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SPORTS & CUPS

I	Cricket	Irani Trophy, "Duleep Trophy" "Ranji Trophy", "Asia Cup", "Deodhar Trophy", Ck. Naidu Trophy
II	Foot ball	"Durand Cup", Nizam Gold cup, "Rovers cup", Sanjay Gold cup, "Santhosh Trophy", Subroto Mukherjee cup, Vital Trophy "Nehru Gold Cup".
III	Hockey	"Agha Khan Cup", "Azlan Shah Cup", Nehru Trophy, Dhyanchand Trophy, Beighton Cup, "Scindia Gold cup", Modi Gold cup, "Indira Gandhi Gold Cup", "Rangaswami cup", Khan Abdul Gaffar cup".
IV	Golf	"Canada cup", Muthian Gold cup, "Ryder cup", Walker cup
V	Table Tennis	Cordillion cup (women), Jyalaxmi cup (women), Swaythling cup (men)
VI	Lawn tennis	"Davis cup", "Hamlet cup", Australian open, French open, Wimbledon, US open
VII	Badminton	"Thomas Cup" (men), "Uber cup" (women), Narang cup, "Sayyid Modi Trophy
VIII	Boxing	Asphy Adjanina Trophy
IX	Rowing	Wellington Trophy
X	Bridge	Ruia Trophy
Xi	Polo	Ezra cup, Winchester cup, "Radha Mohan cup", "King's cup"

Sports Organizations

	Organization	Game	Headquarter
1.	FIDE: Federation International des Echecs (World Chess Federation)	Chess [FIDE]	Athens (Greece)
2.	FIEA: Federation International de Foot ball Association	Foot ball [FIFA]	Zurich (Switzerland)
3.	IHF: International Hockey Federation	Hockey [IHF]	Lausanne (Switzerland)
4.	ICC: International Cricket Council	Cricket [ICC]	Dubai (UAE)
5.	ITTF: International Table Tennis Federation	Table Tennis [ITTF]	Lausanne (Switzerland)

1. BANKING REFORMS

1. RURAL BANKING: TRANSLATING VISION TO REALITY

Why banks are hesitating to open branches in rural areas?

- ✓ Rural households have irregular income and expenditure patterns and hence banks will have high non performing loans in the rural areas.
- ✓ The loan waivers driven by political agenda and the economy behaving to the tunes of monsoon aggravate the problem further.
- ✓ The average ticket size of both a deposit transaction and a credit transaction in villages is small, which means banks need more customers per branch or channel to break even.
- ✓ Since many rural folks are not literate and so not comfortable using technology driven channels like ATMs, phone banking or internet banking, hence mostly dependent on bank branches, leading to banks' high cost to serve.
- ✓ The highly irregular and volatile income streams and unscheduled expenditure like medical and social emergency, attribute to higher risk of credit for the banks.

What are the steps to be taken to promote rural banking?

- ✓ For optimum usage of Banking Correspondents they need to be adequately compensated by banks so that they are sufficiently incentivised to provide banking services to villagers at their door steps.
- ✓ Banks need to initiate suitable training and skill development programmes to the BCs for their effective functioning.
- ✓ To wean away villagers from borrowing from money lenders, banks should develop simplified credit disbursement procedures and also flexibility in their processes.

- ✓ To reduce the overall transaction ticket costs in rural areas, use of domestic Rupay cards must be promoted in large scale.
- ✓ Since remittance facility for migrant population is of paramount importance, providing easy and cheap remittance facilities to migrants is an absolute imperative.
- ✓ To deal with poor villagers, banks need to initiate training programmes to equip their staff as well as BCs on human side of banking.
- ✓ To achieve meaningful financial inclusion, banks should give priority for small farmers as compared to large farmers while sanctioning credit.
- ✓ There is a need to promote Electronic Benefit Transfer systems effectively for boosting rural banking.
- ✓ Govt. banks should initiate steps to increase the credit absorption capacity in rural areas by promoting employment and other opportunities.
- ✓ The need for vernacularisation of all banking forms is an absolute must, at least in major languages.
- ✓ As a part of financial literacy drive, banks need to take proactive steps in helping the common public to get over their English phobia.

What are the challenges encountered by Banking system due to new initiatives?

- ✓ A large number of PMJDY accounts do not have any money and lie dormant which only increases costs of banks to run these accounts.
- ✓ Poor people live on subsistence level of earning and with no source of regular earning, they don't have surplus to save in bank account or take any other financial instrument.
- ✓ Payment banks will have the benefit of wider reach but they will need to counter the issues of complex user interfaces, lack of internet penetration and lack of grievance redressal mechanism which might deter users.

- ✓ Direct benefit transfer may see collaboration of erstwhile middle men with bank officials to delay/deny benefits.
- ✓ Payment banks might also deprive regular banks of the fee income they earn from customers like those of making demand drafts, cash transfers, remittances, cash withdrawal through cheques and ATM transaction fees.
- ✓ In quite number of cases, the Business Correspondents have been accused of siphoning the money.
- ✓ Banking technology related frauds are increasing at the alarming rate.
- ✓ In rural and hinterland areas mobile connectivity is still in poor condition.
- ✓ Even some villages need the electrical connection also which is essential for the new age services of banking.
- ✓ Schemes like PMJJBY, PMSBY, APY etc are largely dependent on the success of banking reaching the poor and face a herculean task when a large section of population does not have access to or awareness of pension or insurance products.

2. STRENGTHENING OF CYBER SECURITY

What are the measures to be taken to ensure secure financial transactions?

- ✓ The originator of any transaction shall ensure that his device from which he is originating is completely cyber sanitised. The device should have been patched up with latest Anti Virus signatures.
- ✓ Care should have been taken to type the banking website addresses and if it is an online transaction it should not be clicked from an email as it can route to phishing attacks.
- ✓ "No lunch is free lunch" - Any mobile / online tools which are offered free or given free should be dealt or used with due diligence.
- ✓ The PIN which is used by the originator should be kept confidential and should not be shared with anyone or through any link.
- ✓ The financial institution act as an mediator in transaction between an originator and the beneficiary, so the financial institution IT systems must be protected well enough to carry out the safe and secure transaction.
- ✓ Data must not be changes during the transit, and steps must be taken to ensure that data cannot be altered in an unauthorised manner.
- ✓ The IT infrastructure of the financial institutions which are interacting online must conform to the standards and procedures created by the nodal agencies like CERT - In.
- ✓ What are the steps taken by GOI to promote cyber security?
- ✓ In order to address the issues of cyber security in a holistic manner, the Government has released the "National Cyber Security Policy-2013" for public use and implementation by all relevant stakeholders.
- ✓ Government has setup National Critical Information Infrastructure Protection Centre (NCIIPC) to protect the critical information infrastructure in the country.
- ✓ Action has been initiated to set up a centre for tracking all the compromised systems connected on the Internet in the country and clean them on online basis so that the infection does not carry forward.
- ✓ All government websites are to be hosted on infrastructure of National Informatics Centre (NIC), ERNET India or any other secure infrastructure service provider in the country.
- ✓ All the new government websites and applications are to be audited with respect to cyber security prior to their hosting. CERT-In provides necessary expertise to audit IT infrastructure of critical and other ICT sectors.
- ✓ Indian Computer Emergency Response (CERT-In) has empanelled a total no. of 45 security auditors to carry out security audit of the IT infrastructure of Government, Public and Private sector organizations.

- ✓ All the Ministries/ Departments of Central Government and State Governments have been asked to implement the Crisis Management Plan (CMP) to counter cyber attacks and cyber terrorism.
- ✓ The National Watch and Alert System - Indian Computer Emergency Response (CERT-In) team is working 24/7 and scanning the cyber space in the country. The team works with Government, Service Providers, private sector and citizens both on pro-active and reactive basis and help in mitigating cyber incidents.
- ✓ Cyber Security mock drills are being regularly conducted to prepare the organizations to detect, mitigate and prevent cyber incidence.
- ✓ Sectoral CERTs have been functioning in the areas of Defence and Finance for catering to critical domains. They are equipped to handle and respond to domain specific threats emerging from the cyber systems.

List out some recent initiatives?

- ✓ **USB Pratirodh** - A desktop security solution, which protects from USB mass storage device threats.
- ✓ **AppSamvid** - A desktop solution which protects systems by allowing installation of genuine applications through white listing. This helps in preventing threats from malicious applications.
- ✓ **M-Kavach** – An indigenously developed solution to address the security threats in mobiles.
- ✓ **Browser JSGuard** - An browser that detects and defends from malicious HTML & JavaScript based attacks made through the web browser. It blocks access to the harmful, inappropriate and dangerous websites that may contain malicious content through Heuristics.

3. MISSION INDRADHANUSH: REVAMPING OF PUBLIC SECTOR BANKING IN INDIA

What are the reasons behind the need of banking reforms?

- ✓ The Public Sector Banks (PSBs) play a vital role in India's economy.

- ✓ In the past few years, because of a variety of legacy issues including the delay caused in various approvals as well as land acquisition etc., and also because of low global and domestic demand, many large projects have stalled.
- ✓ Public Sector Banks which have got predominant share of infrastructure financing have been sorely affected.
- ✓ It has resulted in lower profitability for PSBs, mainly due to provisioning for the restructured projects as well as for gross NPAs.
- ✓ What is mission Indradhanush?
- ✓ The GOI rolled out many reforms which are nicknamed as ABCDEFG reforms to revamp the banking sector and put the PSBs back on track and the reforms are as follows.

Appointments:

- ✓ The Government decided to separate the post of Chairman and Managing Director by prescribing that in the subsequent vacancies to be filled up the CEO will get the designation of MD & CEO and there would be another person who would be appointed as non-Executive Chairman of PSBs.
- ✓ This approach is based on global best practices and as per the guidelines in the Companies Act to ensure appropriate checks and balances.
- ✓ The selection process for both these positions has been transparent and meritocratic and even private persons were allowed to apply for these posts.

Bank Board Bureau:

- ✓ The BBB will be a body of eminent professionals and officials, which will replace the Appointments Board for appointment of Whole-time Directors as well as non-Executive Chairman of PSBs.
- ✓ They will also constantly engage with the Board of Directors of all the PSBs to formulate appropriate strategies for their growth and development.

Capitalization:

- ✓ As of now, the PSBs are adequately capitalized and meeting all the Basel III and RBI norms.
- ✓ However, the Government of India wants to adequately capitalize all the banks to keep a safe buffer over and above the minimum norms of Basel III.
- ✓ So the estimated capital requirement of extra capital for the next four years up to FY 2019 is likely to be about Rs.1,80,000 crores and it will be infused to the banks in proper time intervals.

De-stressing PSBs:

- ✓ The infrastructure sector and core sector have been the major recipient of PSBs' funding during the past decades.
- ✓ But due to several factors, projects are increasingly stalled/stressed thus leading to NPA burden on banks.
- ✓ So initiatives like Creation of Project Monitoring groups in respective Ministries, facilitating faster policy decisions, programmes to de stress the DISCOMs are taken to improve the condition of PSBs.

Empowerment:

- ✓ The Government has issued a circular that there will be no interference from Government and Banks are encouraged to take their decision independently keeping the commercial interest of the organization in mind.
- ✓ A cleaner distinction between interference and intervention has been made.
- ✓ With autonomy comes accountability, accordingly Banks have been asked to build robust Grievances Redressal Mechanism for customers as well as staff so that concerns of the affected are addressed effectively in time bound manner.

Framework of Accountability:

- ✓ A new framework of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) to be measured for performance of PSBs is being announced.

- ✓ Operating performance evaluated through the KPI framework will be linked to the performance bonus to be paid to the MD & CEOs of banks by the Government.

- ✓ The quantum of performance bonus is also proposed to be revised shortly to make it more attractive.

Governance Reforms:

- ✓ The process of governance reforms started with "Gyan Sangam" - a conclave of PSBs and FIs organized at the beginning of 2015 in Pune which was attended by all stake-holders including Prime Minister, Finance Minister, MoS (Finance), Governor, RBI and CMDs of all PSBs and FIs.
- ✓ There was focus group discussion on six different topics which resulted in specific decisions on optimizing capital, digitizing processes, strengthening risk management, improving managerial performance and financial inclusion.
- ✓ The Government has been constantly engaging with the Banks through review meeting and sessions for strategic reviews etc to ease the Governance process.

What are the game changing initiatives taken by GOI in last one year?

- ✓ **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code:** The objective of the new code is to promote entrepreneurship, availability of credit, and balance the interests of all stakeholders by consolidating and amending the laws relating to reorganization and insolvency resolution of corporate persons, partnership firms and individuals in a time bound manner and for maximization of value of assets of such persons and matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.
- ✓ The code aims to consolidate the laws relating to insolvency of companies and limited liability entities (including limited liability partnerships and other entities with limited liability), unlimited liability partnerships and individuals, presently contained in a number of legislations, into a single legislation.

- ✓ Such consolidation will provide for a greater clarity in law and facilitate the application of consistent and coherent provisions to different stakeholders affected by business failure or inability to pay debt.
- ✓ **Recapitalization of Banks:** The Government infused a sum of Rs. 25000 crore in 19 PSBs during financial year 2015-16 and Rs. 24997.182 crore into 16 PSBs during the FY 2016-17.
- ✓ Government has also allowed all PSBs to raise capital from Public markets through Follow-on Public Offer (FPO) or Qualified Institutional Placement (QIP) by diluting Government of India holding upto 52% in phased manner based on their capital requirement, their stock performance, liquidity, market conditions etc.
- ✓ **Consolidation of Banks:** The Union Cabinet has approved the framework for merging state-owned banks. Plans are to consolidate a total of 21 public sector banks.
- ✓ The motive behind the decision is to modify public sector banks according to suit the credit needs of the growing economy that is India.
- ✓ Also, the entities formed after merging PSU banks will be able to absorb shocks and can generate capital without depending on the state exchequer.

4. FACILITATING FINANCIAL INCLUSION

What is financial inclusion?

- ✓ Financial inclusion is a process of ensuring access to appropriate financial products and services needed by all sections of the society in general and vulnerable groups in a particular at an affordable cost, in a fair and transparent manner.
- ✓ What are the issues in financial inclusion?
- ✓ There is a need to extend the financial inclusion to the disabled, including those elderly with loco motor activity, vision and hearing is impaired.

- ✓ Even the RBI issued guidelines to make the banks to be disabled friendly, more steps are needed in this direction to make more braches disabled friendly.
- ✓ Technological issues like frequent machine breakdowns and lack of connectivity which negatively impacts confidence of customers towards informal banking.
- ✓ There is an need for facilities lie biometric enabled and multi lingual hand held devices which can provide confidence in rural masses.
- ✓ To monitor developments regarding financial inclusion there is a need to assign responsibility to a dedicated financial institution.
- ✓ Financial literacy is a constant challenge and bankers have to adopt different strategies to reach the larger segments of the society.
- ✓ There is a need to standardise literature / material to extend financial literacy amongst the unbanked.

What are the initiatives of Government to enhance Financial Inclusion?

- ✓ **Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) :** Under this, a person not having a savings account can open an account without the requirement of any minimum balance and, in case they self-certify that they do not have any of the officially valid documents required for opening a savings account, they may open a small account.
- ✓ PMJDY offers unbanked persons easy access to banking services and awareness about financial products through financial literacy programmes.
- ✓ In addition, they receive a RuPay debit card, with inbuilt accident insurance cover of Rs. 1 lakh, and access to overdraft facility upon satisfactory operation of account or credit history of six months.
- ✓ **Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY) :** The PMJJBY is available to people in the age group of 18 to 50 years having a bank account who give their consent to join / enable auto-debit. Aadhar is the primary KYC for the bank account.

- ✓ The life cover of Rs. 2 lakh is for the one year period stretching from 1st June to 31st May and is renewable.
- ✓ Risk coverage under this scheme is for Rs. 2 lakh in case of death of the insured, due to any reason.
- ✓ The premium is Rs. 330 per annum which is to be auto-debited in one installment from the subscriber's bank account as per the option given by him on or before 31st May of each annual coverage period under the scheme.
- ✓ **Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY)** : The Scheme is available to people in the age group 18 to 70 years with a bank account who give their consent to join / enable auto-debit on or before 31st May for the coverage period 1st June to 31st May on an annual renewal basis.
- ✓ Aadhar would be the primary KYC for the bank account. The risk coverage under the scheme is Rs. 2 lakh for accidental death and full disability and Rs. 1 lakh for partial disability.
- ✓ The premium of Rs.12 per annum is to be deducted from the account holder's bank account through „auto-debit“ facility in one installment.
- ✓ **Atal Pension Yojana (APY)** : APY is open to all saving bank/post office saving bank account holders in the age group of 18 to 40 years and the contributions differ, based on pension amount chosen. Subscribers would receive the guaranteed minimum monthly pension of Rs. 1,000 or Rs. 2,000 or Rs. 3,000 or Rs. 4,000 or Rs. 5,000 at the age of 60 years.
- ✓ Under APY, the monthly pension would be available to the subscriber, and after him to his spouse and after their death, the pension corpus, as accumulated at age 60 of the subscriber, would be returned to the nominee of the subscriber.
- ✓ **Stand Up India Scheme**: The Scheme facilitates bank loans between Rs.10 lakh and Rs.1 crore to at least one Scheduled Caste/ Scheduled Tribe borrower and at least one Woman borrower per bank branch for setting up greenfield enterprises.

- ✓ This enterprise may be in manufacturing, services or the trading sector.
- ✓ The scheme which is being implemented through all Scheduled Commercial Banks is to benefit at least 2.5 lakh borrowers.
- ✓ **Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana** : As per the scheme, on payment of an initial lump sum amount ranging from a minimum purchase price of Rs. 1,50,000/- for a minimum pension of Rs 1,000/- per month to a maximum purchase price of Rs. 7, 50,000/- for maximum pension of Rs. 5,000/- per month, subscribers will get an assured pension based on a guaranteed rate of return of 8% per annum, payable monthly.

5. MANAGING NONPERFORMING ASSETS: A PARADIGM SHIFT

What are the reasons for the rise in Non Performing Assets?

- ✓ Exuberance in increasing balance sheet size by lending to borrowers unworthy of such loans on account of their past credit history.
- ✓ Funds were borrowed for creating excess capacities in anticipation of demand without factoring in the global capacities / demand position.
- ✓ Project completion was delayed for various reasons.
- ✓ Recovery of receivables was poor.
- ✓ The concerned corporate was not able to raise capital through the issue of equity or other debt instruments from capital markets and used borrowed money as equity leading to double leveraging.
- ✓ Business failure because of overestimated optimistic projections.
- ✓ Diversion of funds meant for expansion / modernization. Borrowed funds are not utilized for the purposes which they have borrowed.
- ✓ Willful defaults, siphoning of funds, frauds, misappropriation etc.,

- ✓ Lack of skill on the part of the banks to monitor end use of funds and diversion by the borrower through web of shell companies etc.,
 - ✓ Deficiency in credit appraisal and improper due diligence.
- What are the changes needed and reforms taken to contain NPA problem?**
- ✓ **Amendment in banking law to give RBI more powers:** The Banking Regulation Act may be amended to give RBI more powers to monitor bank accounts of big defaulters.
 - ✓ The amendment in the banking law will enable setting up of a committee to oversee companies that have been the biggest defaulters of loans.
 - ✓ RBI wants stricter rules for joint lenders'' forum (JLF) and oversight committee (OC) to curb NPAs.
 - ✓ **Stringent NPA recovery rules:** The government has over the years enacted and tweaked stringent rules to recover assets of defaulters.
- ✓ The Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act or Sarfaesi Act of 2002 was amended in 2016 as it took banks years to recover the assets.
 - ✓ Experts have pointed out that the NPA problem has to be tackled before the time a company starts defaulting.
 - ✓ This needs a risk assessment by the lenders and red-flagging the early signs of a possible default.
 - ✓ **RBI's loan restructuring schemes:** RBI has over the past few decades come up with a number of schemes such as corporate debt restructuring (CDR), formation of joint lenders'' forum (JLF), flexible structuring for long-term project loans to infrastructure (or 5/25 Scheme), strategic debt restructuring (SDR) scheme and sustainable structuring of stressed assets (S4A) to check the menace of NPAs.

2. SUPREME COURT VERDICT ON HONOUR KILLING

Why in news?

Supreme Court in its recent verdict has upheld the choice of consenting adults to love and marry as a part of their fundamental rights.

What is the verdict?

- ✓ The judgment came on a petition filed by NGO Shakti Vahini to curb honour crimes.
- ✓ The court held that the consent of the family, community or clan is not necessary for marriage.
- ✓ This is to safeguard young couples under threat for marrying outside their caste or religion.
- ✓ The Court also issued a set of guidelines for the authorities, to stop interference by khap panchayats.
- ✓ The guidelines issued by the Court will be in place till the government comes up with a law.

Why are khap panchayats a concern?

- ✓ Khap panchayats are the self-appointed village courts.
- ✓ Khap panchayats wield enormous influence in villages of several states in India.
- ✓ **Honour Killings** - They are often seen responsible for the growing number of honour killings in the country.
- ✓ They group against young couples to force their presence and dictate punishments.
- ✓ **Sense of honour** - These “feudalistic” entities have no reluctance in committing crimes.
- ✓ The "sense of honour" perpetuates the idea of not to marry outside one's caste, clan or religion.
- ✓ Masculine dominance becomes the sole governing factor of perceptive honour.
- ✓ The police turn a blind eye and the administration hardly questions them.
- ✓ **Women** - Women are treated by the khaps as servile persons who have no desire for autonomy.
- ✓ Their families are either silent spectators or active participants in their torture.

- ✓ To highlight the terror inflicted on women, the Supreme Court gave a list of actions which trigger honour-based crimes. They include
 - i. loss of virginity outside marriage
 - ii. unapproved relationships
 - iii. refusing an arranged marriage
 - iv. asking for divorce
 - v. demanding custody of children after divorce
 - vi. causing scandal or gossip in the community
 - vii. even “falling victim to rape”

What are the Court's observations on this?

- ✓ The apex court ridiculed the “elevated sense of honour” of elders, the collective and khap panchayats.
- ✓ It observed honour killing that guillotines individual liberty, freedom of choice and one's own perception of choice.
- ✓ The human rights of a person are not mortgaged to the so-called honour of the family or clan or the collective.
- ✓ Khap panchayats were condemned for their belief that their duty is sanctified and their action of punishing the hapless victims is inviolable.
- ✓ It termed the elders, presiding over murder in broad daylight, as “patriarchal monarchs”.
- ✓ The verdict thus comes down heavily on crimes committed in the name of honour.

SUPREME COURT GUIDELINES TO PREVENT HONOUR KILLING

Why in news?

Supreme Court in its recent verdict has upheld the choice of consenting adults to love and marry as a part of their fundamental rights.

What are the guidelines?

- ✓ **States** - The state governments should identify districts, sub-divisions and/or villages concerned.
- ✓ These are areas where instances of honour killing or assembly of Khap Panchayats have been reported in the last 5 years.
- ✓ **Police** - Officer In-charge of the police stations of the identified areas needs to be cautious.
- ✓ Any instance of inter-caste or inter-religious marriage within their jurisdiction coming to their notice should be taken care of.
- ✓ They should inform to the immediate superior officer.
- ✓ Also the jurisdictional Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) and Superintendent of Police should be intimated.
- ✓ **Prevention** - Once done, the DSP or a senior police officer should immediately interact with the members of the Khap Panchayat.
- ✓ It should be made clear that convening of such meeting/gathering is not permissible in law, and should ultimately be prevented.
- ✓ **Meeting** - Despite these, if the meeting is conducted, the DSP should personally remain present during the meeting.
- ✓ S/he should ensure that no decision is taken to cause any harm to the couple or the family members of the couple.
- ✓ If this fails, each one participating in the meeting besides the organizers would be personally liable for criminal prosecution.
- ✓ **Video** - Discussion and participation of the members of the assembly meet should be video recorded.
- ✓ The DSP should ensure this, as this is the basis on which the law –enforcing machinery can resort to suitable action, later, if needed.
- ✓ **Proposal** - The DSP shall submit a proposal to the District Magistrate/Sub-Divisional Magistrate of the District/ Competent Authority of the concerned area.
- ✓ This is when the gathering cannot be prevented and/or is likely to cause harm to the couple or members of their family.
- ✓ **Orders** - The authority can issue orders to take preventive steps under the CrPC.
- ✓ Prohibitory orders under Section 144 CrPC can also be invoked.
- ✓ Arrest of the participants in the assembly under Section 151 CrPC can also be approved.
- ✓ **Crime** - The jurisdictional police official can file an FIR under the appropriate provisions of the Indian Penal Code.
- ✓ This is when, despite all preventive measures, if Khap Panchayat has taken place and passed any diktat against a couple/family.
- ✓ Upon registration of FIR, the Superintendent/Deputy Superintendent of Police should be intimated.
- ✓ S/he, in turn, should ensure that effective investigation of the crime is done.
- ✓ **Security** - Immediate steps should be taken to provide security to the couple/family.
- ✓ If necessary, steps to move them to a safe house within the same district or elsewhere should be taken.
- ✓ The District Magistrate/Superintendent of Police must deal with utmost sensitivity, the complaint regarding threat administered.
- ✓ **Safe house** - After the marriage, if the couple so desire, they can be provided accommodation on payment of nominal charges in the safe house.
- ✓ This would be for a period of 1 month to be extended on monthly basis but not exceeding one year in aggregate.
- ✓ The decision would be taken depending on their threat assessment on caseto-case basis.
- ✓ **Inquiry** - The initial inquiry regarding the complaint should be entrusted by the District Magistrate/Superintendent of Police to an officer of the rank of Additional Superintendent of Police.
- ✓ S/he shall conduct a preliminary inquiry and ascertain the authenticity, nature and gravity of threat perception.

- ✓ On being satisfied as to the authenticity of such threats, a report should be submitted to the Superintendent of Police in one week.
 - ✓ The District Superintendent of Police, on such report, should direct the
 - ✓ Deputy Superintendent of Police in-charge of the concerned sub-division.
 - ✓ This is to cause to register an FIR against the persons threatening the couples and, if necessary, invoke Section 151 of CrPC.
 - ✓ Additionally, the DSP should personally supervise the progress of investigation and ensure that the same is completed.
 - ✓ **Case** - The designated Court/Fast Track Court earmarked for the purpose will try criminal cases pertaining to honour killing or violence to the couple(s).
 - ✓ The trial must proceed on day-to-day basis.
 - ✓ It must preferably be concluded within 6 months from the date of taking cognizance of the offence.
 - ✓ **Negligence** - Police or district officer/officials failing to comply with the directions will be considered as an act of deliberate negligence and/or misconduct.
 - ✓ This is if such official(s) do not prevent the incident or take appropriate actions thereafter, despite prior knowledge of it.
 - ✓ Departmental action would be taken under the service rules.
- ✓ The action shall be initiated and taken to its logical end, preferably not exceeding 6 months.
 - ✓ The states are directed to take disciplinary action against the concerned officials.
 - ✓ **Special Cells** - The State Governments should create special cells in every District.
 - ✓ This is to receive petitions/complaints of harassment of and threat to couples of inter-caste marriage.
 - ✓ The special cell will comprise of the
 - i. Superintendent of Police
 - ii. District Social Welfare Officer
 - iii. District Adi-Dravidar Welfare Officer
 - ✓ These special cells should create a 24-hour helpline to receive and register such complaints.
 - ✓ They are also to provide necessary assistance/advice and protection to the couple.
 - ✓ **Sensitization** - The different state governments and the centre should work on sensitization of the law enforcement agencies.
 - ✓ There should be institutional machinery with the necessary coordination of all the stakeholders.
 - ✓ The Home department must take this initiative and work in coordination with the state governments.
 - ✓ This is to mandate social initiatives and awareness, to curb such violence, and meet the goal of social justice and rule of law.

3. EUTHANASIA AND LIVING WILL

What is the issue?

- ✓ The Supreme Court, in a landmark verdict in 2011, ruled out active euthanasia, but laid down a legal framework for passive euthanasia.
- ✓ A Constitution Bench is now hearing a petition filed by NGO Common Cause on the issue of living will in relation with passive euthanasia.
- ✓ The centre has told the Supreme Court that it was evaluating a draft law on passive euthanasia, and takes stance against living will.

What is the case?

- ✓ **Passive euthanasia** - It refers to the withdrawal of medical treatment with the deliberate intention to hasten a terminally ill-patient's death.
- ✓ The centre has informed that the 'Management of Patients With Terminal Illness — Withdrawal of Medical Life Support Bill' was ready.
- ✓ It has provisions allowing passive euthanasia as recommended by the law commission which specifies certain categories of people.
- ✓ These include those in persistent vegetative state (PVS), in irreversible coma, or of unsound mind, who lack the mental faculties to take decisions.
- ✓ **Living Will** - It refers to an advance written directive of the concerned person to physicians for end-of-life medical care i.e. not to provide life support.
- ✓ The court has indicated that it may lay down comprehensive guidelines on operationalising the idea of living wills.
- ✓ However, the government has opposed the concept of an advance directive and opposes permitting people to make a 'living will'.

What are the complications with 'living will'?

- ✓ Deciding on the question of living will comes with all the legal, moral and philosophical implications.
- ✓ **Legal** - An earlier verdict from the judiciary has noted that right to life under Article 21 does not include the right to die.

- ✓ Allowing making a living will would contravene this legal stand.
- ✓ **Rights** - Allowing it would also acknowledge the patient's autonomy and self-determination to the point of legalising a wish to die.
- ✓ **Social** - There are chances of misusing the provision and leading to the abuse and neglect of the elderly.
- ✓ On the other hand, allowing it would relieve the close family members, of a terminally ill patient, of the moral burden of making a life-ending decision.
- ✓ A living will would also rule out the possibility of doubting the life terminating decision as a murder.

What could be done?

- ✓ Given the mixed benefits, living will could be provided for with the necessary safeguards.
- ✓ The guidelines should ensure that it was really the will of the concerned person.
- ✓ Also, an independent medical board can examine the health of the person to establish the validity of the decision.

SUPREME COURT'S VERDICT ON PASSIVE EUTHANASIA AND LIVING WILL

Why in news?

A Constitution Bench has made passive euthanasia and living will permissible.

A dignified death should follow a meaningful existence

What is SC's rationale?

- ✓ **Right to Die** - The Supreme Court has upheld that the fundamental right to life and dignity includes right to refuse treatment and die with dignity.
- ✓ It observed that the fundamental right to a "meaningful existence" includes a person's choice to die without suffering.
- ✓ But it is held that active euthanasia was unlawful.
- ✓ **Dignified death** - Lack of legal backing sometimes lead to suffering and undignified death of the patient.

- ✓ As, societal pressure and fear of criminal liability by relatives and medical doctors hamper them from making the needed decision.
- ✓ Religion, morality, philosophy, law and society have differing opinions on whether right to life included right to death or not.
- ✓ However, they all unanimously share the idea that a person should die with dignity.
- ✓ **Individual Liberty** - The issue of death and when to die transcended the boundaries of law.
- ✓ But the court had intervened because the sanctity of life included the dignity and autonomy of the individual.
- ✓ The search for a meaningful existence, the pursuit of happiness included the exercise of free will which includes the right of a person to refuse medical treatment.
- ✓ A person need not give any reasons nor is answerable to any authority on why he/she should write an advanced directive.

What are SC's guidelines on living will?

- ✓ A Living Will is a healthcare directive, in which people can state their wishes in advance for their end-of-life care, in case they are not in a position to make a decision then.
- ✓ **Who** - An adult with a sound and healthy mind can make a Living Will.
- ✓ It should be voluntarily executed and based on informed consent.
- ✓ It should be expressed in specific terms in a language “absolutely clear and unambiguous”.
- ✓ **Content** - The Living Will should contain the circumstances in which medical treatment should be withheld or withdrawn.
- ✓ It should give the name of the “guardian or close relative” who will give the go-ahead for starting the procedure of passive euthanasia.
- ✓ It should specify that the Will can be revoked any time.
- ✓ An individual has the right to withdraw or alter the Living Will, but only in writing.
- ✓ So, if there are more than one Living Will, the latest one will be valid.
- ✓ **Validity** - The Will shall be attested by two independent witnesses.

- ✓ It should preferably be counter-signed by the Judicial Magistrate First Class (JMFC) who is assigned the jurisdiction by the District Court.
- ✓ **JFMC** - The JMFC shall preserve one hard copy, along with one in the digital format, in his/her office.
- ✓ JMFC shall forward a copy of the Will to the Registry of the District Court.
- ✓ JMFC shall inform the immediate family of the executor, if not informed.
- ✓ A copy will be handed over to an official in the local government or Municipal Corporation or Municipality or Panchayat concerned.
- ✓ This authority shall nominate a custodian for the Living Will.
- ✓ Besides the guidelines, it was observed that modern medical science should balance its quest to prolong patient's life.
- ✓ **Exception** - The court held that a Living Will shall not be applicable to the 'treatment in question'.
- ✓ This is when there are reasonable grounds for believing that circumstances exist which the person did not anticipate at the time of making the advance directive.
- ✓ And necessarily which would have affected his/her decision had he/she anticipated such circumstances.

Aruna Shanbaug case

- ✓ Aruna Shanbaug is an Indian nurse who spent around 40 years in a vegetative state as a result of a sexual assault.
- ✓ In 2011, the Supreme Court, in a landmark judgement, issued a set of broad guidelines legalizing passive euthanasia in India.
- ✓ However, the present judgement observed that the previous judgement had complex procedure to get approval for passive euthanasia.
- ✓ This consequently made the dignity of a dying person dependent on the whims and will of third parties.
- ✓ The present judgement, allowing individual Living Will and framing the appropriate guidelines, has addressed the earlier shortfalls with taking forward passive euthanasia.

4. INTERNATIONAL NEWS

1. 17th World Conference on Tobacco held in South Africa

The 17th World Conference on Tobacco or Health (WCTOH) was held in Cape Town, South Africa from 7-9 March 2018.

- ✓ It united researchers, academics, non-governmental organizations, civil society, scientists, healthcare professionals and public officials working on all aspects of tobacco control from more than 100 countries.

2. India to host International Competition Network Annual Conference for the first time

India to host 17th Annual Conference of International Competition Network 2018 (ICN2018) from 21st to 23rd March 2018 in New Delhi.

- ✓ While addressing the press conference, Competition Commission of India's Chairperson Shri Devender Singh Sikri said that this is the first time India is hosting the ICN2018 Annual Conference since it joined International Competition Network (ICN) in 2009.
- ✓ CCI Chairperson Shri Sikri said that the ICN is an informal network comprising 138 competition authorities from 125 jurisdictions.

3. Philippines to withdraw from International Criminal Court

The Philippines says it will withdraw from the International Criminal Court (ICC), a month after the judicial body started an inquiry into President Rodrigo Duterte's controversial war on drugs.

- ✓ The country had given notice that it would withdraw from the treaty that established the court.
- ✓ Duterte has been accused of encouraging extrajudicial killings and other rights abuses in his bid to rid the country of drugs since his election in 2016.

4. Mauritius President Ameenah Gurib-Fakim resigns

Mauritius President Ameenah Gurib-Fakim resigned after being embroiled in a scandal over her use of a credit card to buy luxury personal items.

- ✓ Gurib-Fakim, Africa's only female head of state, submitted her resignation in the "national interest," her lawyer Yousouf Mohamed said.
- ✓ Her resignation would take effect on March 23.

5. G20 ministerial meeting opens in Buenos Aires

The first G20 meeting of finance ministers and central bank governors began in Buenos Aires, with the presence of 57 delegations from different countries and institutions.

- ✓ This is the first of five such meetings to be held before Argentina hosts the G20 Summit on November 30 to December 1.

6. List of Agreements signed during Visit of President of France to India

- ✓ Agreement between India and France on the Prevention of Illicit Consumption and Reduction of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Chemical Precursors and Related Offences
- ✓ India-France Migration and Mobility Partnership Agreement
- ✓ Agreement between India and France to facilitate Mutual Recognition of Academic Qualifications
- ✓ Memorandum of Understanding between Ministry of Railways and SNCF Motilities, France on technical cooperation in the field of Railways
- ✓ Letter of Intent between India and France for creation of a permanent Indo-French Railways Forum
- ✓ Agreement between India and France regarding the provision of reciprocal logistics support between their Armed Forces

- ✓ Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and France on cooperation in the field of Environment
- ✓ Agreement between India and France on cooperation in the field of Sustainable Urban Development
- ✓ Agreement between India and France regarding the exchange and reciprocal protection of classified or protected information
- ✓ Implementing Arrangement between Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and Central National D'Etudes Spatiales (CNES) for pre-formulation studies of a Maritime Awareness Mission
- ✓ Industrial Way Forward Agreement between Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd, and EDF, France
- ✓ Bilateral Arrangement between India and France on cooperation in the matter of Hydrography and Maritime Cartography
- ✓ Credit Facility Agreement between India and France of Euros 100 million for funding of the Smart City Projects through a Challenge Process
- ✓ Memorandum of Understanding between National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE), Ministry of New & Renewable Energy and the National Solar Energy Institute (INES), France.

7. President of India inaugurates world Hindi secretariat in Mauritius

The President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, inaugurated the World Hindi Secretariat building on March 13, 2018 on the third day of his visit to Mauritius.

- ✓ He also launched the World Hindi Secretariat's logo and a large ENT hospital being built with Indian assistance.
- ✓ The President noted that the 11th World Hindi Conference is going to be held in Mauritius in August 2018.
- ✓ Apart from India, Mauritius is the only country where this conference is being hosted for a third time.

Points to Remember

- ✓ Mauritius, officially the Republic of Mauritius is an island nation in the Indian Ocean.

- ✓ Ameenah Gurib is the President of Mauritius while Pravind Jugnauth is the Prime Minister.
- ✓ Port Louis is the capital of Mauritius while Rupee is its currency.

8. Paper £10 notes go out of circulation in UK

Old paper £10 notes, featuring British naturalist Charles Darwin, went out of circulation across the UK on March 1.

- ✓ They have been replaced by the new polymer version featuring British author Jane Austen introduced last year.
- ✓ Anyone with the old banknote will need to deposit it at a bank as shops will refuse to accept them as they cease to be legal tender.

9. India, Russia, Bangladesh sign pact for Rooppur atomic plant

Indian companies can now participate in construction and installation works in the “non-critical” category for the Rooppur nuclear power plant in Bangladesh.

- ✓ The Rooppur project is the first initiative under an Indo-Russian deal to undertake atomic energy projects in third countries.
- ✓ This will also be the first time Indian companies will be able to participate in a nuclear power project abroad.
- ✓ India is not a member of the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) and hence cannot participate directly in construction of atomic power reactors.

10. India has the third highest number of billionaires in the world

With 31 new Indians on the list, India comes third after China and USA on Hurun's Global Rich List 2018.

- ✓ However, China with 819 names and USA with 571 are way ahead in terms of number of billionaires.
- ✓ The total number of Indians on that list is 131, but if Indian-origins are considered then the tally would move up to 170.
- ✓ The Hurun Rich List 2018 ranked 2,694 billionaires from 68 countries and 2,157 companies.

5. NATIONAL NEWS

1. LaQshya Program for Pregnant Women

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has recently announced the launch of program 'LaQshya', aimed at improving quality of care in labour room and maternity Operation Theatre (OT).

- ✓ The Program will improve quality of care for pregnant women in labour room, maternity Operation Theatre and Obstetrics Intensive Care Units (ICUs) and High Dependency Units (HDUs).
- ✓ The LaQshya program is being implemented at all Medical College Hospitals, District Hospitals and First Referral Unit (FRU), and Community Health Center (CHCs) and will benefit every pregnant woman and new-born delivering in public health institutions.
- ✓ 'LaQshya' will reduce maternal and newborn morbidity and mortality, improve quality of care during delivery and immediate post-partum period and enhance satisfaction of beneficiaries and provide Respectful Maternity Care (RMC) to all pregnant women attending public health facilities.

2. KUSUM Scheme – harnessing solar power for rural India

The Government of India is in the process of formulating a Scheme 'Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan (KUSUM)' which, inter alia, provides for:

- ✓ Installation of grid-connected solar power plants each of capacity up to 2 MW in the rural areas;
- ✓ Installation of standalone off-grid solar water pumps to fulfill irrigation needs of farmers not connected to grid;
- ✓ Solarization of existing grid-connected agriculture pumps to make farmers independent of grid supply and also enable them to sell surplus solar power generated to DISCOM and get extra income; and

- ✓ Solarization of tube-wells and lift irrigation projects of Government sector.

3. Atal Bhujal Yojana

The Government has proposed Atal Bhujal Yojana (ABHY) aimed at sustainable ground water management with community participation in select over-exploited and ground water stressed areas in seven States (Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh).

- ✓ ABHY is designed as a Central Sector Scheme with a total outlay of Rs. 6,000 Crore and is proposed to be implemented with World Bank assistance.

4. Modi to inaugurate Science Congress

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the 105th edition of the Indian Science Congress in Imphal on March 16.

- ✓ The Science Congress will see congregation of about 5000 delegations including three Noble laureates, scientists, scholars and researchers from all across the country.

5. PM addresses Rising India Summit organized by Network 18

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi addressed the Rising India Summit, organized by Network 18.

- ✓ He said that when we speak of a rise, in terms of a nation, it has a very broad context.
- ✓ He said that beyond the rise of the economy, he feels that Rising India implies the rise of self-respect among the people of India.

6. NITI Aayog to Release SATH-E Roadmaps

SATH-E to introduce System-wide Governance Transformation in School Education

- ✓ NITI Aayog will release comprehensive roadmaps and detailed timelines for its initiative 'Sustainable Action for Transforming Human Capital in Education (SATH-E)' project at NITI Aayog on March 17.

- ✓ Shri Amitabh Kant, CEO, NITI Aayog and the Chief Secretaries of the States of Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh and Odisha will release the forward looking blueprints after a day-long workshop with Principal Secretaries of the States, State Project Directors and other experts and representatives operating in the field.

7. More than 17 lakh beneficiaries enrolled under Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana

Number of beneficiaries enrolled under Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) has increased to 17,66,423.

- ✓ Every day on an average, around 50, 000 new applications are received for enrolment.
- ✓ So far, Rs. 2048.21 Crores to all 36 States/UTs have been sanctioned under PMMVY out of which Rs. 2042.09 Crores have been released till date.
- ✓ The Government of India has approved Pan-India implementation of PMMVY in all districts of the country from 01.01.2017 under which the eligible beneficiaries get Rs. 5,000/- under PMMVY and the remaining cash incentive as per approved norms towards Maternity Benefit under Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY) after institutional delivery so that on an average, a woman gets Rs. 6000/-.

8. Nitin Gadkari inaugurates 5th 'Nadi Mahotsava' in Hoshangabad

Union Minister for Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation Nitin Gadkari has inaugurated the 5th 'Nadi Mahotsava' in Hoshangabad District of Madhya Pradesh.

- ✓ Addressing the gathering, the minister said that the pioneering event like 'Nadi Mahotsava' will not only revive rivers, but also improve the condition of people living on their banks.
- ✓ The 'Nadi Mahotsava' event was also addressed by Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chauhan.

9. Plastic Ban In Maharashtra From March 18

The Maharashtra cabinet decided to impose a ban on certain plastic items from the Marathi New Year, 'Gudhi Padwa', on March 18.

- ✓ An official in the state environment department said the ban will cover plastic carry bags, thermocol and plastic plates, cups, forks, bowls and spoons.
- ✓ An empowered committee under the Environment Minister Ramdas Kadam has been formed to discuss the ban on rest of the plastic goods, the official said.

10. Children's Science Congress concludes

Emphasising the need to provide more opportunities to children, Vice Chancellor of Manipur University, Prof. Adya Prasad Pandey has said that young students are the future of the country.

- ✓ Delivering the keynote address at the Valedictory session of the Children's Science Congress at the 105th Indian Science Congress in Imphal, Shri Pandey said that with more opportunities, children will contribute more towards a better India.

11. Manduadih to be renamed Banaras railway station

The holy city of Varanasi is soon likely to get a railway station named "Banaras".

- ✓ The Railway Ministry is considering renaming the Manduadih railway station as Banaras railway station.
- ✓ Manduadih is among one of the four railway stations in the city besides Varanasi Junction, popularly known as Varanasi Cantt Railway Station, Varanasi City and Kashi.

Points to Remember

- ✓ Manduadih is a place in Varanasi situated about four kilometers from Varanasi Cant Station.
- ✓ Varanasi, also called Banaras and Kashi, was chosen in 2014 by Narendra Modi to contest the Lok Sabha polls from city of Uttar Pradesh.

- ✓ The name Varanasi is said to be derived from combination of 'Varuna' and 'Asi' — the names of rivers.

- ✓ Kashi is the ancient name of Varanasi.

12. Sajibu Nongma Panba Cheiraoba celebrated in Manipur

The traditional festival of Sajibu Nongma Panba Cheiraoba was celebrated in Manipur on 18th March to mark the beginning of a new year.

- ✓ The festival is mainly observed on the first lunar day of the lunar month Sajibu (March/April) by the Meitei community, a majority ethnic group of Manipur.

13. Punjab to impose permanent ban on hookah bars

The Punjab Government is all set to impose a permanent ban on hookah bars across the State instead of issuing temporary orders against them every two months.

- ✓ Punjab will be the second State in the country, after Gujarat, to take the significant decision.
- ✓ Gujarat has banned Hookah bars in the State by passing the COTPA Amendment Bill, 2017.

14. 'Tribal Diaries' Mobile App to strengthen internal monitoring

The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has developed an android based mobile application called Tribal Diaries for internal monitoring as also connecting with officers/officials concerned with implementation of schemes / programmes for tribal development.

- ✓ The application is for accredited users.
- ✓ This application provides an opportunity for visual feedback in terms of photographs, videos, uploading reports of official tours / inspections and sharing of best practices etc.

15. First National Workshop on POSHAN Abhiyaan

The first National workshop on POSHAN Abhiyaan involving all the states and union territories is being held on 20th March at Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra, New Delhi.

- ✓ The Ministry of Women and Child Development is organising the day long workshop with participation from all the states/UTs.

16. Government approves Plastic Park to be set up in Deoghar

Union Minister for Chemicals & Fertilizers and Parliamentary Affairs, Shri Ananthkumar announced that the Government of India has approved the setting up of a Plastic Park in Deoghar District, Jharkhand.

- ✓ The project would be set up at a cost of Rs. 120 crores in an area of 150 acres and a range of polymer products including woven sacks, moulded furniture, water tanks, bottles, pipes mosquito nets, etc would be manufactured.
- ✓ It has great potential for attracting investment for setting up an ecosystem for plastic industry and generate employment opportunities for the local populace, the Minister informed.

17. NCAA becomes the World's First Trusted Digital Repository

National Cultural Audiovisual Archives (NCAA) project of the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, implemented by Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) has been certified as the world's first Trusted Digital Repository as per ISO 16363:2012 standard, granted by Primary Trustworthy Digital Repository Authorisation Body Ltd. (PTAB), United Kingdom.

- ✓ Leveraging this historic achievement, the plan for the next phase is to integrate about three lakh hours of audiovisuals materials, a corpus estimated based on a scoping survey conducted in 25 cities across the country, on this platform over the next five years.

18. Nitin Gadkari inaugurates Inland Ferry Services in Goa

Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways, Shipping and Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation Shri Nitin Gadkari has inaugurated the Inland ferry services in the port city of Vasco in Goa.

- ✓ The Minister said that while addressing the needs of the poor, environment and ecosystem must be given its due priority.
- ✓ To achieve this, all the stakeholders need to make a concerted decision and action.

19. Cabinet approves Opening of Missions in Africa to implement commitments of IAFS

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the opening of 18 new Indian Missions in Africa over a four year period from 2018-2021.

- ✓ The 18 new Indian Missions in Africa will be opened in Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chad, Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Mauritania, Rwanda, Sao Tome & Principe, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Swaziland and Togo over a four year period from 2018-2021 thereby increasing the number of Resident Indian Missions in Africa from 29 to 47.
- ✓ The decision will enhance India's diplomatic outreach in the African continent and allow India to engage with Indian diaspora in African countries.
- ✓ Opening of new Missions is also a step towards implementing the vision of enhanced co-operation and engagement with Africa.

20. Cabinet approves North-East Industrial Development Scheme (NEIDS) 2017

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the North East Industrial Development Scheme (NEIDS), 2017 with financial outlay of Rs.3000 crores upto March, 2020.

- ✓ Government will provide necessary allocations for remaining period of scheme after assessment before March 2020.
- ✓ NEIDS is a combination of the incentives covered under the earlier two schemes with a much larger outlay.

21. Cabinet approves Ayushman Bharat – National Health Protection Mission

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the launch of a new Centrally Sponsored Ayushman Bharat - National Health Protection Mission (AB-NHPM) having central sector component under Ayushman Bharat Mission anchored in the MoHFW.

- ✓ The scheme has the benefit cover of Rs. 5 lakh per family per year.
- ✓ The target beneficiaries of the proposed scheme will be more than 10 crore families belonging to poor and vulnerable population based on SECC database.
- ✓ AB-NHPM will subsume the on-going centrally sponsored schemes –Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY) and the Senior Citizen Health Insurance Scheme (SCHIS).

22. Cabinet approves closure of India Development Foundation of Overseas Indians

The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has given its approval for closure of India Development Foundation of Overseas Indians (IDF-OI) to enhance synergies in channelizing Diaspora's contributions to Government of India's flagship programmes such as National Mission for clean Ganga and Swachh Bharat Mission.

- ✓ IDF-OI was set up by Government of India with the approval of Cabinet in 2008 as an autonomous not-for-profit Trust, to facilitate Overseas Indian philanthropy into social and development projects in India.
- ✓ As the Foundation received only Rs. 36.80 Lakhs between December 2008 and March 2015 as donation from overseas Indian community, a comprehensive review of IDF-OI was undertaken in 2015.

23. Hansraj Gangaram Ahir to inaugurate first National Conference on Drug Law Enforcement

The Minister of State for Home Affairs, Shri Hansraj Gangaram Ahir will inaugurate the two-day first National Conference on Drug Law Enforcement in New Delhi.

- ✓ The conference is being organised by the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), Ministry of Home Affairs.
- ✓ The Union Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh will be the Chief Guest at the closing session on 24th March.

24. MNRE to set up 65,180 biogas plants in current year

The National Biogas and Manure Management Programme (NBMMP) aims at setting up of family type biogas plants for providing biogas as clean cooking fuel and a source of lighting.

- ✓ The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) has fixed an annual physical target of setting up 65,180 biogas plants for the current year 2017-18 under the NBMMP.

25. India to be Self-Reliant in Silk Production by 2020

India will be self-reliant in the production of silk by 2020, said the Minister of Textiles Smriti Zubin Irani in a media interaction.

- ✓ The Union Cabinet's decision approving the Integrated Scheme for Development of Silk Industry will help increase the production of Bivoltine silk (high quality) by 62 percent by 2020.
- ✓ The Minister further said the aim of the government is to increase the number of people engaged in the silk sector from 85 lakhs to one crore in the next three years.

26. 12 sites identified for development under Iconic Tourist Sites Project

The Ministry of Tourism has identified following 12 sites for development under Iconic Tourist Sites Project:

- ✓ Taj Mahal & Fatehpur Sikri (Uttar Pradesh)
- ✓ Ajanta and Ellora (Maharashtra)
- ✓ Humayun Tomb, Qutub Minar and Red Fort (Delhi)
- ✓ Colva Beach (Goa)
- ✓ Amer Fort (Rajasthan)
- ✓ Somnath and Dholavira (Gujarat)
- ✓ Khajuraho (Madhya Pradesh)
- ✓ Hampi (Karnataka)
- ✓ Mahablipuram (Tamil Nadu)
- ✓ Kaziranga (Assam)
- ✓ Kumarakom (Kerala)
- ✓ Mahabodhi Temple (Bihar)

This information was given by Shri K. J. Alphons, Union Minister of State (I/C) for Tourism in a written reply in Rajya Sabha.

27. Centre sanctions Rs 1,000 crore for research and innovation

The Union Government has announced a grant of Rs 1,000 crore for the second phase of the Impacting Research Innovation and Technology (IMPRINT) India programme.

- ✓ Under the IMPRINT-II, a fund is being created by the Department of Science and Technology and Ministry of Human Resource Development together, in which participation will come from industry and other interested Ministries.
- ✓ Under the IMPRINT-I Programme, 142 projects at a cost of Rs. 318.71 crore are already under implementation.

28. Cabinet approves MoU between UPSC and Public Service Commission of Mauritius

The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) and Public Service Commission of Mauritius.

- ✓ The MoU will strengthen the existing relationship between UPSC and Public Service Commission of Mauritius.

- ✓ It will facilitate sharing of experience and expertise of both the parties in the area of recruitment.
- ✓ The MoU will develop institutionalized linkage between the Public Service Commissions of two countries.

29. Swachh Shakti 2018 to be held in Lucknow

The Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation, in association with the Government of Uttar Pradesh, is organizing a Women's Convention – called Swachh Shakti 2018 – on International Women's Day, at Lucknow.

- ✓ 8000 women sarpanches, 3000 women Swachhagrahis, 2000 mahilasamakhyas from Uttar Pradesh and women sarpanches from across the country have been invited to recognize their outstanding contribution towards making Swachh Bharat a reality in rural India.
- ✓ Last year, 6000 women sarpanches from across the country had assembled in Gujarat on the occasion of International Women's Day under the banner Swachh Shakti 2017.

30. RK Singh launches National E-Mobility Programme

Shri R K Singh, Union Minister of State (IC) Power and New & Renewable Energy, launched the National E-Mobility Programme.

- ✓ The Programme aims to provide an impetus to the entire e-mobility ecosystem including vehicle manufacturers, charging infrastructure companies, fleet operators, service providers, etc.
- ✓ The Programme will be implemented by Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) which will aggregate demand by procuring electric vehicles in bulk to get economies of scale.

31. NITI Aayog to launch Women Entrepreneurship Platform

NITI Aayog, the premier think tank of the country will launch its Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP) on 8th March on the occasion of the International Women's Day.

- ✓ NITI Vice Chairman Rajiv Kumar, CEO, Amitabh Kant, UN Resident Coordinator in India Yuri Afanasiev and Kailash Kher, along with industry leaders and partners of WEP will be present on this occasion
- ✓ Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP) would provide a vibrant entrepreneurial ecosystem where women do not face any gender-based barriers.
- ✓ The platform aspires to substantially increase the number of women entrepreneurs who will create and empower a dynamic New India.
- ✓ WEP will provide opportunities to women to realize their entrepreneurial aspirations, scale-up innovative initiatives and chalk-out sustainable, long-term strategies for their businesses.

32. PM launches National Nutrition Mission

On the occasion of International Women's Day, the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, launched the National Nutrition Mission, and expansion of the coverage of Beti Bachao Beti Padhao programme, at Jhunjhunu in Rajasthan.

- ✓ He also interacted with beneficiary mothers and girl children of the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao programme.
- ✓ The Prime Minister awarded certificates to the best performing districts under the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao programme.

33. Government announces launch of 'SUVIDHA'

Union Minister for Chemicals & Fertilizers and Parliamentary Affairs, Shri Ananth kumar announced the launch of 'Suvidha', the 100% Oxo-biodegradable Sanitary Napkin, under the Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP).

- ✓ The affordable sanitary napkin will be available for Rs. 2.50 per pad at over 3200 Janaushadhi Kendras across India and would ensure 'Swachhta, Swasthya and Suvidha' for the underprivileged Women of India.

- ✓ This step taken by the Department of Pharmaceuticals will ensure the achievement of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision of Affordable and Quality Healthcare for All.

34. Udyam Sakhi Portal Launched for Women Entrepreneurs

On the occasion of International Women's Day today, March 8, the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) launched a portal for women entrepreneurs of India: www.udyamsakhi.org.

- ✓ The portal was unveiled by the Minister of State (Independent Charge) of MSME, Giriraj Singh, in a program.
- ✓ The Minister said that India has around 8 million women who have started and are running their own businesses and the Ministry of MSME believes that the women in India can play a vital role in the growth of the Indian economy.
- ✓ The portal is a network for nurturing entrepreneurship and creating business models for low cost products and services in order to empower women and make them self-reliant and self-sufficient.

35. Shivraj Singh Chouhan Announces Pension For Single Women

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Women's day announced 'Mukhyamantri Mahila Kosh' scheme under which women who aren't married and are above the age of 50 will be given pension.

- ✓ Chouhan also took the occasion to assert that any person who will misbehave with women will be hanged in public.

36. Diu becomes first UT to run 100% on solar power

The harnessing of solar energy has made Diu the country's first energy surplus Union territory and a model for an effective way for people to harness this renewable energy source.

- ✓ In just three years, Diu has made rapid progress in solar power generation.

- ✓ Diu generates a total of 13 megawatts of electricity from solar power generating facilities daily.

- ✓ Around 3 MW is generated by rooftop solar plants and 10 MW by its other solar power plants.

37. NCRB releases "Citizen Services" Mobile APP

National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) celebrated its 33rd Inception Day, on March 11, 2018 in their newly constructed Complex at Mahipalpur, New Delhi and released "Citizen Services" Mobile APP.

- ✓ This single App is a bouquet of various essential police related services to the citizen.
- ✓ The App can be used by citizen for various services such as Complaint Registration & Status Check, View FIR Detail, SOS – Stay Safe, Locate Police Stations, Vahan-Samanvay, Emergency Contact List, Police Stations Telephone Directory etc.

38. Sanitary pad dispenser installed in Rajdhani Express

On the occasion of International Women's Day, for the first time in the country a sanitary pad dispensing machine was installed in a coach of Mumbai-New Delhi Rajdhani Express.

- ✓ It has been installed on a trial basis and the move would be extended to other trains as well.
- ✓ The decision has been well received by the women passengers too.

39. Macron to inaugurate UP's largest solar plant in Mirzapur

French President Emmanuel Macron will inaugurate Uttar Pradesh's largest solar power plant, at Dadar Kala village in Mirzapur district, during his proposed visit on March 12.

- ✓ Tushar Malik, construction head of the company, said the solar power plant at Dadar Kala village is all set to generate 75 megawatt alternating current (AC) and 101 megawatt direct current (DC).

40. Prime Minister Narendra Modi to inaugurate The Delhi End TB Summit

The Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will inaugurate The Delhi End TB Summit at Vigyan Bhawan in the capital.

- ✓ The Summit will be co-hosted by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, WHO South East Asia Regional Office (SEARO) and Stop TB Partnership.
- ✓ The Prime Minister will launch Tuberculosis Free India Campaign on this occasion.
- ✓ TB free India Campaign will take the activities of National Strategic Plan for TB elimination forward in Mission mode.
- ✓ The National Strategic Plan for TB elimination is backed by funding of over 12,000 crore rupees over the next three years to ensure every TB patient has access to quality diagnosis, treatment, and support.

41. Bengal tops in rural job scheme, TN is second

West Bengal has become the best performing State both in terms of allotting jobs and utilizing funds under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA).

- ✓ According to statistics recently provided in Rajya Sabha by the Minister of State for Rural Development Ram Kripal Yadav, West Bengal generated more than 28.21 crore work days under the scheme so far in 2017-18 and spent more than Rs 7,335.31 crore for it.
- ✓ He also said that Tamil Nadu occupied the second spot with 22.17 crore work days and spent Rs 5,981.75 crore.

42. India's first coastal policing academy set up

The Union home ministry recently sanctioned the launch of the National Academy of Coastal Policing (NACP) located in coastal Okha in the newly created Devbhoomi Dwarka district.

- ✓ It will be created and run by a multi-agency team of paramilitary and defence forces and sharpen the response and skills of the marine forces of multiple states which have sea lines.

43. Centre Constitutes Mahanadi Water Disputes Tribunal

✓ The Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation has issued a notification today constituting the Mahanadi Water Disputes Tribunal. The Tribunal will have its headquarters at Delhi and will have the following members nominated by the Chief Justice of India:

- ✓ Mr Justice A.M. Khanwilkar, Judge, Supreme Court of India as Chairman
- ✓ Dr Justice Ravi Ranjan, Judge, Patna High Court as Member
- ✓ Mrs Justice Indermeet Kaur Kochhar, Judge, Delhi High Court as Member

The Tribunal has been constituted following orders of the Supreme Court dated 23rd January, 2018 in a suit filed by the Government of Odisha.

- ✓ The Government of Odisha had sought to refer the water dispute regarding the inter-state river Mahanadi and its river valley to a Tribunal for adjudication under the Inter-State River Water Disputes Act, 1956.

44. Tata Motors and IOC commence trials of India's first hydrogen bus

Tata Motors and Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) have begun the country's first demonstration trials for a hydrogen fuel cell bus.

- ✓ The demonstration event was held in the presence of Dr R Chidambaram, principal scientific adviser to the government of India and the chairman and board members of Indian Oil.
- ✓ The project is being executed under partial financial support from the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR) and Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE).

45. Regional Conference on Mass Rapid Transport Systems for Urban Areas

The first regional conference on 'Mass Rapid Transport System (MRTS) for Urban Areas – Opportunities and Challenges' was organized in Kolkata.

- ✓ The conference was jointly organized by Ministry of Finance, AIIB, ASSOCHAM and Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS).

46. Pune tops in improved quality governance: Survey

Pune has emerged as the top city to show improvement in quality of governance, according to a survey.

- ✓ The other cities that came in the top five include Kolkata, Thiruvananthapuram, Bhubaneswar and Surat.
- ✓ The survey was conducted by Janaagraha Centre for Citizenship and Democracy.

47. "Innovation Cell" to be set up in HRD Ministry to boost Innovation

An Innovation Cell in the Ministry of Human Resource Development will be created to further strengthen the innovation efforts.

- ✓ It will be headed by a Scientist and comprise of a senior Ministry official and young professionals who bring to the table new ideas in promoting innovation.
- ✓ This was stated by Minister for Human Resource Development, Shri Prakash Javadekar after a high level review meeting.

48. Conference inaugurated to mark 'World Rare Disease Day'

Union Minister for Health & Family Welfare, Shri J.P. Nadda, in the presence of Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER), MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh, inaugurated the one-day Conference to mark "World Rare Disease Day".

- ✓ A newsletter published by the "Indian Organization of Rare diseases" was also released on the occasion.

49. Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahtsav ends on a grand note in Indore

'Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav (RSM) -2018' a diversified cultural carnival organized by Ministry of Culture in Madhya Pradesh ended in Indore with a dazzling closing ceremony graced by the esteemed presence of the Loksabha Speaker, Smt. Sumitra Mahajan as the Chief Guest.

- ✓ Braving showers, people participated in the valedictory of the cultural extravaganza in large numbers. Starting its journey from the Gwalior's Maan Mandir Fort the event showcased an amalgamation of Crafts & Art Forms, Cuisine Fest and Magnificent Performances.
- ✓ The festival received continuous gratitude for playing a major role to effectively connect the audience to the rich, diverse and undiscovered culture of India under the umbrella of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat.

50. Cabinet approves continuation of PMEGP beyond 12th Plan

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the continuation of Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) beyond 12th Plan for three years from 2017-18 to 2019-20 with a total outlay of Rs.5,500 crore.

- ✓ Scheme will create sustainable estimated employment opportunities for 15 lakh persons in three financial years.
- ✓ Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) is the nodal implementation agency at the national level.
- ✓ At the State/district level, State offices of KVIC, Khadi and Village Industries Boards (KVIBs) and District Industry Centres (DIC) are the implementing agencies. Applications are invited and processed on-line on PMEGP-e-portal.

51. Dr Harsh Vardhan Launches Mobile App

In an effort to transform environment protection into a peoples' movement, a digital mobile application was launched by the Union Minister for Environment, Forests and Climate Change. Earth Sciences and Science & Technology in New Delhi.

- ✓ The App, named "Dr Harsh Vardhan", focuses on his social & public activities and involvement of citizens in "Green Good Deeds" movement, which urges people to perform at least one Green Good Deed every day.
- ✓ Some of the 500 Green Good Deeds listed in the Mobile App include – planting trees, saving energy, conserving water, use of public transport and promoting carpool.

52. Successful Flight Test of ATGM NAG

Anti Tank Guided Missiles (ATGM) NAG were successfully flight-tested in desert conditions against two tank targets at different ranges and timings.

- ✓ NAG ATGM has been developed by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and flight tests have once again proved its capability.
- ✓ With this, the developmental trials of the missile have been completed and it is now ready for induction.

53. India, Israel Joint Steering Committee Meeting on Homeland and Public Security held

The two-day meeting of the Joint Steering Committee on Homeland and Public Security of India and Israel concluded in New Delhi.

- ✓ The meeting follows the resolve of the Prime Ministers of both countries to combat the grave threat that terrorism poses to peace and security.
- ✓ The objectives of the meetings were capacity building and modernization in the Police Forces besides border management.

54. 1,28,509 Affordable Houses Sanctioned for Urban Poor under PMAY(urban)

Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs has approved the construction of 1,28,509 more affordable houses for the benefit of urban poor under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) with an investment of Rs. 9,364 cr with central assistance of Rs. 1,928 cr.

- ✓ The approval was given in the 31st meeting of the Central Sanctioning and Monitoring Committee in its meeting.
- ✓ The projects were sanctioned across 184 cities in the states of Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Puducherry(UT).

55. India's first Aviation multi-skill development centre opens in Chandigarh

An aviation multi-skill development centre (MSDC) was opened in Chandigarh by aviation minister Ashok Gajapati Raju.

- ✓ A CSR initiative of Airports Authority of India (AAI), this first-of-its-kind centre has been set up in collaboration with the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) and is supported by the Aerospace and Aviation Sector Skill Council (AASSC) of India.
- ✓ The Rs 5.2 crore project is housed at Chandigarh's old airport terminal building.

56. First Mega Food Park in Maharashtra at Satara Inaugurated

The first Mega Food Park in the state of Maharashtra, M/s Satara Mega Food Park Pvt. Ltd. at Village Degaon, District Satarawas inaugurated on 1st March, 2018 by Smt. Harsimrat Kaur Badal, Minister of Food Processing Industries in the presence of Shri Devendra Fadnavis, Chief Minister, of Maharashtra.

- ✓ This is the 12th Mega Food Park operationalized in the country so far and the 10th operationalized during the tenure of present government.

- ✓ Under the Scheme, Government of India provides financial assistance upto Rs. 50 Crore per Mega Food Park project.

57. List of MoUs signed during the Visit of the King of Jordan to India

- ✓ MoU on Defence Cooperation
- ✓ Visa waiver for diplomatic and official passport holders
- ✓ Cultural Exchange Programme (CEP)
- ✓ Manpower Cooperation Agreement
- ✓ MoU for cooperation in the field of Health and Medicine between India and Jordan
- ✓ MoU for setting up of the next generation Centre of Excellence (COE) in Jordan
- ✓ MoU for long term supply of Rock Phosphate and Fertilizer/NPK
- ✓ Customs Mutual Assistance Agreement
- ✓ Twining Agreement between Agra and Petra (Jordan)
- ✓ Cooperation between Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC) and Jordan Media Institute (JMI)
- ✓ MoU between PrasarBharati and Jordan TV
- ✓ MoU between University of Jordan (UJ) and ICCR regarding setting up of a Hindi Chair at the University

58. Dr Bhamre inaugurates Annual Army Seminar 2017-18

Raksha Rajya Mantri Dr Subhash Bhamre inaugurated one-day Annual Army Seminar for 2017-18 on 'Contribution of the Army Towards Nation Building' at Manekshaw Centre New Delhi.

- ✓ Objective of the seminar is to highlight the contributions of the Indian Army towards Nation building and identify new spheres and areas for future participation.

59. Finance Minister Inaugurates GPF and EPPO Modules on 42nd Civil Accounts Day

The Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs Shri Arun Jaitley said that there is a certain amount of sanctity which must remain attached to the Government Accounting System.

- ✓ Delivering the Inaugural Address at the 42nd Civil Accounts Day function in national capital, the Finance Minister said that while there are Government Departments that can function with a fairly high amount of accuracy, the Civil Accounts Department is one that cannot afford to err because a small error can lay a huge foot prints.

60. Delhi govt to set up State Sanskrit Education Council

The Delhi government has decided to set up its State Sanskrit Education Council to improve the state of formal education of the language in the national capital.

- ✓ Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia has directed the education department to examine various representations received by the Delhi government pertaining to Sanskrit education in schools and colleges.

61. NHAI to deploy all women toll collecting staff on international Women's Day

The National Highways Authority of India has decided to deploy all women toll collecting staff in day shift on at least one toll plaza close to the city area, in every state and UT of the country on 8th March 2018, International Women's Day.

- ✓ If this initiative is successful, then it will be implemented across all toll plazas under operation by NHAI within the next 3 months.
- ✓ The Regional Officers have been instructed in this regard.

62. World's largest solar park launched in Karnataka

The world's largest solar park set up at an investment of Rs.16,500 crore at Pavagada in Karnataka's Tumakuru district was launched by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah.

- ✓ The 2,000 MW park, named as 'Shakti Sthala', spans across 13,000 acres spread over five villages.

- ✓ The park's development is anchored by the Karnataka Solar Power Development Corp. Ltd (KSPDCL).
- ✓ The project has been executed within a record time of two years.

63. Telangana launches integrated app for all government services

The Telangana government has launched an m-Governance mobile application called 'T App Folio' to help citizens with one point access to government services.

- ✓ The Telangana government plans to bring on-board all mobile apps of its various departments to T App Folio over next 12 months.
- ✓ Telangana has become the second state government in India to set up a mobile service delivery gateway in place for the provision of government to citizen (G2C) services.

64. Odisha Launches Scheme To Provide Free Sanitary Pads

As part of its initiatives to empower women, the Odisha government has launched Khushi scheme to provide free sanitary napkins to school girls across the state.

- ✓ The scheme will be implemented by the health and family welfare department of the state at a cost of 70 crore per year.
- ✓ Under the scheme, the state will provide free sanitary napkins to 17 lakh girls studying in Classes 6 to 12 in government and government-aided schools.

65. Centre approves Rs 2900 crore to make cities safer for women

The Centre has approved projects worth over Rs 2,900 crore under the Nirbhaya fund for eight major cities of the country in a bid to make them safer for women.

- ✓ Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad Ahmedabad and Lucknow have been sanctioned a total of Rs 2,919.55 crore after a meeting of the Empowered Committee, which is headed by the secretary of Women and Child Development (WCD).

- ✓ The Nirbhaya Fund was set up in the aftermath of the gruesome gangrape and murder of a paramedical student in Delhi in 2012, and aims at improving safety for women.

66. Maharashtra government ties up with Wikipedia to promote Marathi

The Maharashtra government has tied up with Wikipedia, the free online encyclopedia, to propagate the Marathi language and increase its usage online.

- ✓ The state government made its announcement via a press release on March 1 — Marathi language day.
- ✓ It said this will help spread the language across the globe and give Marathi-speaking people a single platform to interact.

67. List of Agreements signed visit of President of Vietnam to India

MoU on Economic and Trade Cooperation.

- ✓ Work Plan for the years 2018-2022 between the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Vietnam.
- ✓ MoU on Cooperation between the Global Centre for Nuclear Energy Partnership, India (GCNEP) and the Vietnam Atomic Energy Institute (VINATOM).

Points to Remember

- ✓ Vietnam, officially the Socialist Republic of is the easternmost country on the Indochina Peninsula in Southeast Asia.
- ✓ Tran Dại Quang is the President of Vietnam. Nguyen Xuan Phuc is the Prime Minister of Vietnam.
- ✓ Hanoi is the Capital of Vietnam while Dong is the Currency.

68. Odisha govt launches 'Ama Gaon, Ama Vikas' programme

The Odisha government has launched a programme Ama Gaon, Ama Vikas (Our Village, our development) to reach out to the people in rural areas and involve themselves in the developmental activities.

- ✓ Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik flagged off mobile video vans for ‘Ama Gaon Ama Vikas’ programme that will move across the State to highlight various welfare schemes at villages in the state.
- ✓ He said this initiative administration will help people in solving their grievances instantly.

69. Bengaluru’s first helitaxi service takes off

App-based taxi service took on a whole new meaning when Bengaluru’s first helitaxi service took off, ferrying passengers from Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) to Electronics City in 15 minutes.

- ✓ The helitaxi, touted to be the first such service in the country.
- ✓ The service is being offered by KIA in partnership with Thumbby Aviation Pvt Ltd, in an effort to reduce the time taken to travel to the city from the international airport.

70. Threat of new malware looms over cyberspace

After Mirai and Reaper, cybersecurity agencies have detected a new malware called Saposhi, which is capable of taking over electronic devices and turning them into ‘bots’, which can be then used for any purpose, including a Distributed Denial Of Service attack which, with enough firepower, can cripple entire industries.

- ✓ “Saposhi is similar in its intensity to Reaper, which was taking over millions of devices at the rate of 10,000 devices per day.

71. Over Rs. 5600 crore sanctioned under Swadesh Darshan Scheme by Tourism Ministry

A total amount of Rs. 5638.87 crore was sanctioned with release of Rs. 2148.17 crore since 2014-15 till date under the Swadesh Darshan Scheme of Ministry of Tourism.

- ✓ Under the Swadesh Darshan scheme, thirteen thematic circuits have been identified, for development namely: North-East India Circuit,

Buddhist Circuit, Himalayan Circuit, Coastal Circuit, Krishna Circuit, Desert Circuit, Tribal Circuit, Eco Circuit, Wildlife Circuit, Rural Circuit, Spiritual Circuit, Ramayana Circuit and Heritage Circuit.

72. Punjab observes martyrdom day as Youth Empowerment Day

The Punjab government has observed March 23, the death anniversary of freedom fighters Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev and Rajguru, as Youth Empowerment Day.

- ✓ State Cultural Affairs, Tourism and Local Bodies Minister Navjot Singh Sidhu said he would write to Prime Minister Narendra Modi requesting him to commemorate the date as ‘Youth Empowerment Day’ at the national level also.

73. Govt decides to declare 2018 as National Year of Millets

The government has decided to declare 2018 as ‘National Year of Millets to boost the cultivation of millets like ragi and jowar on a mission mode to achieve nutritional security.

- ✓ This was stated by Agriculture Minister Radha Mohan Singh while addressing MPs in a consultative committee meeting in New Delhi.
- ✓ The Minister said millet cultivation has declined due to change in dietary habits and unavailability of millets. As a result of this, level of nutrients like proteins, Vitamin-A, iron and iodine fell in women and children.

74. Roundtable of Invest India Held

Minister of Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation, Suresh Prabhu chaired a roundtable of Invest India in New Delhi.

- ✓ Various regulatory issues faced by Startups in the sectors of e-pharmacy, NBFCs, unmanned aerial vehicle and retail delivery of petroleum from door to door were discussed with the concerned Ministries and departments of the Government of India in the presence of the Minister.
- ✓ Following issues like presence of pharmacist at e-pharmacy platforms, stream lining of the

application process for NBFCs by RBI, reforms in current guidelines for UAV sector, which doesn't allow for manufacturing of drones, and vehicle specifications for door to door retail delivery of petroleum, were discussed at length.

75. 'First Indian Sign Language Dictionary of 3000 Words' Launched

"First Indian Sign Language Dictionary of 3000 words" was launched by Shri Thaawarchand Gehlot, Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment.

- ✓ The dictionary has been developed by Indian Sign Language Research & Training Centre (ISLR&TC) under Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD), M/o Social Justice & Empowerment.

76. Andhra Govt launches Naipunya Ratham

The Andhra Pradesh Government launched, NAIPUNYA RATHAM, a multi-utility vehicle which aims to bring technology to the remote corners.

- ✓ Chief Minister N.Chandrababu Naidu announced that the Government will roll out 12 more Naipunya Rathams by May this year.
- ✓ Naipunya Rathams will facilitate and look to improve digital literacy, digital skills and create an awareness on various government schemes.

77. Navy warship INS Ganga decommissioned in Mumbai

INS Ganga, an indigenously built frigate of the Indian Navy, was decommissioned in Mumbai after over three decades of service.

- ✓ Commissioned on December 30, 1985, the ship represented a big step forward in the nation's warship building capability.
- ✓ The ceremony was attended by several officers and men, many now retired, who had served on board the ship.

78. Ambedkar Jayanti to be celebrated as 'Social Justice Day'

The birth anniversary of India's Dalit social reformer Dr BR Ambedkar will be celebrated as 'Social Justice Day'.

- ✓ Born into a poor Dalit family, on 14 April 1891, Ambedkar became independent India's first law minister, the principal architect of the Constitution of India.
- ✓ Ambedkar was awarded the Bharat Ratna posthumously in 1990.

79. West Bengal tops the list of states with most number of beggars

The government has come out with the total number of beggars in the country. As per the data released by Union ministry of Social Justice, there are around 4 lakh beggars in total.

- ✓ The highest number of beggars, 81,000, are in West Bengal.
- ✓ West Bengal is followed by Uttar Pradesh and Bihar at number two and three respectively.
- ✓ Lakshadweep, a union territory, has only two people begging for their livelihood.

80. UIDAI set to introduce face authentication feature from July 1

The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) is all set to make face authentication available alongside iris or fingerprint scan as means of verifying Aadhaar users from July 1, 2018.

- ✓ The UIDAI, which is in-charge of the 12-digit identifier Aadhaar, in January had announced that it will introduce face authentication feature to help those who run into problems in biometric authentication due to old age, hardwork or worn-out fingerprints.

81. 11th Rashtriya Rifles biennial conference at Nagrota on 26-27 March 2018

The eleventh Rashtriya Rifles Biennial Conference is being conducted at Nagrota from 26 to 27 March 18.

- ✓ The event chaired by Chief of the Army Staff has been attended by Army Commander Northern Command, Director General Rashtriya Rifles, Corps Commander 15 and 16 Corps and all General Officers Commanding Counter Insurgency Forces.

- ✓ The Rashtriya Rifles has assisted the locals from inaccessible and far flung areas of the state by providing assistance in diverse fields and has given an impetus to development, growth, education, women empowerment, skill development and communal harmony through its multifarious enabling civil action programs.

82. ISA and India sign the Host Country Agreement

The International Solar Alliance (ISA) and the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), signed the Host Country Agreement.

- ✓ The Agreement will give ISA a juridical personality and gives it power to contract, to acquire and dispose off movable and immovable properties, to institute and defend legal proceedings.
- ✓ Under this agreement, ISA shall enjoy such privileges, applicable tax concessions and immunities as are necessary for ISA's Headquarter to independently discharge its function and programmes.
- ✓ ISA shall be deriving its status, privileges and immunities as per Article 10 of Framework Agreement.

83. Surat first district to have 100% solar powered health centres

Surat has become the first district in the country to have 100 percent solar powered Primary Health Centers (PHC).

- ✓ There are a total of 52 PHCs in the district and all of them are now powered by solar system.
- ✓ This initiative will not only bring down the electricity bill by 40 percent but also help fight global warming.

84. 'National Conference on Down Syndrome' held

A 'National Conference on Down Syndrome' was organised by the National Trust under Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in New Delhi.

- ✓ Dr. Kamlesh Kumar Pandey, Chairman, National Trust inaugurated it in the presence of Shri Mukesh Jain, JS & CEO, National Trust, Dr. Surekha Ramachandran, Chairperson, Down Syndrome Federation of India and various stakeholders associated with Down Syndrome.
- ✓ A book entitled "Twilights Children" based on the lives of person suffering from Down Syndrome was released on the occasion.
- ✓ The conference brought intellectuals from all walks of life on one platform to spur ideas and channelized knowledge on Down Syndrome which was very beneficial to enable a positive change in the people with Down Syndrome.
- ✓ People with Down Syndrome and their parents were invited to share their inspirational stories.

85. Tribal Affairs Minister, Shri Jual Oram to launch "E-Tribes India" in New Delhi

The Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India, (TRIFED), under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, is going Digital as per the vision document of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India.

- ✓ The "e-Tribes India" would be launched by the Union Tribal Affairs Minister, Shri Jual Oram.
- ✓ The Minister of State for Tribal Affairs, Shri Jaswantsinh Sumanbhai Bhabhor and the Minister of State for Tribal Affairs, Shri Sudarshan Bhagat will also grace the occasion.
- ✓ The Launch of e-Tribes, TRIFED's websites includes www.tribesindia.com, www.trifed.in and Retail Inventory Software and M-commerce app.
- ✓ Besides, the occasion will also mark the launch of 'Tribes India' Banners at Amazon, Snapdeal, Paytm & GeM. TRIFED's Handbook for Retail Trade and TRIFED's quarterly magazine 'Tribes Haat' will also be inaugurated.

86. Department of Posts launches Cool EMS Service between India and Japan

Ministry of Communications has launched the Cool EMS Service which will come into force from 29.03.2018.

- ✓ Cool EMS service is one-way service from Japan to India which allows customers in India to import Japanese food items for personal use which is allowed under Indian regulations.
- ✓ Initially, Cool EMS Service will be available in Delhi only.
- ✓ Food items will be carried by Japan Post in special cool boxes containing refrigerant to preserve the quality of the food items and addressee will collect them from Foreign Post office, Kotla Road, New Delhi in-person or through a messenger in the prescribed time frame.

87. IM-PDS approved for implementation during 2018-19 and 2019-20

A new central sector scheme namely “Integrated Management of Public Distribution System (IM-PDS)” has been approved for implementation during 2018-19 and 2019-20.

- ✓ The key objectives of the scheme are to integrate PDS system/portals of States/UTs with Central System/portals, introduction of National Portability, and de-duplication of ration cards/beneficiary, etc.

88. Setting up of National Academic Depository (NAD) for Digitalization of School Records

Government has setup National Academic Depository (NAD) which is a 24x7 online store house of academic awards digitally lodged by various academic institutions/school boards/eligibility assessment bodies.

- ✓ The University Grants Commission (UGC) has been designated as authorized body to operationalise NAD.

89. Deadline To Link PAN With Aadhaar Extended To June 30

The CBDT has extended the deadline for the PAN-Aadhaar linking to June 30. The policy-making body of the tax department issued an order extending the deadline from the current last date of March 31.

- ✓ The order said the deadline for PAN-Aadhaar linking for filing I-T returns is being extended after "consideration of the matter".

90. 3,21,567 Affordable Houses sanctioned for Urban Poor under PMAY(Urban)

Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs has approved the construction of 3,21,567 more affordable houses for the benefit of urban poor under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) with an investment of Rs. 18,203 cr with central assistance of Rs. 4,752 cr. T

- ✓ The approval was given in the 32nd meeting of the Central Sanctioning and Monitoring Committee.
- ✓ The projects were sanctioned across 523 cities in the states of Haryana, West Bengal, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Mizoram, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Kerala, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab & Goa.
- ✓ With the above proposed houses, cumulative houses under PMAY(U) would become 42,45,792 after final approval from CSMC.
- ✓ Further after subsuming projects of RAY scheme the total number of houses being funded under PMAY(Urban) would be 43,87,640 houses.

91. MP has the highest number of tribal habitations fully covered by Drinking Water supply

The Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation has informed that under the Scheme ‘National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP), 10% of the total allocation of funds is earmarked to be used for the supply of drinking water to Scheduled Tribe (ST) dominated habitations.

- ✓ Madhya Pradesh has the highest number of 55770 fully covered tribal habitations with the safe drinking water in the country followed by Odisha 52427 ,Jharkhand 53476 numbers of habitations.

92. Cabinet approves re-structuring of NSDF and NSDC

The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has given its approval for restructuring of National Skill Development Fund (NSDF) and National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) to strengthen governance, implementation and monitoring framework.

- ✓ The restructuring will also ensure better corporate governance, transparency and accountability in operations of NSDC besides strengthening the oversight role of NSDF.
- ✓ The approval would lead to restructuring of composition of Board of NSDF and the NSDC to strengthen governance, implementation and monitoring.

93. Cabinet approves certain official amendments to the National Medical Commission (NMC) Bill

The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved certain official amendments to the National Medical Commission (NMC) Bill.

- ✓ The Amendment to the NMC Bill comes in the backdrop of its consideration in the Lok Sabha on 02.01.2018 and subsequently being referred to the Department Related Parliamentary Standing Committee (DRPSC).
- ✓ The Government has considered the recommendations made by the Standing Committee in its report tabled in the House on 20.03.2018 and general feedback, particularly the views of medical students and practitioners regarding certain provisions of the Bill.

94. Cabinet approves formulation of a new Integrated Scheme for School Education from 1st April, 2018

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the proposal of Department of School Education and Literacy to formulate a Integrated Scheme on School Education by

subsuming Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) and Teacher Education (TE) from 1st April, 2018 to 31st March, 2020.

- ✓ An estimated allocation of Rs 75,000 crore over the period has been approved which is a 20% increase over the current allocations.
- ✓ The scheme comes in the backdrop of PM's vision of SabkoShiksha, AchhiShiksha and aims to support the States in universalizing access to school education from classes pre-nursery to XII across the country.

95. Harsimrat Kaur Badal to inaugurate Rajasthan's first mega food park in Ajmer

Union Food Processing Industries Minister Smt. Harsimrat Kaur Badal will inaugurate the first mega food park at Roopangarh Village in Ajmer, Rajasthan.

- ✓ The Food Park is being set up at a cost of Rs 113.57 crore and will benefit around 25,000 farmers in Ajmer as well as neighbouring districts.
- ✓ The facilities being created at Central Processing Centre (CPC) of this Mega Food Park include Cold Storage of 5,000 MT, Deep Freeze of 2,550 MT, IQF of 2 MT/Hr., Dry Warehouse for Raw Materials 2,500 MT + Dry Warehouse for Finished Goods of 5,000 MT, Silos of 6,500 MT, Pack House of 10 MT/Hr, Steam Generator of 8 MT/Hr and other related food processing facilities.
- ✓ The mega food park would leverage an additional investment of about Rs. 250 crore in 25-30 food processing units in the park and would eventually lead to a turnover of about Rs. 450-500 crore annually.

96. Rashtrapati Bhavan Harvests Its First Crop of Honey From KVIC's Apiary

The apiary of Rashtrapati Bhavan has started giving the yields; on Tuesday, from the gardens of the Presidential House around 186 kilograms of honey was extracted.

- ✓ Rashtrapati Bhavan has abundant flora and fauna, including lush trees of mangoes, Indian blackberries (jamun), neem and drumsticks.
- ✓ KVIC Chairman Mr Saxena said that he is feeling proud that Prime Minister's 'Sweet Revolution' in Delhi and NCR is starting from the house of First Citizen of the Nation.
- ✓ The apiary in the Rashtrapati Bhavan garden was set up under Honey Mission of KVIC.

97. Haryana's Mewat is India's most backward district

The NITI Aayog has released a preliminary ranking for the 101 most backward districts of India that have signed up for the Narendra Modi government's 'Transformation of Aspirational Districts' programme.

- ✓ Haryana's Mewat is the lowest-ranked among these backwards districts, while Andhra Pradesh's Vizianagaram is the best-performing district of the 101.
- ✓ Chhattisgarh's Rajnandgaon and Maharashtra's Osmanabad lie second and third on the top of the table.

98. GSLV Successfully Launches GSAT-6A Satellite

India's Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV-F08) successfully launched GSAT-6A Satellite into Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO) on March 29, 2018.

- ✓ Launch of GSLV was its twelfth and took place from the Second Launch Pad at Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) SHAR, Sriharikota, the spaceport of India.
- ✓ This is the fifth consecutive success achieved by GSLV carrying indigenously developed Cryogenic Upper Stage.

99. Andhra CM inaugurates International Yachting Festival

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu flagged off the International Yachting Festival in Visakhapatnam.

- ✓ The festival, which is being held from March 29 to April 1, was inaugurated in the presence of IT minister Nara Lokesh, HRD minister Ganta Srinivasarao and other local MLAs.
- ✓ This International Yachting Festival is the first step in developing sea tourism in Visakhapatnam.

100. Madhya Pradesh's Kadaknath chicken gets Geographical Indication tag

Indication tag

Kadaknath, a chicken breed whose black meat is in demand in Madhya Pradesh has got the coveted Geographical Indications (GI) tag label.

- ✓ The protein-rich meat of Kadaknath, chicks and eggs are sold at a much higher rate than other varieties of chicken.
- ✓ Chennai-based GI Registry accepted the application of Gramik Vikas Trust, Jhabua, which was filed in 2012.

101. Shri Prakash Javadekar launches the Grand Finale of the Smart India Hackathon 2018

The Minister for Human Resource Development, Shri Prakash Javadekar launched in New Delhi the world's largest event is its kind- the two day grand finale of Smart India Hackathon 2018 (Software Edition) being held at 28 nodal centres across the country simultaneously.

- ✓ Addressing the participating students at New Delhi Institute of Management (NDIM in New Delhi), Shri Javadekar said that more than 1 lakh students of more than 1200 colleges are participating in this second edition of the Smart India Hackathon 2018, which is a record.
- ✓ He said that more than 8000 students at 28 different centres will work on their final innovations for the next 36 hours.
- ✓ These students will codify their innovations in a group of six, on which they are working hard since last 4 months.

6. BUSINESS NEWS/BANKING

1. Karnataka Bank's all-woman branch

Karnataka Bank opened its first all-woman branch at Bull Temple Road in Bengaluru. This is the 800th branch of the bank.

- ✓ Speaking on the occasion, Mahabaleshwara MS, Managing Director and CEO, said the bank opened 36 branches during 2017-18.
- ✓ The bank has registered a business turnover of Rs 1.06-lakh crore.

2. Fitch forecasts 7.3% growth for India next year

Fitch has projected India's economic growth to rise to 7.3 per cent next fiscal and further to 7.5 per cent in 2019-20.

- ✓ In its Global Economic Outlook report, the US-based agency forecast Indian economy to clock a growth rate of 6.5 per cent this fiscal.
- ✓ The economy grew 7.1 per cent in 2016-17.

3. INDIA and ADB Sign \$120 Million Loan to Improve Rail Infrastructure

Government of India and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) have signed a \$120 million loan agreement for completion of works for double-tracking and electrification of railways tracks along high-density corridors to improve operational efficiency of Indian railways.

- ✓ The tranche 3 loan is part of the \$500 million multi-tranche financing facility for Railway Sector Investment Program approved by the ADB Board in 2011.
- ✓ The loan amount will be used to complete the ongoing works commenced under earlier tranches.

4. SBI launches Quick App

State Bank of India is giving a special facility to its ATM card holders. With this, customers can keep their ATM cards under control.

- ✓ SBI Quick App has special features for controlling special ATM cards.
- ✓ It provides the facility of blocking, turning on or off ATM cards and generating an ATM PIN.

5. SBI, IMGC sign MoU

India's largest lender SBI and India Mortgage Guarantee Corporation (IMGC) today signed a pact to offer mortgage guarantee scheme for prospective non-salaried and self-employed home loan customers.

- ✓ The offering will help increase home loan eligibility up to 15 per cent within the regulatory norms, the State Bank of India (SBI) said in a statement.
- ✓ IMGC is a joint venture between National Housing Bank, Genworth Inc International Finance Corporation and Asian Development Bank.
- ✓ It is providing mortgage default guarantee to the lending Institutions in India.

6. RBI slaps Rs 40 lakh penalty on SBI

The Reserve Bank has slapped a penalty of Rs 40 lakh on SBI for not complying with its directions on detection and impounding of counterfeit notes.

- ✓ RBI said it found deficiencies on SBI's part in regulatory compliance with counterfeit notes regulations.
- ✓ The regulator had carried out inspection of currency chests of two branches of the country's largest lender and noticed violation of its instructions issued on the detection and impounding of counterfeit notes.

7. ISA-ADB, NDB, GCF, AfDB and AIIB joint declarations of Financial partnership

The International Solar Alliance (ISA) and the African Development Bank (AfDb), the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), the Green climate fund (GCF), and the New Development Bank (NDB) signed Joint financial partnership Declarations.

- ✓ The International Energy Agency (IEA) also signed a Joint partnership Declaration with the ISA.

- ✓ The objective of the agreements is to deepen their cooperation in support of Renewable Energy.

8. IREDA & EIB sign Loan Agreement for Renewable Energy Financing in India

European Investment Bank (EIB) and Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) Ltd. have signed a loan agreement for a second line of credit (LoC) of Euro 150 million on non-sovereign basis.

- ✓ The line of credit is for tenure of 15 years including a grace period of 3 years, and it will be used for financing Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency projects in India.
- ✓ More than 1.1 million households are expected to benefit from clean energy produced with these funds.

9. KVGB rolls out loan scheme for women entrepreneurs

Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank (KVGB) has launched 'Vikas She Plus', a loan scheme for women to take up new ventures or for expanding/modifying the existing enterprises.

- ✓ This scheme provides loan up to a maximum of Rs 2 lakh with a repayment period of 60 months.
- ✓ The bank has disbursed loans amounting to Rs 22 crore to about 2,500 women beneficiaries on the day of launch itself.

10. Passport details must for loans of Rs 50 cr and above

Passport details of borrowers taking loans of Rs 50 crore and more have been made mandatory to ensure a swift action in case of fraud and prevent fraudsters from fleeing the country.

- ✓ Passport details will help banks to take timely action and inform the relevant authorities to prevent fraudsters from fleeing the country.

11. RBI discontinues Letter of Undertaking, Letter of Comfort

In view of the alleged Rs 12,700-crore Punjab National Bank (PNB) scam, done through fraudulent issuance of Letter of Understanding (LoUs) by connivance of the bank's staff, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has discontinued issuance of LoUs by banks for trade credits for imports into India.

- ✓ The RBI notification further said that Letters of Credit and Bank Guarantees for trade credits for imports into India may continue to be issued subject to compliance with the provisions.

12. World Bank projects India's FY19 GDP growth at 7.3 per cent

The World Bank has projected India's GDP growth at 7.3 per cent for the next financial year and accelerate further to 7.5 per cent in 2019-20.

- ✓ The World Bank's biannual publication, India Development Update: India's Growth Story, expects the economy to clock a growth rate of 6.7 per cent in the current fiscal ending March 31.

13. India's GDP growth rises to 7.2% in December quarter

India regained the status of the world's fastest-growing major economy in the October-December quarter, driven by a pick-up in growth in manufacturing and services sectors.

- ✓ Gross domestic product or GDP grew 7.2 per cent in the October-December quarter.
- ✓ This is the highest quarterly growth recorded since July-September quarter of 2016-17.
- ✓ China had recorded a growth of 6.8 per cent in the December quarter.

14. Cabinet approves Establishment of National Financial Reporting Authority

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the proposal for establishment of National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA) and creation of one post of Chairperson, three posts of full-time Members and one post of Secretary for NFRA.

- ✓ The decision aims at establishment of NFRA as an independent regulator for the auditing profession which is one of the key changes brought in by the Companies Act, 2013.
- ✓ The inclusion of the provision in the Act was on the specific recommendations of the Standing Committee on Finance (in its 21st report).

15. EESL to install energy-efficient LEDs across all airports in India

Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Airports Authority of India (AAI) for

installing energy-efficient LED lights at airports, buildings and facilities owned by AAI across India.

- ✓ EESL will make the entire upfront investment of Rs. 24.41 crore on the project.
- ✓ The MoU is signed under the Buildings Energy Efficiency Programme (BEEP).

16. RBI lifts per-borrower loan cap for MSMEs

In view of the increasing importance of the services sector and to encourage banks to lend more to this sector, the Reserve Bank of India has decided to lift per borrower loan limits to Micro/ Small and Medium Enterprises (Services).

- ✓ So far, loans to Micro/ Small and Medium Enterprises (Services) up to Rs 5 crore and Rs 10 crore, respectively, were classified as priority sector lending (PSL).
- ✓ Now all bank loans to MSMEs will qualify under priority sector without any credit cap.

17. Paytm emerges largest UPI transaction platform

Paytm has said it is the largest contributor to the overall volume of UPI transactions in February 2018.

- ✓ In a statement, Paytm said it had registered 6.8 crore UPI transactions in February.
- ✓ In December 2017, Paytm contributed 3.3 crore to the overall transaction volume for UPI.

18. RBI slaps Rs 3 cr penalty on Axis Bank, 2 cr on IOB

The Reserve Bank said it has imposed a penalty of Rs 3 crore on Axis Bank for violation of NPA classification norms, and Rs 2 crore on Indian Overseas Bank for not complying with the KYC regulations.

- ✓ The RBI has imposed, a monetary penalty of Rs 3 crore on Axis Bank Limited for non-compliance with the directions issued by RBI on Income Recognition and Asset Classification (IRAC) norms," it said.
- ✓ Regarding the state-owned Indian Overseas Bank, the regulator said in a separate release that a "fraud was detected" in one of the branches of the bank.

19. ISRO–BHEL Tie up for the Production of Space Grade Lithium-Ion Cells

ISRO has entered into a Technology Transfer Agreement (TTA) with Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL), which is one of the country's leading PSUs, to transfer the technology for the manufacture of space grade Li-Ion cells.

- ✓ The TTA was signed at ISRO Headquarters, Bengaluru in the presence of Dr. K. Sivan, Chairman, ISRO and Mr. Atul Sobti, Chairman & Managing Director, BHEL.
- ✓ ISRO uses Li-Ion batteries as power sources for satellite and launch vehicle applications due to their high energy density, reliability and long cycle life.

20. Equitas Bank ties up with CSK

Equitas Small Finance Bank has launched a new 'Yellow Army Savings Account' to increase its customer base through its association with the Chennai Super Kings (CSK), a franchise of the Indian Premier League (IPL).

- ✓ The yellow army savings account will offer an interest rate of six per cent per annum for balance below Rs.10 lakh and 6.5 per cent per annum for balance above Rs.10 lakh.
- ✓ The average quarterly balance requirement will be Rs.10,000 per account.

21. Lakshmi Vilas Bank, Fisdom team up for digital NPS

Bengaluru-based start-up Fisdom and Lakshmi Vilas Bank have entered into a partnership to enable investments in the National Pension Scheme (NPS) in a completely digital and paperless manner.

- ✓ Fisdom provides the NPS digitally through its mobile app with which any registered user can invest in the NPS.
- ✓ Under the partnership, the customers of LVB will be able to plan their investments under the pension scheme.

22. 'Economy to double to \$5 tn by 2025'

India is on track to doubling the size of its economy to USD 5 trillion by 2025, the finance ministry said while asserting that the inflation target set by the Reserve Bank will not be breached.

- ✓ The country is well poised to click a growth rate of 7–8 per cent and with focus on start-ups, MSMEs and infrastructure investment it can step on to higher growth pedestal, Economic Affairs Secretary Subhash Chandra Garg said.
- ✓ India's GDP in value terms currently stands at USD 2.5 trillion—making it the sixth largest economy in the world.

23. NITI Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission Signs SOI with SAP Global

NITI Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) announced the signing of a Statement of Intent (SOI) with SAP to promote a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship.

- ✓ As part of the SOI, SAP in 2018 will adopt 100 Atal Tinkering Laboratories (ATL) for five years to nurture the science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) learning among secondary school children across India.
- ✓ The objective of this program is to enable students to learn digital transformation and topics related to digital conversion and internet of thinking such as design thinking method, programming language and experiential science teaching.

24. Government of India and ADB sign \$80 Million Loan Agreement

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of India signed \$80 million loan to help modernize technical and vocational education and training (TVET) institutions and improve the skills ecosystem in the State of Himachal Pradesh.

- ✓ The Project will establish a polytechnic for women, six city Livelihood Centers, and seven Rural Livelihood Centers, and upgrade 11 employment exchanges into model career Centers.

25. Rs 350 coin to mark birth anniversary of Guru Gobind Singh

Government will come out with a Rs 350 commemorative coin to mark 350th birth anniversary of Guru Gobind Singh, the 10th and last Sikh Guru.

- ✓ The coin with standard weight of 35 gram will have 50 per cent silver, 40 per cent copper and 5 per cent each of nickel and zinc.
- ✓ The reverse side will bear the picture of "Takht Shri Harimandir Ji Patna Sahib" in the centre.

26. RBI imposes Rs 59 cr penalty on ICICI Bank

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a monetary penalty of Rs 58.9 crore on ICICI Bank Ltd for non-compliance with the directions issued by RBI.

- ✓ The central bank, in a statement, said this penalty has been imposed in exercise of powers vested in RBI under the provisions of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, taking into account failure of the bank to adhere to its directions/guidelines.

27. Fino Payments Bank to deploy mPoS devices across 10,000 banking points

Fino Payments Bank has said it plans to deploy multi-utility Android-based mPoS (mobile point-of-sale) devices across 10,000 banking points in the country in a phased manner.

- ✓ The mPoS is a portable device with an in-built fingerprint scanner, card reader, camera, printer and a tablet, the payments bank said.
- ✓ The device will gradually replace the combination of devices currently used to facilitate fingerprint authentication and digital transactions.

28. Rivigo ties up with IDFC, YES Bank, for truck loans

Rivigo, a homegrown logistics start-up that owns as well as acts as an aggregator of trucks, is tying up with YES Bank, IDFC and 10 other financial institutions to make cheaper funds available to truck owners and operators on its platform.

- ✓ The funds will be available at an interest rate of 1-2 per cent per month, lower than the usual industry standard of 2-3 per cent.
- ✓ Instead of waiting for funds from their customers, they can get the money from the banks for a duration of 30-60 days.

7. AWARDS

1. MDWS Bags Award for best implementation of E-office

The Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, Dr Jitendra Singh, presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation for implementation of e-office software.

- ✓ The award was received by Shri Satyabrata Sahu, Joint Secretary and Mrs Seemantinee Sengupta, Senior Technical Director, HOD, NIC-MDWS, on behalf of the Ministry at a function held at the Ministry of Personnel, Grievances and Pension.
- ✓ E-Office is one of the Mission-mode Projects under the Digital India programme.
- ✓ The e-Office solution enables core operations of the Government at all levels to be performed in a 'paper-less' environment, including the E-leave, E-tour, Knowledge Management, Notice Board, Download Forms, Inventory Control etc.
- ✓ The Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation has the distinction of making 100 percent use of e-Office.

2. Rahul is Wisden India Almanack's Cricketer of the Year

KL Rahul is the 'Cricketer of the Year' in the sixth edition of Wisden India Almanack, which has just been released.

- ✓ The Almanack pays a tribute to India's women cricketers, with a wonderful cover picture of celebration at the World Cup.
- ✓ Shantha Rangaswamy, India's first woman superstar, has been inducted into the Wisden India Hall of Fame alongside Erapalli Prasanna.

3. British teacher wins global best teacher award

A British school teacher has won a \$1-million Global Teacher Prize instituted by an Indian-origin entrepreneur's foundation in the United

Arab Emirates to honour an exceptional teacher who has made a significant contribution to the profession.

- ✓ Andria Zafirakou (39), who teaches art and textiles in a Brent secondary school, was selected at the Global Education and Skills Forum, organised by the Varkey Foundation which is run by Kerala-born education philanthropist Sunny Varkey (60).

4. Canadian mathematician Robert Langlands wins Abel Prize

Canadian mathematician Robert Langlands has won the prestigious Abel Prize for developing a programme connecting representation theory to number theory, Norway's Academy of Sciences and Letters said.

- ✓ Langlands will be awarded the 6.0-million-kroner Abel Prize by Norway's King Harald in Oslo on May 22.
- ✓ Named after the 19th century Norwegian mathematician Niels Henrik Abel, the prize was established by the Norwegian government in 2002.

5. NHAI Receives Best Design Pavilion Award at 105th Indian Science Congress

The NHAI pavilion at 105th Indian Science Congress- Pride of India Expo held at Imphal from 16-20 March 2018 has been adjudged as BEST DESIGN PAVILION.

- ✓ The award was conferred by Dr. Najma Heptulla, Governor of Manipur.
- ✓ The NHAI had put up an exhibition stall to showcase its Projects and other initiatives like Electronic Toll Collection, Wayside Amenities, Incident Management, Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Road Safety etc.
- ✓ Besides this, NHAI Exhibition stall at "Destination Bihar Expo 2018" held at Gandhi Maidan, Patna from 09-13 March 2018 ranked at Third Position in "Government Sector category".

- ✓ The exhibition was jointly organized by Bihar Industries Association and Department of Industries, Govt. of Bihar.

6. India Post releases special cover on Stephen Hawking

India Post has paid tribute to theoretical physicist and cosmologist Stephen Hawking by issuing a special cover on him.

- ✓ Chief Post Master General (CPMG) of Maharashtra and Goa Circle H C Agrawal and Director of the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR) Dr Sandip Trivedi jointly issued the special cover.
- ✓ Hawking died at the age of 76 on March 14 in his home in Cambridge in the United Kingdom.

7. Drdo Pavilion Adjudged As Most Informative at 105th Indian Science Congress

Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) has received the 'Most Informative Pavilion' Award in Pride of India Expo organized as part of the 105th Indian Science Congress held from 16 to 20 March 2018 at Manipur University, Imphal.

- ✓ Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi had inaugurated this annual mega event on 16 March 2018.
- ✓ DRDO participated in the expo showcasing cutting-edge indigenous defence technologies with over 150 exhibits and models from 18 DRDO laboratories.

8. NMCG Awarded Certificate of Appreciation

Minister of State for Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal has stressed upon the efficient use of finite water resources in the country. Emphasizing upon the importance of water in every walk of life, the Minister said it is central to all questions of life.

- ✓ The Minister was addressing the gathering while giving away the Certificate of Appreciation for

'Encouragement and Appreciation of the Efforts in Ganga Rejuvenation' to the National Mission for Clean Ganga during the Water Digest Water Awards 2017-18.

- ✓ National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) was also awarded with IJ Global Awards 2017 Asia-Pacific Water Deal of the Year: Clean Ganga Varanasi Wastewater Project.

9. We Are Sikhs' campaign wins top US award

A campaign to create awareness of Sikhism and its followers in the US and fight prejudice has won a top award for excellence in public relations programming to promote public causes.

- ✓ The "We Are Sikhs" campaign received the top 2018 PRWeek US award in the category of Public Cause.
- ✓ The PRWeek US awards are nicknamed the "Oscars of the Public Relations Industry".

10. Balkrishna Doshi named India's first winner of the Pritzker Prize

Balkrishna Doshi has become the first Indian architect to win the Pritzker Prize in its four-decade history.

- ✓ Regarded as the profession's equivalent to the Nobel Prize, the award went to Doshi in recognition of a career spanning almost 70 years.
- ✓ Doshi is known for designing low-cost housing and public institutions.
- ✓ Among his most acclaimed projects are Tagore Memorial Hall in Ahmedabad and the Aranya Low Cost Housing development.

11. Amol Palekar receives 'Godavari Gaurav' award

Noted actor Amol Palekar was honoured with the 'Godavari Gaurav' award at an event in Nashik.

- ✓ The 73-year-old actor, known for his performance in films like "Gol Maal", "Choti Si Baat", "Chitchor" among others, was presented with the award, which has been instituted by city-based 'Kusumagraj Prathishthan'
- ✓ Classical singer Pandit Satyasheel Deshpande also received the 'Godavari Gaurav' award.

12. Dr Rajan Sankaranarayanan wins 27th GD Birla Award

The 27th G D Birla Award for Scientific Research for year 2017 has been given to Dr Rajan Sankaranarayanan.

- ✓ Using X-ray crystallography and biochemical approaches, his laboratory has identified how chiral checkpoints ensure that D-chiral amino acids are excluded from the translation machinery.

13. Indian film 'Halkaa' bags award at Montreal fest

Indian filmmaker Nila Madhab Panda's "Halkaa" has bagged the Grand Prix de Montreal at the gala.

- ✓ "Halkaa" was selected among seven international children's films from different countries in the official competition of the festival.
- ✓ The film is a take on a slum child's heroism, aspirations, and dreams.

14. Shatrughan Sinha wins lifetime achievement award in United Kingdom

Actor-politician Shatrughan Sinha has been honoured with a lifetime achievement award for his contribution to the fields of arts and politics at a ceremony in the UK's Parliament complex in London.

- ✓ The annual 'Political and Public Life Awards', now in its 12th year, recognize individuals who have made a significant impact on public life or made a difference in their local communities.
- ✓ Sinha, who started his career as an actor in late 1960s, has to his credit over 225 Hindi feature films besides several in other Indian languages.
- ✓ A member of the ruling BJP, he represents Bihar state's Patna Sahib Constituency in the Lok Sabha, the lower house of Parliament.

15. G.K. Reddy award for journalist Karan Thapar

Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh has presented the G.K. Reddy Memorial National Award for journalism to senior journalist and television presenter Karan Thapar.

- ✓ Speaking at the event held at the Teen Murti Bhawan in the capital, Dr. Singh lauded Mr. Thapar's contribution to the field of journalism.

16. Chhattisgarh bags 'Water Digest Award' for water conservation

Chhattisgarh bagged the National 'Water Digest Award' for Water Conservation-Diversion and for increasing the irrigation capacity in the State.

- ✓ This is the first time that Chhattisgarh Water Resources Department had been given national Award during the past 17 years.
- ✓ The Award is presented every year by globally renowned magazine 'Water Digest'-which focuses mainly on water resources.

17. Liashkova from Belarus wins Miss Supermodel Worldwide 2018 title

Belarus beauty Aleksandra Liashkova won Miss Supermodel Worldwide 2018 title at a grand finale in Gurugram. Ekaterina Evdokimova of Russia was declared 1st runner-up.

- ✓ India's Shweta Parmar was awarded Miss Congeniality.
- ✓ First edition of the pageant saw Liashkova beating 42 other hopefuls. It was organised by Ten Square Media and Rubaru Group.

18. J.C. Daniel Award for Sreekumaran Thampi

Lyricist and director Sreekumaran Thampi has been selected for the J.C. Daniel Award, the Kerala government's highest honour for lifetime contribution to Malayalam cinema.

- ✓ Culture Minister A.K. Balan said that the award, comprising Rs 5 lakh and a citation, would be presented to Thampi at the Kerala State Film Award.
- ✓ Thampi made his debut in 1966 with Kattumallika and has written over 1,000-odd melodies.

8. SPORTS

1. Vidarbha clinch maiden Irani Cup title

Ranji Trophy winners Vidarbha grabbed their second title in the domestic cricket season as they won the Irani Cup with their huge first innings total against Rest of India.

- ✓ Vidarbha piled on 800/7 in the first innings. Rest of India were bowled out for 390 in their first innings.

Points to Remember

- ✓ Irani Trophy tournament was conceived during the 1959-60 season to mark the completion of 25 years of the Ranji Trophy championship.
- ✓ It was named after the late Z. R. Irani, who was associated with the Board of Control for Cricket in India.

2. Del Potro outlasts Federer to win Indian Wells final

Former US Open champion Juan Martin Del Potro stunned top-ranked Roger Federer 6-4, 6-7 (8/10), 7-6 (7/2) to win his first Indian Wells title and second consecutive ATP crown.

- ✓ The 29-year-old from Argentina handed Federer his first match defeat of 2018 and extended his own win streak to 11 matches, including a title run earlier this month at Acapulco.

3. Australia beat England 2-1 to lift 27th Sultan Azlan Shah Cup

Australia outplayed England 2-1 in the final to lift the 27th Sultan Azlan Shah Cup in Malaysia.

- ✓ Both sides were using the tournament as preparation for the Commonwealth Games, which take place from 5-14 April on Australia's Gold Coast.

4. Roger Federer named World Sportsman of the Year 2017

Twenty-time tennis grand slam champion Roger Federer has won the 2017 Laureus World Sportsman of the Year and Comeback of the Year awards.

- ✓ The 36-year-old Swiss won the Australian Open and Wimbledon titles in 2017 after nearly five years without a major.

- ✓ Serena Williams took the World Sportswoman of the Year award after winning her 23rd grand slam in 2017.

- ✓ Formula 1 constructors' champions Mercedes picked up the Team of the Year accolade, and wheelchair athlete Marcel Hug won Sportsman of the Year with a Disability.

5. Russia's Olympic membership restored by International Olympic Committee

Russia's Olympic membership has been restored by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) following its suspension from Pyeongchang 2018.

- ✓ Russia was banned from February's Games by the IOC over state-sponsored doping.
- ✓ Despite the ban, 168 Russians competed as neutrals in South Korea, and two of them failed drugs tests.

6. Navjot Kaur Becomes First Indian Woman Wrestler to Win Asian Gold

Navjot Kaur scripted history on 2 March by becoming the first Indian woman wrestler to win a gold in the Senior Asian Championships.

- ✓ She clinched Gold in the 65kg freestyle category.
- ✓ Rio Olympics bronze medallist Sakshi Malik won a bronze in the 62kg freestyle category after getting the better of Kazakhstan's Ayaulym Kassymova 10-7 in a tough fight.
- ✓ The two medals took India's medal tally to six – a gold, a silver, and four bronze medals.

7. India beat Pakistan to win Snooker Team World Cup

The Indian combine of Pankaj Advani and Manan Chandra staged a remarkable recovery to beat Pakistan in the final of the inaugural IBSF Snooker Team World Cup.

- ✓ After being 0-2 down in the best-of-five final, India found themselves in a deeper hole at 0-30 down in the third frame, but won the next three sets to win the game.

8. Shooter Rizvi wins World Cup gold

Indian shooter Shahzar Rizvi created a new world record on his way to the gold medal in the men's 10m air pistol event at the ISSF World Cup.

- ✓ Rizvi registered a world record score of 242.3 points in the final.
- ✓ The Indian beat reigning Olympic champion Christian Reitz of Germany, who had to settle for the silver.
- ✓ India's Jitu Rai bagged the bronze with 219.

9. Viswanathan Anand wins Rapid event at Tal Memorial

Viswanathan Anand won the rapid event at the 11th Tal Memorial chess in Moscow.

- ✓ The World rapid champion finished the event with 6 points while Shakhriyar Mamedyarov (with 5 points) came second.
- ✓ The event is a 10-player single round-robin competition where players have 25 minutes to make all of their moves, and receive a 10-second increment from move 1.

10. Bhaker shoots gold, bronze for Ravi Kumar

Young Manu Bhaker clinched a gold medal while Ravi Kumar bagged a bronze in the ISSF World Cup in Guadalajara, Mexico.

- ✓ Bhaker beat the host country's Alejandra Zavala, a two-time World Cup Finals winner, with a 10.8 in the last shot of the 24 shot final, to come out on top with a score of 237.5.

11. Sindhu to be India's flagbearer in Gold Coast CWG

Star shuttler P V Sindhu has been named the flag-bearer of the Indian contingent for the opening ceremony of the Commonwealth Games in Gold Coast next month.

- ✓ The opening ceremony will be held on April 4.
- ✓ Having won a silver medal at the Rio Olympics two years ago, the Hyderabad-based World No. Sindhu is one of the favourites to win the badminton women's singles title in Gold Coast.
- ✓ In the last Commonwealth Games in Glasgow in 2014, Sindhu bagged a bronze in women's singles.

12. Shooter Manu wins gold at Junior World Cup

Teenager Manu Bhaker nailed her second World Cup gold medal inside a month, winning the womens 10m Air Pistol title at the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) Junior World Cup.

- ✓ Just 20 days ago, the girl from Jhajjar, Haryana, created waves across the shooting world by winning the senior World Cup gold at the same 10m Air Pistol event in her senior team debut.

13. Sebastian Vettel leapfrogs Lewis Hamilton to take Australian GP win

Sebastian Vettel won a dramatic Australian Grand Prix after leapfrogging Lewis Hamilton during a safety car period.

- ✓ The Mercedes driver was in control of the race until Romain Grosjean's Haas stopped on track and officials imposed a virtual safety-car, which restricts the pace of the cars on track.

14. Punjab crowned National hockey champion

Hockey Punjab were crowned champions of the 8th Hockey India Senior Men National Championship after they came from a goal down to defeat Petroleum Sports Promotion Board 2-1 in a well-fought encounter.

- ✓ Hockey Punjab made a comeback in the last seven minutes of the match, Sarvanjit Singh scoring two goals in the 53rd and 60th minutes.
- ✓ In the Bronze medal match, defending champions Railway Sports Promotion Board (RSPB) defeated Air India Sports Promotion Board.

15. Pankaj Advani retains Asian Billiards title

Pankaj Advani defended his Asian Billiards Championships title in style by demolishing his practice partner B Bhaskar 6-1 in the summit clash in yangon, Myanmar.

- ✓ With this win, Advani remains the reigning Indian, Asian and world champion in billiards for 2017-18.
- ✓ India's Ameer Kamani won the Asian Women's Snooker title by defeating her Thai opponent Siripaporn Nuanthakhamjan 3-0.

16. Cricket Australia bans Steve Smith, David Warner for 12 months

Cricket Australia (CA) has banned Australian captain Steve Smith and vice-captain David Warner for 12 months and handed a nine-month ban to Cameron Bancroft.

- ✓ Warner and Smith have also been banned from captaining Australia for two years.
- ✓ These players have been charged for deliberately trying to tamper with the condition of the ball in an orchestrated attempt to gain an advantage.

9. DEATHS

1. Veteran Hindi poet Kedarnath Singh passes away

Renowned Hindi poet and critic Kedarnath Singh passed away at the age of 83.

- ✓ A former professor and chairperson at the Department of Hindi Language at the Centre for Indian Languages at Jawaharlal Nehru University, Prof. Singh was a recipient of the Jnanapeeth award in 2013.
- ✓ He won the Sahitya Akademi award in 1989 for his poetry collection Akaal Mein Saras.

2. Sufi singer Pyarelal Wadali passes away

The Sufi singing pair of Wadali Brothers was broken as Pyarelal Wadali, the younger brother, passed away at the age of 65 in Amritsar.

- ✓ Besides Sufi kalaam and qawwali, they sang bhajan, ghazal and kaafi forms.
- ✓ The duo got Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in 1992, Tulsi Award in 1998, and Punjabi Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in 2003.

3. Stephen Hawking: Visionary physicist dies aged 76

World renowned physicist Stephen Hawking has died at the age of 76.

- ✓ The British scientist was famed for his work with black holes and relativity, and wrote several popular science books including 'A Brief History of Time'.
- ✓ At the age of 22 Prof Hawking was given only a few years to live after being diagnosed with a rare form of motor neurone disease.
- ✓ Stephen William Hawking was an English theoretical physicist, cosmologist, author and Director of Research at the Centre for Theoretical Cosmology within the University of Cambridge.

4. Actor Narendra Jha passes away at 55

Bollywood actor Narendra Jha, known for his work in films like Raees, Haider and Kaabil among others, passed away on March 14. He was 55.

- ✓ He also essayed supporting roles in movies like Force 2, Mohenjo Daro and Humari Adhuri Kahaani.
- ✓ He was recently seen shooting for Salman Khan's Race 3.

5. Noted Odia Bhajan singer Arabinda Muduli passes away

Noted Odia Bhajan singer Arabinda Muduli passed away following a cardiac arrest. He was 56.

- ✓ A musician, singer and lyricist, Muduli enthralled the audience with devotional songs and had won the hearts of millions of people in Odisha and elsewhere.
- ✓ Born on September 1, 1961 at Khanati in Khordha district, he was a devotee of lord Jagannath and sang only Bhajans.
- ✓ He was a disciple of legendary bhajan singer Bhikari Bal.

6. Litterateur Prafulla Das passes away

Litterateur Prafulla Das passed away at his residence at Rajkanika in Kendrapara district. He was 91.

- ✓ He was a recipient of the prestigious "Sarala Award" for his achievement in the literary field.
- ✓ 'Banhimana', the biography of freedom fighter Malati Chaudhury, brought him the Sarala Award in 2014.

10. BOOKS

S.No.	Book Name	Author
1.	A Tribute to Jagu	Srilanka Cricket Academy Tribute to former BCCI President Jaganmohan Dalmia.
2.	Karma Yatri	Biography Anandibet Patel (Former Gujarat CM) written By: Ameya Latkar
3.	Paramveer Parwane	A book on Paramaveera Chakra Award is By: Prabhakiram Jain
4.	Namaste Shalom	India-Israel relation edited By: Tarun Vijay
5.	Fulfilling Bapu Dreams Prime Minister Modi Tribute to Gandhiji	Bluekraft Digital Foundation
6.	Ballot: Ten Episode that have shaped Indian Democracy	Rashid Kidwai

11. MILITARY EXERCISE

Name of Exercise	Countries	Place
Milan	Mega Naval Exercise	Andaman and Nicobar Islands
Foal Eagle	USA-South Korea	South Korea
Varuna	India-France	France
Paschim Leher	Western Navel Command Exercise	India
Gulf Star 1	India-UAE Naval Exercise	UAE

12. INDEXES

S.No.	Index	First	India
1.	Global Firepower List – 2017 – Strongest Military)	USA	4 th
2.	Global city wealth index	New York	Mumbai 47 th
3.	Mastercard Index of Women Entrepreneurs (MIWE)	New Zealand	52 nd
4.	Global Largest Arm Exporter	USA	-
5.	Global Largest Arm Importer	India	-
6.	World Happiness Index-2018	Finland	133
7.	World Economic Forum (WEF) Energy Transition Index	Sweden	78
8.	Economic Intelligence Unit (EIU) World Most expensive city	Singapore City (Expensive)	Damascus (Cheapest)
9.	World Most Liveable City	Vienna (Best)	Baghdad (Worst)
10.	World Best Airport	Changi	Mumbai (63 rd)
11.	World Largest Automobile Market	China	4 th
12.	Mobile Data Downloading Speed	Norway	109 th
13.	Fixed Broadband Download Speed	Singapore	67
14.	Largest Electricity Producer	China	3 rd

13. SUMMITS

S. No.	Summit	Venue
1.	World Air Traffic Management (ATM) Congress	Madrid (Spain)
2.	National Legislator Conference	New Delhi
3.	Wings India – 2018	Hyderabad
4.	World Ocean Summit – 2018	Mexico
5.	First ever Indo-French Knowledge Summit	New Delhi
6.	First ever International Solar Alliance Summit	New Delhi
7.	National Conference on counterfeiting and role of enforcement agencies	New Delhi
8.	Command Area Development Program – 2018	New Delhi
9.	International Police Conference on Cybercrime and Terrorism	New Delhi
10.	Festival of Innovation and Entrepreneurship	New Delhi
11.	105 th Indian Science Congress – 2018	Imphal (Manipur)
12.	106 th Indian Science – Congress – 2019	-
13.	7 th Women Science Congress – 2018	Imphal (Manipur)
14.	First Indian-Japan Workshop on disaster Risk Reduction	New Delhi
15.	Informal World Trade Organization – 2018	New Delhi
16.	International Yoga Fest – 2018	New Delhi
17.	5 th Indian Maize Summit – 2018	New Delhi
18.	All India Police Science Congress	Himachal Pradesh
19.	Theatre Olympics	Mumbai
20.	First National conclave on Psychological Trauma, Children Protection and Mental Illness	New Delhi

14. APPOINTMENTS

S.No.	Name	Appointed as
1.	N. Chandrasekaran	President of Court of Indian Institute of Science (IISc)
2.	Sangeeta Bahadur	Ambassador of India to Belarus
3.	Vladimir Putin	Russian President (Fourth Term)
4.	Xij Jinping	Lifetime President of China
5.	Li Keqiang	P.M. of China (2 nd term)
6.	Satyapal Malik	Governor of Odisha and Bihar
7.	Atul . M. Gosturve	Indian Ambassador to South Korea
8.	Martin Vizcarra	Peru New President
9.	J.S. Rajput	India's Representative Executive Board of UNESCO
10.	Vijay Raghavan	Scientific Advisor to Govt. of India
11.	Win Myint	Myanmar New President
12.	Shekar Kapur	Jury of 65 th National Film Awards
13.	Indu Bushan	CEO of Axushman Bharat Mission
14.	Abiya Ahmed	Ethiopia Prime Minister
15.	Vineet Joshi	First Director General of National Testing Agency
16.	Cornad Sangma	Meghalaya CM
17.	Biplab Kumar Deb	Tripura CM
18.	Neiphu Rio	Nagaland CM
19.	Virat Kohli	Uber India First Brand Ambassador
20.	Suresh Prabhu	Ministry of Trade and Commerce and Civil Aviation
21.	Sitanshu Kar	Head of Press Information Bureau (PIB)
22.	Bidya Devi Bhandari	Nepal President (2 nd time)
23.	Ginat Haspel	USA Central Investigation Agency (CIA) First Women Chief
24.	Sebastian Pinera	Chile President (2 nd term)
25.	Abdul-Fatal-Al-SISI	Egypt President (2 nd term)
26.	Angela Morkel	Germany Chancellor (4 th term)
27.	Vinay Kumar	Envoy to Afghan from India
28.	Armen Sarkisian	Armenia President
29.	Sanjeev Nautiyal	ECO and MD of SBI Life Insurance
30.	Krishna Kumari Kohli	First Ever Hindu Dalit Women Senator of Pakistan
31.	Rosemary Dicarlo	First Female UN Political Chief
32.	Chandra Bushan	Deputy Election Commissioner

PRACTICE BITS (CURRENT AFFAIRS)

1. Which Lake of the India is emerged as single largest Habitat of Irrawady Dolphins Globally? [155 Dolphins]
 - (a) Chilka Lake
 - (b) Dal Lake
 - (c) Sambar Lake
 - (d) Kolleru Lake
 - (e) Pulicot Lake
2. Catholic Syrian Bank Ties up with celebrus capital for online trading services. The head Quarters of Catholic Syrian Bank?
 - (a) Mumbai
 - (b) Tirssur
 - (c) Kumbakonam
 - (d) New Delhi
 - (e) Hyderabad
3. RBI increased limit of ETCD trading for residents and for foreigners to USD 100 million across all currency. Then ETCD stands for
 - (a) Exchange toll currency demand
 - (b) Exchange tax currency derivative
 - (c) Exchange traded currency derivative
 - (d) Earning trade currency derivative
 - (e) None of the above
4. Who became the most decorated winner in the history of laures world sports awards?
 - (a) Serena Williams
 - (b) Virat Kohli
 - (c) Rozer Federer
 - (d) Vishwanath Anand
 - (e) Hari Krishna
5. Employees Provident Fund (EPF) organization has made it mandatory to file online claims over ...
 - (a) 5 lakhs
 - (b) 20 lakhs
 - (c) 10 lakhs
 - (d) 12 lakhs
 - (e) 15 lakhs
6. Jayendra Saraswathi who passed away recently is head of which Mutt?
 - (a) Bengaluru
 - (b) Kanchi
 - (c) Madurai
 - (d) Varanasi
 - (e) Kajuraho
7. Jordon currency is
 - (a) Dinar
 - (b) Rial
 - (c) Peso
 - (d) Dirham
 - (e) Franc
8. Feb: 28 is National Science Day. The theme of 2018 year is
 - (a) Science and Technology for Sustainable future
 - (b) Science and Technology for Artificial Intelligence
 - (c) Science and Technology for Biofuels
 - (d) Science and Technology for Electric Vehicles
 - (e) None of the above
9. National Agricultural cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED) which purchases pulses for minimum support price (MSP), Now GOI increase Credit Guarantee Fund (CGF) of NAFED from 9500 crs to
 - (a) 25000 crs
 - (b) 19000 crs
 - (c) 15000 crs
 - (d) 20,000 crs
 - (e) None of these
10. Prime Minister Employment Guarantee Scheme (PMEG) is started for period of (2012-2017), now it decided to continue from 2017-2020 year, the fund allocated to it
 - (a) 60,000 crs
 - (b) 5500 crs
 - (c) 7000 crs
 - (d) 6000 crs
 - (e) 9000 crs
11. Cabinet of Indian govt approved special fund for service sector to promote it's growth. The fund amount is
 - (a) 5000 crs
 - (b) 6000 crs
 - (c) 7000 crs
 - (d) 9000 crs
 - (e) 10,000 crs
12. The Rating Agency Moody's projected Economic growth rate for India for 2018-19 financial year is
 - (a) 7.5%
 - (b) 7.6%
 - (c) 6.5%
 - (d) 6.7%
 - (e) 6.6%
13. Central Statistical Organisation (CSO) estimated economic growth rate for 2017-18 financial year is
 - (a) 6.6%
 - (b) 6.7%
 - (c) 6.8%
 - (d) 7.2%
 - (e) 7.5%
14. Indus Ind bank of Mumbai tied with which global Payment Company for payments
 - (a) Paypal
 - (b) Ripple
 - (c) Neva
 - (d) Microsoft
 - (e) Google
15. 2020 Paraolympics venue is
 - (a) Paris
 - (b) Tokyo
 - (c) LosAngels
 - (d) Sochi
 - (e) Seoul

16. The nodal authority for probing cases of Human trafficking is
- (a) Ministry of women and child development
(b) CBI
(c) IB (Intelligence Bureau)
(d) National investigation agency (NIA)
(e) National Security Guard (NSG)
17. World kidney Day is
- (a) March-09 (b) April-15 (c) May-12
(d) June-15 (e) July-12
18. Djibouti currency is
- (a) Dinar (b) Franc (c) Dollar
(d) Pound (e) Shilling
19. Govt of India approved National financial Reporting Authority (NFRA) to check
- (a) Frauds in Banks
(b) To check Blackmoney
(c) To check Auditors report
(d) All the above
(e) None of the above
20. How many branches of Public Sector Bank (PSB) are closing in foreign countries?
- (a) 40 (b) 35 (c) 38 (d) 55 (e) 62
21. All theaters are closed in South India very recently due to issue of "VPF". VPF stands for
- (a) Virtual pay fee (b) Virtual print fee
(c) Video print fee (d) Virtual paper fee
(e) Virtual print film
22. India signed long term supply of rock phosphate and fertilizers NPK with which country?
- (a) Jordan (b) Qatar (c) Australia
(d) Saudi Arabia (e) Kuwait
23. Central govt approved NIBHAYA fund for eight major cities to make them safer for women with an amount of
- (a) 2000 crs (b) 2900 crs (c) 4000 crs
(d) 4500 crs (e) 5000 crs
24. Syria currency is
- (a) Dinar (b) Pound (c) Franc
(d) Rial (e) Dollar
25. Aircel Telecom Company based in which country?
- (a) Singapore (b) Malaysia (c) India
(d) Indonesia (e) Combodia
26. Para Athlet Prashanth Karmakar suspended for 3 years, he related to which game?
- (a) Boxing (b) Swimming (c) Runner
(d) Judo (e) Shooting
27. Azlan shah cup tournament begins in Malaysia, cup is related to which sport?
- (a) Football (b) Hockey (c) Tennis
(d) Golf (e) Bridge
28. The Vietnam president who visited India very recently?
- (a) Park Nyuen (b) Yungluck shinavatra
(c) Taran Dai Quang (d) Abdul Yameen
(e) None of these
29. Who is elected as president of Armenia?
- (a) Serzh Sarkisian (b) Armen Sarkisian
(c) Dram Sheik (d) Cyril Ramaphosa
(e) None of these
30. World largest solar power park "SHAKTISTHALA" with capacity of 2000 MW launched in Tumkur district of
- (a) Tamil Nadu (b) Rajasthan
(c) Gujarat (d) Madhya Pradesh
(e) Karnataka
31. India-Russia signed agreement to construct "ROOPUR" Nuclear Power Plant" in which country?
- (a) India (b) Russia (c) Bangladesh
(d) Bhutan (e) Nepal
32. Navajyot Kaur is first Indian women to win Gold Medal in Asian championship
- (a) Boxing (b) Shooting (c) Gymnastics
(d) Wrestling (e) Swimming
33. Which state govt launched "Ama Gaon, Ama Vikas" (our village-our development)
- (a) Kerala (b) Chattisgarh (c) Jharkhand
(d) Odisha (e) Sikkim
34. Islamic Heritage conference held in
- (a) New Delhi (b) Jabalpur (c) Jaipur
(d) Mumbai (e) Chennai
35. As per Trip Advisory report, the beautiful beach in Asia-2018 is
- (a) Philines Beach (b) Agonda Beach (Goa)
(c) Ngilla Beach (d) Marina Beach
(e) Kollam Beach

36. Armenia currency is
- (a) Dirham (b) Dram (c) Pound
(d) Dollar (e) Dinar
37. Javed Abidi who passed away recently related to which field?
- (a) Movies (b) Sports
(c) Human Rights
(d) Physically disabled people rights
(e) Writer
38. First Dalit and first Hindu Women Senator of Pakistan parliament upper house is
- (a) Krishna Kumari (b) Meenakshi Lekhi
(c) Asma Jahangir (d) Sushma Patil
(e) Amruta Rao
39. Which state govt launched "KUSHI" scheme to provide free Napkins to school girls?
- (a) Kerala (b) Odisha (c) Telangana
(d) West Bengal (e) Gujarat
40. RBI lifted borrowing limits of Micro, Small Medium Enterprises of which sector, under priority sector lending?
- (a) Industries (b) Service
(c) Both (a) and (b) (d) Agriculture
(e) None of the above
41. "Namaste Shalom" Magazine is relations between which countries?
- (a) India-UK (b) India-Israel
(c) India-Palestina (d) India-USA
(e) India-Canada
42. The committee constituted to study financial technology issues is headed by
- (a) Arun Jaitley (b) Subash Chandra Garg
(c) Vinod Roy (d) Shaktikant Das
(e) Hasmuk Adhia
43. The solar energy target of Govt of India by 2022 year is
- (a) 175 GW (b) 60 GW (c) 100 GW
(d) 150 GW (e) 90 GW
44. Rashidkhan (19 years old) became youngest captain in International cricket history. He is captain of which cricket team?
- (a) Bangladesh (b) Zimbabwe
(c) Afghanistan (d) U.A.E
(e) South Africa
45. World Tuberculosis Day is
- (a) March-30 (b) March-24 (c) March-20
(d) March-28 (e) March-15
46. Czech Republic currency is
- (a) KRONA (b) KUNA (c) KORUNA
(d) KRONE (e) EURO
47. New Chief Minister of Meghalaya is
- (a) Mukul Sangma (b) Rajit Ray
(c) Cornad Sagma (d) Biplab Kumar
(e) Ram Madhav
48. New Chief Minister of Tripura is
- (a) Manik Sarkar
(b) Himant Biswa Sharma
(c) Biplab Kumar Dev
(d) Devavrath
(e) T. R. Zeliang
49. The first country in the world which accepted its own crypto currency as a legal tender is
- (a) Venezuela (b) Rwanda
(c) Vanvatu (d) Marshal Island
(e) Nauru
50. India ranked fourth on a global Index for its Military strength, which country tops
- (a) China (b) USA (c) Russia
(d) Israel (e) U. K
51. India first Helicopter Taxi Service Launched to fly passengers from Kempe Gowda International airport to electronic city in which city?
- (a) Chennai (b) Bengaluru (c) Kolkata
(d) Mumbai (e) New Delhi
52. RBI Imposed a penalty of 3crs on private sector Axis Bank for violation of
- (a) KYC norms (b) Basel norms
(c) NPA classification (d) SWIFT norms
(e) CBS norms
53. RBI imposed a penalty of 2crs on state run Indian overseas Bank (IOB) for violation of
- (a) Basel norms (b) KYC norms
(c) CBS norms (d) SWIFT norms
(e) NPA classification
54. Who became Ambassador of Gaming platform "DREAM 11"
- (a) Virat Kohli (b) M. S. Dhoni
(c) Rana (d) Sachin Tendulkar
(e) Aruna Reddy

55. International yoga festival held in
 (a) Rudraprayag (b) Prayag
 (c) Devaprayag (d) Rishikesh
 (e) Gangotri
56. Under long term liquid adjustment facility (LAF); reparate auction, RBI targeted to infuse how much amount of money in to banks in March 2018?
 (a) 25000 cr (b) 50,000 crs (c) 1 lakh cr
 (d) 75000 cr (e) 40,000 crs
57. New Chief Minister of Nagaland is
 (a) T. R. Zeliang (b) Khaplang
 (c) Moirah (d) Neiphiu Rio
 (e) Pema Kandu
58. Indian became member of European Bank for reconstruction and development (EBRD)
 (a) 70th (b) 65th (c) 69th
 (d) 72th (e) 76th
59. Forbes Billionaries 2018 first rank person is
 (a) Warren Buffet (b) Bill Gates
 (c) Carlos (d) Jeff Bezos
 (e) None of the above
60. The biggest supplier of crude oil to India is
 (a) Iran (b) Iraq (c) Saudi Arabia
 (d) Qatar (e) Kuwait
61. Finance Ministry Ordered Banks to seek passport details of borrowers, whose borrowing limit is above
 (a) 100 crs (b) 50 crs (c) 80 crs
 (d) 150 crs (e) 200 crs
62. European Bank for Reconstruction and Development head quarter is
 (a) Brussel (b) Berlin (c) London
 (d) Paris (e) Hague
63. Manu Barak who won two gold medals in world championship
 (a) Swimming (b) Shooting
 (c) Golf (d) Table Tennis
 (e) Gymnastics
64. Best Airport in India interms of providing Quality services to passengers is
 (a) Rajiv Gandhi (b) Kempe Gowda
 (c) Biju Patnaik (d) Bhaghat Singh
 (e) Shiekh-ul-Alam
65. Women entrepreneurship platform (WEP) launched by
 (a) Finance Ministry
 (b) NITI Ayog
 (c) Ministry of women and child development
 (d) Finance commission
 (e) None of the above
66. "UDYAM SAKHI" portal launched to nurture entrepreneurship among women is by
 (a) Finance Ministry (b) NITI Ayog
 (c) RBI (d) Ministry of MSME'S
 (e) World Bank
67. Who is appointed as special Director of Enforcement Directorate (ED)
 (a) Rajiv Ratan (b) Sushma Pandey
 (c) Saurav Thakur (d) Vivek R. Wadekar
 (e) Rahul Deep
68. World Air Traffic Management congress (World ATM congress) 2018 venue is
 (a) France (b) Canada (c) Spain
 (d) China (e) USA
69. Losar is new year as per Buddhist calendar celebrated in which place?
 (a) Kohima (b) Nagaland (c) Itanagar
 (d) Dispur (e) Aizwal
70. Animal Welfare Board of India shifted from Chennai to of Haryana
 (a) Karnal (b) Panipat (c) Ballabgarh
 (d) Faridabad (e) Chandigarh
71. The first Indian to get Nobel Prize of architecture known as "Pritzker Prize" is
 (a) Balakrishna Doshi (b) Vasudev Menon
 (c) Rajesh Vastara (d) Kiran Doshi
 (e) Iqbal
72. International Womens Day 2018-theme is ...
 (a) #Mee Too (b) Press for progress
 (c) # Times up (d) Equal pay for women
 (e) Gender Rights and women
73. World Kidney day is celebrated on
 (a) March-12 (b) March-8 (c) March-14
 (d) March-20 (e) March-24
74. 2022 Common Wealth Games venue is ...
 (a) Durban (b) Brimingham
 (c) London (d) Paris
 (e) Los Angels

75. Beti Bachao-Beti Padao scheme is now extended from 161 to districts in India
(a) 650 (b) 640 (c) 350 (d) 420 (e) 369
76. National Nutrition mission aimed at improving nutrition levels of women and child with cost of 9046 crs. The scheme launched in which place? [Rajasthan]
(a) Panipat (b) JhunJhunu (c) Panchakula
(d) New Delhi (e) Hyderabad
77. Government of India launched bio degradable sanitary napkins priced at Rs. 10 per four napkins. These napkins are known as
(a) Suraksha (b) Suvidha (c) Sunirma
(d) Padman (e) G-pad
78. Govt of India will set up an arbitration council which aims at
(a) To solve trade disputes
(b) To solve licence issues
(c) To solve e-commerce disputes
(d) To solve investment disputes
(e) To solve all business issues
79. After Jammu & Kashmir which state in India launched it's own flag
(a) Tamil Nadu (b) Telangana
(c) Karnataka (d) Madhya Pradesh
(e) Kerala
80. As per knight Frank Wealth Report 2018. The most expensive city of world is "MONACO" and Mumbai stands in which place from India.
(a) 15th (b) 16th (c) 13th (d) 14th (e) 20th
81. First Indo-Tibetan boarder police (ITBP) woman combat officer is
(a) Prakriti (b) Roopa (c) Taruni
(d) Amrutha (e) Meena Agarwal
82. Ustad Pyarelal wadali who passed away recently related to which field?
(a) Painter (b) Cartoonist (c) Sufi Singer
(d) Journalist (e) Politician
83. The Bank of year 2018 award is given to which bank in the world.
(a) Bank of Ireland
(b) Bank of Candada
(c) HSBC
(d) Royal Bank of Scotland
(e) Bank of Lithuania
84. The first Union Territory in India to run 100% on solar power generated energy is
(a) Daman (b) Diu (c) Karaikal
(d) Dadra Nagar (e) Lakshadweep
85. RBI imposed 40 Lakhs Penalty on SBI for violations of which norms?
(a) KYC norms
(b) NPA norms
(c) Counter fiet currency norms
(d) Online banking norms
(e) Loan lending norms
86. UBER CABS Ambassador for India is
(a) M.S. Dhoni (b) Virat Kohli
(c) Aruna Reddy (d) Sharkuh Khan
(e) Akshay Kumar
87. The passport details are necessary for loan amount is more than --- as per Finance Ministry notification
(a) 100 crs (b) 50 crs (c) 120 crs
(d) 150 crs (e) 200 crs
88. We for Development summit venue is
(a) New Delhi (b) Mumbai
(c) Chennai (d) Kanpur
(e) Cochin
89. As per Budget 2018-19 statement. How many Aspirational districts are developing in India to improve quality of life.
(a) 112 (b) 120 (c) 115 (d) 126 (e) 139
90. The total non-performing assets (NPA's) of Indian Banks as on Dec : 2017 is
(a) 8.4 lakh crs (b) 9 lakh crs
(c) 10 lakh crs (d) 12 lakh crs
(e) 7 lakhs
91. RBI imposed 5 crs of fine on Airtel payment bank for violation of
(a) NPA norms (b) KYC norms
(c) Fake currency norms (d) PAN card norms
(e) None of the above
92. India purchasing 36 Rafaeles from France, then Rafaele is
(a) Medium-Multirole Helicopter
(b) Medium-Multirole combat aircraft
(c) Drone system
(d) Missile launching system
(e) Weapon locating radar system

- 93.** Which country providing Assistance to India to construct semi High speed technology railway system
(a) USA (b) France (c) China
(d) Russia (e) Germany
- 94.** The tenure of china president Xi Jinping is increased from 5 years to
(a) 10 yrs (b) 12 yrs (c) 15 yrs
(d) Life time (e) 20 yrs
- 95.** Garam Pani Wild Life Sanctuary is located in
(a) Assam (b) M.P (c) A.P
(d) Manipur (e) Nagaland
- 96.** The first state in India to start entrepreneurship Hub for women, called "WE HUB"
(a) A.P (b) Telangana (c) M.P
(d) Karnataka (e) Tamil Nadu
- 97.** The Azlah Shah cup of Hockey won Australia by defeating which team?
(a) India (b) England (c) Malaysia
(d) Pakistan (e) Afghanistan
- 98.** The person is who are wilful defaulters and remaining outside the Jurisdiction of Indian courts is called
(a) Defaultur
(b) Economic offender
(c) Fugitive economic offender
(d) Non-cooperative borrower
(e) None of the above
- 99.** The percapita availability of milk per day in India is
(a) 305 grams (b) 355 grams (c) 320 grams
(d) 340 grams (e) 325 grams
- 100.** India-France started 101 Megawatt solar power project in which place of Uttar Pradesh?
(a) Merut (b) Mirjapur (c) Sultanpur
(d) Goraknath (e) None of the above
- 101.** International Solar Alliance (ISA) headquarter is ...
(a) Gurgaon (b) Mirzapur (c) Paris
(d) Lyon (e) New Delhi
- 102.** The state which passed bill to award death sentence who rapes girls below 12 years?
(a) Karnataka (b) Rajasthan
(c) Andhra Pradesh (d) Tamil Nadu
(e) Telangana
- 103.** International solar Alliance (ISA) first summit held in which place?
(a) New Delhi (b) Paris (c) Jaipur
(d) Surat (e) Ahmedabad
- 104.** Akhil Sheron won gold medal in world championship of which sport?
(a) Athletics (b) Table Tennis
(c) Squash (d) Shooting
(e) Swimming
- 105.** India's first floating lab is going to setup on Loktak lake of which state to Monitor water quality
(a) Nagaland (b) Mizoram (c) Manipur
(d) Tripura (e) Sikkim
- 106.** As per GST Act-2016, E-way bills are necessary to transports goods
(a) With in state
(b) Inter state
(c) Foreign export
(d) Manufacturing of goods
(e) Imports of goods
- 107.** E-way bills are implementing from which date onwards?
(a) April-1-2019 (b) April-1-2018
(c) April-1-2020 (d) Feb-1-2018
(e) March-18-2018
- 108.** The Minimum value of goods which requires e-way bill for interstate transportation is
(a) below 10,000 (b) above 10,000
(c) above 1 lakh (d) above 50,000
(e) below 50,000
- 109.** The tallest flAg of India is established in which place, it's height is 110 metres
(a) Mysore (b) Belagavi (c) Hyderabad
(d) Chennai (e) Raipur
- 110.** Govt of India target to eliminate tuberculosis by
(a) 2030 (b) 2022 (c) 2025
(d) 2028 (e) 2019
- 111.** ICICI Bank launched instant over Draft "INSTAOD" facility for Micro-Small-Medium enterprises (MSMES) up to for year anytime
(a) 10 Lakhs (b) 15 Lakhs (c) 20 Lakhs
(d) 25 Lakhs (e) 18 Lakhs

- 112.** SBI reduced charges for non-maintenance of “AMB” from April-1-2018 onwards. Then AMB stands for
- (a) Average Monthly Balance
(b) Annual Money Balance
(c) Average Monthly Built
(d) Average Monetary Balance
(e) None of the above
- 113.** India announced how much amount of line of credit (LOC) to Maritius
- (a) \$ 100 millions (b) \$200 millions
(c) \$ 250 millions (d) \$75 millions
(e) \$ 50 millions
- 114.** Mahanadi River dispute tribunal established to share water between Odisha and Chattisgarh is headed by
- (a) A.M. Khanwilkar (b) Vasudevmenon
(c) Bachavat (d) Sharmila Tagore
(e) Brijesh
- 115.** Doodhwa Dam located in which state and constructed on which river?
- (a) Odisha, Indravathy River
(b) Chattisgarh, Mahanadi
(c) Gomti, Uttar Pradesh
(d) Odisha, Mahanandi
(e) Chattisgarh, Indravathy
- 116.** India stands in first place with respect to number of Medals in world shooting championship-2018 and first time a history. Then total no of medal won by India
- (a) 4 gold, 1 Silver, 1 Bronze
(b) 2 Gold, 2 Silver, 2 Bronze
(c) 3 Gold, 1 Silver, 1 Silver
(d) 4 Gold, 2 Silver
(e) None of the above
- 117.** Stephen Hawking who passed away recently, related to which field?
- (a) Cosmology (b) Medicine (c) Cinema
(d) Journalist (e) Cartoonist
- 118.** The first female president of Nepal, who is re-elected for second term is
- (a) Sushila Koirala (b) Bidya Devi Bhandari
(c) Sushma Karki (d) Amrutha Koirala
(e) Manisha Koirala
- 119.** The first Gulf country which approved construction of nuclear power plant?
- (a) Kuwait (b) Saudi Arabia
(c) Bahrain (d) Bahamas
(e) Qatar
- 120.** The king of Dark chamber [Raja in Bengali] book was written by
- (a) Mirza Ghalib (b) Mamata Banarjee
(c) Subash chandrabose (d) Rabindranath Tagore
(e) None of the above
- 121.** Amazon launches its first debit card in which country to shopper without bank accounts to buy online
- (a) Australia (b) Mexico (c) Argentina
(d) Singapore (e) Taiwan
- 122.** Who is appointed as first female director of central intelligence Agency (CIA) of USA
- (a) Gina Hospel (b) Nickki Haley
(c) Hillary Meghan (d) Ami Jackson
(e) Nancy powell
- 123.** Asia-Pacific Regional conference of the international Association of chief of police (IACP) started in which place?
- (a) New Delhi (b) Jaipur
(c) Rann of Kutch (d) Gwalior
(e) Jabalpur
- 124.** Govt of India issued notification to print photos and names of persons in news paper it is known as “NAME AND SHAME” is applicable to
- (a) Criminals
(b) Defaulters
(c) Willful defaulters
(d) Non-cooperative borrowers
(e) Defaulting amount is above 50 crs
- 125.** The Average Monthly Balance (AMB) of SBI in Metro, Semi-Urban and Rural Areas?
- (a) 3500, 2500, 1500
(b) 3000, 2000, 1000
(c) 4000, 200, 1000
(d) 2500, 1500, 1000
(e) 2000, 1000, 500
- 126.** The Economic growth rate projected by world bank for Indian Economy (2018-19) year is
- (a) 7.4% (b) 7.3% (c) 7.9%
(d) 7.8% (e) 7.5%

- 127.** The costliest place in Asia-Pacific region as per rent is
- (a) Hong Kong (b) New Delhi
(c) Mumbai (d) Tokya
(e) Seoul
- 128.** The shares of central govt, sponsored bank, state govt in regional rural banks (RRB's) is
- (a) 50%, 35%, 15% (b) 60%, 20%, 20%
(c) 50%, 25%, 25% (d) 40%, 30%, 30%
(e) None of the above
- 129.** Electricity based Driverless car is known as "SEDRIC" [self driving car] manufactured by
- (a) Microsoft (b) Google
(c) General Motors (d) Mahindra
(e) Wolks Wagon
- 130.** The Brief History of time (1988) book written by
- (a) Jonathan young (b) Shashi Tharoor
(c) Donald Trump (d) Stephen Hacking
(e) Michelobama
- 131.** "RYTHU LAKSHMI" scheme started by which state to provide incentives to farmers as a Input subsidy of 4000 per Acre is
- (a) A.P (b) M.P (c) Haryana
(d) Telangana (e) Punjab
- 132.** India stands in 133 place in world happiness report-2018 and which country stands in first place
- (a) Denmark (b) Norway (c) China
(d) Finland (e) Netherlands
- 133.** World Hindi Secretariat opened in which country and it is funded by India?
- (a) Maldives (b) Indonesia (c) Maritius
(d) Seychelles (e) None of the above
- 134.** Angela Merkel is elected as th term vice chancellor of Germany
- (a) 3rd (b) 4th (c) 5th (d) 6th (e) 7th
- 135.** The only fertilizer on which subsidy provided by Govt of India is
- (a) DAP (b) Urea (c) Phosphorus
(d) Biofertilizers (e) NPK
- 136.** As per the world Bank Economic growth rate projected for Indian Economy 2018-19 year is
- (a) 7.3% (b) 7.2% (c) 7.4% (d) 7.6% (e) 8%
- 137.** Who is appointed as Economic Advisor of Donald Trump?
- (a) Larry Kudlow (b) Susan Rice
(c) Nikkie Haley (d) Ivanka Trump
(e) None of the above
- 138.** Sangeetha Bahadur is appointed as Ambassador of
- (a) Australia (b) Slovakia (c) Belarus
(d) Belgium (e) Latvia
- 139.** World Health organization (WHO) target to eliminate Turberculosis is
- (a) 2030 (b) 2025 (c) 2020
(d) 2035 (e) 2035
- 140.** The first of USA which is using Nitrogen Gas for executions
- (a) Oklhoma (b) Texas (c) Chicago
(d) Missouri (e) Lesitho
- 141.** The Slovakia Prime Minister who was resigned recently?
- (a) Robert Fico (b) Andrej kisko
(c) Andrew Rassault (d) Samuel Fico
(e) Robert Pierre
- 142.** Krishi Unnati Mela begun in
- (a) New Delhi (b) Bombay (c) Madras
(d) Kolkata (e) Mathura
- 143.** 105th National science congress begun in
- (a) Imphal (b) Kohima (c) Itanagar
(d) Hyderabad (e) Mumbai
- 144.** Who became Asian Rank one in Javelin F-13 category at world para Athletics Grand Prixin Dubai.
- (a) Devendra Jajharia (b) Sakshi Malik
(c) Deepa Malik (d) Aruna Reddy
(e) None of the above
- 145.** Venezuela currency is
- (a) Boliver (b) Dollar (c) Peso
(d) Pound (e) Rial
- 146.** The Mauritius president who is resigned over a financial scandal is
- (a) Anirudh Jagannath (b) Mohammed Nasheed
(c) Ameenah Gurib Fakim
(d) Mustafa Kemel (e) None of the above
- 147.** As per Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO), most of the farmers income is loosing due to which of the following natural calamities?
- (a) Droughts (b) Floods (c) Pests
(d) Seeds (e) Fertilizers

- 148.** NITI Ayog released comprehensive road map for its initiative “SATH-E”, then it stands for
- (a) Sustainable Action for Transforming Human capital in Education
 (b) Supervised Action for Transforming Human capital in Engineering
 (c) Sustainable Activity for Transforming Human capital in electronics
 (d) Sustainable activity for Transforming Human capital in Education
 (e) None of the above
- 149.** Sethu Samudram canal project connects
- (a) Gulf of mannar - Srilanka
 (b) Palk strait-Srilanka
 (c) Srilanka-India
 (d) Gulf of mannar-Palk strait
 (e) None of the above
- 150.** Which cricket team got one-day international status in 2018 year
- (a) U.A.E (b) U.S.A (c) Nepal
 (d) Afghanistan (e) Netherlands
- 151.** Which country cricket paid tribute to former BCCI president Jagmohan Dalmia with a book titled “A tribute to Jagu”
- (a) Pakistan (b) Srilanka (c) India
 (d) Bangladesh (e) Afghanistan
- 152.** The Lok Sabha recently passed, the payment of Gratuity bill, aims increasing of gratuity form 10 lakhs to for all employees including private and public.
- (a) 25 lakhs (b) 20 lakhs (c) 15 lakhs
 (d) 30 lakhs (e) 12 lakhs
- 153.** Indian super league (ISL) foot ball cup won by
- (a) Bengaluru (b) Chennai (c) Kochi
 (d) Mumbai (e) Jamshedpur
- 154.** Kevin peferson who announced his retirement from cricket, he belongs to which country?
- (a) Newzealand (b) UAE
 (c) England (d) Australia
 (e) South Africa
- 155.** The World Economic Forum (WEF) energy transition Index was topped by Sweden, the rank of India is
- (a) 65 (b) 73 (c) 78 (d) 82 (e) 90
- 156.** Vladimir Putin becameth, term president of Russia
- (a) 3rd (b) 5th (c) 2nd
 (d) 4th (e) None of the above
- 157.** Li keqiang becamend term Prime Minister of China?
- (a) 2nd (b) 3rd (c) 4th (d) 1st (e) 5th
- 158.** Foreign Contribution Regulation Act is enacted in which year?
- (a) 2002 (b) 2005 (c) 2010
 (d) 2008 (e) 2009
- 159.** The Indian Army started negotiations to purchase “VSHORAD”, it stands for
- (a) Very silent radar system
 (b) Vast short range radar system
 (c) Very short range defense radar system
 (d) Very silent range defense radar system
 (e) None of the above
- 160.** RBI counted and disposed the currency which was deposited after Demonetisation on Nov:8:2016 by using “CVPS”, it stands for
- (a) Currency vilation and processing system
 (b) Currency verification and processing system
 (c) Currency verification and printing system
 (d) Currency visualization and printing system
 (e) None of the above
- 161.** The bilateral exercise between Indian Navy and French Navy is
- (a) Garuda (b) Shakti (c) Varuna
 (d) Freedom (e) Yudh Abhyas
- 162.** World Wide cost of living report 2018, of Economic Intelligence Unit (EIU) is topped by Singapore, least expensive city is ...
- (a) Caracus (b) Kabul (c) Damascus
 (d) Mumbai (e) Teharan
- 163.** Govt of India released 10 and 1000 Rs coins commemorating Lord Jagannath festival of
- (a) Kalinga (b) Puri (c) Kajuraho
 (d) Cuttack (e) Bubhaneswar
- 164.** Govt of India formulating KISAN URJA SURAKSHA EVAM UTTAN MAHABHIYAN (KUSUM) is related to
- (a) Solar energy (b) Wind energy
 (c) Geothermal energy (d) Biomass energy
 (e) Water treatment

- 165.** Govt of India approved plastic park for which state.
 (a) Chattisgarh (b) Jharkhand
 (c) Telangana (d) Andhra Pradesh
 (e) Madhya Pradesh
- 166.** Who is appointed as peoples Bank of China President, which is called Central Bank of China?
 (a) YiGang (b) Li Keqiang
 (c) Juiluquin (d) Saint Marino
 (e) None of the above
- 167.** Atul. M. Gotsurve is appointed as Ambassador of India to
 (a) South Korea (b) North Korea
 (c) Belgium (d) Belarus
 (e) Slovakia
- 168.** Kisanganga hydro electric power project located in which state?
 (a) Jammu & Kashmir (b) Himachal Pradesh
 (c) Punjab (d) Haryana
 (e) Uttarakand
- 169.** Axis Bank opened its representative office in ... after Abudhabi, Dubai.
 (a) Sharjah (b) Riyadh (c) Doha
 (d) Manama (e) Baku
- 170.** Kedernath Singh who passed away recently, related to which field?
 (a) Hindi writer (b) Odissi Dancer
 (c) Journalist (d) Actor
 (e) Director
- 171.** "Lingayat Dharma" is recongnised as a new religion under minorities in which state?
 (a) Tamil Nadu (b) Karnataka
 (c) Kerala (d) Telangana
 (e) Pondicherry
- 172.** Global Teacher Award-2018 winner is
 (a) Prabhu Sri Vastava (b) Andria Zafirakou
 (c) Anna Lezhenova (d) Victoria
 (e) None of the above
- 173.** Average wealth per person index is released by World Bank, top ranker is Norway and India rank is
 (a) 120 (b) 119 (c) 115 (d) 112 (e) 110
- 174.** F-16 is a fighter jet manufactured by Lockheed martin company of which country and India ready to purchase these fighter Jets?
 (a) France (b) Germany (c) USA
 (d) Sweden (e) China
- 175.** 106th Indian Science congress 2019 venue is
 (a) Bhopal (b) Bhubaneswar
 (c) Chennai (d) Mumbai
 (e) Lucknow
- 176.** G-20 Meeting of finance Ministers and central bank governors held in
 (a) Germany (b) Argentina (c) India
 (d) China (e) Mexico
- 177.** The Venezuela cryptocurreny is known "PETRO" Launched in November 2017, now it is banned by which country?
 (a) USA (b) Germany (c) UK
 (d) France (e) China
- 178.** World most liveable city in the world is Vienna and least live able city is
 (a) Damascus (b) Baghdad (c) Teharan
 (d) Kabul (e) Baku
- 179.** India signed Double Tax Avoidance treaty (DTTA) in March 2018 with which country?
 (a) Hungary (b) Hong Kong
 (c) Belgium (d) Netherlands
 (e) Belarus
- 180.** Satyapal Malik is Governor of Bihar, now he is also appointed as incharge of which state?
 (a) Jarkhand (b) Chattisgarh
 (c) Odisha (d) Haryana
 (e) Himachal Pradesh
- 181.** A Book on Paramveer chakra awardees is "Paramveer Parwane" written by
 (a) Subash Jain (b) Prabha Kiran Jain
 (c) Bipin Rawat (d) Raj Vardhan Rathore
 (e) None of the above
- 182.** General Insurance Corporation (1972) is going to start branch in
 (a) New York (b) London (c) Beijing
 (d) Vienna (e) Berlin
- 183.** Godhazari wildlife sanctuary is approved by which state?
 (a) Chattisgarh (b) Madhya Pradesh
 (c) Jarkhand (d) Maharashtra
 (e) West Bengal
- 184.** Mynmar currency is
 (a) Dollar (b) Shekel (c) Kyat
 (d) Rupee (e) Pound

- 185.** Abel Prize is called Nobel Prize of Maths is won by
 (a) Robert Pierry (b) Robert Langlands
 (c) Eienstein (d) Christina Leva
 (e) Michel Smith
- 186.** Online food ordering and delivery platform swiggy tied with which bank?
 (a) SBI (b) PNB (c) ICICI
 (d) AXIS Bank (e) Indian Bank
- 187.** Which state govt imposed permanent ban on hookah in bars?
 (a) Haryana (b) Punjab (c) Kerala
 (d) Tamil Nadu (e) Karnataka
- 188.** Which state declared "Jackfruit" as official fruit of state?
 (a) Haryana (b) Kerala (c) Tamil Nadu
 (d) Karnataka (e) Telangana
- 189.** Indian Oil Corporation started home delivery of diesel for first time in which city?
 (a) Mumbai (b) Pune (c) Chennai
 (d) New Delhi (e) Ahmedabad
- 190.** Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary is located which state?
 (a) Manipur (b) Sikkim (c) Assam
 (d) Nagaland (e) Arunachal Pradesh
- 191.** The target of Ayushman Bharat Scheme is to provide insurance to 10crs families up to per family per year
 (a) 2 Lakhs (b) 5 Lakhs (c) 6 Lakhs
 (d) 10 Lakhs (e) 8 Lakhs
- 192.** The Interest rate of American central bank known as Federal Reserve Bank is
 (a) 2% (b) 1.25% (c) 1.5-1.75%
 (d) 1% (e) 2.5%
- 193.** The amount of fund allocated to encourage silk Industry in India by cabinet?
 (a) 2500 crs (b) 2700 crs (c) 2000 crs
 (d) 2161 crs (e) 3100 crs
- 194.** The capital city of Estonia is
 (a) Maputo (b) Tallinn (c) Tbilisi
 (d) Dublin (e) Pristina
- 195.** World's Largest Sand Stone Cave discovered in which state?
 (a) Nagaland (b) Meghalaya
 (c) Tripura (d) Kerala
 (e) None of the above
- 196.** The Most Informative Pavillion award of Indian science congress is given to
 (a) ISRO (b) ONGC (c) DRDO
 (d) IOC (e) BHEL
- 197.** The first Indian sign language dictionary of 3000 words released. This dictionary useful to
 (a) Blind persons
 (b) Dumb and deaf persons
 (c) Autism (d) Alexia
 (e) None of the above
- 198.** Brahmos is
 (a) Subsonic Ballistic Missile
 (b) Supersonic Cruise Missile
 (c) Subsonic Cruise Missile
 (d) Supersonic Ballistic Missile
 (e) None of the above
- 199.** ISRO signed technology transfer agreement with
 (a) BDL (b) BHEL (c) ONGC
 (d) IOC (e) HPCL
- 200.** All Bank Financial Limited (ABFL) is merged in to which bank
 (a) SBI (b) BOB
 (c) Indian Bank (d) Allahabad Bank
 (e) Indian overseas bank
- 201.** Germany president is
 (a) Angela Morkel (b) Emmanuel Mecron
 (c) Frank Walter (d) Hitler Smith
 (e) None of the above
- 202.** Which country for the first time supplied long range missile technology to Pakistan?
 (a) Iran (b) Iraq (c) USA
 (d) China (e) Russia
- 203.** New National security Advisor of USA is
 (a) John Bolton (b) Nikki Haley
 (c) Nancy Powell (d) Kamala Harris
 (e) None of the above
- 204.** Bulgaria currency is
 (a) Leu (b) Lev (c) Pound
 (d) Dollar (e) Kuna
- 205.** March 24 is Celebrated World Tuberculosis Day then theme of 2018 year is
 (a) TB free world
 (b) 3 million Tuberculosis
 (c) Wanted: Leaders for a TB free world
 (d) TB and Lungs (e) TB and pollution

- 206.** NIKSHAY AUSHADI PORTAL related to
 (a) Cancer (b) Tuberculosis
 (c) Asthma (d) Autism
 (e) Diabetis
- 207.** Finance Minister of India, Arun Jaitley is elected to Rajyasabha, from which state?
 (a) Uttar Pradesh (b) Rajasthan
 (c) Kerala (d) Madhya Pradesh
 (e) Tripura
- 208.** The New President of Peru is
 (a) David Bravo (b) Disilva
 (c) Martin Vizcarra (d) Nicolas Maduro
 (e) None of the above
- 209.** G.K. Reddy award is given to
 (a) Arunab Goswamy (b) Rajdeep Sardesai
 (c) Karan Thapar (d) Sampath Nanda
 (e) None of the above
- 210.** Which of the following Navy warship was decommissioned in Mumbai on March-24-2018.
 (a) INS Ganga (b) INS Pushkar
 (c) INS Taruni (d) INS Cauvery
 (e) INS Krishna
- 211.** Which of the following is Wrong Match?

Summit	Place
(a) India-Egypt	New Delhi
(b) Maize Summit	New Delhi
(c) Drug law Enforcement	New Delhi
(d) Common Wealth games-2018	Australia
(e) Asia games 2018	China
- 212.** Which Bank Joined in Government –e- marketplace (Gem) scheme?
 (a) ICICI Bank (b) SBI Bank
 (c) Syndicate Bank (d) HDFC Bank
 (e) AXIS Bank
- 213.** Peru currency is
 (a) Peso (b) Sol (c) Leu
 (d) Lev (e) Dollar
- 214.** How many branches of India Post Payment Bank (IPPB) opens by April-2018?
 (a) 350 (b) 200 (c) 650 (d) 600 (e) 420
- 215.** Norway stands first place in Mobile Data downloading speed, the rank of India is
 (a) 110 (b) 108 (c) 109 (d) 112 (e) 120
- 216.** American and 14 European countries suspended diplomatic relations with which country?
 (a) Pakistan (b) Iran (c) Russia
 (d) China (e) Iraq
- 217.** Which of the following city of India, now became wireless city to supply power?
 (a) Chennai (b) Varanasi
 (c) Hyderabad (d) Mumbai
 (e) Bhopal
- 218.** The top producer of electricity in the world is China, Rank of India is
 (a) 5th (b) 4th (c) 3rd (d) 8th (e) 7th
- 219.** The top Automobile Market in the world is China, Rank of India is
 (a) 6th (b) 3rd (c) 4th (d) 7th (e) 8th
- 220.** Equitas small finance Bank launched a new “Yellow Army Savings Account” to increase its customers base through which IPL team?
 (a) Rajasthan Royals (b) Gujarat lions
 (c) Sun risers (d) Delhi dare devils
 (e) Chennai superking’s
- 221.** Australian Grand Prix-race won by ...
 (a) Hamilton (b) Sebastian Vettel
 (c) Shiv Narayan (d) Lewis Smith
 (e) None of the above
- 222.** The world biggest ship is
 (a) Saint Nazaire (b) Symphony of theseas
 (c) Harmony of seas (d) Titanic
 (e) None of the above
- 223.** Which state of the India having more number of beggars as per recent data
 (a) Telangana (b) Uttar Pradesh
 (c) Bihar (d) West Bengal
 (e) Rajasthan
- 224.** Who is nominated to UNESCO’s executive Board from India and term of office is four years?
 (a) J.S. Rajput (b) Viranmani
 (c) Pawankalyan (d) Rajnikanth
 (e) Ajith Seth
- 225.** World Theatre Day is ____
 (a) March 25 (b) March 26 (c) March 27
 (d) March 30 (e) March 31
- 226.** Indian railway finance corporation Issuing how much value of bonds of LIC to get funds.
 (a) 5000 crs (b) 6000 crs (c) 9000 crs
 (d) 8000 crs (e) 10,000 crs

- 227.** Asia's largest tulip flower Garden is located in ____
 (a) New Delhi (b) Shimla (c) Srinagar
 (d) Nainital (e) Dehradun
- 228.** The first district of country to have 100% solar powered primary Health center (PHC)
 (a) Surat (b) Anand (c) Patna
 (d) Nalanda (e) Ghaziabad
- 229.** Central govt approved how many houses construction under pradan Mantri urban aawas yojana
 (a) 3,21,567 (b) 40,0000 (c) 5,21,600
 (d) 60,0000 (e) 70,0000
- 230.** SWIFT Head Quarter is ____
 (a) Belgium (b) Geneva (c) London
 (d) U.S.A (e) Gland
- 231.** Housing for all by ____ is Target of Govt of India
 (a) 2019 (b) 2022 (c) 2023
 (d) 2025 (e) 2028
- 232.** 15th finance commission considering which census for distribution taxes between center states?
 (a) 1971 (b) 2001 (c) 2011
 (d) 1981 (e) 1961
- 233.** The currency of Romania is ____
 (a) Lev (b) Leu (c) Pound
 (d) Dollar (e) Franc
- 234.** Mathukettam Shola national park is located in which state?
 (a) Kerala (b) Telangana
 (c) Tamil Nadu (d) Goa
 (e) Karnataka
- 235.** Who is appointed as Ambassador of Election commission of India?
 (a) Rajnikanth (b) Virat Kohli
 (c) Sakshi Malik (d) Rahul Dravid
 (e) Saina Nehwal
- 236.** VVPAT is a voter verified paper Audit trail which means print out of vote after casting the vote, and it is first time fully implementing in which state elections
 (a) Karnataka (b) Andhra Pradesh
 (c) Rajasthan (d) Madhya Pradesh
 (e) Telangana
- 237.** India's first Microsoft Garage is opening in which city to provide skills and to promote innovations?
 (a) Bengaluru (b) Hyderabad (c) Chennai
 (d) Karnataka (e) Mumbai
- 238.** India's first insect Museum opened in which state?
 (a) Andhra Pradesh (b) Tamil Nadu
 (c) Odisha (d) Chattisgarh
 (e) Sikkim
- 239.** Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Govt of India signed \$80 million loan agreement to help modernization of vocational education training centres in which state?
 (a) Himachal Pradesh (b) Andhra Pradesh
 (c) Odisha (d) Telangana
 (e) Sikkim
- 240.** EXIM Bank is providing how much amount of loan to 15 nations group in Africa?
 (a) \$ 200 millions (b) \$500 millions
 (c) \$ 250 millions (d) \$400 millions
 (e) \$800 millions
- 241.** Who is appointed as CEO of Ayushman Bharat Mission which aimed at health protection up to 5 Lakh per family per year?
 (a) Kiran Shah (b) Srinath Reddy
 (c) Indu Mahapatra (d) Indu Bushan
 (e) Indu Malhotra
- 242.** The New President of Mynmar is
 (a) Hutin Kyaw (b) Win Myint
 (c) Aung San Suukyi (d) Raj Tilak
 (e) Prayutcha
- 243.** Prevention of Money laundering Act (PMLA) is enacted in which year?
 (a) 2005 (b) 2002 (c) 2010
 (d) 2008 (e) 2012
- 244.** Which of the following wrongly matched pair?

Country	Currency
(a) Namibia	Dollar
(b) Nigeria	Naira
(c) Niger	Franc
(d) Nauru	Dollar
(e) Bolivia	Boliver
- 245.** NASA constructing world largest telescope by 2020 and name of telescope is
 (a) Hubble Telescope
 (b) ARK Telescope
 (c) Stephen Haking Telescope
 (d) James Webb Telescope
 (e) None of the above

- 246.** Northeastern states special development fund share of central Govt is increased from 90% to
 (a) 95% (b) 98% (c) 100% (d) 97% (e) 94%
- 247.** The fund allocated by Govt of India to credit Guarantee fund for education loans from 2017-18 to 2019-20 is
 (a) 6600 crs (b) 6500 crs (c) 7000 crs
 (d) 6800 crs (e) 7200 crs
- 248.** Rajasthan's first Mega food park is opened in which place?
 (a) Jaipur (b) Udaipur (c) Ajmer
 (d) Jhunjunu (e) Khetri
- 249.** ISRO launched "GSAT-6A" by using which launching vehicle?
 (a) GSLV-F15 (b) GSLV-F08
 (c) GSLV-F5 (d) PSLV-41
 (e) PSLV-Mark III
- 250.** The Committee appointed by SEBI on corporate governance head is
 (a) Vijay Kelkar (b) R. H. Malegam
 (c) Uday Kotak (d) C. Ranga Rajan
 (e) None of the above
- 251.** As per recent SEBI guidelines, the total no of directors in a company from April-1-2020 is
 (a) 5 (b) 6 (c) 7 (d) 8 (e) 9
- 252.** As per recent SEBI guidelines in any company at least, how many women directors are mandatory from April-1-2019 onwards
 (a) 2 (b) 1 (c) 3
 (d) 4 (e) None of the above
- 253.** For the year (2018-19), the fund allocated by Govt of India for fertilizer subsidy is
 (a) 23000 crs (b) 30,000 crs (c) 35000 crs
 (d) 40,000 crs (e) 28,000 crs
- 254.** The total no of Krishi Vignan Kendras in India which provides scientific education to farmers?
 (a) 650 (b) 669 (c) 675
 (d) 654 (e) None of the above
- 255.** INSIGHT stands for Interior explorations using seismic investigation, Geodesy and heat transport, is a NASA first Mission to study interiors of Which planet and scheduled to launch on May 5 : 2018
 (a) Saturn (b) Mars (c) Venus
 (d) Jupiter (e) Moon
- 256.** RBI impose 59 crs fine on ICICI bank for violation of norms with respect HTM, then HTM stands for _
 (a) Hand to Maturity (b) Hold to Maturity
 (c) Held to Maturity (d) Held to Maximum
 (e) None of the above
- 257.** As per recent supreme court judgment, the stay on any cases valid maximum up to
 (a) 9 months (b) 2 months (c) 6 months
 (d) 5 months (e) 1 year
- 258.** Who is elected as 2nd term president of Egypt?
 (a) Mohammed Morsi (b) Mohammed Nasheed
 (c) Abdul Fatah, Al-sisi (d) Mohammed Gayoom
 (e) None of the above
- 259.** An Integrated education scheme formed by merging all educational scheme which are already exists and It is going to implement from April-1-2018 to March 31:2020, with an amount
 (a) 66000 crs (b) 75000 crs (c) 90,000 crs
 (d) 60,000 crs (e) 50,000 crs
- 260.** As per RBI classification, which of the following is not a type of investment?
 (a) Held for trading (HFT)
 (b) Available for sale (AFS)
 (c) Held to Maturity (HTM)
 (d) All the above
 (e) None of the above
- 261.** Kasturiba residential schools for girls, now running upto 8th class only, GOI approved to extend this school education upto ...
 (a) 10th class (b) 12th class (c) Degree
 (d) 9th class (e) None of the above
- 262.** Which state of India having more number of tribal habitations in the country?
 (a) Madhya Pradesh (b) Jharkhand
 (c) Odisha (d) Assam
 (e) Chhattisgarh
- 263.** Zambia currency is
 (a) Kuna (b) Koruna (c) Kwacha
 (d) Pound (e) Drama
- 264.** Which city of South Africa facing water scarcity in 2018 year?
 (a) Cape town (b) Pretoria (c) Durban
 (d) Johanesberg (e) None of the above

ANSWER KEY...

1	a	2	b	3	c	4	c	5	b	6	b	7	a	8	a	9	b	10	b
11	a	12	b	13	a	14	b	15	b	16	d	17	a	18	b	19	c	20	b
21	b	22	a	23	b	24	b	25	b	26	b	27	b	28	c	29	b	30	e
31	c	32	d	33	d	34	a	35	b	36	b	37	d	38	a	39	b	40	b
41	b	42	b	43	c	44	c	45	b	46	c	47	c	48	c	49	d	50	b
51	b	52	c	53	b	54	b	55	d	56	c	57	d	58	c	59	d	60	b
61	b	62	c	63	b	64	a	65	b	66	d	67	d	68	c	69	c	70	c
71	a	72	b	73	b	74	b	75	b	76	b	77	b	78	d	79	c	80	b
81	a	82	c	83	b	84	b	85	c	86	b	87	b	88	a	89	c	90	a
91	b	92	b	93	b	94	d	95	a	96	b	97	b	98	c	99	b	100	b
101	a	102	b	103	a	104	d	105	c	106	b	107	d	108	d	109	b	110	c
111	b	112	a	113	a	114	a	115	b	116	a	117	a	118	b	119	b	120	d
121	b	122	a	123	a	124	c	125	b	126	b	127	b	128	a	129	e	130	d
131	d	132	d	133	c	134	b	135	b	136	a	137	a	138	c	139	a	140	a
141	a	142	a	143	a	144	c	145	a	146	c	147	a	148	a	149	d	150	c
151	b	152	b	153	b	154	c	155	c	156	d	157	a	158	c	159	c	160	b
161	c	162	c	163	b	164	a	165	b	166	a	167	b	168	a	169	a	170	a
171	b	172	b	173	b	174	c	175	a	176	b	177	a	178	b	179	b	180	c
181	b	182	b	183	d	184	c	185	b	186	c	187	b	188	b	189	b	190	c
191	b	192	c	193	d	194	b	195	b	196	c	197	b	198	b	199	b	200	d
201	c	202	d	203	a	204	b	205	c	206	b	207	a	208	c	209	c	210	a
211	e	212	d	213	b	214	c	215	c	216	c	217	b	218	c	219	c	220	e
221	b	222	b	223	d	224	a	225	c	226	a	227	c	228	a	229	a	230	a
231	b	232	c	233	b	234	a	235	d	236	a	237	b	238	b	239	a	240	b
241	d	242	b	243	b	244	e	245	d	246	c	247	a	248	c	249	b	250	c
251	c	252	b	253	a	254	b	255	b	256	c	257	c	258	c	259	b	260	e
261	b	262	a	263	c	264	a												
