare, and the ministries of environment, commerce and biotechnology.

108. Created in 1988 by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the objective of the IPCC is to provide governments at all levels with scientific information that they can use to develop climate policies. IPCC reports are also a key input into international climate change negotiations. The IPCC is an organization of governments that are members of the United Nations or WMO. The IPCC currently has 195 members. Thousands of people from all over the world contribute to the work of the IPCC. For the assessment reports, IPCC scientists volunteer their time to assess the thousands of scientific papers published each year to provide a comprehensive summary of what is known about the drivers of climate change, its impacts and future risks, and how adaptation and mitigation can reduce those risks. An open and transparent review by experts and governments around the world is an essential part of the IPCC process, to ensure an objective and complete assessment and to reflect a diverse range of views and expertise. Through its assessments, the IPCC identifies the strength of scientific agreement in different areas and indicates where further research is needed. The IPCC does not conduct its own research.

109. MiG-21 BISON: Single engine, single seater multirole fighter/ground attack aircraft of Russian origin which forms the back-bone of the IAF. It has a max speed of 2230 km/hr (Mach 2.1) and carries one 23mm twin barrel cannon with four R-60 close combat missiles.

110. The ICGS Varaha, the fourth in the series of seven 98-m Offshore Patrol Vessels (OPV) of the Indian Coast Guard (ICG), was commissioned on Wednesday by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh. The ship, which was commissioned at the Chennai port, would be based at New Mangalore under the administrative and operational control of Commander Coast Guard region (west). The ship will have on board 14 officers and 89 men, says a press release from ICG.

The ship has been designed and built indigenously by Larsen & Toubro (L&T) at its Katupalli ship building yard in North Chennai.

111. Srisailem dam is constructed in Kurnool district of Andhra Pradesh on river Krishna. The gates of the dam have been lifted for third time in this monsoon season because of sudden increase in water levels.

112. With an aim to spread awareness about child and woman's nutrition, Women and Child Development and Mission Shakti Department in collaboration with the UNICEF unveiled a mascot named 'Tikki Mausi'. The department also launched a comprehensive state-level communication strategy in collaboration with the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF).

Women and Child Development Minister Tukuni Sahu and UNICEF's state chief Monika O Nielsen unveiled the mascot and also launched the state level communication strategy to make the public aware about child and woman's nutrition and their development.

The mascot -- Tikki Mausi -- will change the behaviour of common people and make them aware about child and woman's nutrition and development in every household. The mascot has been named as 'Tikki Mausi' in reference to the second mother of a child. It is projected to spread awareness for better health care of children and their development.

113. The Government of India has set up Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) on 1st March 2002 under the provision of the Energy Conservation Act, 2001. The mission of Bureau of

Energy Efficiency is to assist in developing policies and strategies with a thrust on self-regulation and market principles with the primary objective of reducing energy intensity of the Indian economy within the overall framework of the Energy Conservation Act, 2001. This will be achieved with active participation of all stakeholders, resulting into accelerated and sustained adoption of energy efficiency in all sectors. It functions under the Ministry of Power, Government of India.

114. The World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) is the United Nations agency responsible for the promotion of responsible, sustainable and universally accessible tourism.

As the leading international organization in the field of tourism, UNWTO promotes tourism as a driver of economic growth, inclusive development and environmental sustainability and offers leadership and support to the sector in advancing knowledge and tourism policies worldwide.

UNWTO encourages the implementation of the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism, to maximize tourism's socio-economic contribution while minimizing its possible negative impacts, and is committed to promoting tourism as an instrument in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), geared towards reducing poverty and fostering sustainable development worldwide.

World Tourism Day is commemorated each year on 27 September, with celebrations led by UNWTO. Its purpose is to foster awareness among the global community of tourism's social, cultural, political and economic value and the contribution the sector can make in reaching the Sustainable Development Goals. In 2019, in line with UNWTO's overarching focus on skills, education and jobs throughout the year, World Tourism Day will be a celebration on the topic 'Tourism and Jobs: a better future for all'. The host Country 2019 is India.

115. Infosys, a global leader in next-generation digital services and consulting, today announced that it has won the prestigious **United Nations Global Climate Action Award in the 'Climate Neutral Now' category. Infosys is the only corporate from India** to earn the recognition for its efforts to combat climate change. The UN Global Climate Action Awards are organized by the Momentum for Change initiative of the UN Climate Change Secretariat. The award winning projects are recognized for their innovative solutions that address climate change, and help drive progress on many other sustainable development goals, such as poverty alleviation, gender equality and economic opportunity.

Key achievements:

- Infosys has some of the most energy efficient campuses across the world
- Infosys is the first signatory to the RE100 global campaign and is transitioning to renewable energy for all its electricity needs
- The company reduced its per capita energy consumption by over 51 percent since 2008
- 46 percent of the company's electricity came from RE sources in FY2019, which included about 49 megawatt (MW) from owned solar plants
- Infosys has a portfolio of large community based emissions reduction or offset projects to compensate for emissions outside Infosys' boundaries. These projects not only address climate change, but also benefit over 100,000 families today, contributing to the socio-economic development of rural India.

116. At 5:32 p.m. EDT, June 18, 2009, a United Launch Alliance Atlas V rocket roared off the launch pad at Launch Complex 41 to begin the Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter and Lunar Crater Observation and Sensing Satellite missions to the moon. LRO entered lunar orbit on June 23, 2009 and after spacecraft commissioning, the Exploration Mission began

on September 15, 2009. The Exploration Mission was focused on supporting the extension of human presence in the solar system; LRO continues to help identify sites close to potential resources with high scientific value, favorable terrain and the environment necessary for safe future robotic and human lunar missions. The Exploration Mission completed on September 15, 2010 when responsibility for LRO was transferred to NASA's Science Mission Directorate for a two-year Science Mission with a new set of science goals. The LRO mission has been extended to continue lunar science and exploration.

117. The need for preserving film as art and historical documents has been recognized all over the world. The task of preserving cinema in all its varied expressions and forms is best entrusted to a national organization with adequate resources, a permanent set-up and the confidence of the local film industry. National Film Archive of India (NFAI) was set up in February, 1964 as a media unit of the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Government of India with the primary objective of acquiring and preserving Indian cinematic heritage. This includes preservation of film and non-film material including but not limited to celluloid, stills, glass slides, posters, lobby cards, scripts and song booklets.

118. The Global Tiger Forum (GTF) is the only inter- governmental international body established with members from willing countries to embark on a global campaign to protect the Tiger. Utilizing co-operative policies, common approaches, technical expertise, scientific modules and other appropriate programmes and controls the GTF is focused on saving the remaining 5 sub-species of Tigers distributed over 13 Tiger Range countries of the world. The GTF was formed in 1993 on recommendations from an international symposium on Tiger Conservation at New Delhi, India. The first meeting of the Tiger Range countries to setup the forum was held in 1994, in which India was elected to the Chair and was asked to form an interim secretariat. In 1997, the GTF became an independent organization. Bangladesh was Chair twice followed by Nepal. India was elected as Chair in March 2011, replaced by Bhutan in 2014. The GTF has a General Assembly meeting every 3 years and Standing committee meetings at least once a year. A Chairperson, usually a Minister from one of the Tiger Range countries heads GTF for a fixed tenure of 3 Years. The Secretariat of GTF is headed by a Secretary General and is located in New Delhi, India.

119. RBI imposed restrictions on the city-based lender which created panic among depositors as withdrawals were capped at ₹1,000, which later increased to ₹10,000. The board of the bank was superseded and a former chief general manager of RBI was appointed as administrator.

120. The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has initiated the 'Project NETRA. NETRA stands for Network for Space Object Tracking and Analysis. It is an early warning system in space to detect space debris and to safeguard India's functional satellites in low-earth orbits. Under NETRA, ISRO plans to put up many observational facilities such as (a)connected radars (b)telescopes (c)data processing units and a (d)Space Situational Awareness Control Centre. These facilities can spot, track and catalogue objects as small as 10 cm, up to a range of 3,400 km and equal to a space orbit of around 2,000 km.

121. The National Family Health Survey (NFHS) is a large-scale, multi-round survey conducted in a representative sample of households throughout India. Three rounds of the survey have been conducted since the first survey in 1992-93. The survey provides state and national information for India on fertility, infant and child mortality, the practice of family planning, maternal and child health, reproductive health, nutrition, anaemia, utilization and quality of health and family planning services. Each successive round of the NFHS has had

two specific goals: a) to provide essential data on health and family welfare needed by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and other agencies for policy and programme purposes, and b) to provide information on important emerging health and family welfare issues. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MOHFW), Government of India, designated the International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS) Mumbai, as the nodal agency, responsible for providing coordination and technical guidance for the survey. IIPS collaborated with a number of Field Organizations (FO) for survey implementation. Each FO was responsible for conducting survey activities in one or more states covered by the NFHS.

122. Nearly 10% of children in the age group of 5-9 years and adolescents in the age group of 10-19 years are pre-diabetic, 5% are overweight and another 5% suffer from blood pressure. These are among the key findings of the first-ever national nutrition survey conducted by the Centre, yet to be made public, providing for the first time hard evidence of the coexistence of obesity and under nutrition, among school going children. The Comprehensive National Nutrition Survey conducted by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and UNICEF between February 2016 and October 2018 is the first study undertaken to measure malnutrition, including micronutrient deficiencies through biochemical measures such as blood and urine samples, anthropometric data as well as details of non-communicable diseases such as diabetes, hypertension, cholesterol and kidney function in children and adolescents. The National Family Health Survey (NFHS), however, collects anthropometric data (weight for age, height for age, weight for height, mid-upper arm circumference) to measure prevalence of stunting, wasting and underweight and household dietary intake to measure deficiencies.

123. The International Astronomical Union (IAU) was founded in 1919. Its mission is to promote and safeguard the science of astronomy in all its aspects, including research, communication, education and development, through international cooperation. Its individual Members — structured into Divisions, Commissions, and Working Groups — are professional astronomers from all over the world, at the Ph.D. level and beyond, who are active in professional research, education and outreach in astronomy. The IAU also has Junior Members. The IAU has 13682 members. The Individual and Junior Members Directory contains 11128 names in 107 countries worldwide (these Individual Members are labeled as "active" in the IAU database: they have a valid, public email, and are affiliated to at least one Division.). Out of those countries, 82 are National Members. In addition, the IAU collaborates with various scientific organizations all over the world. The International Astronomical Union (IAU) has named an asteroid, discovered in 2006, after Indian classical singer Pandit Jasraj.

124. The farmer field school (FFS) approach was developed by FAO and partners nearly 25 years ago in Southeast Asia as an alternative to the prevailing top-down extension method of the Green Revolution, which failed to work in situations where more complex and counter-intuitive problems existed, such as pesticide-induced pest outbreaks. In a typical FFS a group of 20-25 farmers meets once a week in a local field setting and under the guidance of a trained facilitator. In groups of five they observe and compare two plots over the course of an entire cropping season. One plot follows local conventional methods while the other is used to experiment with what could be considered "best practices". They experiment with and observe key elements of the agro-ecosystem by measuring plant development, taking samples of insects, weeds and diseased plants, and constructing simple cage experiments or comparing characteristics of different soils. At the end of the weekly meeting they present their findings in a plenary session, followed by discussion and planning for the coming weeks.

125. The idea of a port in Hambantota had been floated for about three decades, but a succession of governments ignored the proposal every time. It was only when an individual named Ariya Wickramanayake funded his own research into the port's potential, and presented it to Rajapaksa, back then a minister, that the idea took hold. As soon as Rajapaksa was elected president in 2005, there was renewed interest in the project, along with other big-ticket infrastructure initiatives such as an international airport, a new town, a convention centre, and a highway extension, all to take place in the poorest and least developed district of Sri Lanka. Rajapaksa was also the first to lure in the much-needed Chinese investment to complete the incipient stages of the project. The first phase of the Hambantota Port project was built through a \$307m loan from the Export-Import Bank of China (Exim Bank) at 6.3% interest – a very high interest rate by all standards. At the time, SLPA said that when Sri Lanka made an open request for funding, China was the first to respond. In reality, China was the only country willing and able to throw its weight behind what was almost unanimously perceived to be a doomed project.

As the Asia Maritime Transparency Initiative notes, “the economic rationale for Hambantota is weak, given existing capacity and expansion plans at Colombo port, fuelling concerns that it could become a Chinese naval facility,” a realisation that at the time prevented other lenders, such as India, from getting involved.