

10 PM Current Affairs Quiz Compilation

August, 2019

Q.1) Consider the following statements with respect to Equalization Levy:

1. Equalization Levy is an Indirect Tax
2. It is a tax on non-resident companies for online advertisement
3. It is introduced in 2015

Which of the following below given codes are correct?

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

Q.2) Consider the following statements with respect to Motor Vehicles (Amendment) bill, 2019:

1. For deaths in hit-and-run cases, the government will provide a compensation of Rs 5lakh or more to the victim's family
2. It makes Aadhaar mandatory for getting a driving license and vehicle registration.

Which of the following given below codes are correct?

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

Q.3) Consider the following statements with respect to Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA):

1. It directs and coordinates all policies and activities in the economic field including foreign investment that require policy decisions at the highest level.
2. Matters regarding fixation of prices of agricultural products as well as reviewing progress of activities related to rural development also within CCEAs competence

Which of the following given below codes are correct?

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

Q.4) Consider the following statements with respect to Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-Dhan (PM-YSM):

1. It introduced for both organized and un-organized workers
2. Beneficiary he/she should be an Income-Tax payer

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.5) Consider the following statements with respect to fertilizer subsidy in India:

1. Fertilizer subsidy given to indigenous production only
2. Fertilizer subsidies would be transferred to manufacturers on the basis of actual sales.

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.6) Bandipur Tiger reserve located in which of the following below given state?

- a) Tamilnadu
- b) Kerala
- c) Karnataka
- d) Goa

Q.7) Consider the following statements with respect to Purchasing Managers Index (PMI):

1. PMI is an indicator of manufacturing activity only
2. It is a survey-based measure that asks the respondents about changes in their perception of some key business variables from the month before

Which of the following given below codes are correct?

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

Q.8) Which of the following city is going to host Rural Innovators Startup Conclave (RISC) 2019?

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

Q.9) Consider the following statements with respect to International Seabed Authority (ISA):

1. The International Seabed Authority is an autonomous international organization established under the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea
2. The Authority, which has its headquarters in London, England
3. There are one hundred ninety two members (192) of the International Seabed Authority

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.10) Consider the objectives of A Scheme for promoting Innovation, Rural Industry & Entrepreneurship (ASPIRE):

1. Create new jobs and reduce unemployment
2. Promote entrepreneurship culture in India
3. Boost Grassroots economic development at state level

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.11) Consider the following statements:

1. Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LEDs for All (UJALA)
2. Street Lighting National Programme (SLNP)
3. Agriculture Demand Side management (AgDSM)

Which of the following above given programmes implemented by Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL)?

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

Q.12) Doodhganga is a tributary to which of the following river?

- a) Godavari
- b) Krishna
- c) Tapi
- d) Narmada

Q.13) Consider the following rights are identified in Forest Rights Act, 2006:

1. Title rights
2. Use rights
3. Relief and development rights
4. Forest management rights
5. Environment protection rights

Which of the following below given codes are correct?

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

Q.14) Article 35A of Indian Constitution deals with which of the following?

- a) Special status to Jammu and Kashmir
- b) Property rights to people of Kashmir
- c) Allows the Jammu and Kashmir legislature to define permanent residents of the state.
- d) Military rule

Q.15) Consider the following statements about 'Eminence tag':

1. All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) approves the grant of tag to institutions.
2. Under the scheme of 'Institutions of Eminence (IoE)' Government aims to bring higher educational institutions in top 500 of world ranking in the next 10 years.

Which of the above statement is/are correct?

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

Q.16) Consider the following statements with respect to Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) Gramin:

1. PMAY-G aims at providing a pucca house, to all houseless householder and those households living in kutcha and dilapidated house, by 2022.
2. The minimum size of the house has been increased to 50 sq.mt (from 25sq.mt) with a hygienic cooking space.

Which of the following given below codes are correct?

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

Q.17) National Disaster Risk Index was launched in 2018 by the Union Home ministry with the help of following international organization?

- a) UNEP
- b) UNDP
- c) World Meteorological Organization
- d) United Nations Disaster Risk Reduction

Q.18) Consider the following statements with respect to Bharat Stage (BS-VI) norms:

1. Indian armed, Para military forces and state police vehicles are exempted from BS-VI norms
2. BS-VI norms came into force from April1, 2020

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.19) “Greta Thunberg” 16 year old environmental activist who refuses to fly because of environmental impact of air travel, from which of the following country she belongs?

- a) Netherlands
- b) Austria
- c) Sweden
- d) Norway

Q.20) Consider the following statements with respect to disaster management:

1. Yokohama strategy plan
2. Hyogo framework action plan
3. Sendai framework plan

Which of the following below given codes are correct?

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

Q.21) Consider the following statements with respect to UDAY express:

1. The express consists of Double-decker coaches
2. First service of the train was flagged off between Visakhapatnam and Vijayawada junction

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.22) Consider the following statements with respect to Surrogacy regulation bill, 2019:

1. The Bill prohibits commercial surrogacy, but allows altruistic surrogacy.
2. Surrogacy clinics must apply for registration within a period of 90 days from the date of appointment of the appropriate authority.

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.23) Consider the following statements with respect to World Bank GDP rankings, 2018:

1. India improved its ranking from 7th largest to 6th largest economy
2. USA tops the list

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.24) Consider the following statements with respect to MESSENGER Mission:

1. It is launched by European Space Agency
2. It is launched to probe planet Mercury

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 “Pathamadai mat”:

1. It is made up of Korai Grass
2. It has been granted Geographical Indication (GI) tag
3. Karnataka is famous for Pathamadai mat

Which of the following below given codes are correct?

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

Q.26) Which of the following dams are constructed on Krishna River?

1. Srisaileam dam
2. Nagarjuna sagar dam
3. Almatti dam

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.27) Under Medical Termination Pregnancy Act, 1971 time limit for terminating pregnancy?

- a) 20 weeks
- b) 22 weeks
- c) 24 weeks
- d) 26 weeks

Q.28) “One Nation One Food law” launched by which of the following?

- a) Ministry of Health
- b) Ministry of Agriculture
- c) FSSAI
- d) Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC)

Q.29) Consider the following statements with respect to Dam Safety Bill, 2019:

1. Bill applicable to all Dams with more than 15metres height
2. State governments will establish State Dam Safety Organizations (SDSOs)

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.30) Consider the following statements with respect to Intermediate range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty:

1. INF treaty signed between USA and China
2. Treaty signed to eliminate the Ballistic and Cruise missiles with range of 500 to 5500Kms.

Which of the following below codes are correct?

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

Q.31) Consider the following statements with respect to the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS):

1. BCAS was set up on the recommendation of Pande Committee
2. The main responsibility of BCAS are lay down standards and measures in respect of security of civil flights at International and domestic airports in 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.32) Which of the following multilateral institution launched Environmental and Social Framework (ESF)?

- a) UNEP
- b) UNDP
- c) World Bank
- d) IMF

Q.33) Which of the following multilateral institution funding the Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP)?

- a) World Bank
- b) Asian Development Bank
- c) AIIB
- d) IMF

Q.34) “Tiger Reserve and its neighborhood is the original setting of Rudyard Kipling’s most famous work, The Jungle Book”, which of the following tiger reserve describe above statement?

- a) Pench Tiger Reserve
- b) Rajaji Tiger Reserve
- c) Simlipal Tiger Reserve
- d) Tadoba Tiger Reserve

Q.35) Consider the following statements with respect to Repo Rate:

1. Repo rate means commercial banks borrow money from RBI
2. Increase in repo rate means increase in money supply

Which of the following below given codes are correct?

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

Q.36) Consider the following initiatives started by government of India:

1. Differential interest rate scheme
2. Lead bank scheme
3. Regional Rural Banks (RRBs)
4. NABARD

Which of the following given below chronological order is correct?

- a) 1-3-2-4
- b) 2-1-3-4
- c) 2-3-1-4

d) 1-2-3-4

Q.37) Consider the following statements with respect to CITES (Convention on international Trade in Endangered Species on Wild Fauna and Flora):

1. Its aim is to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival.
2. The species covered by CITES are listed in two Appendices, according to the degree of protection they need.

Which of the following given below codes are correct?

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

Q.38) “Lunar Library” is recently in news describes which of the following?

- a) It is a collection of books stored in one place regarding humans Moon expedition
- b) 30 million page archive of human history and civilization stored on moon
- c) Artificial moon expedition on earth
- d) Both A and B

Q.39) Which of the following institution conducts Consumer Confidence Survey?

- a) Central Statistical Office
- b) National Sample Survey Office
- c) Ministry of Consumer Affairs
- d) Reserve Bank of India

Q.40) Consider the following statements with respect to Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS):

1. The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) was established under the BIS Act, 1986
2. The activities of BIS in respect to standardization and certification of goods and articles only

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 India proposed changes in the listing of wildlife species in CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species on Wild Fauna and Flora).

Consider the following statements about CITES:

1. CITES Appendix I lists species that are the most endangered among CITES-listed animals and plants.
2. CITES Appendix III includes all species which although not necessarily now threatened with extinction may become so unless trade in specimens of these species is subject to strict regulation.
3. CITES entered into force in 1975.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q.42) Which of the following institute has released its latest variety, Arka Suprabath, much to the delight of fruit connoisseurs?

- a) Bengaluru-based Indian Institute of Horticulture Research (IIHR)
- b) Tamil Nadu Agricultural University
- c) Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi.
- d) Indian Council for Agricultural Research (ICAR)

Q.43) Recently 4 gate of Srisaïlam dam were lifted due to heavy inflows. Srisaïlam Dam is on which of the following river?

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

Q.44) Consider the following statements about 66th National Film awards:

- 1. Best actor award is won by Vicky Kaushal (Uri) only.
- 2. Best actress award is won by Deepika Padukone (Padmaavat)
- 3. Best Hindi film is Andhadhun.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q.45) Supreme Court issued guidelines to underlining preventive, remedial and punitive measures for the purposes of preventing heinous activities such as cow vigilantism, lynching and mob violence. (Tehseen S. Poonawalla v. Union of India Case). Which of the following state is first to implement the suggestion?

- a) Rajasthan
- b) Gujarat
- c) Manipur
- d) Uttar Pradesh

Q.46) Consider the following statements with respect to 15th Finance Commission (FFC) and Terms of Reference:

- 1. Commission was headed by NK Singh
- 2. The Commission shall use the population data of 1971 while making its recommendations
- 3. The Commission may consider proposing measurable performance-based incentives for States

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) Who among the following state recently reviewed power purchase agreements (PPA) of renewable energy?

- a) Andhra Pradesh
- b) Uttar Pradesh
- c) Madhya Pradesh

d) Karnataka

Q.48) The government is going to launch APP based rental of Tractors for small farmers. Who among the following company is part of this initiative?

- a) OLA
- b) UBER
- c) ZOOM cars
- d) All of the above

Q.49) Which of the following gave below releases the Global Wealth Report

- a) Credit Suisse
- b) WEF
- c) World Bank
- d) IMF

Q.50) Consider the following statements with respect to Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC):

1. Created in 1988 by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
2. The objective of IPCC is to provide measures and suggestions for global conservation measures
3. The IPCC is an organization of governments that are members of the United Nations or WMO.

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.51) Who among the following prepared Desertification and Land degradation Atlas in India?

- a) ISRO
- b) Ministry of Environment
- c) Ministry of rural development
- d) Indian Meteorological Department

Q.52) Consider the following statements with respect to expert committee to review national Minimum Wages:

1. Committee headed by Dr. Anoop Sathpathy
2. Committee recommended a Minimum Wage at Rs-350
3. Committee also recommended different national minimum wages for different geographical regions

Which of the following given below codes are correct?

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

Q.53) “Minamata Convention” is to phase out existing mines and new ones of which of the following mineral?

- a) Cadmium
- b) Nitrate
- c) Sulfur
- d) Mercury

Q.54) Which of the following state launched E-Step initiative to empower student start-ups?

- a) Karnataka
- b) Tamilnadu
- c) Andhra Pradesh
- d) Gujarat

Q.55) Consider the following statements with respect to Brent Crude Oil:

1. Sulfur content in Brent crude is more than 0.50%
2. Brent crude extracted from North sea

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) “SAFAR & MAPAN” initiatives related to which of the following?

- a) Air Quality
- b) Water Purification
- c) Skill Development
- d) Sports Development

Q.57) Consider the following statements National Electricity Fund (NEF):

1. NEF (Interest Subsidy) Scheme to promote capital investment in the distribution sector
2. Scheme shall be applicable in the entire country and all the works except the works covered under & R-APDRP 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.58) Which of the following Automobile Giant awarded with a certification of appreciation for ‘the advancement of the government industrial training’?

- a) AUDI
- b) BMW
- c) VOLKSWAGEN
- d) TOYOTA

Q.59) Madhav Gadgil and Kasturi Ranjan committee report on which of the following areas?

- a) Ground water mapping
- b) Agriculture development
- c) Ecological development of Western ghats
- d) Island development

Q.60) Consider the following statements with respect to Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR):

1. The Companies Act, 2013 is a landmark legislation that made India the first country to mandate and quantify CSR expenditure
2. The details of on corporate social responsibility are mentioned in the Section 125 of the Companies Act, 2013.

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) “Madrid System” is recently in news, which of the following related to Madrid System?

- a) Trade Mark
- b) Geographical Indication
- c) Trade secrets
- d) Industrial Designs

Q.62) Consider the following statements with respect to Export Credit Re-finance (ECR) facility:

1. ECR provided by EXIM Bank to commercial Banks
2. Facility is given on the basis of banks’ eligible outstanding rupee export credit both at the pre-shipment and post-shipment stages

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.63) Recently government formed a working group to review the Wholesale Price Index, who among the following given below headed the working group?

- a) Ramesh Chand
- b) Y V Reddy
- c) Rangaragan
- d) Rajiv Kumar

Q.64) Government announced a new scheme “Sabka Vishwas” in 2019 budget. Which of the following given below area covered under the scheme?

- a) Sanitation
- b) Education
- c) Health
- d) Tax Litigation

Q.65) “CORAS” is a battalion of 1200 commandos was created to protect which of the following?

- a) Railway establishments
- b) Old and Sacred temples
- c) Nuclear and chemical establishments
- d) China-border protection

Q.66) Consider the following statements with respect to UNSC Non-Permanent members:

1. There are 10 non-permanent members in UNSC elected for a term of 2 years
2. India is a non-permanent member (2019-21)

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.67) Which of the following high court of India recently launched the Virtual Court?

- a) Telangana High Court
- b) Andhra Pradesh High Court
- c) Punjab & Haryana High Court
- d) Delhi High Court

Q.68) Vishwamitri River flows through which of the following below given states?

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

Q.69) Recently Ramon Magsaysay Award was announced and from India Ravish kumar selected for the award. Which of the following field he is belongs to?

- a) Sports field
- b) Health care
- c) Environmental protection
- d) Journalism

Q.70) Mangroves For the Future (MFF) was an initiative of which of the following institution?

- a) IUCN
- b) World Bank
- c) UNEP
- d) GEF

Q.71) “Order of Zayed” award was conferred to Narendra Modi recently, which of the following country was given this award?

- a) Afghanistan
- b) United Arab Emirates
- c) Saudi Arabia
- d) Yemen

Q.72) Parker Solar Probe was launched by which of the following space agency?

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

Q.73) Consider the following statements with respect to single-use plastic:

1. Single-use plastics, or disposable plastics, are used only once before they are thrown away or recycled
2. Indian Government set the target to phase-out single-use plastic by 2024

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.74) Consider the following statements with respect to livestock census:

1. Census conducts once in every 10 years
 2. First live stock census was conducted in 1919
- 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.75) From which year General Anti-Avoidance Rules (GAAR) came into force?

- a) 2016
- b) 2017
- c) 2018
- d) 2019

Q.76) Recently the committee to review the Direct taxes submitted its report to government. Who among the following headed the committee?

- a) Bimal Jalan
- b) Y V Reddy
- c) N K Singh
- d) Akhilesh Ranjan

Q.77) Mangdechhu hydro power project is developed by Indian government along with which of the following country?

- a) Nepal
- b) Bhutan
- c) Sri Lanka
- d) Bangladesh

Q.78) Article 370 is recently in news, which of the following given below options are correct?

- a) Special provisions related to Jammu & Kashmir
- b) Special provisions related to Andhra Pradesh
- c) Special provisions related to Gujarat
- d) Special provisions related to Maharashtra

Q.79) According to Greenpeace report which of the following country is the biggest emitter of sulphur?

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

Q.80) “Baoli” is recently in news, which of the following given below codes are correct?

- a) Water conservation method
- b) Protecting sacred groves
- c) Land forms formed by glacier
- d) Indigenous medicinal plant

Q.81) Consider the following statements with respect to Global Adult Tobacco Survey (GATS):

1. GATS is a nationally representative household survey that was launched in 2007
2. The GATS enables countries to collect data on adult tobacco use and key tobacco control measures

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.82) BARTI, SARTHI and MAHAJYOTI are educational and economical initiatives to uplift backward communities. Which of the following given below state started these initiatives?

- a) Madhya Pradesh
- b) Maharashtra
- c) Telangana
- d) Uttar Pradesh

Q.83) Who among the following release the Prime Global Cities Index?

- a) Knight Frank
- b) Moody’s
- c) World economic forum
- d) Asian Development Bank

Q.84) Consider the following acts which govern the Indian telecommunications sector:

1. Indian Telegraph Act 1885
2. Indian Wireless Act 1933
3. Information Technology Act 2000
4. Communication Convergence Bill 2001

Which of the following below given codes are correct?

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

Q.85) Consider the following statements with respect to Chandrayaan-2 mission:

1. Missions Lander is pragyan
2. Missions rover is vikram
3. Mission aims to explore north pole of moon

Which of the following below given codes are correct?

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

Q.86) Which of the following state launched “Super 50” initiative for tribal students to prepare them for engineering and medical exams?

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

Q.87) Pamba River flows in which of the following state?

- a) Kerala
- b) Tamilnadu
- c) Karnataka
- d) Maharashtra

Q.88) Consider the following statements with respect to National Initiative for School Heads' and Teachers' Holistic Advancement (NISHTHA):

1. It aims to build competencies among all the teachers and school principals at the elementary and secondary school stage
2. The functionaries shall be trained in an integrated manner on learning outcomes, school based assessment, learner-centered pedagogy.

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.89) Consider the following statements with respect to Participatory Notes (P-Notes):

1. Participatory notes are offshore derivative instruments with Indian shares as underlying assets
2. P-Notes allow foreign investors with high net worth, hedge funds, to participate in the Indian markets by registering with the SEBI.

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.90) 3R strategy used to control which of the following?

- a) Waste minimization
- b) Pest control
- c) Fertilizer production
- d) None of the above

Q.91) Consider the following statements with respect to Sharavati River:

1. Sharavati River flows through Karnataka and Kerala states
2. Jog Falls formed by Sharavati river
3. It is one of the west flowing river

Which of the following below given codes are correct?

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

Q.92) Consider the following statements with respect to Smart India Hackathon (SIH):

1. First edition of SIH held in 2016
2. SIH is a pan India 36 hour nonstop digital programming competition

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.93) Consider the following statements with respect to Oxytocin:

1. Oxytocin is also called as Love Hormone or Cuddle Hormone
2. Private manufacturing of Oxytocin was banned in 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.94) Consider the following statements with respect to Tax holiday:

1. A tax holiday is a government incentive program that offers a tax reduction or elimination to businesses
2. In India, start-ups with annual turnover up to 50crore to get a tax holiday

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.95) FEDOR a humanoid robot sent to space by which of the following country?

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

Q.96) Consider the following statements with respect to Comprehensive Water Management Index:

1. Index is prepared by ministry of environment, forest and climate change
2. Gujarat tops the index in 2019
3. Delhi included in index first time in 2019

Which of the following given below codes are correct?

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

Q.97) “Zero-Yield Standard” is recently in news related to which of the following?

- a) Nuclear weapons
- b) Capital market bonds
- c) Climate change
- d) Agricultural research

Q.98) Consider the following statements with respect to Essential Commodities Act:

1. Act was passed in 1965
2. Under act government can regulate the production, supply and distribution of essential commodities
3. Items included are drugs, fertilizers, pulses and agricultural produce

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.99) Consider the following statements with respect to UNESCO:

1. UNESCO's programmes contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goal
2. UNESCO coordinates Tsunami early warning systems all over the globe
3. UNESCO stands up for freedom of expression and condemns the killing of journalists

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.100) Which state in India deployed artificial reefs to protect the Islands?

- a) Tamilnadu
- b) Andhra Pradesh
- c) Karnataka
- d) Gujarat

Q.101) Which of the following multilateral institution launched the Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS)?

- a) World Economic Forum
- b) International Monetary Fund
- c) World Bank
- d) Asian Development Bank

Q.102) Consider the following statements with respect to Blue Whale:

1. The blue whale is the largest animal ever known to have existed
2. Blue whale falls in schedule II of the wildlife (protection) Act, 1972

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.103) Consider the following pollutants covered under National Clean Air Programme:

1. Nitrogen oxide
2. Sulphur dioxide
3. Carbon dioxide
4. Particulate matter

Which of the following below given codes are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only

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

Q.104) Consider the following statements with respect to Open Government Data platform:

1. Platform promotes transparency in the functioning of government
2. The base Open Government Data Platform India is a joint initiative of Government of India and Britain Government.

Which of the following below given codes are correct?

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

Q.105) Consider the following statements with respect to G-7 group:

1. G-7 consists of most advanced and developed nations
2. EU is a non-enumerated member of the group
3. Donald Trump invited Indian prime minister as a special guest to attend G-7 meeting

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.106) Consider the following statements with respect to Left Wing Extremism (LWE)

Division:

1. Division was created in 1996 under Ministry of Home Affairs
2. The LWE Division implements security related schemes aimed at capacity building in the LWE affected States
3. The states of Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand and Bihar etc., considered LWE affected

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.107) Recently which country was put on a terror “blacklist” by Financial Action Task Force (FATF)?

- a) Afghanistan
- b) Iran
- c) Pakistan
- d) North Korea

Q.108) Consider the following missions related to work on the surface of Mars:

1. Curiosity
2. InSight
3. Odyssey
4. MAVEN

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) 1 only

Q.109) Consider the following statements with respect to CoP-18 of CITES:

1. CoP-17 was held in California (USA)
 2. CoP-18 was scheduled to held in Sri lanka
- 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) India is going to build and operate the World's first space-based automatic identification system (AIS) to track merchant ships on a real-time basis along with which of the following country?

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

Q.111) The Government of India enacted an Act to combat corruption in government agencies and public sector businesses?

- a) Prevention of Corruption Act, 1968
- b) Prevention of Corruption Act, 1978
- c) Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988
- d) Prevention of Corruption Act, 1998

Q.112) Consider the following statements with respect to Barak valley districts:

1. Karimganj
2. Cachar
3. Hailakandi
4. Karbi anglong
5. Dima hasao

Which of the following consists of Barak valley districts?

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

Q.113) Astra Rafael Communications (ARC) would be India's first private sector company to manufacture cutting-edge Software Defined Radios in multiple variants, launched in which city?

- a) Lucknow
- b) Gandhinagar
- c) Bengaluru
- d) Hyderabad

Q.114) Consider the following statements with respect to child well-being index:

1. Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Himachal Pradesh topped the charts of index
2. Report was published by NITI Aayog

Which of the following below given codes are correct?

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

Q.115) Consider the following statements with respect to United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD):

1. India is going to host CoP-14 of UNCCD
2. This is second time India going to host CoP meeting of UNCCD

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.116) Consider the following statements with respect to Subansiri River:

1. It is one of the tributaries of the Ganga River
2. River is Also Known As Gold River
3. The Lower Subansiri Dam is a hydroelectric power project of NHPC Limited under construction with a capacity of 2,000 MW on the Subansiri River

Which of the following below given codes are correct?

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

Q.117) Which among the following mentioned species has been listed under Appendix I of CITES:

1. Star Tortoise
2. Small clawed otters
3. Indian flapshell Turtle
4. Smooth coated otter

Select the correct answer from codes given below:

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

Q.118) Consider the following statements about antimicrobial resistance in India:

1. Madhya Pradesh became the first state to develop an action plan to manage antimicrobial resistance (AMR).
2. India has no National action plan for AMR.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q.119) Amazon forest covers most of the South America. Which of the following country doesn't have Amazon forest region within its territory?

- a) Guyana
- b) Paraguay
- c) Venezuela
- d) Equador

Q.120) Consider the following statement about Leprosy in India:

- 1. India eliminated leprosy in 2005.
- 2. As per WHO, 'elimination' is a prevalence level of less than one in 1,00,000 people.
- 3. Since 2005, no new cases have been reported in India.

Which of the above given statement is/are correct?

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

Q.121) Consider the following statements with respect to usage of Compensatory Afforestation Fund (CAF):

- 1. Catchment are treatment
- 2. Forest fire prevention
- 3. Travelling allowances for forest officials

Which of the following below given codes are correct?

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

Q.122) Consider the following statements with respect to "Kabini River":

- 1. Kabini River flows through Goa and Karnataka
- 2. It is a tributary of Cauvery River

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.123) Consider the following statements with respect to Golden Chariot Train:

- 1. Only luxury train from South India
- 2. It was started by Tamil Nadu government
- 3. It offers a mix of heritage, culture, eco-tourism and beach life

Which of the following below given codes are correct?

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

Q.124) Which of the following below given items got the Geographical Indication Tag?

1. Dindigul Lock
2. Kandangi Saree
3. Pedana Kalamkari

Choose the correct one out of given below codes?

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

Q.125) Which of the following sectors permitted 100% FDI?

1. Coal mining
2. Agriculture and animal husbandry
3. Real estate business

Choose the correct one out of given below codes?

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

Q.126) Which of the following states passes the bill to prevent, punish mob lynching?

1. Rajasthan
2. Madhya Pradesh
3. West Bengal
4. Andhra Pradesh

Choose the correct code given below?

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

Q.127) Which of the following country launched SPACECOM-command for Space Warfare?

- a) USA
- b) JAPAN
- c) FRANCE
- d) CHINA

Q.128) Which of the following criteria had taken by RBI to asses' public sector banks under Prompt Corrective Action (PCA)?

1. Capital Ratio
2. Asset Quality
3. Profitability

Choose the correct code from given below?

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

Q.129) Which of the following is recently added to World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WBNR)?

- a) Simlipal
- b) Nokrek
- c) Khangchendzonga
- d) Agasthamalai

Q.130) Consider the following statements with respect to Estuarine Biology Regional Centre (EBRC):

1. In India more than 20 EBRCs
2. Primary objective of this centre is to conduct investigations on faunal diversity of estuaries only

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

Answer Key

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

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

Qs.	Ans.	Qs.	Ans.	Qs.	Ans.
101	B	111	C	121	A
102	A	112	B	122	B
103	D	113	D	123	B
104	A	114	A	124	D
105	B	115	A	125	C
106	D	116	C	126	C
107	C	117	C	127	A
108	A	118	D	128	D
109	B	119	B	129	C
110	D	120	A	130	D

Explanation

1. The equalization levy, introduced in 2016, is a direct tax on payments made by residents to non-resident companies for online advertisement, provision of digital and advertising space or any other facility or service for online advertisement.

2. The Bill proposes huge increases in various penalties for traffic violations, protection to Good Samaritans, and recall of defective vehicle parts by auto companies, holding builders accountable for poor quality of infrastructure and making vehicle owners criminally liable for violations committed by juvenile drivers.

- It makes Aadhaar mandatory for getting a driving licence and vehicle registration.
- For deaths in hit-and-run cases, the government will provide a compensation of Rs 2 lakh or more to the victim's family. Currently, the amount is just Rs 25,000.
- In traffic violations by juveniles, the guardians or owner of the vehicle would be held responsible unless they prove the offence was committed without their knowledge or they tried to prevent it. The registration of the motor vehicle in question will be cancelled. The juvenile will be tried under the Juvenile Justice Act.
- The bill has provision for protection of Good Samaritans. Those who come forward to help accident victims will be protected from civil or criminal liability
- The minimum fine for drunk driving has been increased from Rs 2,000 to Rs 10,000.
- The fine for rash driving has been increased from Rs 1,000 to Rs 5,000.

3. CCEA has a mandate to review economic trends on a continuous basis, as also the problems and prospects, with a view to evolving a consistent and integrated economic policy framework for the country. It also directs and coordinates all policies and activities in the economic field including foreign investment that require policy decisions at the highest level.

Matters regarding fixation of prices of agricultural products as well as reviewing progress of activities related to rural development including those concerning small and marginal farmers are in CCEA's competence. Price controls of industrial raw materials and products, industrial licensing policies including industrial licensing cases for establishment of Joint Sector Undertakings, reviewing performance of Public Sector Undertakings including their structural and financial restructuring are also within the purview of CCEA, as are all matters relating to disinvestment including cases of strategic sale, and pricing of

Government shares in Public Sector Undertakings (except to the extent entrusted to an Empowered Group of Ministers).

The CCEA also lays down priorities for public sector investment and considers specific proposals for investment of not less than specific levels (Rs. 3 Billion at present) as revised from time to time. It is important to note that the increase in the prices of essential commodities or bulk goods under any form of formal or informal control is decided by the CCEA, even as the CCP monitors the price behavior of essential commodities, takes decision on supply, imports and exports of essential commodities and prices for articles sold through the public distribution system.

4. Government of India has introduced a pension scheme for unorganised workers namely Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-dhan (PM-SYM) to ensure old age protection for Unorganised Workers. The unorganised workers mostly engaged as home based workers, street vendors, mid-day meal workers, head loaders, brick kiln workers, cobblers, rag pickers, domestic workers, washer men, rickshaw pullers, landless labourers, own account workers, agricultural workers, construction workers, beedi workers, handloom workers, leather workers, audio- visual workers and similar other occupations whose monthly income is Rs 15,000/ per month or less and belong to the entry age group of 18-40 years. They should not be covered under New Pension Scheme (NPS), Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) scheme or Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO). Further, he/she should not be an income tax payer.

5. Fertilizer subsidy is the difference between the holding price of fertilizers and the price at which fertilizers are made available to consumers. For sustained agricultural growth and to promote balanced nutrient application, the fertilizers are made available to farmers at affordable prices. Financial support is also given on both indigenous and imported urea.

- At present, subsidies are paid to fertilizer companies on the basis of receipt of fertilizer at identified godowns in districts.
- Fertilizer subsidies would be transferred to manufacturers on the basis of actual sales.
- With the new system, a PoS machine would be installed in every fertilizer godowns.
- It captures the buyer's identity based on Aadhaar biometric authentication, with the quantities purchased.
- This move which will pave the way for implementation of the direct benefit transfer (DBT) system.

6. Bandipur National Park was formed by including most of the forest areas of the then Venugopala Wildlife Park established under Govt. Notification dated 19th February 1941 and the area was enlarged in 1985 extending over an area of 874.20 Sq.Km and named as Bandipur National Park. This reserve was brought under Project Tiger in 1973.

Subsequently some adjacent reserve forest areas were added to the reserve and extending to 880.02 Sq. Km. The present area under the control of Bandipur Tiger Reserve is 912.04 Sq. Km. An area of 39.80 Sq. Km of KFDC plantation area was handed over to this division during 2007-08. During 2010-11 the Nugu Wildlife Sanctuary was handed over to Wildlife Division, Mysore, and Karnataka.

7. Started in 1948 by the US-based Institute of Supply Management, the Purchasing Managers' Index, or PMI, has now become one of the most closely watched indicators of business activity across the world. PMI or a Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) is an indicator of business activity-both in the manufacturing and services sectors. It is a survey-based measure that asks the respondents about changes in their perception of some key

business variables from the month before. It is calculated separately for the manufacturing and services sectors and then a composite index is constructed.

8. HYDERABAD: City-based National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR) are all set to host the Third Edition of Rural Innovators Startup Conclave (RISC) on September 27 and 28, 2019 at the institute's campus in Rajendra nagar. The last date for submitting applications online (for rural innovators, startups and students) is August 30. The two-day unique conclave will serve as a platform to showcase a wide array of budding entrepreneurs, rural innovators and aspirant startups to demonstrate their design ideas, innovations, technologies, pitch, and get an opportunity to receive learning and mentoring support. Being introduced in the memory of late Dr APJ Abdul Kalam, RISC-2019 seeks to provide a platform to innovators and entrepreneurs to showcase their innovations and connect them with potential funding and network support. The best innovations and startups identified will be awarded cash prizes of one lakh rupees for startups and fifty thousand rupees for innovators.

9. The International Seabed Authority is an autonomous international organization established under the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and the 1994 Agreement relating to the Implementation of Part XI of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. The Authority is the organization through which States Parties to the Convention shall, in accordance with the regime for the seabed and ocean floor and subsoil thereof beyond the limits of national jurisdiction (the Area) established in Part XI and the Agreement organize and control activities in the Area, particularly with a view to administering the resources of the Area. The Authority, which has its headquarters in Kingston, Jamaica, came into existence on 16 November 1994, upon the entry into force of the 1982 Convention. The Authority became fully operational as an autonomous international organization in June 1996, when it took over the premises and facilities in Kingston, Jamaica previously used by the United Nations Kingston Office for the Law of the Sea. Meetings of the Authority are held at the Jamaica Conference Centre in downtown Kingston. There are one hundred and sixty eight (168) members of the International Seabed Authority as at 25 July 2017.

10. The main objectives of the scheme are to:

(i) Create new jobs and reduce unemployment (ii) Promote entrepreneurship culture in India (iii) Boost Grassroots economic development at district level (iv) Facilitate innovative business solution for un-met social needs, and (v) Promote innovation to further strengthen the competitiveness of the MSME sector.

11. Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) is a joint venture of four national Public-Sector Undertakings – NTPC Limited, Power Finance Corporation Limited, Rural Electrification Corporation Limited and POWERGRID Corporation of India Limited. As South Asia's first and foremost energy efficiency leader, EESL leads the market-related activities of the National Mission for Enhanced Energy Efficiency (NMEEE), one of the eight national missions under the Prime Minister's National Action Plan on Climate Change.

Implementing the world's largest energy efficiency portfolio

- Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LEDs for All (UJALA): World's largest zero-subsidy domestic LED bulb programme
- Street Lighting National Programme (SLNP): World's largest street light replacement programme
- Agriculture Demand Side management (AgDSM): World's largest Agricultural Demand Side Management programme

12. The Dudhaganga (or Dudhganga, Doodhganga) is a right bank tributary river of the Krishna in western India. It rises in Sindhudurg district of Maharashtra in the Western Ghats and flows eastward through Kolhapur district and Belgaum district in Karnataka before joining the Krishna. In parts of its course it forms part of the boundary between Karnataka and Maharashtra.

13. The act recognize and vest the forest rights and occupation in Forest land in forest Dwelling Scheduled Tribes (FDST) and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (OTFD) who have been residing in such forests for generations. The act also establishes the responsibilities and authority for sustainable use, conservation of biodiversity and maintenance of ecological balance of FDST and OTFD. It strengthens the conservation regime of the forests while ensuring livelihood and food security of the FDST and OTFD. It seeks to rectify colonial injustice to the FDST and OTFD who are integral to the very survival and sustainability of the forest ecosystem.

The act identifies four types of rights:

- Title rights: It gives FDST and OTFD the right to ownership to land farmed by tribals or forest dwellers subject to a maximum of 4 hectares. Ownership is only for land that is actually being cultivated by the concerned family and no new lands will be granted.
- Use rights: The rights of the dwellers extend to extracting Minor Forest Produce, grazing areas, to pastoralist routes, etc.
- Relief and development rights: To rehabilitation in case of illegal eviction or forced displacement and to basic amenities, subject to restrictions for forest protection
- Forest management rights: It includes the right to protect, regenerate or conserve or manage any community forest resource which they have been traditionally protecting and conserving for sustainable use.

14. Article 35A is a provision incorporated in the Constitution giving the Jammu and Kashmir Legislature a carte blanche to decide who all are 'permanent residents' of the State and confer on them special rights and privileges in public sector jobs, acquisition of property in the State, scholarships and other public aid and welfare. The provision mandates that no act of the legislature coming under it can be challenged for violating the Constitution or any other law of the land.

How did it come about?

Article 35A was incorporated into the Constitution in 1954 by an order of the then President Rajendra Prasad on the advice of the Jawaharlal Nehru Cabinet. The controversial Constitution (Application to Jammu and Kashmir) Order of 1954 followed the 1952 Delhi Agreement entered into between Nehru and the then Prime Minister of Jammu and Kashmir Sheikh Abdullah, which extended Indian citizenship to the 'State subjects' of Jammu and Kashmir.

The Presidential Order was issued under Article 370 (1) (d) of the Constitution. This provision allows the President to make certain "exceptions and modifications" to the Constitution for the benefit of 'State subjects' of Jammu and Kashmir.

So Article 35A was added to the Constitution as a testimony of the special consideration the Indian government accorded to the 'permanent residents' of Jammu and Kashmir.

15. Institutions of Eminence scheme has been launched in order to implement the commitment of the Government to empower the Higher Educational Institutions and to help them become world class teaching and research institutions, as announced by the Hon'ble Finance Minister in his budget speech of 2016. Ten public and ten private institutions are to be identified to emerge as world-class Teaching and Research Institutions. This will

enhance affordable access to high quality education for ordinary Indians. Accordingly, UGC notified 'UGC (Institutions of Eminence Deemed to be Universities) Regulations, 2017' for private institutions and guidelines 'UGC (Declaration

16. Public housing programme in the country started with the rehabilitation of refugees immediately after independence and since then, it has been a major focus area of the Government as an instrument of poverty alleviation. Rural housing programme, as an independent programme, started with Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) in January 1996. Although IAY addressed the housing needs in the rural areas, certain gaps were identified during the concurrent evaluations and the performance Audit by Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India in 2014. These gaps, i.e. nonassessment of housing The shortage, lack of transparency in selection of beneficiaries, low the quality of the house and lack of technical supervision, lack convergence, loans not availed by beneficiaries and weak the mechanism for monitoring was limiting the impact and outcomes of the programme. To address these gaps in the rural housing program and in view of Government's commitment to providing "Housing for All" by the scheme 2022, the IAY has been re-structured into Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana –Gramin (PMAY-G) w.e.f. 1st April 2016.

PMAY-G aims at providing a pucca house, with basic amenities, to all houseless householder and those households living in kutcha and dilapidated house, by 2022. The immediate the objective is to cover 1.00 crore household living in kutcha house/dilapidated house in three years from 2016-17 to 2018- 19. The minimum size of the house has been increased to 25 sq.mt (from 20sq.mt) with a hygienic cooking space. The unit assistance has been increased from Rs. 70,000 to Rs. 1.20 lakh in plain and from Rs 75,000 to Rs 1.30 lakh in hilly states, difficult areas and IAP district. The beneficiary is entitled to 90.95 person day of unskilled labour from MGNREGS. The assistance for construction of toilet shall be leveraged though convergence with SBM-G, MGNREGS or any other dedicated the source of funding. Convergence for piped drinking water, electricity connection, LPG gas connection etc. different Government programmers are also to be attempted.

17. India's first Disaster Risk Index was released in June 2018. The index prepared by the Home Ministry in association with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) is now in the form of a draft report. According to which Maharashtra is the most vulnerable state in India i.e. is at top position. The disaster index is currently in form of a draft, which is yet to be officially released by the Centre. The list was prepared by the Ministry of Home Affairs in coordination with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Maharashtra is followed by West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh respectively. While Delhi is at 'most risk' among Union Territories. The index gauges potential hazards and disasters across the 640 districts. It has been ranked on the basis of the disadvantages of population, animal, agriculture and environment against the disasters. According to the index in the recent past, some states like Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Assam, Tripura, and Himachal Pradesh have taken significant steps in Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR). Among districts, Maharashtra's Pune tops the list with a vulnerability factor of 9.48 on a scale of 10.

18. The Ministry of Road Transport & Highways has issued notification no GSR 547(E) dated 1st August 2019, exempting the armoured and other specialised vehicles of Indian armed forces and paramilitary forces from the new stringent vehicular emission norms (BS-VI) which are set to take effect from 1st April, 2020. The Ministry has also granted exemption to these vehicles from BS-IV compliance.

The exemption has been granted because these vehicles operate in remote and inhospitable terrains with most challenging operational and environmental conditions. Due to security challenges and requirements of specialized operations, the development of suitable engine

compliant with the above norms would require considerable time. Further, it is difficult to maintain ideal transportation and storage conditions of fuel in these conditions.

19. Greta Thunberg, the 16-year-old Swedish climate activist, recently announced that she will cross the Atlantic Ocean by boat to attend a United Nations global warming summit in New York. She does not believe in flying in airplanes, for the obvious reason that air travel is a contributor to the carbon emissions problem.

20. The mid nineties and the subsequent decade saw much international debate & discussion around Disaster Response & Preparedness. Some of the notable and more impactful ones were the Yokohama Strategy Plan (1994) & the Hyogo Framework for Action (2005), adopted by the UN. The Sendai Framework is a 15year, voluntary, non-binding agreement which recognizes that the State has the primary role to reduce disaster risk but that responsibility should be shared with other stakeholders including local government, the private sector and other stakeholders.

21. Uday (Utkrisht Double Decker Air Conditioned Yatri) Express trains are specially designed air-conditioned chair car trains of Indian Railways. These express trains are primarily allocated on the busier routes to increase the carrying capacity. Wi-Fi facility, striking interiors, cushioned seating, and display screens are a few of the attractions of UDAY Express. The first service of the train was flagged off between Coimbatore Junction and Bangalore in June 2018. The Express consists of nine double-decker coaches and two power cars.

22. Regulation of surrogacy: The Bill prohibits commercial surrogacy, but allows altruistic surrogacy. Altruistic surrogacy involves no monetary compensation to the surrogate mother other than the medical expenses and insurance coverage during the pregnancy. Commercial surrogacy includes surrogacy or its related procedures undertaken for a monetary benefit or reward (in cash or kind) exceeding the basic medical expenses and insurance coverage.

- Purposes for which surrogacy is permitted: Surrogacy is permitted when it is: (i) for intending couples who suffer from proven infertility; (ii) altruistic; (iii) not for commercial purposes; (iv) not for producing children for sale, prostitution or other forms of exploitation; and (v) for any condition or disease specified through regulations.
- Appropriate authority: The central and state governments shall appoint one or more appropriate authorities within 90 days of the Bill becoming an Act. The functions of the appropriate authority include; (i) granting, suspending or cancelling registration of surrogacy clinics; (ii) enforcing standards for surrogacy clinics; (iii) investigating and taking action against breach of the provisions of the Bill; (iv) recommending modifications to the rules and regulations.
- Registration of surrogacy clinics: Surrogacy clinics cannot undertake surrogacy related procedures unless they are registered by the appropriate authority. Clinics must apply for registration within a period of 60 days from the date of appointment of the appropriate authority.

23. India has slipped one notch in the World Bank's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) rankings in 2018, and is now the seventh-largest economy with the United Kingdom and France ahead of India. In 2018, India's GDP was \$2.72 trillion, while that of the United Kingdom was \$2.82 trillion and France was \$2.77 trillion. The world's top four economies in the World Bank list in 2018 were the United States, with a GDP of \$20.5 trillion, followed

by China (\$13.6 trillion), Japan (\$4.9 trillion) and Germany (\$3.9 trillion). In 2017, India had overtaken France as the sixth largest economy.

24. NASA's MESSENGER spacecraft orbited Mercury for more than four years. Among its accomplishments, the mission determined Mercury's surface composition, revealed its geological history, discovered details about its internal magnetic field, and verified its polar deposits are dominantly water-ice. The mission ended when MESSENGER slammed into Mercury's surface.

25. It is a standard item of the bridal trousseau at Tamil weddings, with the names of the bride and the groom inscribed on it. Indeed, the fine, handmade Pathamadai mat, which is made of Korai grass, is a symbol of pride for Tamil Nadu. It has even been granted Geographical Indication (GI) status by the trademarks and GI authorities.

26. Following dams are constructed on Krishna River

- Dhom Dam
- Hippagiri barrage
- Almatti Dam
- Narayanpur Dam
- Bhima Dam
- Jurala Dam
- Srisaïlam Dam
- Nagarjuna Sagar Dam
- Nagarjuna Sagar tail pond
- Pulichinthala Dam
- Prakasam Barrage
- Tungabhadra Dam
- Rajolibanda barrage
- Sunkesula barrage

27. The Centre has informed the Delhi High Court that it has initiated the process for an inter-ministerial consultation on raising the gestation period for terminating pregnancy in case of health risk to the mother or foetus. The Centre has informed the Delhi High Court that it has initiated the process for an inter-ministerial consultation on raising the gestation period for terminating pregnancy in case of health risk to the mother or foetus.

28. In a bid to bring in consistency in enforcing food safety regulations and standards across States, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) is set to launch its 'One Nation One Food Law' initiative. The regulator is leveraging technology for uniform implementation of norms for testing and sampling by various States and labs.

29. The Bill provides for the surveillance, inspection, operation, and maintenance of specified dams across the country. It also provides for an institutional mechanism to ensure the safety of such dams.

Applicability of the Bill: The Bill applies to all specified dams in the country. These are dams with: (i) height more than 15 metres, or (ii) height between 10 metres to 15 metres and subject to certain additional design and structural conditions.

National Committee on Dam Safety: The National Committee on Dam Safety will be constituted and will be chaired by the Chairperson, Central Water Commission. All other members will be nominated by the central government, and include: (ii) up to 10

representatives of the central government, (iii) up to seven representatives of the state governments (by rotation), and (iv) up to three dam safety experts.

Functions of the Committee include: (i) formulating policies and regulations regarding dam safety standards and prevention of dam failures, and (ii) analysing causes of major dam failures and suggesting changes in dam safety practices.

National Dam Safety Authority: The National Dam Safety Authority will be headed by an officer, not below the rank of an Additional Secretary, who will be appointed by the central government. Functions of the Authority include: (i) implementing the policies formulated by the National Committee on Dam Safety, (ii) resolving issues between State Dam Safety Organisations (SDSOs), or between a SDSO and any dam owner in that state, (iii) specifying regulations for inspection and investigation of dams, and (iv) providing accreditation to agencies working on construction, design, and alteration of dams.

State Dam Safety Organisation: State governments will establish State Dam Safety Organisations (SDSOs). All specified dams situated in a state will fall under the jurisdiction of that state's SDSO. However, in certain cases the National Dam Safety Authority will act as the SDSO. These include cases where a dam: (i) is owned by one state but situated in another state, (ii) extends over multiple states, or (iii) is owned by a central public sector undertaking.

30. The 1987 Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty required the United States and the Soviet Union to eliminate and permanently forswear all of their nuclear and conventional ground-launched ballistic and cruise missiles with ranges of 500 to 5,500 kilometers. The treaty marked the first time the superpowers had agreed to reduce their nuclear arsenals, eliminate an entire category of nuclear weapons, and employ extensive on-site inspections for verification. As a result of the INF Treaty, the United States and the Soviet Union destroyed a total of 2,692 short, medium, and intermediate-range missiles by the treaty's implementation deadline of June 1, 1991.

31. The Bureau of Civil Aviation Security was initially set up as a Cell in the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) in January 1978 on the recommendation of the Pande Committee constituted in the wake of the hijacking of the Indian Airlines flight on 10th September, 1976. The role of the Cell was to coordinate, monitor, inspect and train personnel in Civil Aviation Security matters.

The BCAS was reorganized into an independent department on 1st April, 1987 under the Ministry of Civil Aviation as a sequel to the Kanishka Tragedy in June 1985. The main responsibility of BCAS are lay down standards and measures in respect of security of civil flights at International and domestic airports in India

32. The Environmental and Social Framework (ESF) enables the World Bank and Borrowers to better manage environmental and social risks of projects and to improve development outcomes. It was launched on October 1, 2018.

The ESF offers broad and systematic coverage of environmental and social risks. It makes important advances in areas such as transparency, non-discrimination, public participation, and accountability-including expanded roles for grievance mechanisms. It brings the World Bank's environmental and social protections into closer harmony with those of other development institutions.

33. Govt. of India has taken up the Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP) with the financial assistance of the World Bank for the repair and rehabilitation of initially about 225 dam projects across the seven states of India, namely Jharkhand (DVC), Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, and Uttarakhand (UJVNL). The

number of dams has been finally revised to 198. Project was started in April 2012 and scheduled completion is June 2018. The total project cost is Rs.2100 Crore. The objectives of DRIP are to improve the safety and operational performance of selected existing dams and associated appurtenances in a sustainable manner, and to strengthen the dam safety institutional setup of participating States / Implementing Agencies.

34. The Pench Tiger Reserve and its neighborhood is the original setting of Rudyard Kipling's most famous work, *The Jungle Book*. Kipling borrowed heavily from Robert Armitage Strendale's books 'Seonee', 'Mammalia of India and Ceylon' and 'Denizens of the Jungle' for the topography, wildlife, and its ways. Mowgli was inspired by Sir William Henry Sleeman's pamphlet, 'An Account of Wolves Nurturing Children in Their Dens' which describes a wolf-boy captured in Seoni district near the village of Sant Baori in 1831. Many of *The Jungle Book's* locations are actual locations in Seoni District, like the Waingunga River with its gorge where Sher Khan was killed, Kanhiwara village and the 'Seonee hills'.

35. When you borrow money from the bank, they charge an interest on the principal. Basically, it is cost of credit. Similarly, banks too can borrow money from RBI during cash crunch on which they must pay interest to the Central Bank. This interest rate is repo rate. Technically, Repo stands for 'Repurchasing Option'. It is a contract in which banks provide eligible securities such as Treasury Bills to the RBI while availing overnight loans. An agreement to buy them back at a predetermined price will also be in place. So, this interest rate is levied on these kinds of repo transactions as well.

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- On the other hand, when the RBI needs to pump funds into the system, it lowers repo rate. Consequentially, businesses and industries find it cheaper to borrow money for different investment purposes. It also increases the overall supply of money in the economy. This ultimately boosts the growth rate of the economy.

36. A differential interest rate scheme was introduced in 1974. Here, loans were provided at a low interest rate to the weakest among the weakest sections of the society.

- The Lead Bank scheme was introduced in 1969. Each district was assigned to one bank, where they acted as "pace-setters" in providing integrated banking facilities.
- The Regional Rural Banks (RRB) was established in 1975 to enlarge the supply of institutional credit to the rural areas.
- The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) was constituted in 1982 to regulate and supervise the functions of cooperative banks and RRBs.

37. CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) is an international agreement between governments. Its aim is to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival. CITES works by subjecting international trade in specimens of selected species to certain controls. All import, export, re-export and introduction from the sea of species covered by the Convention has to be authorized through a licensing system. Each Party to the Convention must designate one or more Management Authorities in charge of administering that licensing system and one or more Scientific Authorities to advise them on the effects of trade on the status of the species. The species covered by CITES are listed in three Appendices, according to the degree of protection they need.

38. On February 21, an Israeli lunar Lander called Beresheet (Hebrew for ‘the beginning’) began its journey to the Moon aboard a SpaceX rocket in its quest to be the first privately-funded spacecraft to land on the Moon. A month later, it was reported, Beresheet had crash-landed and was irredeemably broken except, for a curious, quirky payload called the Lunar Library.

The Lunar Library is a 30 million page archive of human history and civilization, covering all subjects, cultures, nations, languages, genres, and time periods. In the event of human extinction, it’s meant to be a ‘backup’ of earth-life.

39. Consumers’ perception on the general economic situation and the employment scenario has softened, according to the Reserve Bank of India’s Consumer Confidence Survey (CCS). CSI comprises five variables-economic situations, employment, price level, income and spending. CCS was conducted in 13 major cities and obtained 5,351 responses on households’ perceptions and expectations on the five variables.

40. The Erstwhile Indian Standards Institution (now Bureau of Indian Standards) was established in the year 1947 with the objective of harmonious development of standardization activity in India. The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) was established under the BIS Act, 1986 for the harmonious development of the activities of standardization, marking and quality certification of goods and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. A new Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 2016 which was notified on 22nd March 2016, has been brought into force with effect from 12 October 2017 that reinforces the activities of BIS in respect to standardization and certification of goods, articles, processes, systems and services.

41. CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) is an international agreement between governments. Its aim is to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival. CITES was drafted as a result of a resolution adopted in 1963 at a meeting of members of IUCN (The World Conservation Union). The Convention was finally agreed at a meeting of representatives of 80 countries in Washington DC, USA on 3 March 1973, and on 1 July 1975 CITES entered in force. CITES is an international agreement to which States and regional economic integration organizations adhere voluntarily. States that have agreed to be bound by the Convention (‘joined’ CITES) are known as Parties. Although CITES is legally binding on the Parties, in other words they have to implement the Convention. It does not take the place of national laws.

Annexes I, II and III list the species covered by the Convention

- Appendix I includes all species threatened with extinction which are or may be affected by trade. Trade in specimens of these species must be subject to particularly strict regulation in order not to endanger further their survival and must only be authorized in exceptional circumstances.
- Appendix II includes:
- all species which although not necessarily now threatened with extinction may become so unless trade in specimens of these species is subject to strict regulation in order to avoid utilization incompatible with their survival; and
- other species which must be subject to regulation in order that trade in specimens of certain species referred to in subparagraph above may be brought under effective control [e.g. species that are similar in appearance to those included in Appendix II].
- Appendix III includes all species which any Party identifies as being subject to regulation within its jurisdiction for the purpose of preventing or restricting exploitation, and as needing the cooperation of other Parties in the control of trade.

The Parties may not allow trade in specimens of species included in Appendices I, II and III except in accordance with the provisions of the Convention. Appendix IV contains the information to be included in a CITES permit or certificate.

42. Bengaluru-based Indian Institute of Horticulture Research (IIHR) has released its latest variety, Arka Suprabath, much to the delight of fruit connoisseurs. Developed by crossing four different varieties, the Arka Suprabath tree is said to live for up to 60 years. It is a double-cross hybrid developed by using parents Amrapali (which is a cross of Dashehari and Neelam) and Arka Anmol (which is a cross of Alphonso and Janardhan Pasand). Arka Suprabath is a rare variety as it has got Alphonso shape with the pulp colour of Amrapali. Tastewise, it is sweet with less acidic properties (0.12%). Its deep orange firm pulp is less fibrous than other varieties. Alphonso tends to show irregular bearing after 15 to 20 years of cultivation, but Arka Suprabath grows consistently in bunches.

43. As floodwaters gush to the Srisailem dam, the authorities have lifted four gates letting out over one lakh cusecs into the Krishna river. The dam has been getting heavy inflows, as much as 3.60 lakh cusecs, as rains lash Karnataka and Maharashtra. The authorities are also releasing 735 cusecs of water to the KC Canal through Muchumarri, 1,350 cusecs of water to Handri Neeva. The Mahatma Gandhi Kalwakurthy is drawing 1,600 cusecs of water.

44. Gujarati film 'Hellaro' was declared Best Feature Film winner while 'Badhai Ho' bagged the award for Best Popular Film Providing Wholesome Entertainment. Hindi movie 'Padman' was declared Best Film on Social Issues, while Kannada film 'Ondalla Eradalla' got Nargis Dutt Award for Best Feature Film on National Integration. Ayushman Khurana and Vicky Kaushal jointly won Best Actor Award for their performances in 'Andhadhun' and 'Uri: The Surgical Strike', while Keerthy Suresh was declared winner of Best Actress trophy for her performance in Telugu movie 'Mahanati'. Aditya Dhar won Best Director Award for 'Uri: The Surgical Strike'. Marathi movie Naal got the Indira Gandhi Award for Best Debut Film of a Director. 'Andhadhun' won the Best Hindi film Award. Uttarakhand was declared the Most Film Friendly State.

45. Expressing its abhorrence over the rising incidents of lynching across the country, the 2018 Supreme Court bench comprising the then Chief Justice of India, Dipak Misra, Justice AM Khanwilkar and Justice DY Chandrachud issued several guidelines as preventive measures. The Manipur Assembly has passed a bill which recommends life imprisonment for those involved in mob violence, if it results in the death of a person. Rajasthan Protection from Lynching Bill, 2019 gets passed, and Rajasthan became the second State after Manipur to have a dedicated law criminalizing mob lynching as a special offence.

Rajasthan Protection from Lynching Bill, 2019 aims to provide for effective protection of the Constitutional rights of vulnerable persons, to punish the acts of lynching, to provide for designated courts for the expeditious trial of such offences, for rehabilitation of victims of mob lynching and their families and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

46. The Commission may consider proposing measurable performance-based incentives for States, at the appropriate level of government, in following areas: (i) Efforts made by the States in expansion and deepening of tax net under GST; (ii) Efforts and Progress made in moving towards replacement rate of population growth; (iii) Achievements in implementation of flagship schemes of Government of India, disaster resilient

infrastructure, sustainable development goals, and quality of expenditure; (iv) Progress made in increasing capital expenditure, eliminating losses of power sector, and improving the quality of such expenditure in generating future income streams;

The Commission shall use the population data of 2011 while making its recommendations.

Chairman	N.K. Singh Former Member of Parliament and former Secretary to the Government of India
Member	Shri Ajay Narayan Jha Former Finance Secretary to the Government of India
Member	Dr. Anoop Singh Adjunct Professor, Georgetown University, USA.
Member	Dr. Ashok Lahiri Former Chief Economic Adviser, Ministry of Finance, Government of India and former Chairman (Non-executive) Bandhan Bank
Member (Part Time)	Dr. Ramesh Chand Member, NITI Aayog
Secretary	Shri Arvind Mehta

47. The Andhra Pradesh government decided to go ahead with the review of all PPAs. Principal advisor to Chief Minister, Ajeya Kallam, said that all PPAs signed during the term of the previous Telugu Desam Party (TDP) will be reviewed as they were causing huge losses to state exchequer. He said the review of all PPAs was necessary as the state agreed to pay higher tariff in the agreements signed with renewable power producers.

48. A laser-guided land leveller harnesses technology to accurately flatten a field in a fraction of the time used by a traditional oxen-powered scraper. The result will be farmers save precious groundwater and increase productivity by 10 to 15%. Such hitech levellers cost at least ₹3 lakh, way beyond the reach of the average small farmer. But a new app that's being described as "Uber for tractors" offers a solution. "We want farmers to have affordable access to cutting-edge technology at their doorsteps," says a senior Agriculture Ministry official. "There are now more than 38,000 custom hiring centres (CHCs) across the country, which rent out 2.5 lakh pieces of, farm equipment every year. By the end of the month, we plan to launch a new mobile app to efficiently connect farmers with these CHCs, just like Uber connects you to cabs."

49. The ninth edition of the Global Wealth Report published by the Credit Suisse Research Institute provides the most comprehensive and up-to-date source of information available on global household wealth. During the twelve months to mid-2018, aggregate global wealth rose by \$14.0 trillion (4.6%) to a combined total of \$317 trillion, outpacing population growth. Wealth per adult grew by 3.2%, raising global mean wealth to a record high of \$63,100 per adult. The US contributed most to global wealth adding \$6.3 trillion and taking its total to \$98 trillion. This continues its unbroken run of growth in both total wealth and wealth per adult every year since 2008. Unsurprisingly, China is now clearly established in second place of the world wealth hierarchy. The country overtook Japan with respect to the number of ultra-high net worth (UHNW) individuals in 2009, total wealth in 2011 and the number of millionaires in 2014.

50. 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.

51. Desertification and land degradation are major threats to agricultural productivity in our country. Combating desertification and land degradation is one of the thrust areas identified by the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Government of India, New Delhi. Space Applications Centre (SAC), ISRO, Ahmadabad along with 19 concerned partner institutes has carried out an inventory and monitoring of desertification of the entire country using Indian Remote Sensing Satellites (IRS) data in Geographical Information System (GIS) environment.

The maps and salient findings compiled in the form of an Atlas were released on the occasion of “World Day to Combat Desertification”, on June 17, 2016 jointly organized by MoEF&CC, and Arid Zone Forest Research Institute (AFRI) at Jodhpur, Rajasthan. This Atlas presents state-wise desertification and land degradation status maps depicting land use, process of degradation and severity level. This was prepared using IRS Advanced Wide Field Sensor (AWiFS) data of 2011-13 and 2003-05 time frames in GIS environment. Area under desertification / land degradation for the both time frames and changes are reported state-wise as well as for the entire country. The outputs are helpful in prioritizing areas to be taken up for minimizing the impact of desertification and land degradation.

52. The Ministry of Labour and Employment had constituted an expert committee on 17 January 2017, under the Chairmanship Dr. Anoop Satpathy, Fellow, V. V. Giri National Labour Institute (VVGNI) to review and recommend methodology for fixation of National Minimum Wage (NMW). The Expert Committee has submitted its report on “Determining the Methodology for Fixation of the National Minimum Wage” to the Government of India through the Secretary, Ministry of Labour and Employment on 14-02-2019. The report has recommended fixing the need based national minimum wage for India at INR 375 per day (or INR 9,750 per month) as of July 2018, irrespective of sectors, skills, occupations and rural-urban locations for a family comprising of 3.6 consumption units. It has also recommended to introduce an additional house rent allowance (city compensatory allowance), averaging up to INR 55 per day i.e., INR 1,430 per month for urban workers over and above the NMW. Apart from proposing the level of a single national minimum wage at an all-India level, the report has also estimated and recommended different national minimum wages for different geographical regions of the country to suit the local realities and as per socio-economic and labour market contexts. For the Purpose of estimating national minimum wages at regional levels it has grouped the states into five regions based on a composite index and have recommended region specific national minimum wages.

53. The Minamata Convention on Mercury is a global treaty to protect human health and the environment from the adverse effects of mercury. The Convention draws attention to a global and ubiquitous metal that, while naturally occurring, has broad uses in everyday objects and is released to the atmosphere, soil and water from a variety of sources.

Controlling the anthropogenic releases of mercury throughout its lifecycle has been a key factor in shaping the obligations under the Convention.

Major highlights of the Minamata Convention include a ban on new mercury mines, the phase-out of existing ones, the phase out and phase down of mercury use in a number of

products and processes, control measures on emissions to air and on releases to land and water, and the regulation of the informal sector of artisanal and small-scale gold mining. The Convention also addresses interim storage of mercury and its disposal once it becomes waste, sites contaminated by mercury as well as health issues.

54. The Department of IT, BT and S&T in Karnataka, through Karnataka Innovation and Technology Society (KITS), has launched the E-Step, an initiative to empower student start-ups. E-Step focuses on boot camps, mentoring and training programmes which cover various aspects of entrepreneurship. E-Step, an initiative from Start-up Cell, is a specially crafted for students/start-ups/entrepreneurs to understand the basics of entrepreneurship from experienced trainers.

55. The oil which contains sulfur amount less than 0.5% is called Sweet Crude Oil. If the Sulfur content is more than 0.5%, it will be called Sour Crude Oil. The Brent crude oil is having around 0.37% Sulfur and that is why Brent Crude Oil is a Sweet crude Oil. Brent Crude is extracted from the North Sea and comprises Brent Blend, Forties Blend, Oseberg and Ekofisk crudes (also known as the BFOE Quotation). The Brent Crude oil marker is also known as Brent Blend, London Brent and Brent petroleum.

56. Development of Early warning system to predict Air Quality and Weather for Indian metropolitan cities namely- "SAFAR" (System of Air quality and Weather Forecasting And Research). Establishment of MAPAN (Modeling Air Pollution And Networking) –A national monitoring Network for atmospheric chemical parameters.

57. The Government of India has approved the NEF (Interest Subsidy) Scheme to promote capital investment in the distribution sector by providing interest subsidy, linked with reform measures, on the loans taken by public and private power utilities for various capital works under Distribution projects. This scheme shall be applicable in the entire country and all the works except the works covered under & R-APDRP projects (to ensure non-duplication and non-overlapping of grant/subsidy towards investment). NEF Scheme has the provision to provide interest subsidy and other charges aggregating to Rs.8,466crore for a period of 14 years on loans availed by distribution utilities in both public and private sector.

58. Volkswagen India was recently awarded with a certificate of appreciation for the initiatives undertaken for 'the advancement of the government Industrial Training Institute (ITI) in Pimpri, Chinchwad.

The felicitation function was held to recognize the continuous support and investment that corporate such as Volkswagen India were making to impart skills and improve employability of youth in the State.

59. Gadgil Commission, an environmental research commission is named after its chairman Madhav Gadgil. The commission is formally known as Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel (WGEEP). The Kasturirangan committee was constituted to examine the WGEEP report. The committee is often called HLWG – it denotes the 10 member high-level working group (HLWG), headed by Kasturirangan.

60. As per as Corporate Social Responsibility is concerned, the Companies Act, 2013 is a landmark legislation that made India the first country to mandate and quantify CSR expenditure. The inclusion of CSR is an attempt by the government to engage the businesses with the national development agenda. The details of on corporate social

responsibility are mentioned in the Section 135 of the Companies Act, 2013. The Act came into force from April 1, 2014, every company, private limited or public limited, which either has a net worth of Rs 500 crore or a turnover of Rs 1,000 crore or net profit of Rs 5 crore, needs to spend at least 2% of its average net profit for the immediately preceding three financial years on Corporate social responsibility activities. The CSR activities in India should not be undertaken in the normal course of business and must be with respect to any of the activities mentioned in Schedule VII of the act.

61. At the national/regional level, trademark protection can be obtained through registration, by filing an application for registration with the national/regional trademark office and paying the required fees. At the international level, you have two options: either you can file a trademark application with the trademark office of each country in which you are seeking protection, or you can use WIPO's Madrid System. The Madrid System is a convenient and cost-effective solution for registering and managing trademarks worldwide. File a single application and pay one set of fees to apply for protection in up to 121 countries. Modify, renew or expand your global trademark portfolio through one centralized system.

62. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) provides export credit refinance facility to banks under Section 17(3A) of the Reserve Bank of India Act 1934. This facility is given on the basis of banks' eligible outstanding rupee export credit both at the pre-shipment and post-shipment stages. The quantum of refinance is fixed from time to time based on the stance of monetary policy of the RBI.

63. The government has set up a working group under Niti Aayog member Ramesh Chand to revise the current series of Wholesale Price Index (WPI) with base 2011-12 and devise a new Producer Price Index (PPI).

64. In continuation of various Amnesty schemes introduced by States such as Gujarat, Kerala, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Haryana and Rajasthan, the Central Government, to "unload the baggage of more than INR 3.75 lakh crores (3750bn) blocked in litigations in service tax and excise and allow the business to move on" has proposed to introduce a legacy dispute resolution scheme (scheme). This will allow quick closure of pre-GST litigations.

65. Railway's commando unit, Commandos for Railway Safety (CORAS), whose first deployment will be in Maoist -hit areas of Chhattisgarh, will have a state-of-the-art facility exclusively for training in Haryana's Jagadhri city. The commando unit is being envisaged as a responder for any situation pertaining to damage, disturbance, and disruption of train operations, attack/hostage/hijack, and disaster situations in railway areas

66. The Council is composed of 15 Members:

Five permanent members: China, France, Russian Federation, the United Kingdom, and the United States, and ten non-permanent members elected for two-year terms by the General Assembly (with end of term year):

Belgium (2020)

Côte d'Ivoire (2019)

Dominican Republic (2020)

Equatorial Guinea (2019)

Germany (2020)

Indonesia (2020)

Kuwait (2019)
Peru (2019)
Poland (2019)
South Africa (2020)

67. Doing away with the need for the litigant to be present in the court and facilitate adjudication of the case online, the Punjab and Haryana High Court will launch its first virtual court on Saturday at Faridabad through videoconferencing. A Punjab and Haryana High Court spokesperson said the court would deal with traffic challan cases from across the State. The project will be launched under the guidance of e-Committee of the Supreme Court of India.

68. The Vishwamitri River is a seasonal river which flows east to west between the Mahi and Narmada rivers in Gujarat, India. It originates in the Pavagadh Hills. Vadodara may very well become the crocodile capital of Gujarat. The Vishwamitri River that flows through the heart of the city seems to have become a favorite breeding place of the reptiles. The census carried out by forest department in January this year shows that the river is now home to over 260 crocodiles.

69. Ramon Magsaysay Award also known as the Nobel Award of Asian Continent. In the year 2019 this award is given to five individuals which includes India's most Influential journalist Ravish Kumar. Other recipient of this award includes Thailand's Angkhana Neelapajit (human rights activist), Philippines' Raymundo Pujante Cayabyab (musician), Myanmar's Ko Swe Win (journalist), and South Korea's Kim Jong-Ki, an activist working on violence and mental health issues in youth.

70. The devastation caused by the Indian Ocean tsunami of December 2004 laid bare the vital link between coastal ecosystems and human livelihoods. It was United States President Bill Clinton's vision that rebuilding in tsunami-hit areas should improve natural infrastructure and strengthen resilience against future natural disasters. In response to this vision, IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) developed Mangroves for the Future in 2006. Since then, MFF has grown to include eight institutional partners, plus a growing number of countries.

71. Prime Minister Modi would receive the Order of Zayed, the highest civil decoration of the UAE which was conferred earlier in April 2019 in recognition of the distinguished leadership of Prime Minister Modi for giving a big boost to bilateral relations between the two countries. The award in the name of Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, the founding father of the UAE, acquires special significance as it was awarded to Prime Minister Modi in the year of the birth centenary of Sheikh Zayed.

72. Parker Solar Probe will swoop to within 4 million miles of the sun's surface, facing heat and radiation like no spacecraft before it. Launching in 2018, Parker Solar Probe will provide new data on solar activity and make critical contributions to our ability to forecast major space-weather events that impact life on Earth.

In order to unlock the mysteries of the corona, but also to protect a society that is increasingly dependent on technology from the threats of space weather, we will send Parker Solar Probe to touch the Sun.

In 2017, the mission was renamed for Eugene Parker, the S. Chandrasekhar Distinguished Service Professor Emeritus, Department of Astronomy and Astrophysics at the University of Chicago. In the 1950s, Parker proposed a number of concepts about how stars-including

our Sun-give off energy. He called this cascade of energy the solar wind, and he described an entire complex system of plasmas, magnetic fields, and energetic particles that make up this phenomenon. Parker also theorized an explanation for the superheated solar atmosphere, the corona, which is – contrary to what was expected by physics laws — hotter than the surface of the sun itself. This is the first NASA mission that has been named for a living individual.

73. Single-use plastics, or disposable plastics, are used only once before they are thrown away or recycled. These items are things like plastic bags, straws, coffee stirrers, soda and water bottles and most food packaging.

We produce roughly 300 million tons of plastic each year and half of it is disposable! World-wide only 10-13% of plastic items are recycled. The nature of petroleum based disposable plastic makes it difficult to recycle and they have to add new virgin materials and chemicals to it to do so. Additionally there are a limited number of items that recycled plastic can be used.

Petroleum based plastic is not biodegradable and usually goes into a landfill where it is buried or it gets into the water and finds its way into the ocean. Although plastic will not biodegrade (decompose into natural substance like soil,) it will degrade (break down) into tiny particles after many years. In the process of breaking down, it releases toxic chemicals (additives that were used to shape and harden the plastic) which make their way into our food and water supply.

These toxic chemicals are now being found in our bloodstream and the latest research has found them to disrupt the Endocrine system which can cause cancer, infertility, birth defects, impaired immunity and many other ailments.

Harsh Vardhan, the then Union minister for environment, forest and climate change, said on World Environment Day 2018 (June 5) that the country would try to “phase out” single-use plastic by 2022.

74. The government, once every five years or so, conducts a livestock census, counting all domesticated animals. The 20th livestock census was conducted last year (the 19th was in 2012, and the first in 1919). Growth in the number of animals for each of the livestock categories was significantly lower than the output growth reported by the Central Statistical Organization (CSO) between these two censuses. For example, the number of cattle was nearly unchanged in this period, but milk continued to grow at an annualized rate of well above 5 per cent. Similarly, the annual pace of growth in mutton output (4 per cent) was higher than the rate of growth in the number of goats and sheep (up only 1 per cent annually), and pork output grew faster than the number of pigs (which fell 20 per cent from the 2012 level).

75. The GAAR first was proposed as part of the Direct Taxes Code Bill, 2009. Broadly based on South Africa’s regime introduced in 2006, the GAAR would have empowered the tax authorities to declare an arrangement as impermissible if it was entered into with the purpose of obtaining tax benefits and if it lacked commercial substance or satisfied certain other conditions.

Before the GAAR was proposed in 2009, India’s tax laws did contain other specific anti-avoidance measures. Over the years, the Indian courts established general parameters and principles outlining whether a transaction or scheme would be considered to be tax avoidance/tax evasion (as opposed to tax planning) under the tax law, and the tax authorities have challenged various forms of transactions entered into by taxpayers, including cross-border transactions.

The 2009 legislation ultimately was not enacted, and GAAR provisions again were proposed in Finance Act 2012, but ultimately were omitted from the 2012 legislation. New provisions incorporating changes recommended by the Shome Committee (a committee of experts set up by the Indian government to provide final recommendations on the GAAR) were enacted as part of Finance Act 2013 and were to be applicable from 1 April 2015. Finance Act 2015, however, delayed the effective date of the GAAR for two years, and the GAAR finally became effective as from 1 April 2017.

76. A committee headed by CBDT member Akhilesh Ranjan on Monday submitted its report on replacing the Income Tax Act with a new Direct Tax Code, said the finance ministry.

77. Mangdechhu is one of the ten hydroelectric projects planned under the Royal Government of Bhutan's initiative to generate 10,000MW hydropower by 2020 with support from the Indian Government. An agreement was signed between the two governments for the execution of Mangdechhu HEPP at a cost of Rs 28.96bn (\$434m) in April 2010. The project is funded by the Indian Government through a 70% loan and a 30% grant. India approved a revised cost estimate of Rs40.20bn (\$602.7m) for the project in 2016.

78. The Article 370 is defined under Part XXI of the Indian Constitution which deals with Temporary, Transitional and Special Provisions.

- Though in this part (Part XXI) special provision are given to the states of Maharashtra, Gujarat, Nagaland, Assam, Manipur, Sikkim, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh and Goa, the special power and provision of J & K are nowhere when compared.
- Article 370 restricts Indian parliament to make any laws for the state and it can only preside over the subjects like Defense, External Affairs, and communication.
- Laws related to union and concurrent list in J & K can be passed only after consultation with the state government.

79. India is the world's largest emitter of anthropogenic sulphur dioxide, which is produced from coal burning, and greatly contributes to air pollution. According to an analysis of a National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) data released by environmental NGO Greenpeace on Monday, India has more than 15 percent of all anthropogenic sulphur dioxide (SO₂) hotspots in the world detected by the OMI (Ozone Monitoring Instrument) satellite. The major SO₂ emission hotspots in India are Singrauli in Madhya Pradesh, Neyveli and Chennai in Tamil Nadu, Talcher and Jharsuguda in Odisha, Korba in Chhattisgarh, Kutch in Gujarat, Ramagundam in Telangana and Chandrapur and Koradi in Maharashtra.

80. The history of Delhi can be experienced gazing at what remains of its glorious past are dotted on every nook and corner. Here a number of capital cities were established and build over a period of time. The 1300 plus monuments from almost 16 cities of Delhi represent a wide range of religious, secular and some, very charming structures. Where some of these are an architectural marvel, others represent its glorious past.

Step wells or Baolis built over last one thousand year in Delhi are interesting structures, useful and exemplary of finest engineering and design. Baolis are unique to India and mostly prevail in states of Gujarat, Rajasthan, and Delhi.

It is believed that once Delhi had 100 baolies but presently we can't find more than 10, many other are defunct and unrecognisable. The baolies of Delhi once experienced the life of common folks around them in the bygone era. Some of the significant baolies in Delhi are:

- Gandak Ki Baoli
- Baoli of Nizamuddin
- Step wells of Tuglaqabad
- Baoli At Feroz Shah Kotla
- Rajaon ki Baoli
- Agrasen ki Baoli
- Baoli at Red Fort

The oldest structures of Delhi are reported from Mehrauli similarly, the oldest existing Baoli of Delhi, the Anangtal Baoli lies in Mehrauli. Also known as Yoginipura, was built in the 10th century by the Rajput King Anang Pal II of Tomara dynasty. Anang Tal literally means reservoir provided by Anang Pal of the House of Tomar. There are three more Baolis in this area including Qutb sahib ki Baoli, Gandak Ki Baoli and the Rajon ki baoli.

81. The Global Adult Tobacco Survey (GATS) is a nationally representative household survey that was launched in February 2007 as a new component of the ongoing Global Tobacco Surveillance System (GTSS). The GATS enables countries to collect data on adult tobacco use and key tobacco control measures. Results from the GATS assist countries in the formulation, tracking and implementation of effective tobacco control interventions, and countries are able to compare results of their survey with results from other countries. Topics covered in GATS: Tobacco use prevalence (smoking and smokeless tobacco products), second-hand tobacco smoke exposure and policies, cessation, knowledge, attitudes and perceptions, exposure to media and economics. GATS have been implemented in more than 25 low- and middle-income countries with highest burden of tobacco use.

82. In a move to strike the caste balance ahead of the Assembly elections in Maharashtra, the state cabinet on Tuesday approved foundation of an autonomous institute to ensure educational and financial growth of the economically-weaker sections (EWS) from the general category.

- The proposed Academy of Maharashtra Research, Upliftment and Training (AMRUT) will be an autonomous body like the BARTI, SARTHI and MAHAJYOTI that will work for the welfare of the EWS youth, a statement issued by the Chief Minister's Office said.
- The Babasaheb Ambedkar Research and Training Institute's (BARTI) aim among other is to provide opportunities to the state's scheduled caste youths in various sectors, to work or to start their own micro enterprises.
- The Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj Research Training and Human Development Institute (SARTHI) is a non-profit government company for policy advocacy and training for socio-economic and educational development of Maratha, Maratha-Kunbi, Kunbi-Maratha, and Kunbi communities and the families dependent on agriculture in Maharashtra.
- The Mahatma Jyotiba Phule Research and Training Institute (MAHAJYOTI) was set up last month to work for the social, educational and economic development for the special backward class, OBC and VJNT communities.

83. Knight Frank's Prime Global Cities Index tracks the performance of luxury residential prices across key global cities on a quarterly basis using data compiled by our global research network. National capital New Delhi has emerged as the 10th fastest growing city globally for luxury residential real estate with a rise of 4.4 per cent in capital value over the past one year, says the latest report by Knight Frank. Bengaluru with a rise of 2.8 per cent

in capital value year-on-year and Mumbai (up 0.8 per cent) are ranked 15th and 30th, respectively in the 46 cities tracked by Knight Frank globally.

84. Telecommunications in India is a Union subject i.e. the federal government has the exclusive authority to legislate on it. The key Acts of Parliament which govern the Indian telecommunications sector are:

- Indian Telegraph Act 1885
- Indian Telegraph (Amendment) Rules 2004
- Indian Wireless Act 1933
- Information Technology Act 2000
- Communication Convergence Bill 2001
- Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act 1997

85. It is India's second mission to the moon. It aims to explore the Moon's south polar region. There are three components of the mission, an orbiter, a lander and a rover.

- The mission payloads include-Terrain Mapping Camera which will generate a Digital Elevation Model (DEM) of the entire moon, Chandrayaan 2 Large Area Soft X-ray Spectrometer which will test the elemental composition of the Moon's surface Solar X-Ray Monitor which will provide solar X-ray spectrum inputs for CLASS.
- The orbiter will be deployed at an altitude of 100 kilometers above the surface of the Moon. The lander will then separate from the orbiter, and execute a soft landing on the surface of the Moon, unlike the previous mission which crash landed near the lunar south pole.
- The lander, rover and orbiter will perform mineralogical and elemental studies of the lunar surface.
- The rover is named Pragyan.
- The mission's lander is named Vikram after Dr Vikram A Sarabhai, the Father of the Indian Space Programme.

86. Maharashtra's Tribal Development Department in association with the Pace Educational Trust on Tuesday launched an academic programme for young tribal students aspiring to be doctors and engineers.

Inspired by the work of Patna's Anand Kumar and his Super 30, which prepares smart but underprivileged students to sit for IIT entrance exams, the Super 50 programme will mentor 50 most meritorious tribal students from the State and prepare them for engineering and medical exams.

87. The shimmering silver waters of the river seem as if it has come down from heaven. It has on its banks some of the best preserved religious marks. The river itself has become the lifeline of Kerala's rich cultural heritage. It has its own mythology, identity, manifestation and spirituality associated with it. Yes, the Pamba River has left indelible marks in the historical, cultural and religious life of Kerala.

River Pamba, venerated as southern Ganga, originates at the Pulachimalai hill in the Peermedu plateau of the Western Ghats at an altitude of 1650 m and drains into the Vembanad Lake after nourishing many places. Pamba River nourishes hundreds of medicinal plants in the mountain ranges where it originates and carries its boons to everywhere it flows. Let us have a glimpse of some of the best known places and events on its banks.

The sandy banks of river Pamba witnessed the emergence and growth of many cultural and religious centres. Sabarimala temple amid luxuriant forests and grasslands is the most popular religious center in Kerala for the Hindus and it is intimately connected to the river

Pamba. Bathing in the river, believed to absolve one's sins, is a requirement before commencing the trek to the shrine at Sabarimala.

88. NISHTHA is a capacity building programme for "Improving Quality of School Education through Integrated Teacher Training". It aims to build competencies among all the teachers and school principals at the elementary stage. The functionaries (at the state, district, block, cluster level) shall be trained in an integrated manner on learning outcomes, school based assessment, learner – centred pedagogy, new initiatives in education, addressing diverse needs of children through multiple pedagogies, etc. This will be organized by constituting National Resource Groups (NRGs) and State Resource Groups (SRGs) at the National and the State level who will be training 42 lakhs teachers subsequently. A robust portal/Management Information System (MIS) for delivery of the training, monitoring and support mechanism will also be infused with this capacity building initiative.

89. Participatory notes are offshore derivative instruments with Indian shares as underlying assets. Brokers and foreign institutional investors registered with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) issue the participatory notes and invest on behalf of the foreign investors. Brokers must report their participatory note issuance status to the regulatory board each quarter. The notes allow foreign investors with high net worth, hedge funds, and other investors, to participate in the Indian markets without registering with the SEBI. Investors save time, money and scrutiny associated with direct registration.

90. The principle of reducing waste, reusing and recycling resources and products is often called the "3Rs." • Reducing means choosing to use items with care to reduce the amount of waste generated. • Reusing involves the repeated use of items or parts of items which still have usable aspects. • Recycling means the use of waste itself as resources. Waste minimization can be achieved in an efficient way by focusing primarily on the first of the 3Rs, "reduce," followed by "reuse" and then "recycle." The waste hierarchy refers to the "3Rs" i.e., reduce, reuse and recycle, which classify waste management strategies according to their desirability. The 3Rs are meant to be a hierarchy, in order of importance. The waste hierarchy has taken many forms over the past decade, but the basic concept has remained the cornerstone of most waste minimization strategies. The aim of the waste hierarchy is to extract the maximum practical benefits from products and to generate the minimum amount of waste.

91. Sharavathi is a river which originates and flows entirely within the state of Karnataka in India. It is one of the few westward flowing rivers of India and a major part of the river basin lies in the Western Ghats. The famous Jog Falls are formed by this river. The river itself and the region around it are rich in biodiversity and are home to many rare species of flora and fauna.

The river Sharavathi originates at a place called Ambutheertha in the Thirthahalli taluk of Shimoga district. According to a legend of the times of Ramayana, this is the place where the Hindu God Rama broke a bow to win the hand of Sita. The total length of the river is around 128 km and it joins the Arabian Sea at Honnavar near Uttara Kannada district. On its way, the Sharavathi forms the Jog Falls where the river falls from a height of 253 mts. The river is dammed at Linganamakki and the portion of the river above the dam is upstream and the remaining is downstream. The major tributaries of the river are Nandihole, Haridravathi, Mavinahole, Hilkunji, Yennehole, Hurlihole, and Nagodihole. Sharavathi river basin falls into two districts of Karnataka namely Uttara Kannada and Shimoga. The upstream river basin is extended to two taluks in Shimoga viz. Hosanagara

and Sagara. The entire basin has an area of 2985.66 km. With upstream being 1988.99 km² and the downstream being 996.67 km

92. 'Smart India Hackathon 2017' is a pan India 36 hour nonstop digital programming competition. The participating teams will simultaneously compete from across 33 locations in India to offer digital yet sustainable innovative solutions to solve real time challenges faced by the nation.

Smart India Hackathon 2020 is a nationwide initiative to provide students a platform to solve some of the pressing problems we face in our daily lives, and thus inculcate a culture of product innovation and a mindset of problem solving. The last edition of the hackathon saw over 5 million+ students from various colleges compete for the top prize at 65+ locations. In SIH 2020, the students would have the opportunity to work on challenges faced within various Ministries, Departments, Industries, PSUs and NGOs to create world class solutions for some of the top organizations including industries in the world, thus helping the Private sector hire the best minds from across the nation. It can help to:

- Harness creativity & expertise of students
- Spark institute-level hackathons
- Build funnel for 'Startup India' campaign
- Crowdfund solutions for improving governance and quality of life
- Provide opportunity to citizens to provide innovative solutions to India's daunting problems

The first three editions SIH2017, SIH2018 and SIH2019 proved to be extremely successful in promoting innovation, out-of-the-box thinking in young minds, especially engineering students from across India.

93. Oxytocin is a hormone secreted by the posterior lobe of the pituitary gland, a pea-sized structure at the base of the brain. It's sometimes known as the "cuddle hormone" or the "love hormone," because it is released when people snuggle up or bond socially. The hormone causes uterine contractions during labor and helps shrink the uterus after delivery. When an infant suckles at his or her mother's breast, the stimulation causes a release of oxytocin, which, in turn, orders the body to "let down" milk for the baby to drink. From September 1, 2018 the Union Health Ministry will impose a highly controversial ban on the retail sale and private manufacture of oxytocin, a life-saving drug for new mothers. The reason for the ban is the misuse of oxytocin in dairy animals, like buffaloes, to increase milk production.

The government's April ban order refers to a 2016 Himachal Pradesh High Court judgment, which said daily oxytocin injections made cattle barren and reduced their lifespans. In addition, it claimed that drinking milk from oxytocin-treated cattle led to male impotence, early puberty among women and cancers.

94. When a government body wants to encourage the purchase of certain items or bolster participation in certain activities, it may issue a tax holiday; a temporary period during which the tax rate applied to certain products or services is reduced or removed. For instance, many local governments have a sales tax holiday the weekend before school resumes in the fall to reduce the cost burden that parents carry when shopping for their children's school supplies or clothing.

The government has said small startups with a turnover of up to 25crore will get the tax holiday specified in Section 80-IAC of the Income-Tax Act.

Under the Section, eligible startups don't have to pay income tax for three years out of seven from the year of incorporation, an incentive to promote such ventures. This, in effect, means any startup with turnover exceeding 25crore won't get this tax break.

95. Russia on Thursday launched an unmanned rocket carrying a life-size humanoid robot that will spend 10 days learning to assist astronauts on the International Space Station. Named Fedor, short for Final Experimental Demonstration Object Research, and the robot is the first ever sent up by Russia.

96. Gujarat continues to be the top performer in water management even as Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh have further increased their scores over the last three years, according to a report by NITI Aayog. Meanwhile, states, including Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, Odisha and Bihar, continued to be in the low-performing category.

The Comprehensive Water Management Index (CWMI) by NITI Aayog, which measures the performance of states on a set of water indicators, comes at a time when various states across the country are facing a shortage in groundwater.

The CWMI also looks at states' relative performance in the last three years. This report comprises nine themes, including attention to groundwater, restoration of water bodies and covers 25 states, two Union Territories.

The maximum possible score is a 100 and Gujarat, for the second year in a row, was the topper with 75 points. "Delhi, assessed on the index for the first time this year, scores the lowest with 20 points. This is alarming, considering Delhi's position as the country's capital territory, and its population of two crore people whose water, arguably, is being poorly managed," the report underlines.

97. A top U.S. military official has said that U.S. intelligence agencies believe Russia is likely conducting low-yield nuclear testing that may be violation of a major international treaty.

Lieutenant General Robert Ashley said in a speech on May 29 that Russia could be doing tests that go "beyond what is believed necessary, beyond zero yield."

The problem, he said, was that Russia "has not been willing to affirm" they are adhering to the 1996 Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty.

"The United States believes that Russia probably is not adhering to its nuclear testing moratorium in a manner consistent with the 'zero-yield' standard," said Ashley, who is director of the Defense Intelligence Agency, the Defense Department's main in-house intelligence organization.

"Zero-yield" refers to a nuclear test where there is no explosive chain reaction of the sort caused by an atomic bomb nuclear warhead.

98. While India is a market economy where prices are ostensibly decided by demand and supply, certain laws empower the Centre to intervene in the market to protect consumer interests. The Essential Commodities Act (ECA) is one such key law. The ECA was enacted way back in 1955. It has since been used by the Government to regulate the production, supply and distribution of a whole host of commodities it declares 'essential' in order to make them available to consumers at fair prices.

The list of items under the Act includes drugs, fertilizers, pulses and edible oils, and petroleum and petroleum products. The Centre can include new commodities as and when the need arises, and takes them off the list once the situation improves.

Here's how it works. If the Centre finds that a certain commodity is in short supply and its price is spiking, it can notify stock-holding limits on it for a specified period. The States act on this notification to specify limits and take steps to ensure that these are adhered to. Anybody trading or dealing in a commodity, be it wholesalers, retailers or even importers are prevented from stockpiling it beyond a certain quantity.

A State can, however, choose not to impose any restrictions. But once it does, traders have to immediately sell into the market any stocks held beyond the mandated quantity. This improves supplies and brings down prices. As not all shopkeepers and traders comply, State agencies conduct raids to get everyone to toe the line and the errant are punished. The excess stocks are auctioned or sold through fair price shops.

99. UNESCO is the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. It seeks to build peace through international cooperation in Education, the Sciences and Culture. UNESCO's programmes contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals defined in Agenda 2030, adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2015.

Some of the success stories of UNESCO:

- UNESCO coordinates Tsunami early warning systems all over the globe
- UNESCO leads global efforts to reach quality education for all
- UNESCO stands up for freedom of expression and condemns the killing of journalists
- UNESCO preserves 1073 World Heritage sites in 167 countries

100. Sinking islands may become a reality with sea level rise and climate change in decades to come. Tamil Nadu has hit upon a novel idea to protect such islands on its coast – deployment of artificial reefs near vulnerable islands.

Artificial reefs, made of concrete, have been found to be capable of preventing further erosion of ecologically sensitive islands and also regenerate coral biodiversity in the Gulf of Mannar region. Vaan is one of the 21 islands in the Gulf of Mannar, which was declared marine biodiversity park in 1986. Indiscriminate mining of coral and use of destructive fishing practices in the past few decades have fully submerged two of the islands while Vaan was on the verge of submergence when the project began in 2015. Its area had been reduced from 16 hectares in 1986 to 2 hectares in 2014.

101. The IMF has taken steps to enhance member country transparency and openness, including setting voluntary standards for dissemination of economic and financial data. The Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS) was established in 1996 to guide members that have, or might seek, access to international capital markets in providing their economic and financial data to the public. The General Data Dissemination System (GDDS) was established in 1997 for member countries with less developed statistical systems as a framework for evaluating their needs for data improvement and setting priorities. In 2012, the SDDS Plus was created as an upper tier of the IMF's Data Standards Initiatives to help address data gaps identified during the global financial crisis. In 2015 the enhanced GDDS (e-GDDS) replaced the GDDS. More than 97 percent of IMF member countries participate in the e-GDDS, SDDS, or SDDS Plus.

102. The blue whale is the largest animal ever known to have existed. During the 20th century, the species was almost exterminated due to commercial whaling. The species has slowly recovered following the global whaling ban but it remains endangered and faces a number of serious threats including ship strikes and the impact of climate change.

Blue whales are simply enormous with most ranging in length from 24-30 m. The largest ever recorded was a gargantuan 33.5 m long. Females are up to 10 m longer than males. And they can weigh up to 200 tonnes. Just to put that in perspective: an adult male African elephant weighs 6 tonnes! The blue whale's heart is the size of a small car and its beat can be detected two miles away. But that's nothing compared to their calls. Blue whales are the loudest animals on earth and their calls are louder than a jet engine: reaching 188 decibels, while a jet's engine hit 'just' 140 decibels.

The blue whale falls in Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. Dozens of dead blue and sperm whales have washed ashore on the Nagayalanka, Machilipatnam, Kakinada, and Srikakulam coast in Andhra Pradesh since 2015.

103. Air pollution is one of the biggest global environmental challenges of today. A time bound national level strategy for pan India implementation to tackle the increasing air pollution problem across the country in a comprehensive manner in the form of National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) was today launched by Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. “Collaborative and participatory approach involving relevant Central Ministries, State Governments, local bodies and other Stakeholders with focus on all sources of pollution forms the crux of the Programme.” said the Union Environment Minister. Dr Harsh Vardhan further informed that taking into account the available international experiences and national studies, the tentative national level target of 20%–30% reduction of PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀ concentration by 2024 is proposed under the NCAP taking 2017 as the base year for the comparison of concentration. “Overall objective of the NCAP is comprehensive mitigation actions for prevention, control and abatement of air pollution besides augmenting the air quality monitoring network across the country and strengthening the awareness and capacity building activities.” the minister further added.

104. Open Government Data (OGD) Platform India - data.gov.in - is a platform for supporting Open Data initiative of Government of India. The portal is intended to be used by Government of India Ministries/ Departments their organizations to publish datasets, documents, services, tools and applications collected by them for public use.

- It intends to increase transparency in the functioning of Government and also open avenues for many more innovative uses of Government Data to give different perspective.
- The base Open Government Data Platform India is a joint initiative of Government of India and US Government. Open Government Data Platform India is also packaged as a product and made available in open source for implementation by countries globally.

105. France, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, the United States, and West Germany formed the Group of Six in 1975 (Canada joined the following year) to provide a venue for the noncommunist powers to address pressing economic concerns, which included inflation and a recession sparked by the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) oil embargo. Cold War politics invariably entered the group’s agenda.

- The European Union has participated fully in the G7 since 1981 as a “non-enumerated” member. It is represented by the presidents of the European Council, which comprises the EU member states’ leaders, and the European Commission, the EU’s executive body. There is no formal criterion for membership, but the participants are all developed democracies. The aggregate gross domestic product (GDP) of G7 member states makes up nearly 50 percent of the global economy in nominal terms, down from nearly 70 percent three decades ago.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be attending the G7 Summit in France on Monday. Although India is not a member of the G7 group, PM Modi would be attending the G7 Summit as a special guest as he has been personally invited by French President Emmanuel Macron.

106. Left Wing Extremism (LWE) Division was created w.e.f. October 19, 2006 in the Ministry, to effectively address the Left Wing Extremist insurgency in a holistic manner. The LWE Division implements security related schemes aimed at capacity building in the LWE

affected States. The Division also monitors the LWE situation and counter-measures being taken by the affected States. The LWE Division coordinates the implementation of various development schemes of the Ministries/Departments of Govt. of India in LWE affected States. The States of Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Odisha, Bihar, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Kerala are considered LWE affected, although in varying degrees.

107. As the Asia Pacific Group (APG) reportedly found that Islamabad (Pakistan) failed to meet its rules on 32 out of 40 special standards and benchmarks, relating to its legal and financial system, and 10 of 11 'effectiveness' parameters relating to the enforcement of safeguards against terror financing (TF), money laundering, and have effectively 'blacklisted' Pakistan by awarding it its lowest "enhanced expedited follow-up" ranking.

The APG and FATF processes are separate, but they have an important bearing on each other. It is clear now that Islamabad will not only find it difficult to extract itself from the FATF's grey list – also known as "jurisdictions with strategic deficiencies" – but actually have to confront being blacklisted.

108. For more than a week, the daily chatter between Earth and Mars will go silent. On the surface of Mars are NASA's Curiosity rover and InSight lander. Above Mars are several orbiters, including India's Mars Orbiter Spacecraft (Mangalyaan), which has completed its official mission life but remains in orbit. Antennas on Earth and those on active spacecraft on or around Mars regularly exchange data. Now this will pause because of a phenomenon called Mars solar conjunction. For NASA's spacecraft, this will happen between August 28 and September 7. Besides Curiosity and Insight on the Mars surface, NASA has the Odyssey orbiter, the Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter and the MAVEN orbiter. Some instruments aboard spacecraft will be inactive, especially cameras that generate large amounts of data.

109. Geneva, 14 December 2017-The Secretariat of CITES, the global treaty that regulates wildlife trade, announced today that the next meeting of its Conference of the Parties (CoP18) will be held in Colombo, Sri Lanka, from 23 May to 3 June 2019. Sri Lanka's generous offer to host CoP18 was accepted at CoP17 held in October 2016 in Johannesburg, South Africa. CITES Secretary-General, Mr. John E. Scanlon said: "The next World Wildlife Conference will be hosted by an island country, the first time since CoP8 in Japan in 1992, and it is only the second time a CITES CoP is being held in South Asia, with the last occasion being 36 years ago in India. Sri Lanka is a beautiful country with diverse and truly unique wildlife both on land and at sea. It has a blossoming wildlife-based tourism industry and can boast the 'Top 7' wildlife species, being the Asian Elephant, Sloth Bear, Leopard, Black-necked Stork, Saltwater Crocodile, Leatherback Turtle and Blue Whale, six of which are listed under CITES. As one can see, Sri Lanka is an ideal location for a World Wildlife Conference and it will be a wonderful host of CoP18".

110. The world's first space-based automatic identification system (AIS) to track merchant ships on a real-time basis will be built and operated jointly by India and France. The constellation carrying telecommunications (AIS), radar and optical remote-sensing instruments will be capable of monitoring ships in the Indian Ocean. "The system will cover a wide belt across the globe, benefiting a broad range of French economic interests. With a revisit capability making it possible to task acquisitions several times a day, it will also be able to detect oil slicks and trace their origin".

111. Recently, parliament has adopted amendments to the Prevention of Corruption Bill, 2018 Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988

- It consolidated the provisions of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1947, some sections of the Indian Penal Code, the Criminal Procedure Code, and the Criminal Law Act, 1952.
- The 1988 Act enlarged the scope of the term 'public servant' and included a large number of employees within its ambit.
- However, MPs and MLAs, even though performing 'public duties', have been kept out of the ambit of the Act.
- If the offence against the public servant is proved in the courts, it is punishable with imprisonment of not less than six months but extending to a maximum period of five years.
- A key problem of the 1988 Act was that the person giving the bribe was legally seen as a victim and so not held culpable or criminally liable.

112. the flood situation in Assam, especially the Barak valley region, remained grim on Tuesday, casting a shadow on the completion of the National Register of Citizens work and publication of the final draft on June 30. Assam State Disaster Management Authority officials said on Tuesday as six more people were reported dead, taking the toll of flood-related deaths in the state to 20. Of the six victims, four are from karimganj district and two from Cachar. Seventeen people drowned and three were crushed under landslides in the last one week. The three districts of Barak valley region-Cachar, Karimganj and Hailakandi — remained the worst affected with around 450 relief camps and relief distribution centres opened and around 1.6 lakh people staying in the relief camps.

113. Astra Rafael Communication System, a Joint Venture between Astra Microwave and Rafael Advanced Defense Systems Ltd of Israel, inaugurated a new facility at Hardware Technology Park close to Hyderabad international airport. The Joint Venture of 51:49 per cent, is in line with the Government's "Make in India" initiative, and will invest in high-end technology and advanced production techniques to design, develop and manufacture state-of-the-art Tactical Communication systems (BNET), for the Indian Armed Forces. The Joint Venture's focus is on leveraging the technological ability and indigenous manufacturing capability, combined with Rafael's technology expertise to support the requirements of the Indian Armed Forces.

This green field venture envisages creation of significant direct and indirect employment opportunities, import substitution and foreign direct investments into the country. ARC would be India's first private sector company to manufacture cutting-edge Software Defined Radios in multiple variants, at its facility spread across an area of over 20,000 sq ft. It will also be involved in the development and manufacture of a wide range of other advanced capabilities, with the aim of opening new export markets.

114. Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Himachal Pradesh and Puducherry topped the charts in the child well-being index, a tool designed to measure and tracks children's well-being comprehensively. Meghalaya, Jharkhand and Madhya Pradesh featured at the bottom, as per a report released by the non-government organisation World Vision India and research institute IFMR LEAD on Tuesday. The report is an attempt to look at how India fairs on child well-being using a composite child well-being index.

115. The 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD COP14) will take place from 2-13 September 2019 at the India Expo Center & Mart, Greater Noida, in Delhi-NCR. The 12-day event, hosted by the

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Govt. of India, will be attended by 5,000 participants, including 3000 international delegates from 196 countries, as well as environment ministers from 94 countries and Ralph Gonsalves, the Prime Minister of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. Shri Narendra Modi, the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, is also expected to attend the event. The COP14 is being held alongside the 18th session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC) and 14th meeting of the Committee on Science and Technology (CST), UNCCD. India for the first time will be hosting the 14th session of CoP-14 of UNCCD.

116. The Subansiri River is the largest tributary of the Upper Brahmaputra River. For its picturesque features, the river is also known as the Gold River. The river goes down through the green tropical rainforest in the ethnic state of Arunachal Pradesh. The catchment area of the Subansiri River is spread out further than the grand Himalayan mountain ranges, covering Tsona Dzong till the Great Loop of the Tsang Po River in Tibetan Territory. The river subsequently cuts through the Eastern Himalayan Mountain Ranges to pour into India at Asaphila via the rocky and remote neighborhoods of Arunachal Pradesh. The river has a stretch of 170 km in the Tibetan Territory, 250 km in the Eastern Himalayan Mountain Ranges and 86 km in the terrain of Assam prior to meeting the mighty Brahmaputra at the magical meeting point of Majuli. Majuli is the highest populated river island in the world. The Subansiri River is not linked with both sides of the Himalayan mountain ranges with any arterial roads for about 150 km. The landscape is quite rugged with steep cliffs with only meager human population in the area. The scarcity in population and rugged topography have made and going on to make the upper Basins of this river remote.

The Lower Subansiri Dam:

The Lower Subansiri Dam is a hydroelectric power project of NHPC (National Hydroelectric Power Corporation) Limited under construction with a capacity of 2,000 MW. The stonework gravity dam is 116 m tall from the riverbed of the Subansiri River. The exterior electricity generating station will include 8 units of Francis turbines with a capacity of 250 MW each unit. Once the construction is complete, it will be considered as the biggest hydroelectric power project in the country. The project is situated close to the North Lakhimpur district on the boundary of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh. It is expected that the construction will end by 2012.

117. India's proposal to upgrade the protection of star tortoises (*Geochelone elegans*), the smooth-coated otter (*Lutrogale perspicillata*) and small-clawed otters (*Aonyx cinereus*) in CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species on Wild Fauna and Flora) have been approved.

These species have been listed under Appendix I of CITES and will now enjoy the highest degree of protection as there will be a complete international ban enforced on their trade. The upgradation was approved at the Conference of the Parties (COP18) held at Geneva.

118. Responding to the global momentum to tackle AMR, India had released its National Action Plan on AMR (NAP-AMR) along with a Declaration in Delhi in 2017. The NAP-AMR calls for states to consider AMR as a state level priority and develop state level action plans to ensure on-the-ground implementation.

On July 26, 2019, the Madhya Pradesh State Action Plan for Containment of Antimicrobial Resistance (MP-SAPCAR) was released in Bhopal. With this, MP has become the second state in India after Kerala to develop an action plan to manage antimicrobial resistance (AMR). The MP-SAPCAR focuses on a 'One Health' approach to containing AMR through six key strategic priority areas and multi-sectoral involvement.

The government has commissioned a ₹9.3 crore study to assess the microbial diversity along the entire length of the Ganga and test if stretches of the 2,500 km long river contain microbes that may promote “antibiotic resistance”.

The project, expected to last two years, is to be undertaken by scientists at the Motilal Nehru Institute of Technology, Allahabad; the National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI), Nagpur; Sardar Patel Institute of Science & Technology, Gorakhpur, as well as start-up companies, Phixgen and Xcelris Labs. The latter two provide genome sequencing services, which in this case will involve mapping the genomes of the microbes sampled.

119. The Amazon is a vast region that spans across eight rapidly developing countries: Brazil, Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador, Colombia, Venezuela, Guyana, Suriname and French Guiana, an overseas territory of France.

The landscape contains:

- One in ten known species on Earth
- 4 billion acres of dense forests, half of the planet’s remaining tropical forests
- 4,100 miles of winding rivers
- 6 million square miles in the Amazon basin, about 40 percent of South America

There is a clear link between the health of the Amazon and the health of the planet. The rain forests, which contain 90-140 billion metric tons of carbon, help stabilize local and global climate. Deforestation may release significant amounts of this carbon, which could have catastrophic consequences around the world.



120. Leprosy is a chronic infectious disease caused by *Mycobacterium leprae*. It usually affects the skin and peripheral nerves, but has a wide range of clinical manifestations. The disease is characterized by long incubation period generally 5-7 years and is classified as paucibacillary or multibacillary, depending on the bacillary load. Leprosy is a leading cause of permanent physical disability. Timely diagnosis and treatment of cases, before nerve damage has occurred, is the most effective way of preventing disability due to leprosy.

Milestones in NLEP:

1955 – National Leprosy Control Programme (NLCP) launched

1983 – National Leprosy Eradication Programme launched

1983 – Introduction of Multidrug therapy (MDT) in Phases

2005 – Elimination of Leprosy at National Level

2012 – Special action plan for 209 high endemic districts in 16 States/UTs

As the World Health Organization has found, nearly two-thirds of all new leprosy cases detected worldwide in 2016 were in India. That’s a shamefully high proportion.

“Elimination”, going by the WHO definition, is a prevalence level of less than one in 10,000 people. In contrast, “eradication” is zero new cases.

A total of 126,164 new cases were detected in India in 2017-18, according to data from the National Leprosy Eradication Programme (NLEP). Chhattisgarh, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Odisha, Bihar, Chandigarh, Goa, and Lakshadweep reported the prevalence of more than one in 10,000 in 2017.

121. The Union Environment Ministry on Thursday transferred ₹47,436 crore to 27 States for afforestation. These are long-pending dues part of the Compensatory Afforestation Fund (CAF), a ₹54,000 crore tranche that has been collected for nearly a decade as environmental compensation from industry, which has razed forest land for its business plans. “The Fund will be used as per provisions of the CAF Act and Rules. These include catchment area treatment, wildlife management, forest fire prevention, soil and moisture conservation work in the forest....it cannot be used for payment of salary, travelling allowances, making buildings and buying office equipment for forest officers.

122. The Kabini or Kapila, is a river found in southern India. This lively river originates in Wayanad District of Kerala state, south India. The river is nourished by the water of flowing Panamaram River and Mananthavady River. Then it runs towards east to join the Kaveri River at Tirumakudal Narasipur in Karnataka. Finally the river merges into the Bay of Bengal. While flowing by the town of H D Kote this wonderful river forms the giant Kabini Reservoir. The backwoods of this reservoir are highly enriched by the presence of a rich iety of wildlife especially during summer months when the water level comes across the brims to create the affluent green meadows. Kabini Dam is sited between the Beechanahalli and Bidarahalli village of Karnataka. The villages are at a distance of 14KM from H.D.Kote town, Mysore district. This huge dam is around 2,284 feet in height with a gross capacity of storing 19.52tmcft. Recently due to the high silt accumulation, its storage capacity is getting degraded. Kabini Reserve Forest is known to be one of the most famous wildlife destinations in Karnataka. Due to its easy accessibility from the town and the abundant greenery enclosing a giant picturesque lake the forestry has earned a good reputation across the state.

123. The only luxury train in South India, “Golden Chariot” offers an insight into treasure trove of archaeological wealth, abundant bounty for wildlife seekers and a kaleidoscope of culture for its esteemed guests. It offers a mix of heritage, culture, eco-tourism and beach life. Recline & relax as the magnificent scenery unfolds outside your window with luxury on the inside, thus far reserved for royalty.

We present the Golden Chariot-a fine balance between a glorious yesterday and an omnipresent tomorrow in a magical land ... that is Karnataka. The Golden Chariot Train is a joint venture of State Government of Karnataka & Ministry of Railways.

124. Two well-known products from Tamil Nadu-Dindigul lock and Kandangi saree -have been given the Geographical Indication (GI) tag by The Geographical Indications Registry in Chennai. The application for the lock was made by the Dindigul Lock, Hardware and Steel Furniture Workers Industrial Co-operative Society Limited. The Amarar Rajeev Gandhi Handloom Weavers Co-operative Production and Sales Society Limited filed the application for the Kandangi saree. kalamkari, renowned for natural dye art or designs on fabrics, has been registered in the Geographical Indications Registry (GIR) of the Government of India under the Geographical Identification of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999. Members of Vegetable Dye Hand Block Kalamkari Printers’ Welfare Association, Pedana received the registration certificate from the GIR, Chennai. In the GI Registration, this art form has, however, been recognised as ‘Machilipatnam Kalamkari’. Pedana is 15 k.m. from Machilipatnam.

125. FDI up to 100% is permitted, under the automatic route, subject to certain conditions mentioned in Consolidated FDI Policy, in the following agricultural activities: Floriculture, Horticulture, Apiculture and Cultivation of Vegetables & Mushrooms under controlled conditions; Development and production of Seeds and planting material; Animal Husbandry (including breeding of dogs), Pisciculture, Aquaculture, under controlled conditions; and Services related to agro and allied sectors. The government on August 28 relaxed FDI rule for foreign single brand retailers and also permitted foreign investment in contract manufacturing and coal mining.

List of the important decisions on FDI by the Cabinet:

- Allows 100% FDI under automatic route in coal mining and associated infrastructure
- Allows 100% FDI in contract manufacturing under automatic route
- Relaxes FDI rules for single brand retail; expands definition of 30% domestic sourcing
- Allows online retailing under single-brand retail; relaxes rule of mandatory brick-and-mortar store
- Approves 26% FDI in digital media

126. The West Bengal (Prevention of Lynching) Bill, 2019 was tabled in the House on Friday and supported by the opposition Congress and CPI(M). The Rajasthan legislative assembly on Monday passed a Bill providing for life imprisonment and a fine from ₹1 lakh to ₹5 lakh to those convicted in cases of mob lynching leading to victim's death.

127. US President Donald Trump has launched a new Pentagon command focused on warfare in space. It comes as US military chiefs see China and Russia making advancements in the military final frontier. The command will focus on defending American interests in space, such as the hundreds of satellites used for communication and surveillance. "SpaceCom will ensure that America's dominance in space is never threatened," Mr Trump said. "This is a landmark day, one that recognizes the centrality of space to America's security and defence," he said.

128. Prompt Corrective Action or PCA is a framework under which banks with weak financial metrics are put under watch by the RBI. The PCA framework deems banks as risky if they slip below certain norms on three parameters-capital ratios, asset quality and profitability. It has three risk threshold levels (1 being the lowest and 3 the highest) based on where a bank stands on these ratios. Banks with a capital to risk-weighted assets ratio (CRAR) of less than 10.25 per cent but more than 7.75 per cent fall under threshold one. Those with CRAR of more than 6.25 per cent but less than 7.75 per cent fall in the second threshold. In case a bank's common equity Tier 1 (the bare minimum capital under CRAR) falls below 3.625 per cent, it gets categorized under the third threshold level. Banks that have a net NPA of 6 per cent or more but less than 9 per cent fall under threshold 1, and those with 12 per cent or more fall under the third threshold level. On profitability, banks with negative return on assets for two, three and four consecutive years fall under threshold 1, threshold 2 and threshold 3, respectively.

129. The Khangchendzonga Biosphere Reserve has become the 11th Biosphere Reserve from India that has been included in the UNESCO designated World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR). The decision to include Khangchendzonga Biosphere Reserve in WNBR was taken at the 30th Session of International Coordinating Council (ICC) of Man and Biosphere (MAB) Programme of UNESCO held at Palembang, Indonesia, from July 23-27, 2018. India has 18 Biosphere Reserves and with the inclusion of Khangchendzonga, the

number of internationally designated WNBR has become 11, with 7 Biosphere Reserves being domestic Biosphere Reserves

130. Estuarine Biology regional centre, Gopalpur-on-sea, Ganjam is one of the sixteen regional Centre of Zoological Survey of India, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate change, Govt of India established in 1980 during the 6th five year plan of Govt of India. The Primary objective of this centre is to conduct investigations on faunal diversity of estuaries, backwaters, lagoons and mangrove ecosystem along the east and west coast of India.