FreshersLive Current Affairs
Weekly Edition (14th October'19 - 20th October'19)

Ban on National Flag import

India ranked 102nd in 2019 GHI

Vigyan Jyoti to be launched

3rd Week Current Affairs October 2019

Lakshya Sen won Dutch Open 2019
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RBI issues guidelines on: on tap authorization of payment systems

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issued guidelines on 'on tap' authorization of payment systems on 15 October. The guidelines, including minimum net worth criteria for different entities.

Aim:
The guidelines aim to encourage innovation and competition among the entities.

Guidelines:
RBI has decided to offer on-tap authorization for entities, namely BBPOU (Bharat Bill Payment Operating Unit), TReDS (Trade Receivables Discounting System), and WLAs (White Label ATMs).

The guidelines say that the payment system operators must ensure interoperability among different retail payment systems. The authorization would be given based on the merits of the proposal.

The entities that desire to function or provide platforms for BBPOU should have an Rs.100 crore net worth. The net amount should be maintained at all times.

Whereas, in the case of TReDS, the minimum paid-up equity capital should be Rs.25 crore.

Also, the minimum net worth for entities that enters the WLA segment should be Rs.100 crore.

BBPS, TReDS, WLA:

The Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS) is a repetitive bill payments platform. It currently covers five segments, namely direct-to-home (DTH), electricity, gas, telecom, and water bills.

TReDS scheme facilitates the financing of invoices and bills of Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) that are drawn on corporate buyers by way of discounting by financiers.

White Label ATMs are set up by non-bank entities.

RBI stopped printing Rs.2000 currency notes

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced that it has stopped the printing of Rs.2,000 currency notes. The Central Bank also revealed that not even a single
Rs.2,000 note had been printed in the current financial year, FY 2019-20.

**Rs.2000 currency notes printing:**
In the financial year 2016-17, the RBI printed **3,542.991 million notes**
In the financial year 2017-18, the RBI reduced the printing of the Rs.2000 currency notes to **111.507 million notes**
In the financial year 2018-19, the central bank printed **46.690 million notes.**
**No Rs.2000 currency** notes were printed in the financial year 2019-20.

**Reason:**
RBI said that the high circulation of Rs.2,000 notes will defeat the government's motive as smuggling the high-denomination notes are easier.
RBI also said that there were **3,363 million notes** in circulation at the end of March 2018. This amounts to 3.3% of the total currency in circulation in terms of volume and 37.3% in terms of value.

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**Mastercard launched Team Cashless India to push digital payments**

Mastercard and it's brand ambassador MS Dhoni have launched **Team Cashless India campaign.** It aims to bring more merchants and customers on board to **boost digital payments in India.** The move is in line with Mastercard's endeavor to create an ecosystem that encourages users to use digital payments for their day-to-day purchases.

**Team Cashless India:**
- The campaign encourages Indians to **nominate one or more merchants** who currently do not accept digital payments.
- Mastercard, along with **Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT)** and financial technology companies, to support nominated merchants to deploy digital payments acceptance infrastructure.
- The company will provide select nominated merchants with a chance to join Mahendra Singh Dhoni's Team Cashless India.
- Using this campaign, Mastercard aims to equip 10 million merchants in India with digital payment acceptance capabilities **by 2020.**
India, China to set up high level group to tackle Indias trade deficit

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping agreed to set up a high-level group to tackle India's trade deficit at the summit held in Mamallapuram, Tamil Nadu. The high-level group will be led by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman from the Indian side and Chinese Vice Premier Hu Chunhua.

Highlights:
- The leaders discussed to improve bilateral ties
- The summit aimed to break through distrust over border disputes, trade rows, and China's close military ties with Pakistan
- The leaders also said that a new mechanism would be established to discuss trade, investment, and services
- China urged India to take an independent decision on Huawei's bid for India's proposed 3G network without heeding to U.S. pressure
- It was also suggested that the two sides to expand cooperation in the military sector to boost trust

India-China relationship:
- In 2018, the bilateral trade between India and China reached $95.54 billion, the biggest India has with any country. The bilateral trade favored China with a trade deficit of $53 billion.

World Bank forecasts India's GDP forecast to 6 percent

World Bank said that India's growth rate is projected to fall to 6% in 2019-20 following the deceleration in the initial quarters of this fiscal. World Bank said that India is expected to gradually recover to 6.9% in FY21 and 7.2% in FY22 in its latest edition of the South Asia Economic Focus. In April 2019, World Bank projected India's growth rate as 7.5%.

The World Bank report said that in the first quarter of 2019-20, the Indian economy experienced a significant and broad-based growth deceleration with a sharp decline on the demand side and the weakening of growth in both industry and services on the supply side.

In 2018-19 the headline inflation averaged 3.4%. It reflected the below-trend
economic momentum and low food prices. It remained well below the RBI's mid-range target of 4% in the first half of 2019-2020. This also allowed the RBI to ease monetary policy via a cumulative 135 basis points (bps) cut in the repo rate from January 2019.

**CCI approves Kora to invest on Edelweiss Securities**

The *Competition Commission of India* (CCI) approved the *Kora Master Fund LP investment* of $75 million up to 10% in Edelweiss Securities Ltd. US-based Kora signed an agreement with Edelweiss in August 2019. As per the share subscription agreement, Kora is to invest in *Edelweiss Securities Ltd (ESL)* and Edelweiss Global Investment Advisory (EGIA) business subsidiaries.

**Kora Master Fund LP:**
Kora is a foreign portfolio investor. The principal activity of Kora is investment holding and related activities. The target entities that belong to the Edelweiss Group with Edelweiss Financial Services are the ultimate holding company.

**Competition Commission of India (CCI):**
Formed on: 14 October 2003
Chairman: Vijay Kumar Agarwal
Secretary: PK Singh
CCI is responsible to enforce the *Competition Act 2002* across India. It aims to prevent activities that will cause an appreciable adverse effect on competition in India. CCI is a Trade Practices Commission.

**Adani awards USD 68.30 mn contract to Martinus Rail**

*India's Adani Enterprises* awarded an A$100 million ($68.30 million) contract to *Martinus Rail*, an Australian based in the regional city of Rockhampton rail company. The deal aims to support its new *thermal coal mine* in Queensland state. The construction of Carmichael mine and rail project is on progress and has been lined up as to ramp up activity.

**Carmichael coal mine:**
The Australian government approves the *Carmichael coal mine* in the north of the Galilee Basin in Central Queensland, Australia. The mine was first acquired by Adani in 2010. The project has been estimated to produce 8 million-10 million
tonnes of thermal coal a year initially that can cost up to $1.5 billion. Australian environmentalists said that the Carmichael project is the major cause of climate change concerns in Australia.

**RIL became the 1st Indian company to cross the Rs.9 lakh crore of m-cap**

Mukesh Ambani-led Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) became the first Indian company to cross the **Rs.9 lakh crore of market capitalization (m-cap)**. It is followed by **Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)** with a market capitalization of Rs.7,69,483 crore as its shares were trading up 1% at Rs.2050.70. Bank of America Merrill Lynch said that RIL could become India's first company to hit $200 billion market capitalization in the next 24 months. RIL aims to double the revenue on retail and telecom segments by 2025.

According to Shares of RIL were trading up 1.76% at Rs.1,420.75 in a firm Mumbai market. It valued RIL at Rs.9,00,666 crore, anticipating double-digit growth in profitability. The company has a 15% growth in profitability due to superior refining margins and corporate tax rate cut announced by the government.

**RIL's previous record:**
In **August 2018**, RIL became the first company to reach the **Rs.8 lakh crore** mark. RIL was also the first company to hit the **$100 billion** mark in market-cap in 2007.

**Market-Cap:**
Market cap (market capitalization) is the total value of all a company's shares of stock. It can be calculated by multiplying the price of a stock and the total number of outstanding shares.

**India, US defence trade to reach Rs.1.2 lakh crore**

The **US Department of Defence** said that the bilateral defence trade between **India and the US** is expected to reach **$18 billion (over Rs.1.2 lakh crore)** by the end of 2019. The statement comes before the 9th India-US Defence Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI) meeting in New Delhi in October.

**US-India:**
The US Department of Defence also reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening its partnership with India.

In 2008, the bilateral defence trade was zero between India and the US.
The US also granted the India **Strategic Trade Authority Tier 1** designation to Indian in August 2018. It provides India with greater supply-chain efficiency by allowing American companies to export a greater range of dual-use and high-technology items to India under streamlined processes.
INTERNATIONAL

Prahlad Singh Patel participated in the BRICS Culture Ministers Meet

BRICS Culture Ministers Meet was held at Curitiba, Brazil. Shri Prahlad Singh Patel, Union Minister of State for Culture and Tourism (Independent Charge), participated in the meeting. In the meeting, the countries reaffirmed to contribute towards stronger bonds of friendship and cooperation in cultural fields amongst member countries.

India-BRICS relationship:
With its rich cultural heritage and traditions, India has contributed towards stronger bonds of friendship and cooperation in the fields of Cultural Heritage, Archives, Literature, Theatre for children and young people, Films, Arts, Museums & Galleries, etc.

India's National Gallery of Modern Arts of India, under BRICS Alliance of Museums and Art Galleries, is to host Bonding Regions & Imagining Cultural Synergies during November-December, 2019.

India has also proposed another field of cooperation under the aegis of BRICS Alliance on Literature to conduct BRICS Literary Festival. The festival will enhance cooperation and exchanges in the field of literature and promote the translation of literary works of famous writers and poets of BRICS member states.

China and Nepal signed rail, road link deal

China and India signed a preliminary pact on a rail link that connects the Tibetan capital Lhasa to Kathmandu, Nepal. The pact was signed during the State visit of Chinese President Xi Jinping on 13 October 2019.

Highlights:
China also promised help to upgrade the Arniko Highway linking Kathmandu with the Tatopani transit point.
Also, China pledged to help Nepal realize its dream of becoming a land-linked country.
China will lend its support for a large number of connectivity projects between the two countries as Nepal looks to maintain strategic autonomy from southern neighbour India.
Royal couple visits to Pakistan

**Prince William and Kate Middleton** are on a five day State visit to Pakistan from 14 October to 18 October 2019. This is the first royal visit to Pakistan in 13 years. The visit focuses on the importance of quality education and to highlight how girls benefit from pursuing higher education and professional careers. The Royal couple visited **Islamabad Model College for Girls** in Islamabad.

**Previous Royal visits:**
Previously, **Queen Elizabeth II** visited Pakistan twice in 1961 and 1997. Her first visit was held at the height of the Cold War when Pakistan was very close to the western world. In 2006, the **Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall** visited Pakistan.

Former international cricketer and the Prime Minister of Pakistan, Mr. Imran Khan was a friend of **Diana, Princess of Wales**. In May 1997, She visited a cancer hospital in Lahore as a guest of him and his then-wife, Jemima Goldsmith, just three months before her death.

Britain and Spain suspends military exports to Turkey

**Britain and Spain** have joined hands with other major powers to suspend military exports to Turkey. The move comes after the incursion into **northeastern Syria**.

**Announcement from various countries:**
- **The UK** announced that no further export licenses would be granted to Turkey for items that might be used in military operations in Syria.
- **Spain** similarly announced a halt to sales of military material to Syria. Spain's government also asked Turkey to end the military operation.
- In another announcement, **Sweden** also announced it had halted exports of military equipment.
- **Russia** has also been patrolling in areas along the line of contact between the Turkish and Syrian forces. The patrolling comes after the Syrian government troops took control of the city of Manbij.

UNGA added Venezuela to UNHRC

The **United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)** approved the addition of
Venezuela to its 47-member UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC).

**Venezuela's economic collapse:**
Venezuela has been under a severe economic collapse. The crisis has led to a massive crisis in food, medication, and electricity. Mr. Nicols Maduro-led administration has been withholding humanitarian aid from other nations from the public. Lack of basic needs has led millions of Venezuelans to leave the country, mainly on foot.

The Chief of the United Nations humanitarian affairs estimated that about one-quarter of Venezuelas population, over seven million people needed humanitarian aid.

**United Nations Human Rights Council:**
- **Formed on:** 15 March 2006
- **Headquarters:** Geneva, Switzerland
- **President:** Coly Seck

UNHRC is an organ that functions under the UNGA. It aims to protect and promote human rights around the world. There are 47 members in UNHRC, excluding the addition of Venezuela.
Indian Affairs

India International Cooperative Trade Fair was held in New Delhi

A 3-day India International Cooperative Trade Fair (IICTF) was in New Delhi from 11th October to 13th October. The trade fair was first-of-its-kind.

**Aim:**
IICTF was held to promote cooperative to cooperative trade within India and abroad, leading to enhanced rural and farm prosperity. The event provided a platform for the industry and business companies from India and abroad to build an alliance. It also offered business networking, product sourcing, and interaction with primary producers of a wide range of products and service providers.

**Participants:**
Thirty-five countries, including Australia, Japan, China, Brazil, the US, UK, Germany, and Iran, participated in the trade event. Also, over 150 cooperative societies participated in IICTF.

**Highlights:**
75 MoUs were signed at the three day IICTF.

Discussions were held on themes including Globalisation of Cooperative Trade, Financial Inclusion, Empowerment of Youth and Women through Cooperatives, Agro-processing Ecosystem through Cooperatives, Agri-Tech and Climate Smart Agriculture through cooperatives, Cooperatives as Cost-Effective and Efficient Service providers, Big Data and Cyber Security in Cooperative Sector, Dairy Cooperative Opportunities for Value Addition and Trade and Farm Mechanisation and Inputs Supply- Role of Cooperatives.

Yuva Sahakar-Cooperative Enterprise Support and Innovation Scheme 2019 was launched at the fair. The scheme was formulated by the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC).

Centre to fund Rs.25 lakh crore for infrastructural development

Centre has announced **Rs.25 lakh crore for infrastructural development** in the villages across the country. It was announced by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** on 13 October. The move aims to strengthen rural infrastructure. The fund will be used to construct modern storage centres for crops also.
Aim:
The fund comes with a broader **vision for farmers**. Centre has been taking steps to solve the problems of farmers permanently.

**Other measures:**
Among the allocated Rs.25 lakh crore, Rs.3.5 lakh crore will be used for **water conservation** and building facilities for water conservation.
The government is also carrying work by **constructing roads** of the village.
**klavya Model School** is to be introduced by the government to enhance the education and skills of tribal children.

**New version of return filing portal to be launched by GST Network**
The Goods and Services Tax Network (GSTN) is to launch an **improved version** of the **GST return filing portal** on 22 October. It aims to make the process easier. The announcement was made by the GST Network CEO, Prakash Kumar.

**GST benefit:**
GST has reduced complexity by lowering the number of forms to be filed by businesses to 12. Previously it was 495 under as many as 17 central and state laws.
Data that is shared by indirect tax administration with the income tax department has helped in detecting mismatches.
Currently, there are **12.3 million registered GST taxpayers**.

**GSTN:**
The GST Network provides IT infrastructure and services to taxpayers, central/state government, and other stakeholders for implementation of GST. It aims to provide reliable, efficient, and robust IT Backbone for the smooth functioning of the GST regimen. It also enables economic agents to leverage the entire nation as **One Market** with minimal Indirect Tax compliance cost.

**NITI Aayog plans to attract 2 lakh foreign students**
The policy think tank of the Indian government **NITI Aayog** has decided to create **Exclusive Education Zone (EEZ)**, an action plan to make India an education hub to attract 2 lakh foreign students annually from 2023. The decision was announced at a multi-ministerial meeting hosted by **NITI Aayog vice-chairman Rajiv**
Kumar. The multi-ministerial meeting was attended by senior officials of Ministries of Home Affairs (MHA), Human Resources Development (HRD), AYUSH, Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR), and other senior officials.

**Aim:**
The proposal aims to increase the growth in the **inflow of foreign students.** It has also proposed to float the idea of a single authority to deal with the issue. NITI Aayog also proposed the idea to allow foreign universities to set up their campuses in India.

**Implementation:**
EEZ will be implemented in a few select cities, including **Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, Pune, Chandigarh, and Sikkim,** apart from blending technical education with short-term vocational courses.

NITI Aayog reported that foreign students' inflow declined to **0.78% annual growth** in 2017-18 against 2% in 2007-08.

**NITI Aayog:**
- **Formed on:** 1 January 2015
- **Headquarters:** Delhi
- **Chairperson:** Narendra Modi
- **Vice Chairperson:** Rajiv Kumar
- **CEO:** Amitabh Kant

NITI Aayog, replaced Planning commission, is the Policy think tank of the Indian government. It aims to achieve sustainable development goals (SDGs).

**ADB to lend USD 190mn to improve road connectivity in Rajasthan**
The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of India signed a **$190 million Tranche 2 loan** on 13 October. The loan is to upgrade **754 kilometres** of state highways and major district roads (MDRs) to two-lane or intermediate- lane standards. It is expected to benefit about 26 million people in 14 districts of Rajasthan.

**Tranche 2 road:**
The Tranche 2 roads pass through the rural areas of Rajasthan mostly. These areas lack reliable connectivity. Hence the move will help to improve access to health, education facilities, and markets, leading to increased job opportunities.

Apart from promoting operational efficiencies and innovations, the project will
encourage the participation of the private sector through Hybrid Annuity Mode and engineering procurement construction (EPC) contracts. The project provides to construct more than 200 bus stops, 70 km of hard shoulder, and 2 km of raised sidewalk on project roads. It aims to benefit commuters and pedestrians, especially women and children.

**Tranche 1 loan:**
The Tranche 1 loan of **$220 million** was signed in July 2017. The loan upgraded about 1,000km of state roads.

**Government to invest USD 60bn to develop natural supply**
The Indian government is to invest over **$60 billion** to develop natural supply and distribution infrastructure. The Modi-led Indian government has set the target to more than doubling the share of natural gas in its energy base to 15% by 2030. The announcement was made by **Oil Minister Dharmendra Pradhan** at the International Think Tank Meeting (ITT) in New Delhi on 13 October. Centre will be giving special provisions to develop gas infrastructure across the country.

**Natural gas:**
Government is planning to develop a gas-based economy. Of the energy consumption, Natural gas constitutes of 6.2% across the country. Natural gas is gradually becoming a bridging fuel for a low carbon economy in India.

**Implementation:**
An estimated investment of $60 billion is underway in building a gas pipeline and terminal infrastructure. The pipelining is at the stage of completion. The city gas distribution network will soon cover 70% of India's population. The Indian government is exploring strategic partnerships for the overall development of the oil & gas sector.

**AP to launch a statewide water grid project**
The **Andhra Pradesh** State government has launched a **statewide water grid project** to provide a drinking water connection to every household in the State by **2022**. The announcement was made by Panchayati Raj and Rural Development Minister P Ramachandra Reddy.
Water grid project:
The statewide water grid project will ensure the supply of clean drinking water to every household from 2022 for at least the next 30 years. The groundwater levels in Andhra Pradesh have fallen to below 1,100 feet in districts like Anantapur, Chittoor, Srikakulam, and Vizianagaram. This drop has caused an immediate need to augment water supply in the districts of the State.
The State government also plans to lay a massive network of pipelines all over the State to supply clean drinking water. It has been reported that the groundwater in Godavari districts is getting polluted due to aquaculture too.

Indian Railways launched Sewa Service trains
Union Railway Minister Piyush Goyal launched the Sewa Service trains on 14 October 2019. He flagged off the Delhi-Shamli daily passenger train from the New Delhi railway station.

Aim:
The objective of Sewa Service trains is to improve and provide last-mile connectivity for those traveling from villages and small towns to major cities.

Sewa Service trains:
Indian Railways announced that it is to launch 10 Sewa Service trains.
The Sewa Service trains will include daily trains between Delhi and Shamli, Bhubaneswar and Nayagarh town, Murkongselex and Dibrugarh, Kota and Jhalawar city and Coimbatore and Palani.
Other Sewa Service trains that will run six days a week will run from Vadnagar to Mahesana, Asarya to Himmatnagar, Karur to Salem, Yesvantpur to Tumkur and Coimbatore to Pollachi.
Of the 10 Sewa Service trains, Tamil Nadu, under the Southern Railway's jurisdiction, receives three trains. It is the biggest beneficiary in the first set of launches.

India and Netherlands launched the second phase of LOTUS HR
India and Netherlands launched the second phase of the Local Treatment of Urban Sewage Streams for Healthy Reuseplant (LOTUS-HR) as a part of a joint collaboration on 14 October. LOTUS-HR was launched during the visit of His
Majesty King Willem-Alexander and Her Majesty, Queen Maxima of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. The program was organized by the Union Minister for Science & Technology, Earth Sciences, and Health & Family Welfare Dr. Harsh Vardhan at the Barapullah drain in Delhi.

Aim:
The collaboration of the two countries in the project aims to pave new ways to create techno entrepreneurship. It will also encourage a sustainable business model to convert sewage water into clean water for healthy reuse.

2nd Phase of LOTUS-HR:
In the second Phase of LOTUS-HR, 10 thousand litre, sewage water will be treated per day. Both the Dutch and Indian companies are contributing to the second phase of the project by sharing their existing technologies. A new plant, which is to be commissioned soon, will treat 10,000 L sewage water per day.

LOTUS-HR:
The LOTUS-HR project was initiated in July 2017. The project aimed to develop a wastewater management approach to produce clean water, which can be reused for various purposes. The project is jointly supported by the Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Technology, and Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research/STW, Government of Netherlands.

ICAR released two kits for the control of Swine and Detection of Antigen

Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)-Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI) released two diagnostic kits developed under the Make in India initiative. The kits were released by Shri Atul Chaturvedi, Secretary Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying and Dr. T. Mahapatra, Secretary DARE and DG, ICAR at New Delhi.

The two kits are:
Bluetongue: Sandwich ELISA (sELISA) for the detection of Antigen
Japanese Encephalitis IgM ELISA kit for the control of Swine

Bluetongue: Sandwich ELISA (sELISA):
Bluetongue sandwich ELISA (sELISA) kit can be used to detect Antigen. The insect-transmitted viral disease of domestic and wild ruminants is widespread among the sheep, goats, cattle, buffaloes, and camels in the country. It is expected
that using the Kit, the **Bluetongue (BT) Virus** can be controlled. Other measures, including vaccination of susceptible animals, vector control, and quarantine of infected animals with excellent management practices. One other preventive measures other than vaccination in the early diagnosis and isolation of the infected animals. It also controls the spreading of the disease.

**Japanese Encephalitis IgM ELISA kit:**
Japanese Encephalitis is a re-emerging viral zoonotic disease leading to the death of children every year in the country. The Kit is expected to help in assessing the active infection of the JE virus in the swine population. The assessment will lead to the prediction of the outbreak of JE in humans. The ICAR-IVRI developed will be available for the farmers at a minimal price of Rs. 5,000 only. The Kit can be used for testing around 45 samples.

**Ministry of MSDE to set up 14 AWSITC in India**

Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) is to launch **14 Authorized World Skills India Training Centers (AWSITC)** across nine cities in India. The announcement was made by the Union Minister of MSDE Dr. Mahendra Nath Pandey. The centres aim to improve the Media and Entertainment sector. **New Institutes:**

AWSITCs will be set up in partnership with the **Media & Entertainment Skill Council (MESC).**

The setting up of the new institutes aims to provide advanced skill training of candidates in the media and entertainment sector.

The initiative aims to help them compete in the **WorldSkills and IndiaSkills** competitions.

It will also further develop the skilling eco-system for training candidates for the international market.

The institutes will help the candidates to enhance their skills according to global standards. The training programs have been designed as per the **National Skills Qualifications Framework (NSQF)** levels in which the industries will be linked.

Candidates will be provided hands-on training on live projects.

**Air India became the first airline in the world to use a TaxiBot**
National carrier Air India (AI) became the first airline in the world to use a TaxiBot on an Airbus A320 aircraft operating a commercial flight with passengers onboard. The aircraft of AI 665 Delhi-Mumbai flight was brought to the runway at Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGI) airports Terminal 3 using the TaxiBot. The aircraft was flagged off by Air India Chief Managing Director Ashwani Lohani. The move of Air India is towards a cleaner environment.

**Air India's Taxibot:**
AI's TaxiBot can tow an aircraft with its engines switched off. This will help in saving fuel, bringing down consumption by as much as 85% used during taxiing of aircraft.
It also aims to reduce the wear and tear of the engine and curb carbon emission, thus improving air quality.
The TaxiBots will also help in decongesting boarding gates and apron area by providing efficient pushbacks.

**Note:**
A TaxiBot is a pilot-controlled semi-robotic towbar-less aircraft tractor. It is used as alternate taxiing equipment. It is used for taxiing an aircraft from parking bay to runway and vice versa.

**ONGC Videsh discovered oil in Colombia and Brazil**
ONGC Videsh Limited (OVL) has discovered oil in its onshore exploration block CPO-5, Colombia, in the Llanos Basin. It also discovered major gas in the deep offshore exploration block BM-SEAL-4, Brazil, in the Sergipe Alagoas Basin. ONGC Videsh Limited is the overseas investment arm of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC).
Well Sol-1 was discovered in the block CPO-5. It encountered the oil-bearing sands of 8 meters at a depth of 2852m. Oil discovery in Sol-1 has confirmed the extent of oil pays further south of the block. In 2017 and 2018, OVL had previously discovered commercial oil in the same pay in wells Mariposa-1 and Indico-1, respectively. The two wells are under production now.

**OVL:**
ONGC Videsh holds 70% participating interest (PI) in CPO-5 block as Operator. The balance 30% PI is owned by Petrodorado South America S.A., Sucursal (PDSA), Colombia.
Ravi Capoor inaugurated IHGF Delhi Fair

The **48th edition of the Indian Handicrafts and Gifts Fair (IHGF)** was held at the India Expo Centre & Mart at Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh. Textiles Secretary, **Ravi Capoor**, inaugurated IHGF Delhi Fair. The expo is being held from 16 October to 20 October 2019.

**Aim:**
The skills of Indian artisans has the potential to achieve greater growth in both the sector and the artisans and the exporters. IHGF-Delhi Fair aims to ensure that in 2020, the Fair attracts over 10,000 exhibitors.

**IHGF-Delhi Fair Highlights:**
- It is expected that the Fair will increase the handicraft exports of India to **Rs.100,000 crore** from the exiting Rs.26,590 crore.
- EPCH introduced its move for sustainable development and preservation of the environment by focusing on reduce, reuse, and recycle in this fair.
- Centre directed the **Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH)** to explore the possibility of opening handicraft parks in India. It is also expected that the parks can be developed into tourism and crafts centres.
- Transforming the production from small organized units to such parks will benefit the small units as it will reduce overhead costs.
- Government suggested EPCH include new segments in the IHGF-Delhi Fair for women entrepreneurs and new artisans.
- EPCH was asked to ensure that the handicraft industry works on a sustainable model under which the entire production will be processed as a zero-waste manufacturing sector.

**Participants:**
More than 3200 Indian exhibitors are participating in the Fair. International buyers from 110 countries will source home, lifestyle, fashion, furniture, and textiles products.

**Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH):**
Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts - EPCH, was established in **1986-87** under the **Companies Act**. EPCH aims to promote, support, protect, maintain, and increase the export of handicrafts. The apex body for Indian Handicraft promoters created the necessary infrastructure, marketing, and information facilities that can
be availed both by the members of exporters and importers.

**Maharashtra Highway Police launched MRADMS Maharashtra**

The Maharashtra Highway Police launched MRADMS Maharashtra, a mobile application, for its personnel on 16 October. The app will collect and analyze the data related to road accidents in the state. Maharashtra state highway police will conduct training programmes for its personnel on how to use the app.

**Aim:**
The aim of the app is to minimize the loss of life by making roads safe for driving. According to the statistics provided by the highway police, in 2018, 13,261 lives have been claimed due to road accidents in the state in 2018.

**MRADMS Maharashtra:**
The app has been developed to find the reasons behind road accidents and also for their detailed analysis.

The scientific data is expected to suggest various measures, like removing deficiencies in road engineering, to curb such mishaps.

The app will replace the old manual method used by police personnel to collect spot details. Manual data is inadequate as it was being collected only for crime records.

The app can is available in the Google Play Store. It can be accessed only by registered police officials.

**Government bans import of the National Flag**

The government has banned the import of National Flag from across the border by amending the import policy. The move by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry Government aimed to support khadi artisans.

**Reason:**
Ban on import of National Flag is because the importers are violating import policy norms by importing machine-made flags. According to the specifications under Part 1, Section 1.2 of Flag Code of India, 2002, the National Flag of India must be made of hand-spun and handwoven wool, cotton, silk khadi bunting.

**KVIC:**
The ban on the import of the National Flag will help Khadi and Village Industries
Commission (KVIC). It is a statutory entity that has the right to manufacture Indian National Flags.

KVIC reported that the sale of the National Flag was going down. The Khadi had sold National Flags for Rs.3.69 crore in the year 2017-18. This has registered a decline of more than 14% to Rs.3.16 crore in 2018-19.

**India Post launched a mobile app to ease transactions**

India Post launched a new mobile app to facilitate easier transactions for customers. The India post app is available on Google Play Store.

The Department of Post has launched mobile banking for its savings account customers. The app will make the post office savings account easier. The facility will be available for all the post office savings account holders of the Core Banking Solutions (CBS) post offices.

In 2018, the Department of Post launched an Internet banking facility for its savings account holders.

**Eligibility:**

To avail the app, the Customers should have post office savings account in CBS post office.

Customers must have valid login and transaction credentials of Internet banking. If Net banking is not available for the customer, mobile should be enabled after enabling the net banking option at the customer ID (CIF) level by the SOL (service outlet).

Customers with single or Joint 'B' account type are eligible. Joint 'A,' Minor, Illiterate, branch office accounts are not eligible for availing the mobile banking facility.

**Indian Railways launched 9 Sewa Service Trains**

Indian Railways launched 09 Sewa Service Trains on 15 October. The service aims to connect smaller towns around major cities. Union Minister of Railways and Commerce & Industry, Shri Piyush Goyal, along with Minister for Health and Family Welfare Dr. Harsh Vardhan and Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas and Steel, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan launched these services from New Delhi. The Delhi-Shamli passenger train was inaugurated. Other Sewa Service Trains were
flagged off through video-conferencing.

9 Sewa Service:

09 Sewa Service trains will run in eight states. Of the 09 trains, four trains will run on a daily basis, and the other five will run six days a week.

- Coimbatore Palani Passenger (Daily) - Tamil Nadu
- Murkongselek Dibrugarh Passenger (Daily) - Assam
- Bhubaneswar Nayagarh Express (Daily) - Assam
- Delhi Shamli Passenger (Daily) - Delhi
- Vadnagar Mahesana DEMU (6 days a week) - Gujarat
- Asarva Himmatnagar DEMU (6 days a week) - Gujarat
- Karur Salem DEMU (6 days a week) - Tamil Nadu
- Coimbatore Pollachi Passenger (6 days a week) - Tamil Nadu
- Yesvantpur Tumkur DEMU (6 days a week) - Karnataka

Hailakandi becomes first Assam district to introduce online

Hailakandi becomes the first district in Assam to introduce a digital system and the state government employees will need to file their leave applications online. The government employees working under the district administration can proceed on leave only after getting a digital approval as henceforth no leave application on paper will be accepted. This arrangement was put on a trial basis for some time to ensure that the system is the first district in Assam to implement such a system. Apart from the DC establishment, the circle offices in the district have also been brought under the new leave management system.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Omar Sheriff will look after the leave related matters of the DC office while the circle officers have been assigned for the same in their respective offices. Each employee has been allotted a login ID and password to apply for leave in the 'Manav Sampada' website, and one can see whether the leave application has been approved or canceled by the reporting officer.

Rajnath Singh approved the admission of girl children in Sainik schools

Defence Minister Shri Rajnath Singh approved the proposal for admission of girl children in Sainik schools. The approval will be effective from academic session 2021-22 in a phased manner.
The Ministry of Defence conducted a pilot project for the admission of girl children in Sainik School Chhingchhip in Mizoram two years ago. The move comes after the success of the project.

**Aim:**
The move comes in line with the aim of the PM Modi's vision towards greater inclusiveness, gender equality, enabling greater participation of women in the Armed Forces. It also focuses on strengthening the motto of Beti Bachao Beti Padhao propagated by PM Modi.

**Implementation:**
Ministry of Defence directed the concerned authorities to ensure the availability of necessary infrastructure for the smooth implementation of the directive. The authorities will also make sure that sufficient female staff is placed in Sainik schools.

**CJI Ranjan Gogoi recommends Justice Bobde as next CJI**

Chief Justice of India (CJI) Ranjan Gogoi recommended the name of the next senior-most judge in the Supreme Court (SC) Justice Sharad Arvind Bobde as his successor as per convention. The recommendation was sent with effect to the law ministry. Justice Gogoi demits his office on 17 November 2019. Justice Bobde will take over from CJI Ranjan Gogoi as the 47th CJI. He will be sworn in at the Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi. Justice Bobde will hold the office till April 21, 2021.

**Procedure to recommend the next CJI:**
According to the convention, the CJI will recommend the second senior-most judge in the SC hierarchy as the next CJI. The convention by the CJI is iron-clad. Generally, the CJI is required to formally send in a request to the effect at least a month prior to demitting the office. The appointment will be made a formal after the Law Ministry gets its approval from the Ministry of Home Ministry.

It will be then sent to the President's office, which issues a formal warrant of appointment. Any important appointment to the Supreme court is made by the President of India under his hand and seal.

**Note:** This tradition of recommending the next CJI by the SC CJI was broken once Emergency when former PM Indira Gandhi superseded several judges to bring in Justice AN Ray as the CJI.
Centre to bring all medical devices under CDSCO lens

The government has announced its plan to bring all medical devices, including implants and contraceptives, under the view of the Central Drugs and Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO). The move aims to improve the safety and quality of the medical instruments.

Draft Notification:
The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare aims to include medical devices that were earlier not under the purview of CDSCO, the apex drug controller, as drugs under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act. It will be made effective from 1 December 2019.

For the implementation process, the government has sought comments from all stakeholders within 30 days before finalizing the draft notification. As per the draft notification, the timeline allocated for implementation is 1 December 2019.

After finalizing, the import, manufacture, and sale of all medical devices, listed by CDSCO, should get bonafide by the CDSCO. Manufacturers must get licenses from the Drug Controller General of India (DCGI).
SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

DPIIT launches website and mobile app for IPR

DPIIT launched the website and mobile application L2Pro India (Learn to Protect, Secure, and Maximize Your Innovation) on Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) on 14 October 2019. It was launched by Secretary Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) Guruprasad Mohapatra.

Developed by:

L2Pro India website and app has been developed by DPIIT’s Cell for IPR Promotion and Management (CIPAM) in association with Qualcomm and National Law University (NLU), Delhi.

L2Pro India:

L2Pro India will be highly useful to the startup community in India. The startups are more tuned into investment and risk-taking. They lack legal knowledge. Hence, a functional website and app are available to help startups with the IP process.

L2Pro India e-learning platform will aid and enable youth, innovators, entrepreneurs, and small and medium industries (SMEs) in understanding IPRs for their ownership and protection, integrate IP into business models, and obtain value for their R&D efforts.

The learning app will ensure that innovation, which is fundamental to startups, are protected, managed, and commercialized.

Mylan along with DCGI to launch new TB drug

Multinational pharmaceutical company Mylan in collaboration with Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) is to launch Pretomanid, a medicine used to treat drug-resistant tuberculosis (TB). Mylan NV announced a global collaboration to make the experimental drug Pretomanid for the cure of pulmonary tuberculosis in the month of April 2019.

According to Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s vision to get rid of tuberculosis by 2025, the drug is important for India.

Pretomanid:

Pretomanid got its approval from the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA). It is only the third new anti-TB drug to get approval in more than 40 years. It is also
the first to be developed and registered by a not-for-profit organization. Pretomanid drug is expected to be launched in the USA by the end of 2019. The United States will be the first country in which the product will be launched.

**Note:** Tuberculosis (TB) continues to be one of the top 10 causes of death worldwide and the leading infectious killer-disease.

**BEL develops an AI tool for security purpose**

The public-sector giant **Bhart Electronics Limited (BEL)** has announced that it is developing an **Artificial intelligence (AI)-based tool** for analysis of **terrorist activities**. The firm aims to utilize the use of AI in the security field.

**Security e-tool:**
The tool will be used in screening and segregating raw information and assist in generating intelligence assessments, decision-making, and operational planning.

**Developed by:**
AI application in counter-terrorism is significant in the growing use of social media and online platforms. Government ministries and departments, including the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Department of Information Technology, are involved in developing e-tools. The Ministry of Defence made it mandatory for **defence public sector units** to focus on the **development and use of AI** in various combat and non-combat domains.

**NASA unveiled two new spacesuits for moonwalking**

**NASA**, the American space agency, unveiled two new spacesuits tailored for future moonwalking astronauts. The two new spacesuits are prepared for the upcoming **Artemis program**. In 2024, NASA will be sending astronauts back to the moon. Two NASA engineers staged the first zero-gravity space-wear under NASA's Artemis moon program. This is the first suit designed in about 40 years.

**Two spacesuits:**
The two spacesuit prototypes that were showcased are designed for two separate parts of a crewed mission to the moon.

1) One of the suits is known as the **Orion Crew Survival System**. The spacesuit will be worn during launch and reentry aboard the Orion spacecraft.
2) The second called **Exploration Extravehicular Mobility Unit (xEMU)** will be
worn during excursions on the moon and Mars. xEMU is designed to outperform spacesuits worn during the Apollo era, as well as the ones now worn during spacewalks outside the International Space Station (ISS).

**ISRO to develop Reusable Launch Vehicles**

The Indian Space Agency, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), is currently developing a space program for Reusable Launch Vehicles (RLV). The Indian space agency has been testing the RLV since 2016.

**Aim:**
The RLV program aims to reduce the launch costs by, well, reusing the spacecraft. Currently, ISRO's project is using a hybrid design type launch vehicle.

**RLV:**
India's RLV will include a Space Shuttle-like craft that features an air-breathing ramjet engine. This spacecraft will take a payload to space and then glide back to Earth. RLV will land like a normal aircraft. RLV will be designed in a way that it will return under its own power and make a landing on a floating platform out at sea.
So far, the RLV shuttle has been tested over water. It is to be tested over land and make an attempt at an actual landing.

**Ericsson, Qualcomm demonstrated Indias 5G video call using mmwave**

Swedish-based Ericsson and American-based Qualcomm demonstrated India's first-ever live 5G video call using millimeter-wave (mmWave) spectrum. Ericsson partnered with Qualcomm to push 5G technology in India.

**Demo:**
The 5G video call demonstration was completed using Qualcomms smartphone based on Snapdragon 855 mobile platform and Ericssons 5G platform.
The demonstration was held at the 2019 India Mobile Congress (IMC) event in New Delhi on 15 October 2019. The companies also demonstrated cloud-based gaming using a 5G commercial system and 4K video streaming in both sub-6 gigahertz (GHz) and mmWave spectrums.

mmWave is a 5G network that ranges from 28-39 GHz spectrum. The network is
currently being used only in advanced countries like North America, Japan, and Korea.

5G Technology:
5G will be the backbone of emerging technologies such as the Internet of Things (IoT) and machine to machine communications. It is expected to provide India with smart infrastructure that will open up new opportunities across India.

IIT graduate invented PM 2.5 to curb air pollution

Debayan Saha, an Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT) Kharagpur graduate, has invented a device called PM 2.5. The device aims to curb air pollution. The device, when fitted near the silencer pipe in vehicles, will curb air pollution.

PM 2.5:
PM 2.5 technology uses a combination of electric energy and wave energy. This will influence the pollutants like PM 2.5 by attracting other particulate pollutants from the ambient atmosphere. When the matter grows bigger in size, it becomes heavy and falls off safely on the ground like soil.

Debayan Saha:
Debayan Saha is a mechanical engineering graduate from IIT Kharagpur. He is also a research fellow at AIIMS, who worked on air pollution. He said that one car fitted with the device could neutralize the pollution emitted from 10 cars in its vicinity.

First Robotic restaurant two humanoids to serve customers in Odisha

A restaurant in Bhubaneswar opened its doors to customers claiming to be the first eatery in eastern India, where two indigenously developed robots will serve customers.

The name of the robots is Champa and Chameli. The two humanoid robots rolled on the floor of the Robo Chef restaurant in the Chandrasekharpur area of Bhubaneswar in the evening and served food to the waiting customers.

Jeet Basa, the owner of the restaurant who is a civil engineer by qualification inspired by the services by robots in restaurants during his visit to the US. There are restaurants in India where robots are serving customers. Robo Chef is probably the
first restaurant where there is no particular track for them. They can move on in any uniform surface. The two robots that we have are wholly manufactured in India, unlike other restaurants where they are imported from China.
ENVIRONMENT

Indian Railways to become net zero carbon emitter

Indian Railways (IR) has announced that it will become a net-zero carbon emitter by 2030. The move will be a part of India's strategy to combat climate change. The announcement was made by railways and commerce minister Piyush Goyal at the India Energy Forum by CERAWEek in New Delhi. India stands third as the biggest emitter of greenhouse gases after the US and China. Also, India is among countries most vulnerable to climate change.

Indian Railways:
Indian railways is the world's largest railway network. It has a rail network of around 1,25,000km under single management. IR is to go green by setting up solar power generation capacities in its large tracts of land along its network.

India's move towards climate change:
India is moving to curb pollution and cut its dependence on foreign oil. The country has become one of the top renewable energy producers globally with ambitious capacity expansion plans. India is running the world's largest renewable energy program. The installed renewable energy capacity of the country is about 80 gigawatts (GW). As a part of its climate commitments, it also plans to achieve 175GW by 2022 and 500GW by 2030.

NGT directed Faizabad railway station to curb pollution

National Green Tribunal (NGT) directed the Railways to evolve appropriate mechanisms to curb pollution caused in Faizabad Railway station, Uttar Pradesh. A Bench headed by NGT chairperson Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel, directed the Uttar Pradesh State Pollution Control Board (SPCB) to take steps for the assessment and recovery of environmental compensation. The move comes after a plea that sought remedial action against air pollution caused due to the loading and unloading of Cement and fertilizers at the Faizabad railway station. NGT also suggested the railway administration at Faizabad to make sure that it does not violate air quality norms. It has also asked the administration for an appropriate mechanism to be evolved by the Railway Board.

National Green Tribunal (NGT):
NGT was established on 18 October 2010. It is formed under the National Green Tribunal Act 2010. It is headquartered in Delhi. The Chairperson of NGT is Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel. NGT has been set up to handle the expeditious disposal of the cases pertaining to environmental issues. NGT is given the power to hear all civil cases related to environmental issues and cases related to the implementation of laws listed in Schedule I of the NGT Act.

Glaciers in Switzerland shrinks 10 percent in five years

An annual study on the state of the glaciers by the Cryospheric Commission at the Swiss Academy of Sciences said that Switzerland’s glaciers had lost one-tenth of their volume in the past five years alone.

Report highlights:
Despite the growing global alarm over climate change, the intense heatwaves over the summer in Switzerland will cause a snow-filled winter is expected to limit the glacier melt in 2019.

The commission also said that in April-May 2019, the snow cover on the glaciers was between 20 and 40% higher than usual. Depths of up to six meters measured in some places as late as June.

The volume of snow and ice that are melting on Swiss glaciers was equivalent to the country’s total annual consumption of drinking water.

Over the past 12 months, around 2% of Switzerland’s total glacier volume has been lost. The rate of loss over the past 5 years exceeds 10%.

Scientists discovered the world’s fastest ant

A team of German researchers discovered the world’s fastest ant, the Saharan silver ant. The researchers analyzed insects found near the remote Douz area of Tunisia.

Saharan silver ant:
The desert-living creature gallops over the scorching sand faster, relative to its body size than a cheetah. The ant hits speeds approaching one meter per second. It comes out at the height of the midday heat to scavenge on corpses.

The ant clocked in at about 2.8 feet per second or 108 times its own body length per second. It puts the species among the world’s most nimble animals.
The length of the ant lies between 4.3 and 6.8 mm. It moves 1,300 mm per second. It moves with all six feet off the ground most of the time which is similar to the movement of a horses gallop. Before initiating the next stride, each foot contacted the ground for as little as seven milliseconds.
**DEFENCE**

**Naval bilateral exercise between India and Bangladesh is being held**

The maiden naval bilateral exercise between India Navy (IN) and Bangladesh Navy (BN) is being held from 12 October to 16 October 2019 at Visakhapatnam, India.

**Aim:**
The IN-BN exercise aims to strengthen mutual ties between India and Bangladesh.

**Participating Naval ships:**
Two naval vessels, Bangladesh Navy Ships (BNS) Ali Haider, a Type 053 frigate, and BNS Shadinota, a Type 056 stealth guided missile corvette, are participating in the first bilateral exercise.

**CORPAT:**
Before this naval exercise, BN-IN ships undertook Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT) exercise from 10 October to 12 October 2019. It is the second edition of IN BN CORPAT in the North Bay of Bengal.

The exercise was aimed to increase the relationship between the countries. It also aims to increase the scope of joint exercise by sharing best practices in Flying Operations and other seamanship evolutions, including Vertical Replenishment by Integral helicopters of Indian Navy undertaking onboard BN Ships.

**SSS Defence developed Indias first indigenous sniper rifle prototypes**

**SSS Defence**, a Bengaluru-based firm, has developed the country's first indigenous sniper rifle prototypes that are meant for use by the Indian armed forces.

The development comes in line with the central government's push to make India a major defence manufacturing hub. This move of SSS Defence has lead the way for India to become an arms manufacturing and exporting hub. SSS Defence is one of the few manufacturers that are allowed to develop arms in the country.

**SSS Defence:**
Stumpp Schuele & Somappa Defence, a 61-year-old company, earlier used to manufacture components, springs mainly, for the automotive industry. Currently, the company is also constructing an 80,000 sq ft arms factory in Jigani for its
manufacturing unit. The company has developed high-end sniper rifles caliber 7.62x51 mm and .338 Lapua Magnum platforms. The rifle uses a barreled action that is inspected, gauged, hand-worked, and accurized. Based on the mission criteria and use environments, the barrel length options range from 20 inches to 24 inches.

**India handed over two more Mi24V helicopters to Afghanistan**

India handed over two more Mi-24V helicopters to Afghanistan's Air Force. H.E. Vinay Kumar, an Indian Ambassador, handed over the 2nd pair of Mi-24V helicopters to Afghanistan Minister of Defence Asadullah Khalid at the military airport in Kabul on 16 October. Afghan plans to use the helicopters to bring peace and to provide a better environment for the people of Afghanistan. The two Mi-24V helicopters are a replacement for the four helicopters gifted by India to Afghanistan in 2015 and 2016.

India has been lending its support for peace and harmony in Afghanistan and assists all Afghans in securing a better future. The Afghan National Defence Security Forces made a stellar effort to provide an umbrella of security to achieve shared and common values against cross-border terrorism and internal threats.

**About Afghanistan:**
- **President:** Ashraf Ghani
- **Capital:** Kabul
- **Currency:** Afghan afghani
- **Official languages:** Pashto, Dari

Afghanistan is bordered by:
- Pakistan in the east and south
- Iran in the west
- Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan in the north
- China in the far northeast

**IAF launched fighter operations from 6 civilian airfields**

The Indian Air Force (IAF) launched fighter operations from six civilian airfields in the eastern part of India.
About the exercise:
The operations aim to utilize civil airport runways. It also provides services to validate operational exercises in case of any exigency during active wars.

IAF also said that the Eastern Air Command has planned to carry out Sukhoi-30MKI fighter operations from six Airfields in its area of operations, namely Dimapur, Imphal, Guwahati, Kolkata, Pasighat and Andal in two phases. The first phase will be from 16-19 October and the second phase from 29 October to 1 November 2019.

Under the exercise, IAF will be trained to undertake operations from dispersed locations in case of hostilities. It is a part of capability-building and operational training.

The exercise will train the IAF crews with the procedures of flying from these busy airfields and coordinating with their civilian counterparts.

The operations are aimed that the civil airfields will get familiar with the conduct of military operations.

IAF will operate from civilian airfields in the nearby region if the existing fighter bases like Chabua, Tezpur, and Kalaikunda come under attack or are bombed during a war.

IAF will regularly undertake flying operations from some national highways to prepare for such eventualities.

Defence of Andaman and Nicobar Islands exercise 2019 was held

Andaman and Nicobar Command (ANC) conducted DANX-19, the second edition of Defence of Andaman & Nicobar Islands 2019 from 14 October to 18 October 2019 at Port Blair, Andaman, and Nicobar Island.

DANX-19:

DANX-19 is a large scale joint services exercise that was held for a period of five days. In the exercise, the components of the Indian Army, Navy, Air Force, and Coast Guard carried out mobilization and field manoeuvres to validate defensive plans of Headquarters ANC. The exercise aims to pursue the Command's responsibility, namely ensuring the territorial integrity of the A&N Islands.

Participants:
Along with the Indian Army, Navy, Air Force, and Coast Guard, the internal forces
from ANC, additional forces from the newly formed Armed Forces Special Operations Division (AFSOD), participated in the exercise.

**NASA astronauts set history with first all female spacewalk**

Two NASA astronauts, **Christina Koch and Jessica Meir**, set history by performing an **all-female** spacewalk on 18 October. Christina Koch and Jessica Meir space-walked outside the **International Space Station (ISS)** at about 7:50 a.m. (on 18 October 2019, Friday) to make an urgent repair to its power system. They concluded the spacewalk 7 hours and 17 minutes around 3 p.m. This move of the astronauts had also set a milestone by officially completing human space exploration.

**Mission:**

Koch and Meir were successful in the **mission to replace a faulty battery charge/discharge unit (BCDU)**. The battery failed to activate earlier October when new lithium-ion batteries were installed on the station's exterior. The faulty BCDU is to be sent back to Earth for inspection. The astronauts also extended the spacewalk by about two hours to tackle some additional get-ahead tasks on the space station.

**MoD to increase the defence export to around Rs.35,000 crore**

An estimate made by the Ministry of Defence (MoD) said that India is expecting at a three-fold jump, around **Rs.35,000 crore**, in its defence exports by 2024. The announcement about the estimate was made by Army Chief Gen Bipin Rawat at an event of the Indigenous Defence Equipment Exporters Association held at New Delhi. The defence exports is currently Rs.11,000 crore.

**Government's measure:**

Centre aims to provide the resources needed to the **armed forces** to maintain peace and stability.

It also has introduced many initiatives that aim to empower **well-trained manpower**, soldiers, sailors, and airmen.

Numerous initiatives have been taken, and various schemes have been launched to energize the defence sector in India.

MoD is to conduct the next **defence expo in Lucknow** in the first and second
weeks of February 2020. In the defence expo, defence industries supported by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and private enterprises will showcase their worth.
AWARDS AND HONOURS

Abhijit Banerjee, Duflo and Kremer win Nobel in Economics

Indian-American Abhijit Banerjee with his Wife Esther Duflo and Michael Kremer won Nobel For Economics for the year 2019. The award recognized their experimental approach to alleviating global poverty. The new experiment-based approach has transformed development economics in a flourishing field of research. Banerjee was educated at the University of Calcutta, Jawaharlal Nehru University, and Harvard University, where he received his Ph.D. in 1988. He is currently the Ford Foundation International Professor of Economics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, according to his profile on the MIT website.

The research conducted by this year's laureates has considerably improved the ability to fight global poverty. In just two decades, their new experiment-based approach has transformed development economics, which is now a flourishing field of research. In 2003, Abhijit Banerjee founded the Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL), along with Duflo and Sendhil Mullainathan, and he remains one of the lab's directors. He also served on the UN Secretary-General's High-level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

Complete list of 2019 Nobel Prize winners announced

The Nobel Foundation has declared the complete list of winners for 2019. Fifteen eminent personalities will receive the highest honour on 10 December 2019. The winners were recognized for their individual contributions in the fields of medicine, physics, chemistry, literature, economics, and peace. Laureates, except the peace prize winner, will receive their prize in Stockholm, Sweden. Nobel Peace Prize will be given at Oslo, Norway.

List of 2019 Nobel Prize Winners:
Three Mumbai landmarks won UNESCO Asia Pacific Award for Cultural Heritage Conservation

Keneseth Eliyahu Synagogue at Kala Ghoda, Gloria Church in Byculla, and Flora Fountain, three-city landmarks, of Mumbai won the UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation for the year 2019. The award recognized Mumbai's heritage conservation movement under which the three city landmarks were spruced up. The awards were given at a ceremony held in Penang, Malaysia.

UNESCO Asia Pacific Award for Cultural Heritage Conservation:
The UNESCO Asia Pacific Award for Cultural Heritage Conservation recognized the efforts of private individuals and organizations who successfully restored and conserved structures and buildings of heritage value in the region.
The international jury of conservation experts recognized 16 projects from five countries, namely Australia, Bhutan, China, India, and New Zealand. The jury reviewed a total of 57 entries from 14 countries across the Asia-Pacific region in August 2019.

**Other awards:**

- The top award of Excellence was conferred to the renewal of the historic Tai Kwun Centre for Heritage and Arts, Hong Kong
- Conservation architect Vikas Dilwari and his team were awarded the fourth and most prestigious honor, the Award of Distinction. The team restored a library in IIM-Ahmedabad
- The Jewish Synagogue restored by Abha Narain Lambah was given the Award of Merit
- Gloria Church which was restored by David Cardoz and Ainsley Lewis received the Award of Merit

**Atwood and Evaristo won the 2019 Booker Prize**

Margaret Atwood and Bernardine Evaristo have been announced as the joint winners of the 2019 Booker Prize. This is the first time joint winners are announced. Atwood won for The Testaments, her sequel to The Handmaid's Tale, and Evaristo won for her novel Girl, Woman, Other. The winners were awarded at a ceremony at London's Guildhall on 15 October.

**Margaret Atwood:**

Margaret Atwood became the oldest winner of the Booker Prize. Her novel The Testaments became the fastest-selling hardback novel in four years on its publication in September. The book is a follow up of The Handmaid's Tale which is set 15 years.

**Bernardine Evaristo:**

Evaristo became the first black woman and the first black British author to win the Booker since it began in 1969. At 79, Atwood becomes the prizes oldest winner. The Canadian author previously won the Booker in 2000 for The Blind Assassin. She became the fourth author to have won the prize twice.

**GoAir received the Best Airline award**
GoAir received the Best Airline award by Andaman Tourism Award 2019 in its first edition for its leadership in attaining on-time performance for 12 consecutive months. The Andaman Tourism Award ceremony was organized at Port Blair in association with the Andaman Ministry of tourism and Andaman Association of Tour Operators.

DGCA report:
Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) reported that GoAir has emerged as the most punctual airline in August 2019. The airlines created history in the Indian aviation sector. GoAir has set the record of a consecutive 12th-month achievement of distinction by being on top of on-time-performance (OTP) charts. The report also said that GoAir registered 85.1% OTP, which is the highest among scheduled domestic airlines in August 2019. GoAir currently operates over 325 daily flights. It has also carried around 13.91 lakh passengers in August 2019.

Kiran Uniyal sets Guinness World record

Kiran Uniyal, the wife of a serving Colonel of Indian Army, has created Individual Guinness World Records for The most full contact knee strikes in three minutes (one leg) (female) with 263 strikes and The most full contact knee strikes alternate legs in one minute (female) with 120 strikes. The previous records were of 177 strikes and 102 in the female category, respectively. The aim of her records was to promote martial arts for girls and women's safety and self-defense. She also surpassed the existing male category record of 226 knee strikes. Uniyal has achieved 15 World Records, including 10 Guinness World Records in Martial Arts, Fitness, and Social Work, so far.

ICMR awarded 46 scientists in biomedical research

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) awarded 46 biomedical scientists for their work in the area of health research to solve various health issues. The awards were presented by Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan.

Awardees:
A total of 39 awards for 2017 and 2018 were presented to 46 scientists, including 14 women scientists.

Among the 39 awards, two awards were given to scientists who belong to
underprivileged communities and one award to a scientist who has conducted research in under-developed areas.

The awardees are from Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR)-labs, All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi, Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education & Research (PGIMER), Chandigarh, Sanjay Gandhi Postgraduate Institute of Medical Sciences (SGPGI), Lucknow, IITs, Puducherry's Jawaharlal Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education and Research (JIPMER), Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences & Technology (SCTIMST), Thiruvananthapuram, Lady Hardinge Medical College, New Delhi, state and central universities and other reputed institutions.
**SPORTS**

Gauff became the youngest American woman to claim WTA title

Coco Gauff won the **Linz Open** title on 13 October 2019 in **Austria**. She became the **youngest American woman** to win a tour singles title since 1991 to win the **Women's Tennis Association (WTA) title**. Because of this win, Coco Gauff is set to become World No. 71.

The previous record was set by **Jennifer Capriati** in 1991. Venus and Serena Williams won their first WTA titles when they were 17.

**Result:**

- **Women's singles:** United States Coco Gauff
- **Women's doubles:** Czech Republic Barbora Krejikov, Kateina Siniakov

**Linz Open 2019:**
- **Founded on:** 1987 (Wels, Austria)
- **Location:** Linz, Austria
- **Prize money:** $250,000
- **Sponsored by:** Generali Gruppe

The champion of the 2018 Linz Open was Camila Giorgi.

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Lakshya Sen won the Dutch Open mens singles title at Almere

Indian shuttler **Lakshya Sen** won the **Dutch Open men's singles title 2019** at Almere, Netherlands. This is his maiden Badminton World Federation (BWF) World Tour title. He won the title by defeating **Yusuke Onodera of Japan** in the summit. He secured 15-21 21-14 21-15 to defeat Onodera.

Lakshya Sen currently ranked 72nd. He had won the Belgian Open in September and reached the finals of Polish Open 2019.

**Result:**

- **Men's Singles:** Lakshya Sen (India)
- **Women's Singles:** Wang Zhiyi (China)
- **Men's Doubles:** Vladimir Ivanov, Ivan Sozonov (Russia)
- **Women's Doubles:** Gabriela Stoeva, Bulgaria Stefani Stoeva (Bulgaria)
- **Mixed Doubles:** Robin Tabeling, Selena Piek (Netherlands)

**Dutch Open (badminton) 2019:**
Dates: 813 October
Location: Almere, Netherlands
Total prize money: US$75,000
Organized by: Badminton Nederland
Dutch open 2019 has been held since 1932. It is the 9th Super 100 tournament of the 2019 BWF World Tour.

India won 4 medals at the AIBA Womens World Boxing Championships

India finished with one silver and three bronze medals at the AIBA Women's World Boxing Championships 2019. The tally of 4 medals has put India at the third position out of the 51 countries that participated in Championship. Russia topped the tournament with six medals, followed by China with a medal tally of 5.

Winners:
Manju Rani won silver bronze under 48kg category
Mary Kom won bronze under 51kg category
Lovlina Borgohain won bronze under 69kg category
Jamuna Boro won bronze under 54kg category

Rajawat won the mens singles title at the Bahrain International Series Badminton

Indian shuttler Priyanshu Rajawat won the men's singles title at the Bahrain International Series Badminton at Isa Town on 14 October. The 17-year old Rajawat defeated top-seed Jason Anthony Ho-Shue from Canada. He secured 16-21, 21-7, 21-12, to win the title.

Other winners:
In the mixed doubles category: Top-seeded Indian mixed double pair of Juhi Dewangan and Venkat Gaurav Prasad won the title. They 21-18, 21-16 in 34 minutes and defeated Thailand's Pannawat Theerapanitnun and Kanyanat Sudchoeichom to clinch the gold medal.
In women's singles: Ira Sharma finished second best. Second-seeded Indian men's doubles pair of Rohan Kapoor and Saurabh Sharma settled for the runners-up position.
UP to organize Indias first KHON Ramlila programme

Uttar Pradesh State government is planning to organize Indias first training and performance program of world-famous KHON Ramlila. It is a masked form of Ramlila art of Thailand. The program will be organized by the Culture Department of Uttar Pradesh in collaboration with the Thai government.

The program will be organized on the 26th of October. The participating artists will get training from experts in Thailand as part of the cultural exchange program between the two countries. The artists will perform at Grand Deepotsav function in Ayodhya.

KHON Ramlila:

The art KHON Ramlila of Thailand has been included in the list of UNESCOs Intangible cultural heritage.

It is a masked form of Ramlila art of Thailand. The dance depicts various scenes of Ramayana.

There will be no dialogues and background voices to narrate the whole story of Ramayana.

The visual delight of the dance is famous for its beautiful attire and golden masks.

A group of officials of the culture department of Thailand government and experts of KHON Ramlila will train 15 Indian artists in the form of ancient Ramlila for one week.
SUMMTIS & CONFERENCE

Ministry of Shipping Organized the 17th Meeting of MSDC

Ministry of Shipping organized the 17th Meeting of Maritime States Development Council (MSDC) in New Delhi on 15 October. The Ministry Of Shipping announced that it is to introduce a plan to develop a National Grid for Ports based on a synergy between the Major and Minor ports in the country. The plan will be developed with six months. The MSDC meeting was chaired by Shri Mansukh Mandaviya, MoS (I/C) for Shipping and MoS Chemical and Fertilizers.

Highlights:
Among 204 Minor ports, only 44 are functional. The Ministry of Shipping plans to revive the Minor ports.

Government plans to develop synergy between the Major and Minor ports. It aims to bring port-led development in the country.

The government also plans to expand the port capacity through the implementation of well-conceived infrastructure development projects. This will increase the efficiency of port operations.

The implementation of the project aims to eliminate the human interface and to address environment-related concerns strongly.

The Ministry also aims to develop guidelines for inland waterways barges. This will permit the barges of different states to move seamlessly in coastal waters.

MSDC:
MSDC is the advisory body that ensures the development of the Maritime sector. It was established in May 1997. It is headquartered in New Delhi. It functions under the Ministry of Shipping. The Minister responsible is Minister responsible Shri Mansukh L. Mandaviya.

It aims to integrated the development of Major and Minor Ports. It monitors the development of minor ports, captive ports, and private ports in the Maritime States.

Rajnath Singh inaugurated 41st DRDO Directors Conference in New Delhi

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated 41st DRDO Directors Conference in New Delhi on 15 October. The Chiefs of the three forces, DRDO Chairman G Satheesh Reddy, National Security Adviser Ajit Doval was among the delegations
that were present in the conference.

**Highlights:**

The discussion included efforts taken by DRDO to ensure technological advancement of the Indian forces to safeguard the country. Discussed measures to improve the higher technologies in all the three Indian forces.

Apart from the use of better technologies, integrating the technology was suggested. It was suggested that DRDO can play a significant role to become a catalyst in the absorption of technology.

**DRDO:**

DRDO was formed in 1958. It is headquartered in New Delhi, India. It functions under the Ministry of Defence. The Minister responsible is Rajnath Singh. The Chairman of DRDO is G Satheesh Reddy. DRDO is charged with the military's research and development.

**SEPC launched India IP Guide in MIPCOM 2019 at Cannes, France**

Services Exports Promotion Council (SEPC) launched India Intellectual Property (IP) Guide in 36th MIPCOM 2019 on 16 October at Cannes, France. MIPCOM 2019 is being held from 14 October to 17 October for the Media and Entertainment (M&E) industry.

The guide features a catalog of over 60 Indian IPs. It is popular in over 160 countries. It breaks the narrative of only low-end work that is being carried out in India in a comprehensive manner.

**Aim:**

SEPC aims to facilitate service exporters of India and handhold medium and small enterprises. The IP guide aims to expand the global footprint of the entities from across the globe. The IP Guide also illustrates the strength of the Indian content creators. Intellectual Property (IP) is vital to a large number of SEPC’s stakeholders. The sector is benefitted only by the creation, protection, and expansion of IP products.

**Participants:**

Over 60 India Pavilion delegation participated in the event. Around 115 Indian
companies comprise over 250 delegates at the MIPCOM 2019.

**Services Exports Promotion Council (SEPC):**
Services Exports Promotion Council (SEPC) was set up by the **Ministry of Commerce & Industry**. The apex trade body facilitates service exporters of India. It also contributes to the formulation of policies of the government and acts as an interface between the Services Industry and the Government.

**Bengaluru to host the 5th Edition of World Coffee Conference**

**Bengaluru** has been selected to host the **5th Edition of World Coffee Conference** from **7-9 September 2020**. **International Coffee Organization (ICO)** that functions under the United Nations. The Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India, will host the 3-day event. The theme of the conference is **Sustainability Through Consumption**. The conference will celebrate all things of coffee in an immersive experience. The conference will be addressed by international speakers, coffee exhibition, buyer sellers meets, competitions and awards, skill-building workshops, amongst many others.

**Coffee:**

Coffee is the world’s most favorite beverage, with 2.5 billion cups consumed every single day. Coffee is produced in about 70 countries like Africa, Latin America, and Asia.

India is the **sixth-largest producer** of coffee in the world. It produces about 5% of the total world coffee production. Countries like India, Vietnam, Indonesia, Nepal account for almost 33% of the world's coffee production in Asia.

**NCRB organized 20th All India Conference of Directors of Fingerprint Bureaus**

National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) organized the **20th All India Conference of Directors of Fingerprint Bureaus** in New Delhi. Union Minister of State for Home, Shri G. Kishan Reddy inaugurated the conference on 17 October 2019.

**Aim:**
The main objective of the NCRB’s conference was to highlight the importance of fingerprints in crime investigation. The 2-day conference aimed to make the
fingerprinting facility more useful and accessible to investigators. The conference focused on capacity building of Fingerprint fraternity through collaboration with academic institutions and international agencies.

**NAFIS:**
NCRB has successfully rolled out the National Automated Fingerprint Identification System (NAFIS). It is a network-based pan India system that records and shares the fingerprints of criminals in various crimes. Central Fingerprint Bureau in NCRB maintains the fingerprint records of the criminals.

**National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB):**
- **Formed on:** 11 March 1986
- **Headquarters:** New Delhi
- **Director:** Ramphal Pawar

NCRB is responsible for **collecting and analyzing crime data** as defined by Special and Local Laws (SLL) and Indian Penal Code (IPC). NCRB functions under the Ministry of Home Affairs.

**Dilli Series Seapower Seminar 2019 was held at INA New Delhi**

The **6th edition** of the annual **Dilli seminar** was held at the Indian Naval Academy (INA) in New Delhi. The seminar on Role of Seapower in Shaping of Nations was held from 17 October to 18 October 2019. Delegates including Vice Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi, Admiral Madhavendra Singh, former Chief of Naval Staff of the Indian Navy, participated in the seminar.

**Highlights:**

**Session Highlights:**
- A session on **Sea Power Vs. Land Power A Historical Perspective** on the topic **Security Ashore: Supremacy at Sea** discussed the differences between sea power and land power.
- Second session on **Sea Power vs. Land Power: The Indian (and Indian Navy) Perspective** highlighted Indias pre-occupation with land borders and the accusation of sea-blindness. It highlighted the growth of the Navy after Independence in terms of acquisitions as well as conceptual and doctrinal growth.
- A session on **Sea Power and Geo Economics** examined the relevance of geo-economics through the history of maritime in early, medieval, and modern times.
CII organizes the first edition of ASIA HEALTH

Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) is organizing the first edition of ASIA HEALTH 2019 from 16 October to 19 October 2019 in New Delhi. The conference included all the events and initiatives of the Healthcare Department.

Aim:
ASIA HEALTH 2019, the mega healthcare platform, aims to bring multiple stakeholders together to deliberate or discuss the future of Health. It aims to boost the healthcare sector both in India and globally. The objective of the conference is to find innovative solutions to bring quality healthcare within the reach of every citizen.

ASIA HEALTH 2019:
The ASIA HEALTH conclave provides a platform for multiple stakeholders in the Health ecosystem to discuss the future of Health.

It also developed an industry engagement with core cross-sectoral policy dialogues.

It focused on capacity building workshops, bespoke B2Bs, Industry delegations, disruptor talks.

It is also conducting an exhibition of the latest technologies disrupting the health sector.

Confederation of Indian Industry (CII):
Formed on: 1895
Headquarters: New Delhi, India
President: Vikram Kirloskar
Vice President: T. V. Narendran
Director-General: Chandrajit Banerjee
The organization works with the Government on policy issues. CII acts as a catalyst for change in Indias economic policy reforms.

The 11th Nuclear Energy Conclave was held in New Delhi

The Union Minister of Atomic Energy and Space, Dr. Jitendra Singh, inaugurated 11th Nuclear Energy Conclave in New Delhi on 18 October 2019. The conclave was organized by India Energy Forum (IEF).
Aim:
The conclave aims to promote the scientific temper in the country, especially in the Department of Atomic Energy and Space.

Theme:
The theme of the 11th Nuclear Energy Conclave was Economics of Nuclear Power - Innovation towards Safer & Cost-effective Technologies.

Highlights:
The discussion includes setting up of Power plant in Gorakhpur, Haryana. Hall of Nuclear Energy was inaugurated in Pragati Maidan in Delhi. It aimed to educate the students and the general public about the applications of nuclear energy. The conclave had three technical sessions under the theme:
1) Growth of the Nuclear Power for Meeting Base Load Demands - Opportunities and Challenges for Manufacturing Industry
2) Use of the Nuclear Energy in Healthcare and Municipal Waste Treatment
3) Emerging Technologies for Economy and Enhanced Safety through Small & Medium Size reactors, Passive Safety features, Molten Salt Reactors

MoD conducted the Army Commanders Conference

Ministry of Defence conducted the Army Commanders Conference was held on 14 October to 18 October 2019. The conference was addressed by the Union Defence Minister Shri Rajnath Singh.

Conference Highlights:
Indian Armies efforts:
Indian Army's proved its strength in all challenges, including insurgency, borders, or even High Availability and Disaster Recovery (HADR) duties.
It also synergized its effort with all other security agencies to meet the challenges faced in J&K.
Commanders of the Indian Army are likely to use unconventional weapons in the future.
Other efforts of the Indian Army in the Technology sector includes Niche technology, Cyber, Space, information warfare & perception management domains.
Discussions also included various operational readiness of the field formation, new training programs to meet present and futuristic operational needs, issues relating to
higher defence management, including aspects of organizational restructuring & reforms.

**Harsh Vardhan cochaired 1st JCM in Tokyo**

Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare **Dr. Harsh Vardhan** co-chaired the **1st Joint Committee Meeting (JCM)** along with Dr. Hiroto Izumi, Special Advisor to Prime Minister in Tokyo on 19 October 2019. JCM was held under the **2nd Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC)**, which was signed on Healthcare and Wellness in October 2018.

**Highlights:**

Under the MOC, the JCM reviewed the status of ongoing activities. The meeting reviewed the progress on AHWIN, which was aimed to promote a mutual benefit for the peoples of both the countries.

Japan presented specific projects between the public and the private agencies of both countries.

The projects were specified in the area of healthcare logistics, utilization of ICT in tertiary hospital care to improve the efficiency of energy use and medical care operations, exchange of human resources in the field of medical care emergency and trauma care and the establishment of healthcare innovation network between India and Japan.

The countries partnered to develop high standard generics and medical devices with an aim to establish manufacturing units in India under the Make in India program.

**History:**

MOC was signed during the visit of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to Japan in the context of **Ayushman Bharat of India and Asia Health and Well-Being Initiative (AHWIN)** of Japan.

**Minister of Finance participated in the International Monetary and Financial Committee**

The **40th meetings of the International Monetary and Financial Committee (IMFC)** of the **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** and the **World Bank Group** was held in Washington DC, the US. Union Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala
Sitharaman, along with other officials, participated in the Annual Meetings Plenary session of the meeting. The meeting focused on **Global Developments and Prospects**. The discussion on the World Economic Outlook released on October 15, 2019.

**G20:**
Nirmala Sitharaman also participated in the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors meeting. It focused on **international taxation and Stablecoins**. The Ministers and Governors who participated took updates from the G20 Deputies on Quality Infrastructure Investment, Financing for Universal Health Care and Building Effective Country Platforms, Debt Sustainability, and from the Africa Advisory Group on the CwA (Compact with Africa) initiative.

**Other meetings:**
Apart from the major meeting, the Finance Minister held several bilateral meetings with the First Deputy PM and Finance Minister of Russia, Mr. Anton Siluanov; Finance Minister of the Kyrgyz Republic, Ms. Baktygul Jeenbaeva; Finance Minister of Switzerland, Mr. Ulei Maurer; the Australian Treasurer, Mr. Josh Frydenberg; and the Finance Minister of Maldives, Mr. Ibrahim Ameer. The Ministers discussed the issues of common interest.
Centre to launch Vigyan Jyoti

Centre is to launch Vigyan Jyoti, a program to help girl students inculcate interest in areas like Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM). The move comes after the assessment that a meager percentage of women are in the STEM area. Department of Science and Technology (DST) data said that females comprised 24% of the total pas-out students in STEM subjects in engineering, 22% at the postgraduate level, 28% at M.Phil, and 35% at the Ph.D. level.

Aim:
Vigyan Jyoti initiative aims to stir up interest among the Indian girl students to get into the STEM educational areas. The initiative will be launched in October 2019.

Vigyan Jyoti:
Vigyan Jyoti program aims to pick out 100 girl students in 550 districts from 2020-2025. The program will be headed by Sanjiv Mishra, Scientist with the Department of Science and Technology (DST).

The students will be chosen based on the merit list. Under the program science, camps for the girl students will be held nearby IITs, NITs, and national laboratories. The program will cover girl students from 9 to 12 grade. Under the program, the girl students will be given a modest financial incentive to cover their additional expenses like travel to camps.

The program includes providing counseling to the parents of the selected girl students. Under the program, the students will interact with top women leaders in the area of science and technology, corporate world, universities, and top institute like the DRDO.

AP government launched YSR Rythu Bharosa PM Kisaan scheme

Andhra Pradesh State government launched YSR Rythu Bharosa-PM Kisaan, the flagship farmer assistance scheme. The scheme was launched by the AP Chief Minister YS Jagan Reddy.
**YSR Rythu Bharosa-PM Kisaan:**
YSR Rythu Bharosa-PM Kisaan was named after former Chief Minister YS Rajasekhara Reddy
Under the scheme, **54 lakh farmers** will get **Rs.13,500** over three installments.
Forty lakh beneficiaries who get Rs.6,000 under the PM Kisaan Samman Nidhi will get Rs.7,500 to that sum.
The scheme has been renamed with the PM's name included to give credit to the Central govt. as the scheme is getting funds from the Centre.
The scheme is being implemented seven months ahead of schedule.
Under the scheme, the farmers in the state, including three lakh tenant farmers from minority categories, will receive Rs.67,500 as support over five years instead of the Rs.50,000 over four years.

**CBIC to launch new scheme to attract investment**
The **Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC)** launched a new scheme to promote **investments in India**. The scheme also aims to enhance the ease of doing business.
The scheme will enable the Make in India programme. The investment will encourage exports, repair & refurbishment operations, create hubs for electronics assembly, inward and outward processing, facilitate global e-commerce hubs etc.

**CBIC and Invest India:**
CBIC partnered with **Invest India** to launch a dedicated microsite to providing information. Also, the partnership will promote the scheme and facilitate the investors.
The site can be accessed at [https://www.investindia.gov.in/bonded-manufacturing](https://www.investindia.gov.in/bonded-manufacturing)
The investment scheme will achieve the target through manufacture and other operations under the bond scheme, under the Customs Act, 1962.

**Tribal Affairs Ministry launched Van Dhan Internship Programme**
Union Minister of Tribal Affairs Shri Arjun Munda launched the **Van Dhan Internship Programme** on 16 October 2019. It was organized by the Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED) under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
Van Dhan Internship Program:
The program will help the tribal population to become self-reliant and entrepreneurs.
All the interns will be a part of the National Building Team.
The program will emphasize the need for entrepreneurship
Ministry has selected 18 interns from some of the reputed Institutes of Rural Management/Management Institutions/Institutes of Social Work/Social Services of the country
These interns will be trained to go and work on the Van Dhan program in the field.
These interns have an inclination towards involving in matters related to tribal livelihood.

Centre launched FSM scheme to strengthen Eat Right India movement
The government launched the Food Safety Mitra (FSM) scheme to strengthen and scale up the Eat Right India movement. The scheme was inaugurated by the Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Dr. Harsh Vardhan. He also launched Eat Right Jacket, and Eat Right Jhola. The scheme is in line with the Fit India Movement.
Food Safety Mitra (FSM) scheme:
The Food Safety Mitra (FSM) scheme aims to support small and medium-scale food businesses to comply with the food safety laws. The scheme also facilitates licensing and registration, hygiene ratings, and training.
This scheme ensures to create new employment opportunities for youth, especially with food and nutrition background.
The FSMs will be trained under the scheme and certified by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI). This aims to help the trained persons to work and get paid by food businesses for their services.
On the World Food Day, 16 October, 15 FSMs were awarded certificates.
Eat Right Jacket:
Eat Right Jacket aim to provide safety to field staff on duty.
The Eat Right Jacket will be used by the field staff. This jacket has been designed to hold tech devices like tablets/smartphones, a QR code, an RFID tag for identification and tracking.
It will bring in efficiency, professionalism, and transparency in food safety
administration

**Eat Right Jhola:**
The Eat Right Jhola is a *reusable cloth bag*. It will replace plastic bags for grocery shopping in various retail chains.
These bags are often contaminated with microorganisms and bacteria due to repeated use. Hence, proper and regular washing of cloth bags is essential for safety and hygiene.
A private textile rental service company will provide the cloth bags on a rental basis.

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**Centre partners with NITI Aayog and FB for the 2nd phase of GOAL**

**Ministry of Tribal Affairs** has partnered with **NITI Aayog and Facebook** for the **Second Phase of Going Online as Leaders (GOAL)**, a Facebook program.

**Aim:**
GOAL aims to inspire, guide, and encourage the tribal girls from pan India to become village-level digital young leaders for their communities.

**GOAL:**
GOAL was launched in **March 2019**. It connects underprivileged young tribal women with senior expert mentors to **learn digital and life skills** in various areas of business, fashion, and arts.

**Second Phase:**
In the second phase of the GOAL program, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and Facebook plans to **mentor 5000 young women** in Indias tribal-dominated districts digitally.
The program includes weekly one-to-one **mentoring sessions**. It focuses on many skills, including digital literacy, entrepreneurship, and online safety.
It will provide guidance through the Facebook family of apps for more than **200,000 hours of guidance**. The apps include WhatsApp and Facebook Messenger.
The participants will be graduating after the training. The GOAL alumni will continue to receive support and guidance from the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and Facebook.
Over 125 Indian young women have enrolled in the GOAL program. The candidates use the internet to **highlight issues of their communities** and have
expressed a desire to set up their own business.

**Ayushman Bharat crossed the milestone of 50 lakh mark**

Ayushman Bharat **Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY)**, Narendra Modi government’s flagship program, crossed the milestone of **50 lakh mark**.

**PM-JAY:**
The scheme was launched in **September 2018**.
Ayushman Bharat is a **healthcare scheme**.
The scheme aims to provide health assurance to **50 crore poor** and deprived people in rural and urban areas.
Under the scheme, there are nine admissions in hospitals every minute across India.
The scheme provides free secondary. Also, tertiary treatment worth **Rs.7,901 crore** has been availed in the 32 states and UTs.
The top tertiary specialties are cardiology, orthopedics, radiation, oncology, cardiothoracic and vascular surgery, and urology.
The top-performing states under the scheme are **Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Chhattisgarh, Kerala, and Andhra Pradesh**.
Pradeep Kumar takes charge as Member Signal and Telecom, Railway Board

Shri Pradeep Kumar has taken over as Member (Signal & Telecom), Railway Board and ex-officio Secretary on 11th October 2019. Shri Pradeep Kumar worked as Director-General, National Academy of Indian Railways (NAIR).

Shri Pradeep Kumar:
Shri Pradeep Kumar is an Officer of the Indian Railway Service of Signal Engineer (IRSSE) of batch 1981. He is a Bachelor of Engineering (Electronics & Communication) and Master of Engineering (Communication Systems) from the University of Roorkee (now IIT Roorkee). He also did his Master of Business Administration (Marketing & Finance) from Southern Cross University, New South Wales, Australia.
In 1983, he joined Northern Railway. He served on Northern Railway, South Eastern Railway, South Central Railway, West Central Railway, Railway Electrification, Railway Board and RailTel Corporation of India Limited, New Delhi, besides serving as DG/NAIR, Vadodara.

Justice Narayana Swamy sworn in as Chief Justice of Himachal Pradesh HC

Acting Chief Justice of Karnataka High court (HC) Justice Lingappa Narayana Swamy was appointed as the new Chief Justice of Himachal Pradesh High court. He took oath as the new Chief Justice of Himachal Pradesh HC on 13 October. The oath office was administered by the Governor of Himachal Pradesh, Mr. Bandaru Dattatreya.
On 28 August, the former chief justice of Himachal Pradesh V Ramasubramanian was elevated as SC judge. The Supreme Court Collegium (SCC) had recommended the name of Justice L Narayana Swamy as the new Chief Justice of Himachal Pradesh.

Justice Lingappa Narayana Swamy:
Justice Lingappa Narayana Swamy enrolled as an Advocate during the year 1987 in the Karnataka High Court. He practiced Writ Petitions, Service Matters, Land Reforms, Land Revenue and Public Interest Litigation (PIL) matters. From 1995-1995, he worked as High Court Government Pleader. On 4 July 2007, he was
Anoop Kumar is appointed as the new Union Law Secretary

Anoop Kumar Mendiratta is appointed as the new Union Law Secretary. This is the first time such an appointment has been made. Anoop Kumar is currently the serving District and Sessions Judge in the North-East District, Karkardooma Courts, New Delhi. He will serve in the position till 30 March 2023, or until he attains the age of 60.

Normally, the posts of Secretary for the Legal Affairs and Legislative Department are held by Indian Legal Service Officers. Since December 2018, the post of Union Law Secretary was lying vacant. Over 60 individuals, including government officers, district Judges, and legal experts had applied for the post advertised by the government.

Chawla appointed as new Controller General of Accounts

Central government appointed Shri J. P. S. Chawla as the new Controller General of Accounts (CGA) for the Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance. The appointment with effect from 15 October 2019 on a regular basis.

Shri J. P. S. Chawla:
Shri Chawla is a 1985-batch Indian Civil Accounts Service (ICAS) Officer. He graduated from the Bachelor of Engineering (BE) in mechanical engineering from the Delhi College of Engineering, Delhi. He has served with the Public Sector Engineering Enterprise, Engineers India Limited (EIL) for four years prior to joining the Civil Services. In his 34-year career, he has held various cadre posts at different levels in a number of Ministries/Departments with Prasar Bharti, Urban Development, Civil Aviation & Tourism, and Agriculture, to name a few. He also served as Finance Director in the Indraprastha Power Generation Company Limited (IPGCL) and Pragati Power Limited (PPL).

Anup Kumar Singh was appointed as the Director General of NSG

Ahmedabad city Police Commissioner Anup Kumar Singh was appointed as the
Director-General of the National Security Guard (NSG) by the Ministry of Home Affairs.
NSG is the Union Governments Counter-Terrorism Unit. The recommendation of the Ministry of Home Affairs for Singhs promotion was sent on 10 October to the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT). The appointment was approved by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC).

**Anup Kumar Singh:**
Anup Kumar Singh, 59, is a 1985-batch IPS officer. He has served as police commissioner of Ahmedabad, Gujarat.

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**Lagarde is appointed as the ECB Chief**

Former IMF chief Christine Lagarde is appointed as the head of the European Central Bank (ECB). She was nominated to become the president of the European Central Bank by the European Union Council.

**Christine Lagarde:**
Lagarde stepped down two years before the end of her second five-year term at IMF. The 63-year-old is a French lawyer, politician, and economist. She has good leadership and institutional experience as well as political and economical experience. She is the Chairwoman of International Monetary Fund (IMF) since 2011.

**About the EU Central Bank:**

**Formed on:** 1 June 1998
**Headquarters:** Frankfurt, Germany
**Currency:** Euro

The European Central Bank is the central bank for the euro and administers monetary policy within the Eurozone. It comprises 19 member states of the European Union and is one of the largest monetary areas in the world.
IMPORTANT DAYS

World Standards Day observed on 14 October

World Standards Day is observed on 14th October 2019. The day is observed every year. The day is observed to raise awareness of the significance of standardization to the global economy. The day is celebrated globally by the members of the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and International Telecommunications Union (ITU), Institute of Electrical and Electronics Employees (IEEE), Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF), etc.

Aim:
The day aims to pay tribute to the collaborative efforts of the experts all over the world who developed the voluntary technical agreements that are published as International Standards. It aims to make the world aware of the significance of standardization and its relevance to the global economy.

Theme:
The theme for 2019 is Video Standards create a global stage. Advancement in Video technology has revolutionized entertainment, connecting friends and families across the globe. It also enriches communications experiences and enables major improvements in medical care and education. The accessibility of video is built on International Standards.

History:
World Standard Day was formed in 1946 when the officials from 25 countries met to create an international organization that will focus to facilitate standardization. World Standard Day was officially established by the then President of IES (International Organization for Standardization) Mr. Faruk Snter in 1970.

International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction observed on 13 October

International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction (IDDRR) is observed on 13 October every year. The day aims to raise awareness about the importance of reining in the risks that people and communities around the world face due to disasters.

Theme:
The theme for 2019 is "Reduce disaster damage to critical infrastructure and the disruption of basic services." The day focuses on one Target of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030: Substantially reduce disaster damage to critical infrastructure and disruption of services through developing resilience by 2030.

**Sendai Seven campaign:**

The United Nations Office launched the Sendai Seven campaign for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) in 2016. The campaign has seven targets and 38 indicators to measure progress on reducing disaster losses. It aims to promote all the sectors to reduce disaster risk and disaster losses.

**History:**

International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction was initiated in 1989. The day was established by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) to promote a global culture of risk-awareness and disaster reduction.

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**World Students Day is observed on 15 October**

15 October is celebrated as the World Students' Day every year. The day marks the birth anniversary of the former Indian President and great scientist, Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam.

**History:**

United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) declared 15 October, the birthday of Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam as the World Students Day in 2010. Since then, the day is celebrated on 15 October across the world. UN declared the day to honour Kalam’s love and dedication towards education, teaching, students, and his focus and efforts in promoting the education.

**Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam:**

Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam was born on 15 October 1931 at Rameswaram, Tamil Nadu, India. From 2002-2007, he served as the 11th President of India. He was an aerospace scientist. Kalam played a vital role in the Pokhran-II nuclear tests in 1998, which earned him the title Missile Man of India.

He wrote at least 18 books, including Wings of Fire, Ignited Minds, Turning Points: A journey through challenges, Inspiring Thoughts, Indomitable Spirit, You Are Born To Blossom, Beyond 2020: A Vision for Tomorrow's India, Forge Your Future.
He was conferred with around 22 awards and honours including Padma Bhushan, the Padma Vibhushan, Bharat Ratna. He died on 27 July 2015 after suffering a cardiac arrest while delivering a speech at the Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Shillong.

International Day of Rural Women is observed on 15 October

International Day of Rural Women is observed on 15 October every year. The day is held under the rubric Rural Women and Girls Building Climate Resilience.

Aim:
The day aims to highlight the important role played by rural women and girls in building resilience to face the climate crisis. The day will focus on ensuring the sustainability of rural households and communities and on improving the rural livelihoods and overall wellbeing.

Rural Women:
The rural women and girls suffer disproportionately from multi-dimensional poverty. Poverty rates in rural areas in most regions are higher than those in urban areas. Women farmers are less able to access land, credit, agricultural inputs, markets, and high-value agrifood chains and obtain lower prices for their crops even if they are productive and enterprising as their male counterparts.

One in three employed women works in farming and agriculture across the globe. Women in rural areas collect biomass fuels, manually process foodstuffs, and pump water, around 80% of households without piped water rely on women and girls for water collection. Rural women will be the first to be affected if the natural resources and agriculture are threatened.

U.S. observes 15 October as White Cane Safety Day

White Cane Safety Day is observed on 15 October in the United States every year. The day aims to celebrate the success achieved by the blind and visually impaired people. The day stands as a reminder to show the important symbol of blindness and tool of independence, the white cane.

History:
On October 6, 1964, the U.S. Congress passed a joint resolution H.R. 753 and signed into law to observe 15 October to be observed as White Cane Safety Day.
The institution of the day aims to educate the world about blindness and how the blind and visually impaired can live and work independently while giving back to their communities.

The day celebrates the abilities and successes achieved by blind people in a sighted world. The day also honors the contributions made by the blind and visually impaired.

**World food day is observed on 16 October**

**World Food Day** is observed on **16 October** every year. The day is observed every year by people from around the world. The day aims to **tackle global hunger**. On this day, people reaffirm their commitment to eradicate worldwide hunger for a lifetime.

**Theme:**
The theme for 2019 is **Our Actions Are Our Future. Healthy Diets for A #ZeroHunger World**. The diet and eating habits of the people have changed because of urbanization and income growth. It causes obesity and other related diseases among the people. The theme focuses on creating awareness about a healthy and nutritional diet.

FAO reported that 40 million children under 5 are overweight. One hundred twenty million girls and boys of the age group 5 to 18 years, and 670 million adults are obese. Around 820 million people across the world suffer from hunger.

**History:**
The World food day was established by the member countries of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) in **November 1979** at the **20th General Conference**. On 16 October 1981, The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) announced the observation of the World Food Day on 16 October. The first World food day was observed in 1981. The day aims to honor the establishment date of FAO.

**Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO):**
Food and Agriculture Organisation is a specialized agency of the United Nations, which leads international efforts to defeat hunger. It was established as a specialized agency in **1945**. FAO aims to provide food security for all the people across the world. It also ensures that people have regular access to enough high-quality food to lead active, healthy lives.
International Day for the Eradication of Poverty is observed on 17 October

**International Day for the Eradication of Poverty** is observed on 17 October every year. The day aims to raise awareness about the people who are struggling and living in poverty. Poverty should be eradicated, mainly in developing countries. 

**Poverty**: A state in which a person lacks financial resources to fulfill basic needs.

**Theme:**
The theme for 2019 is **Acting together to empower children, their families, and communities to end poverty**. The theme focuses on providing a chance for people who struggle to live and who live in poverty to express their concerns to be heard.

**History:**
On **22 December 1992**, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted a resolution 47/196 to observe 16 October as the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty. The year 2019 marks the **27th anniversary of the declaration by UNGA**. The day was instituted to provide an opportunity to acknowledge the effort and reflects the willingness of people living in poverty to use their expertise to contribute to the eradication of poverty.

Global Handwashing Day was observed on 15 October

**Global Handwashing Day** is celebrated on **15 October** every year. The Day is observed to increase awareness and understanding about the importance of handwashing with soap. It also encourages people to hand as it is an effective and affordable way to prevent diseases and save lives.

**Theme:**
The theme for 2019 Global Handwashing Day is **Clean Hands for All**. The theme focuses that no one should be left behind in the Sustainable Development Agenda. The theme promotes handwashing programs. It should be known that it can put individuals at higher risk for diseases that impact their health, education, and economic outcomes.

**History:**
Global Handwashing Day was instituted by the **Global Handwashing Partnership**. The first Global Handwashing Day was held in **2008**. Nearly 120 million children around the world washed their hands with soap in more than 70
World Maths Day was celebrated on 15 October

World Maths Day is celebrated on 15 October every year. The Day aims to encourage students globally to take part in competitive math-themed games. The winners of the events will be given an opportunity to win prizes and scholarships.

History:
The World Maths Day first instituted by 3P Learning in 2007. The 3P Learning company was founded in 2003 and is headquartered in Sydney, Australia. The company partnered with United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) to reach children with learning resources and teaching aids across the world.
AGREEMENTS MOU

India, Sierra Leone sign six agreements for rice cultivation

India and Sierra Leone signed six agreements to achieve self-sufficiency in rice production. The agreements include extending a credit line of $30 million for rice cultivation. The agreement was signed by Vice President Venkaiah Naidu during his 5-day visit to the West African countries.

Highlights:

Mr. Naidu and Sierra Leone President Julius Maada Bio reaffirmed to further strengthening bilateral relations.

Both sides agreed that the United Nations need to be reformed to address current global challenges.

India extended concessional lines of credit to Sierra Leone of worth $123 million in various sectors such as agriculture, water, and transmission line.

Sierra Leone has also availed lines of credit worth $49.45 million from ECOWAS Bank for Investment and Development (EBID) for projects in the solar and telecom sector out of Lines of Credit extended by India to EBID.

Sierra Leone:

Sierra Leone is the Chairman of the African Union (AU) Committee of ten nations on United Nations Reforms, including UNSC reforms.

President: Julius Maada Bio
Vice-President: Mohamed Juldeh Jalloh
Capital: Freetown
Official languages: English
Currency: Leone (SLL)

IIT Guwahati has partnered with KIT to organize ASP symposium

Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)-Guwahati has partnered with Japan's Kyoto Institute of Technology (KIT). The partnership aims to organize an international symposium on Advances in Sustainable Polymers (ASP-19) from 14 October to 18 October at the KIT, Matsugasaki, Kyoto, Japan.

Aim:
The symposium aimed to provide a platform for the researchers to share recent state-
of-the-art advances in the area of sustainable polymers.

**ASP-19:**
ASP-19 is the **fifth international symposium** of the ASP series. The symposium will include plenary lectures and invited lectures on recent advances in several aspects of sustainable polymer-based technologies.
- The first edition, ASP-14 was held in Guwahati in 2014
- The second edition, ASP-15 was held in Guwahati in 2015
- The third edition, ASP-16 was held at Kyoto in 2016
- The fourth edition, ASP-17 was held in Guwahati in 2017

**Supported by:**
ASP-19 is supported by Kansai Branch, the Society of Fiber Science and Technology, Japan, Mille-Feuille Structure Materials, Unitika Shusei-kai, the Society of Polymer Science, Japan, and Research Committee on Fundamental Fiber Science, the Society of Fiber Science and Technology Japan.

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**IHMCL signed MoU with GSTN to integrate Fastag with GST EWay Bill System**

The **Indian Highways Management Company Ltd (IHMCL)** signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with **Goods and Services Tax Network (GSTN)** on 14 October 2019. The GST Council gave in-principle approval for this integration.

**Aim:**
The agreement aimed for the integration of **FASTag with the GST e-way bill system**. The MOU was signed at the One Nation, One FASTag conference.

**Integration:**
FASTag is a reloadable tag that enables automatic deduction of toll charges and lets the vehicle pass through the toll plaza. The vehicles need not stop for a cash transaction.

The integration of the GST e-way bill system with FASTag will help revenue authorities track the movement of vehicles. It will ensure traveling to the same destination that the transporter or the trader had specified while generating the e-way bill.

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**KVIC signed MoU with GAIL under KVIC gift coupon scheme**
The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) won an **Rs.5.88 crore deal** from the **Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL)** under KVIC’s gift coupon scheme. GAIL agreed to gift Khadi coupons of Rs.2,500 to each of its 23,504 employees in all its units across the nation. The can Khadi and products of Village Industries worth Rs.3,250 from the coupon of Rs. 2,500. The employees can redeem the coupons throughout the year at all KVIC Departmental Sales Outlets. Huge orders, like this, from government and PSUs, will increase the income of the artisans and also inspire new entrepreneurs to associate with Khadi with better job avenues. It creates a compounding effect on the livelihood of Khadi artisans and has been creating more jobs.

**KVIC gift coupon scheme:**

KVIC gift coupon scheme was launched for the first time in **2017**. So far, gift coupons of face value worth Rs.89.29 crores have been sold. It indicates that people have started to adopt Khadi in place of other international brands.

**KVIC:**

Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) is formed under the **Khadi and Village Industries Commission Act of 1956** by the Government of India. The apex organization functions under the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME). It aims to create employment in India's rural and urban areas.

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**IIT Madras and EMRE partners for biofuel research**

The **Indian Institute of Technology-Madras (IITM)** signed an agreement with **ExxonMobil Research and Engineering Company (EMRE)** for research on energy and biofuels. It is a five-year joint research agreement.

**Aim:**

The research will focus on biofuels, data analytics, transport, gas, and conversion. It also intends to find low-emission solutions.

**Agreement:**

The agreement will find new approaches to convert Indian agriculture residue biomasses into sugars and high-value chemicals.

IIT-M and EMRE aim to deconstruct rice straw, bagasse, and other biomass varieties of Indian origin to produce sugars. These will directly feed into Exxon Mobil's bioconversion platform.

The agreement aims to convert the lignin present in biomass to valuable phenols.
using novel catalysts. It will evaluate the environmental and economic implications of performing such conversions at scale.

**IIIT Hyderabad signed MoU with EBTC to establish a Living Lab**

*International Institute of Information Technology (IIIT) Hyderabad* signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the *European Business & Technology Centre (EBTC)*. The agreement aimed to establish a Living Lab on the institute's campus. The lab will be set up by the end of 2020. The agreement will seek help from the Amsterdam Innovation Arena program, Netherlands.

**Living Lab:**
The lab will help startups gather real-time data on urban infrastructure. It will help startups to develop Smart Cities products that are on sustainable urban development.

The institute will help the startups to test their products on the campus.

**European Business & Technology Centre (EBTC):**
EBTC was established in 2008. It is co-funded by the European Union (EN). It is headquartered in New Delhi. It is coordinated by EUROCHAMBRES, the Association of European Chambers of Commerce and Industry. It aims to promote European technologies and innovations to suit the local needs in India through various projects, programs, and initiatives by enabling Indo-European collaborations.

**Madhya Pradesh to sign MoU to promote IT firms**

*Madhya Pradesh State government* is to sign an MoU with the *National Organization of Software and Services Companies* (NASSCOM) on 17 October. The agreement aims to create more jobs for the youth by promoting investment in information technology, sector. Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Kamal Nath has approved the proposal. The move has been considered as an important step for the IT sector.

**MoU:**
The MoU will be signed by *Debjani Ghosh*, President of NASSCOM. It will be signed in the presence of *NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant* on 18 October at Indore.
The MoU will set up industries with good investment in the state. Employment opportunities will be provided to the youth through the IT sector.

**Madhya Pradesh and NASSCOM:**

Madhya Pradesh State government is planning to use technology in governance to expedite the process of approvals, resolve issues, and clear pending work. The State government, along with Nasscom, is developing a system to provide a solution to the reported online issues by people to startups to get preliminary solutions.

A designated panel will be formed that will come up with solutions to be implemented in governance.

**India, Philippines signed 4 MoUs to strengthen bilateral ties**

Indian President Ram Nath Kovind is on a five days visit to the Philippines. President Kovind held talks with his Philippine counterpart Rodrigo Duterte.

**Highlights:**

India and the Philippines signed 4 MoUs during President Kovind's visit. The agreements include the sharing of white shipping information between the Philippine Coast Guard and the Indian Navy.

*White shipping information* is an exchange of advance information on the movement and identity of commercial non-military merchant vessels.

India and the Philippines agreed to strengthen defence and maritime security partnerships and to make it a key pillar of bilateral cooperation between the countries.

The two sides committed to work closely together to defeat and eliminate terrorism in all its forms.

The leaders reaffirmed their active cooperation in political, counter-terrorism, defence, and security, trade, and investment as well as in agriculture, science & technology and health fields.

India has committed itself to participate in infrastructure development as well as in defence modernization of the Philippines.
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India ranked 7th most valuable nation brand in the world

India became the seventh most valuable nation brand in the world. The annual report on the world's most valuable nation brands was compiled by Brand Finance. The report showed India's brand value increased by 19% in the year 2018-2019 to $2,562 billion. The Indian economy recovered quickly after the global financial crisis. The economic growth of India has now reduced by a recent slowdown in both the manufacturing and construction sectors.

The US topped as the most valuable nation brand, with a brand value of $27,715 billion. It is followed by China and Germany ranked third. The top 20 countries are listed below:

SBI re entered top 10 most valued domestic firms

State Bank of India (SBI) re-entered the elite club of the top-10 most valued domestic firms by market valuation after a gap of two weeks on 14 October. On 1 October, SBI lost its spot to Bajaj Finance in the club of top-10 most valued domestic companies.

The market capitalization (m-cap) SBI was at Rs.2,27,979.20 crore, which is Rs 2,899.12 crore more than that of Bajaj Finance Rs.2,25,080.08 crore valuation on the BSE. Shares of SBI closed flat at Rs.255.45, up 0.37%, while those of Bajaj Finance fell 2.37% to Rs.3,881.65.

Top-10 most valued domestic firms:

Reliance Industries Ltd is the country topped the most valued firm with a valuation of Rs.8,60,631.07 crore.
It was followed by TCS with an m-cap of Rs.7,58,338.19 crore.
Other firms in the top-10 most valued domestic firms list are HDFC Bank, Infosys Kotak Mahindra, and SBI.
Bajaj Finance is currently on the 11th spot in the ranking of the top 100 companies by m-cap.

TCS named Indias most outstanding company
Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) has been selected as the overall most outstanding company in India's IT services sector in Asiamoney's 2019 outstanding companies poll. Asiamoney's various investor surveys recognized TCS as the most awarded company of the decade in India including awards like the best-managed companies award, the corporate governance poll.

**Parameters:**
Asiamoney's outstanding companies poll has been designed to acknowledge listed companies in 12 countries in Asia. The companies that have excelled in areas such as financial performance, management team excellence, investor relation activities, and CSR initiatives will be considered. Around 800 bankers, fund managers, buy-side analysts, and research analysts participated in the 2019 poll, casting over 4,000 votes.

**India ranked 102nd in 2019 on the Global Hunger Index**

India ranked 102nd in 2019 on the Global Hunger Index (GHI). It had slipped from 95th rank in 2010. Seventeen countries, including Belarus, Ukraine, Turkey, Cuba, and Kuwait, shared the top rank with GHI scores. The report said Ethiopia and Rwanda had shown notable progress.

**Prepared by:**
The Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2019 was jointly prepared by Concern Worldwide, an Irish aid agency, and Welt Hunger Hilfe, a German organization.

**India:**
India has shown **poor performance** with the increase in the prevalence of wasting low weight for height among children under five.
In 2000, India ranked 83rd out of 113 countries. Apart from the fall, the improvement in Indias GHI score has also decelerated.
The improvement from 38.9 in 2005 to 32 in 2010 has been reduced to 30.3 between 2010 and 2019.

**India ranked 82nd in the 2019 World Giving Index**

India ranked 82nd in the 2019 World Giving Index (WGI). The survey ranking was released by the Charities Aid Foundation (CAF), an international organization. It aims to promote giving to transform lives and communities across
the world.

**WGI 2019:**
The survey was conducted by CAF over the past decade, **2009 to 2018.** The survey covered 1.3 million people worldwide.

**Key findings:**

*In India:*

As per the WGI report, India showed that **34%** of people helped a stranger, **24%** donated money, and **19%** volunteered or donated their time.

India's ranking might not be representing the exact ranking as much of the giving is informal, and the survey might have missed many.

India remains unorganized and informal. In India, giving is viewed as a community/religious obligation. It needs to be **more strategic** so that philanthropy will create a strong and healthy economy.

**WGI 2019 list:**

*Top 10 countries:*

USA topped the WGI 2019 list. It is followed by Myanmar, New Zealand, Australia, Ireland, Canada, UK, Sri Lanka, and Indonesia.

*India's neighboring countries:*

Nepal ranked 53, and Pakistan ranked 69.

*Bottom 3 countries:*

The bottom three countries on the list are Yemen, Greece, and China.

**Charities Aid Foundation (CAF):**

*Founded:* UK, 1974

*Headquarters:* Kent, UK

CAF is a registered **UK charity.** It promotes general donation to charities.

**India ranks 3rd in the 2019 Hurun Global Unicorn List**

India ranked third in the **2019 Hurun Global Unicorn List.** It accounts for 21 of the worlds **494 unicorns. China** topped the list with 206 Unicorns, followed by the **US** with 203 Unicorns.

The first edition of the Hurun Global Unicorn List 2019 was released by the **Hurun Research Institute.** The list is a ranking of the worlds billion-dollar tech start-ups that were founded in the **2000s** and not yet listed on a public exchange.
Unicorns:
Hurun Research found 494 Unicorns across the world based in 25 countries and 118 cities. The unicorns were worth $3.4 billion on average and $1.7 trillion in total.
Indian unicorns are led by One97 Communications of worth $10 billion, followed by Ola Cabs with $6 billion, Byjus with $6 billion, and OYO Rooms $5 billion.

Asia Pacific Trade and Investment Report 2019 was released
The Asia-Pacific Trade and Investment Report (APTIR) was jointly released by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). It is a biennial publication.
The report provides insights into the impact of recent and emerging developments in trade and foreign direct investment (FDI) on countries' abilities to meet the challenges of achieving sustainable development.
Theme:
The theme of 2019 APTIR is Navigating Non-tariff Measures (NTMs) towards Sustainable Development.
Report highlights:
The Report provided an overview of NTM trends and developments in Asia and the Pacific region.
It explored the relationships between NTMs and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).
The report said that Non-tariff measures (NTMs) have increased in the past two decades and are affecting trade and SDGs in Asian countries.
The report evaluates the impacts of NTMs on trade and investment, based on both quantitative analysis and private-sector surveys.
It showed the importance of aligning NTMs with international standards and introducing simplifying procedures related to these regulatory measures.
The report closes by offering sets of national-and regional-level policy recommendations for streamlining NTMs for sustainable benefits.

World Bank reported that India had halved its poverty rate
World Bank reported that India achieved annual growth, exceeding 7% in the past 15 years. The country has put efforts to pull millions of people out of poverty. **Report highlights:**

In the past 30 decades, India has halved its poverty rate. Great improvements in most human development outcomes has been highlighted by the World Bank.

The report also said that growth is expected to continue, and the elimination of extreme poverty in the next decade is within reach.

It also warned that India's development trajectory might face considerable challenges.

There is an immense need to achieve greater resource efficiency as it sustains growth.

**Water management** is necessary to prepare for shifting water allocation to higher-value uses and for policies to improve the value of water use within sectors.
FESTIVALS

Tenth edition of Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav is celebrated in Maharashtra

The **10th edition of Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav** was inaugurated by Governor of Madhya Pradesh, **Shri Lalji Tandon**. The festival aims to celebrate Indias plural traditions and culture under Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat Matrix.

**Aim:**
The aim is to celebrate World culture history and praise India, which has retained its culture even after several invasions and attempts at colonization.

**Organized by:**
The Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav was organized by the **Ministry of Culture**, Government of India.

**Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav:**
Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav is hosted in **Madhya Pradesh**, as it is the cultural capital of India.
A week-long diversified cultural carnival is celebrated in the cities of **Jabalpur**, **Sagar**, and **Rewa** of Madhya Pradesh from 14th October to 21st October 2019.
Craftsmen-artists-culture practitioners from different states of India will be participating in the festival.
The festival will showcase the various art forms, works, and exhibitions.

Jammu and Kashmir University organized Sangam festival

**Jammu University** organized the five-day youth festival **Sangam 2019-20**. It was conducted by Jammu Universitys Bhaderwah campus in association with the Rashtriya Rifles. The youth festival was inaugurated by Lt. General Ranbir Singh, the General Officer Commanding-in-chief, Northern Command.

**Aim:**
The festival aimed to promote peace and prosperity in the **Chenab Valley region**.
It was held in J&Ks Doda district.

**Theme:**
The **theme** for the Sangam 2019-20, youth festival was **Lets Build our Nation**.
Over 1000 students from close to 32 colleges of the university participated in the festival. The event aimed to inculcate a sense of discipline, self-confidence,
dedication, responsibility, and patriotism among the youth, which directly leads to building a stronger nation.
QUIZ CORNER

1) When is the World Standards Day observed?

A. 2 August  
B. 18 September  
C. 14 October  
D. 12 December  

Answer C

Explanation World Standards Day is observed on 14th October 2019. The day is observed every year. The day is observed to raise awareness of the significance of standardization to the global economy.

2) Who won the Linz Open 2019 in the Women's singles category?

A. Coco Gauff  
B. Barbora Krejikov  
C. Kateina Siniakov  
D. Jennifer Capriati  

Answer A

Explanation Coco Gauff won the Linz Open title on 13 October 2019 in Austria. She became the youngest American woman to win a tour singles title since 1991 to win the Women's Tennis Association (WTA) title. Because of this win, Coco Gauff is set to become World No. 71.

3) What is the theme of World Standards Day 2019?

A. Less waste, better results Standards increase efficiency  
B. International Standards Creating confidence globally  
C. Video Standards create a global stage  
D. Standards Build Trust  

Answer C

Explanation The theme for World Standards Day 2019 is Video Standards create a global stage.
Advancement in Video technology has revolutionized entertainment, connecting friends and families across the globe. It also enriches communications experiences and enables major improvements in medical care and education. The accessibility of video is built on International Standards.

4) Who set the record in 1991 as the youngest American woman to win the WTA title?

A. Jennifer Capriati  
B. Venus Williams  
C. Serena Williams  
D. Danielle Rose

**Answer A**

**Explanation** The previous record was set by Jennifer Capriati in 1991. Venus and Serena Williams won their first WTA titles when they were 17.

5) When was the World Standard Day officially established?

A. 1946  
B. 1959  
C. 1970  
D. 1985

**Answer C**

**Explanation** World Standard Day was formed in 1946 when the officials from 25 countries met to create an international organization that will focus to facilitate standardization. World Standard Day was officially established by the then President of IES (International Organization for Standardization) Mr. Faruk Snter in 1970.

6) Where is Linz located?

A. Spain  
B. Italy  
C. Sweden  
D. Austria
Answer D

Explanation Linz is a city in Upper Austria, straddling the Danube River midway between Salzburg and Vienna. Baroque buildings, including Old Town Hall (Altes Rathaus) and the old cathedral or Alter Dom, ring Hauptplatz, the old town's main square.

7) Who officially established the World Standard Day?

A. Malcolm Johnson  
B. John Walter  
C. Houlin Zhao  
D. Faruk Snter

Answer D

Explanation World Standard Day was formed in 1946 when the officials from 25 countries met to create an international organization that will focus to facilitate standardization. World Standard Day was officially established by the then President of IES (International Organization for Standardization) Mr. Faruk Snter in 1970.

8) Who became the youngest American woman to win the WTA title by winning Linz Open 2019?

A. Alison Riske  
B. Jennifer Capriati  
C. Coco Gauff  
D. Danielle Rose Collins

Answer C

Explanation Coco Gauff won the Linz Open title on 13 October 2019 in Austria. She became the youngest American woman to win a tour singles title since 1991 to win the Women's Tennis Association (WTA) title. Because of this win, Coco Gauff is set to become World No. 71.

9) Where was the Dutch Open 2019 held?

A. Almere  
B. Amsterdam  
C. Rotterdam  
D. Utrecht
Indian shuttler Lakshya Sen won the Dutch Open men's singles title at Almere, Netherlands. This is his maiden Badminton World Federation (BWF) World Tour title. He won the title by defeating Yusuke Onodera of Japan in the summit. He secured 15-21 21-14 21-15 to defeat Onodera.

10) Who hosted the multi-ministerial meeting where the NITI Aayog decided to attract 2 lakh, foreign students?

A. NITI Aayog Chairperson Narendra Modi
B. NITI Aayog Vice Chairperson Rajiv Kumar
C. NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant
D. MHRD Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank

Answer B

The policy think tank of the Indian government NITI Aayog has decided to create Exclusive Education Zone (EEZ), an action plan to make India an education hub to attract 2 lakh foreign students annually from 2023. The decision was announced at a multi-ministerial meeting hosted by NITI Aayog vice-chairman Rajiv Kumar. The multi-ministerial meeting was attended by senior officials of Ministries of Home Affairs (MHA), Human Resources Development (HRD), AYUSH, Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR), and other senior officials.

11) Where was India International Cooperative Trade Fair (IICTF) held?

A. Pune
B. New Delhi
C. Jaipur
D. Hyderabad

Answer B

A 3-day India International Cooperative Trade Fair was in New Delhi from 11th October to 13th October. The trade fair was first-of-its-kind. At the three day IICTF, 75 MoUs were signed. IICTF was held to promote cooperative to cooperative trade within India and abroad, leading to enhanced rural and farm prosperity.

12) Where was the BRICS Culture Ministers Meet 2019 held?
A. Salvador
B. Rio de Janeiro
C. Curitiba
D. Sao Paulo

**Answer C**

**Explanation** BRICS Culture Ministers Meet was held at Curitiba, Brazil. Shri Prahlad Singh Patel, Union Minister of State for Culture and Tourism (Independent Charge), participated in the meeting. In the meeting, the countries reaffirmed to contribute towards stronger bonds of friendship and cooperation in cultural fields amongst member countries.

13) China is to set up a high-level group to tackle India's trade deficit. The high-level group is to led by ____________.

A. Nirmala Sitharaman
B. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar
C. Amit Shah
D. Rajnath Singh

**Answer A**

**Explanation** Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping agreed to set up a high-level group to tackle India's trade deficit at the summit held in Mamallapuram, Tamil Nadu. The high-level group will be led by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman from the Indian side and Chinese Vice Premier Hu Chunhua.

14) When was the Dutch open badminton held for the first time?

A. 1919
B. 1932
C. 1945
D. 1953

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Dutch open, officially the Yonex Dutch Open, has been held since 1932.

15) How many MoUs were signed at the 3-day India International Cooperative
Trade Fair was in New Delhi?

A. 30  
B. 53  
C. 62  
D. 75  

Answer D

Explanation A 3-day India International Cooperative Trade Fair was in New Delhi from 11th October to 13th October. The trade fair was first-of-its-kind. At the three day IICTF, 75 MoUs were signed. IICTF was held to promote cooperative to cooperative trade within India and abroad, leading to enhanced rural and farm prosperity. 75 MoUs were signed at the three days IICTF.

16) The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of India signed a _________ Tranche 2 loan.

A. $190 mn  
B. $170 mn  
C. $150 mn  
D. $120 mn  

Answer A

Explanation The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of India signed a $190 million Tranche 2 loan on 13 October. The loan is to upgrade 754 kilometres of state highways and major district roads (MDRs) to two-lane or intermediate-lane standards. It is expected to benefit about 26 million people in 14 districts of Rajasthan.

17) Who participated in the BRICS Culture Ministers Meet 2019 from the Indian Side?

A. Rajnath Singh  
B. Prahlad Singh Patel  
C. Amit Shah  
D. Dharmendra Pradhan  

Answer B
BRICS Culture Ministers Meet was held at Curitiba, Brazil. Shri Prahlad Singh Patel, Union Minister of State for Culture and Tourism (Independent Charge), participated in the meeting. In the meeting, the countries reaffirmed to contribute towards stronger bonds of friendship and cooperation in cultural fields amongst member countries.

18) Who won the Dutch Open men's singles 2019 title?

A. Lakshya Sen  
B. Prakash Padukone  
C. Pullela Gopichand  
D. Saina Nehwal  

Answer A

Indian shuttler Lakshya Sen won the Dutch Open men's singles title at Almere, Netherlands. This is his maiden Badminton World Federation (BWF) World Tour title. He won the title by defeating Yusuke Onodera of Japan in the summit. He secured 15-21 21-14 21-15 to defeat Onodera.

19) How much did the Asian Development Bank (ADB) lend for the construction of Tranche 1 road in July 2017?

A. $120 million  
B. $175 million  
C. $220 million  
D. $255 million  

Answer C

The Tranche 1 loan of $220 million was signed in July 2017. The loan upgraded about 1,000 km of state roads.

20) Where is Curitiba located?

A. Spain  
B. Italy  
C. Brazil  
D. Poland
Curitiba is the capital of the southern Brazilian state of Paran. Notable skyline features include the Panoramic Tower, with an observatory on top. Known as a cultural center, Curitiba is home to a number of performance venues, including the Wire Opera House, a structure of tubular steel with a transparent roof, and the huge Teatro Guara, with diverse programs.

21) Who won the Dutch Open women's singles 2019 title?

A. Wang Zhiyi  
B. Gabriela Stoeva  
C. Stefani Christy  
D. Selena Piek

Answer A

Explanation China shuttler Wang Zhiyi won the Dutch Open women's singles 2019 title which was held at Almere, Netherlands.

22) When was the NITI Aayog formed?

A. 2014  
B. 2016  
C. 2015  
D. 2017

Answer C

Explanation NITI Aayog was formed on 1 January 2015. It is headquartered in New Delhi.

23) Which country is to set up a high-level group to tackle India's trade deficit?

A. U.S.  
B. China  
C. Japan  
D. N. Korea

Answer B
Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping agreed to set up a high-level group to tackle India's trade deficit at the summit held in Mamallapuram, Tamil Nadu. The high-level group will be led by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman from the Indian side and Chinese Vice Premier Hu Chunhua.

24) The government announced to fund __________ for infrastructural development in the villages across the country.

A. Rs.25 lakh crore  
B. Rs.30 lakh crore  
C. Rs.50 lakh crore  
D. Rs.75 lakh crore  

**Answer A**

Centre has announced Rs.25 lakh crore for infrastructural development in the villages across the country. It was announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 13 October. The move aims to strengthen rural infrastructure. The fund will be used to construct modern storage centres for crops also.

25) GSTN is to launch an improved version __________ of the GST return filing portal on 22 October.

A. 2nd  
B. 3rd  
C. 4th  
D. 5th  

**Answer B**

The Goods and Services Tax Network (GSTN) is to launch an improved version 3 of the GST return filing portal on 22 October. It aims to make the process easier. The announcement was made by the GST Network CEO, Prakash Kumar.

26) __________ provides IT infrastructure and services to taxpayers, central/state government, and other stakeholders for implementation of GST.

A. NITI Aayog  
B. MietY  
C. GSTN
D. GST-IoT

**Answer C**

**Explanation** The GST Network provides IT infrastructure and services to taxpayers, central/state government, and other stakeholders for the implementation of GST. It aims to provide reliable, efficient, and robust IT Backbone for the smooth functioning of the GST regimen. It also enables economic agents to leverage the entire nation as One Market with minimal Indirect Tax compliance cost.

27) **NITI Aayog has decided to create EEZ to make India an education hub to attract 2 lakh foreign students annually from ________.**

A. 2022
B. 2024
C. 2025
D. 2023

**Answer D**

**Explanation** The policy think tank of the Indian government NITI Aayog has decided to create Exclusive Education Zone (EEZ), an action plan to make India an education hub to attract 2 lakh foreign students annually from 2023. The decision was announced at a multi-ministerial meeting hosted by NITI Aayog vice-chairman Rajiv Kumar.

28) **Which Organization is to lend India for the construction of Tranche 2 road?**

A. World Bank
B. Asian Development Bank
C. International Monetary Fund
D. International Bank for Reconstruction and Development

**Answer B**

**Explanation** The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of India signed a $190 million Tranche 2 loan on 13 October. The loan is to upgrade 754 kilometres of state highways and major district roads (MDRs) to two-lane or intermediate-lane standards. It is expected to benefit about 26 million people in 14 districts of Rajasthan.
29) According to the report by Brand Finance, India ranked is the _________ most valuable nation brand in the world.

A. 7th  
B. 21st  
C. 33rd  
D. 47th

**Answer A**

**Explanation** India became the seventh most valuable nation brand in the world. Brand Finance compiled the annual report on the world's most valuable nation brands. The report showed India's brand value increased by 19% in the year 2018-2019 to $2,562 billion.

30) Which Country topped the AIBA Women's World Boxing Championships in 2019?

A. US  
B. China  
C. Japan  
D. Russia

**Answer D**

**Explanation** India finished with one silver and three bronze medals at the AIBA Women's World Boxing Championships 2019. The tally of 4 medals has put India at the third position out of the 51 countries that participated in Championship. Russia topped the tournament with six medals, followed by China with a medal tally of 5.

31) When is the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction observed?

A. 10 October  
B. 12 October  
C. 13 October  
D. 15 October

**Answer C**

**Explanation** International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction is observed on 13 October every year. The day aims to raise awareness about the importance of reining in the risks that people and
communities around the world face due to disasters.

32) Which Country is the most valuable nation brand in the world, according to the report by Brand Finance?

A. China  
B. Switzerland  
C. US  
D. Netherlands

**Answer C**

**Explanation** The annual report on the world's most valuable nation brands was compiled by Brand Finance. As per the report, the US topped as the most valuable nation brand, with a brand value of $27,715 billion. It is followed by China and Germany ranked third.

33) When was the Sendai Seven campaign launched by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)?

A. 2012  
B. 2014  
C. 2011  
D. 2016

**Answer D**

**Explanation** Sendai Seven campaign was launched by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) in 2016. The campaign has 7 targets and 38 indicators to measure progress on reducing disaster losses. It aims to promote all the sectors to reduce disaster risk and disaster losses.

34) The Indian government is to invest over __________ to develop natural supply and distribution infrastructure.

A. $20 billion  
B. $60 billion  
C. $70 billion  
D. $100 billion
The Indian government is to invest over $60 billion to develop natural supply and distribution infrastructure. The Modi-led Indian government has set the target to more than doubling the share of natural gas in its energy base to 15% by 2030.

35) When was the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction was initiated?

A. 1963  
B. 1987  
C. 1989  
D. 1995

Answer C

The International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction was initiated in 1989. The day was established by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) to promote a global culture of risk-awareness and disaster reduction.

36) Where was the International Think Tank Meeting (ITT) held?

A. Mexico  
B. Moscow  
C. New Delhi  
D. Beijing

Answer C

The Indian government is to invest over $60 billion to develop natural supply and distribution infrastructure. The announcement was made by Oil Minister Dharmendra Pradhan at the International Think Tank Meeting (ITT) in New Delhi on 13 October.

37) How many medals did India win at the AIBA Women's World Boxing Championships?

A. 4  
B. 8  
C. 12  
D. 16
Answer A

**Explanation** India finished with one silver and three bronze medals at the AIBA Women's World Boxing Championships 2019. The tally of 4 medals has put India at the third position out of the 51 countries that participated in Championship.

38) Which State government launched a statewide water grid project to provide a drinking water connection to every household in the State by 2022?

A. Kerala  
B. Uttarakhand  
C. Punjab  
D. Andhra Pradesh

**Answer D**

**Explanation** The Andhra Pradesh State government has launched a statewide water grid project to provide a drinking water connection to every household in the State by 2022. The announcement was made by Panchayati Raj and Rural Development Minister P Ramachandra Reddy.

39) With which Country did India sign six agreements for rice cultivation?

A. Liberia  
B. Ivory Coast  
C. Guinea  
D. Sierra Leone

**Answer D**

**Explanation** India and Sierra Leone signed six agreements to achieve self-sufficiency in rice production. The agreements include extending a credit line of $30 million for rice cultivation. The agreement was signed by Vice President Venkaiah Naidu during his 5-day visit to the West African countries.

40) Where will the Advances in Sustainable Polymers (ASP-19) be held?

A. Tokyo, Japan  
B. Kyoto, Japan
Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)-Guwahati has partnered with Japan's Kyoto Institute of Technology (KIT). The partnership aims to organize an international symposium on Advances in Sustainable Polymers (ASP-19) from 14 October to 18 October at the KIT, Matsugasaki, Kyoto, Japan.

41) What is the currency of Sierra Leone?

A. Dollar
B. Pounds
C. Rupees
D. Leone

Answer D

Sierra Leone is the Chairman of the African Union (AU) Committee of ten nations on United Nations Reforms, including UNSC reforms. The currency of Sierra Leone is Leone.

42) The Indian Highways Management Company Ltd (IHMCL) signed an MoU with _________ to integrate Fastag with GST EWay Bill System.

A. GST EWay
B. GSTN
C. GST-IoT
D. NITI Aayog

Answer B

The Indian Highways Management Company Ltd (IHMCL) signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) Goods and Services Tax Network (GSTN) on 14 October 2019. The GST Council gave in-principle approval for this integration. The agreement aimed for the integration of FASTag with the GST e-way bill system. The MOU was signed at the One Nation, One FASTag conference.

43) Which of the following scheme aims to help girl students inculcate interest in areas like Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM)?
A. Beti Bachao Beti Padhao
B. Sukanya Samriddhi
C. Vigyan Jyoti
D. CBSE Udaan Scheme

**Answer C**

**Explanation** Centre is to launch Vigyan Jyoti, a program to help girl students inculcate interest in areas like Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM).

**44) Who is the author of the book Beyond 2020: A Vision for Tomorrow's India?**
A. Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam
B. Dr. Manmohan Singh
C. Chetan Bhagat
D. Atal Bihari Vajpayee

**Answer A**

**Explanation** In 1998, Dr. Kalam and Y.S. Rajan printed the now iconic India 2020, a vision document for the new era that recorded how India could become one of the top five economic powers in the world by 2020.

**45) India is to launch ________ Sewa Service trains to provide more connectivity across India.**
A. 10
B. 15
C. 20
D. 25

**Answer A**

**Explanation** Indian Railways announced that it is to launch 10 Sewa Service trains. The Sewa Service trains will include daily trains between Delhi and Shamli, Bhubaneswar and Nayagarh town, Murkongselex and Dibrugarh, Kota and Jhalawar city and Coimbatore and Palani.

**46) When is the World Students' Day celebrated?**
A.12 September  
B.5 September  
C.15 October  
D.21 October  

**Answer C**

**Explanation** 15 October is celebrated as the World Students' Day every year. The day marks the birth anniversary of the former Indian President and great scientist, Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam.

**47) When did the government of India conduct the Pokhran-II nuclear tests?**

A.1992  
B.1995  
C.1998  
D.1999  

**Answer C**

**Explanation** The Pokhran-II tests were a series of five nuclear bomb test explosions conducted by India at the Indian Army's Pokhran Test Range in May 1998.

**48) Who will head the Vigyan Jyoti program?**

A.Hariharan Yadav  
B.Aditya Rohit  
C.Sanjiv Mishra  
D.Deepak Sharma  

**Answer C**

**Explanation** Vigyan Jyoti program aims to pick out 100 girl students in 550 districts from 2020-2025. The program will be headed by Sanjiv Mishra, Scientist with the Department of Science and Technology (DST).

**49) Which State benefits the most under the Sewa Service trains of Indian Railways?**

A.Andhra Pradesh
B. Uttar Pradesh  
C. Tamil Nadu  
D. Karnataka

**Answer C**

**Explanation** Of the 10 Sewa Service trains, Tamil Nadu, under the Southern Railway's jurisdiction, receives three trains. It is the biggest beneficiary in the first set of launches.

**50) When did the UN declare 15 October as World Students' Day?**

A. 2008  
B. 2009  
C. 2010  
D. 2011

**Answer B**

**Explanation** United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) declared 15 October, the birthday of Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam as the World Students Day in 2010. Since then, the day is celebrated on 15 October across the world. UN declared the day to honour Kalam's love and dedication towards education, teaching, students, and his focus and efforts in promoting education.

**51) Indian Navy and Bangladesh Navy is holding a bilateral exercise from 12-16 October 2019 at ___________.**

A. Kolkata  
B. Cochin  
C. Mumbai  
D. Visakhapatnam

**Answer D**

**Explanation** The maiden naval bilateral exercise between India Navy (IN) and Bangladesh Navy (BN) is being held from 12 October to 16 October 2019 at Visakhapatnam, India. The IN-BN exercise aims to strengthen mutual ties between India and Bangladesh.

**52) Which service of Indian Railways aims to improve and provide last-mile connectivity for those traveling from villages and small towns to major cities?**
Answer B

Explanation Union Railway Minister Piyush Goyal launched the Sewa Service trains on 14 October 2019. He flagged off the Delhi-Shamli daily passenger train from the New Delhi railway station. The objective of Sewa Service trains is to improve and provide last-mile connectivity for those traveling from villages and small towns to major cities.

53) Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam served as the _________ President of India.

A.10th
B.11th
C.12th
D.9th

Answer B

Explanation Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam was born on 15 October 1931 at Rameswaram, Tamil Nadu, India. From 2002-2007, he served as the 11th President of India. He was an aerospace scientist. Kalam played a vital role in the Pokhran-II nuclear tests in 1998, which earned him the title Missile Man of India.

54) CORPAT is a Naval bilateral exercise held between India and _________.

A.Bangladesh
B.Thailand
C.China
D.Indonesia

Answer A

Explanation The Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT) exercise is held between India and Bangladesh. BN-IN ships undertook Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT) exercise from 10 October to 12 October 2019. It is the second edition of IN BN CORPAT in the North Bay of Bengal.

55) Who is the first black woman to win the Man Booker Prize?
A. Bernardine Evaristo
B. Margaret Atwood
C. Paul Beatty
D. Marlon James

**Answer A**

**Explanation** Evaristo became the first black woman and the first black British author to win the Booker since it began in 1969. At 79, Atwood becomes the prize's oldest winner. The Canadian author previously won the Booker in 2000 for *The Blind Assassin*. She became the fourth author to have won the prize twice.

56) Which heritage won the top award of Excellence of UNESCO Asia Pacific Award for Cultural Heritage Conservation in 2019?

A. Historic Monuments of Ancient Kyoto
B. Tai Kwun Centre for Heritage and Arts
C. Gloria Church in Byculla
D. Flora Fountain

**Answer B**

**Explanation** The top award of Excellence of UNESCO Asia Pacific Award for Cultural Heritage Conservation in 2019 was conferred to the renewal of the historic Tai Kwun Centre for Heritage and Arts, Hong Kong.

57) Who is the author of the book *The Testaments*?

A. Margaret Atwood
B. Rachel Kushner
C. George Saunders
D. Daisy Johnson

**Answer A**

**Explanation** Margaret Atwood and Bernardine Evaristo have been announced as the joint winners of the 2019 Booker Prize. This is the first time joint winners are announced. Atwood won for *The Testaments*, her sequel to *The Handmaid's Tale*. 
58) Who is the author of the book Girl, Woman, Other?

A. Paul Beatty  
B. Richard Powers  
C. Bernardine Evaristo  
D. Esi Edugyan

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Bernardine Evaristo is the author of the book Girl, Woman, Other. She won the Man Booker Prize for the book.

59) Which bank topped the Top-10 most valued domestic firms in India?

A. TCS  
B. Reliance Industries Ltd  
C. Infosys  
D. ONGC

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Reliance Industries Ltd topped the Top-10 most valued firm with a valuation of Rs.8,60,631.07 crore.

60) __________ has partnered with ExxonMobil Research and Engineering Company (EMRE) for research on energy and biofuels.

A. IIT-Madras  
B. IIT-Guwahati  
C. IIT-Roorkee  
D. OIL

**Answer A**

**Explanation** The Indian Institute of Technology-Madras (IITM) signed an agreement with ExxonMobil Research and Engineering Company (EMRE) for research on energy and biofuels. It is a five-year joint research agreement. The research will focus on biofuels, data analytics, transport, gas, and conversion. It also intends to find low-emission solutions.

61) Which of the following was awarded the UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for
Cultural Heritage Conservation for the year 2019?

A. Keneseth Eliyahu Synagogue at Kala Ghoda
B. Gloria Church in Byculla
C. Flora Fountain
D. All of the above

Answer D

Explanation Keneseth Eliyahu Synagogue at Kala Ghoda, Gloria Church in Byculla, and Flora Fountain, three-city landmarks, of Mumbai won the UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation for the year 2019. The award recognized Mumbai's heritage conservation movement under which the three city landmarks were spruced up. The awards were given at a ceremony held in Penang, Malaysia.

62) The former chief justice of Himachal Pradesh V Ramasubramanian was elevated as __________.

A. SC judge
B. Governor of Himachal Pradesh
C. CJI of SC
D. None of the above

Answer A

Explanation On 28 August, the former chief justice of Himachal Pradesh V Ramasubramanian was elevated as SC judge. The Supreme Court Collegium (SCC) had recommended the name of Justice L Narayana Swamy as the new Chief Justice of Himachal Pradesh.

63) Who is appointed as the new Union Law Secretary?

A. Narayana Swamy
B. Anoop Kumar
C. Pawan Kumar
D. Rohit Sharma

Answer B

Explanation Anoop Kumar Mendiratta is appointed as the new Union Law Secretary. This is the first time such an appointment has been made. Anoop Kumar is currently the serving District and
Sessions Judge in the North-East District, Karkardooma Courts, New Delhi.

64) **Who won the 2019 Man Booker Prize?**

A. Anna Burns  
B. Margaret Atwood  
C. Bernardine Evaristo  
D. B & C

**Answer D**

**Explanation** Margaret Atwood and Bernardine Evaristo have been announced as the joint winners of the 2019 Booker Prize. This is the first time joint winners are announced. Atwood won for The Testaments, her sequel to The Handmaid's Tale, and Evaristo won for her novel *Girl, Woman, Other*. The winners were awarded at a ceremony at London's Guildhall on 15 October.

65) **Who won the men's singles title at the Bahrain International Series Badminton?**

A. Priyanshu Rajawat  
B. Juhi Dewangan  
C. Venkat Gaurav  
D. Pullela Gopichand

**Answer A**

**Explanation** Indian shuttler Priyanshu Rajawat won the men's singles title at the Bahrain International Series Badminton at Isa Town on 14 October. The 17-year-old Rajawat defeated top-seed Jason Anthony Ho-Shue from Canada. He secured 16-21, 21-7, 21-12, to win the title.

66) **Who became the oldest winner of the Booker Prize?**

A. Alice Walker  
B. Toni Morrison  
C. Mary Angeline  
D. Margaret Atwood

**Answer D**

**Explanation** Margaret Atwood became the oldest winner of the Booker Prize. Her novel *The*...
Testaments became the fastest-selling hardback novel in four years on its publication in September. The book is a follow up of The Handmaid’s Tale which is set 15 years.

67) Who is appointed as the Chief Justice of Himachal Pradesh High Court?

A. Justice V Ramasubramanian  
B. Justice Bandaru Dattatreya  
C. Justice Ramacharya Chand  
D. Justice Lingappa Narayana Swamy

**Answer D**

**Explanation** Acting Chief Justice of Karnataka High court (HC) Justice Lingappa Narayana Swamy was appointed as the new Chief Justice of Himachal Pradesh High court. He took oath as the new Chief Justice of Himachal Pradesh HC on 13 October. The oath office was administered by the Governor of Himachal Pradesh, Mr. Bandaru Dattatreya.

68) When was the Booker prize instituted?

A. 1969  
B. 1975  
C. 1982  
D. 1990

**Answer A**

**Explanation** The Man Booker Prize established in 1969 as a literary prize awarded annually for the best original novel written in English and published in the UK. In 2005, The Man Booker International Prize was created to award writers bi-annually in recognition of a body of work rather than one title.

69) Which bank re-entered the top-10 most valued domestic firms?

A. HDFC Bank  
B. Infosys  
C. Kotak Mahindra  
D. SBI

**Answer D**
**Explanation** State Bank of India (SBI) re-entered the elite club of the top-10 most valued domestic firms by market valuation after a gap of two weeks on 14 October. On 1 October, SBI lost its spot to Bajaj Finance in the club of top-10 most valued domestic companies.

**70) Who is the governor of Himachal Pradesh?**

A. Bandaru Dattatreya  
B. Jagdish Mukhi  
C. Najma Heptulla  
D. Ganga Prasad

**Answer A**

**Explanation** Bandaru Dattatreya is the Governor of the State of Himachal Pradesh. He was the Member of Lok Sabha for Secunderabad since 2014. He belongs to the Bharatiya Janata Party. Born in Hyderabad, Dattatreya graduated with a science degree.

**71) The Bihar state government is to provide an assistance of ________ each to the flood-affected families.**

A. Rs.5,000  
B. Rs.6,000  
C. Rs.7,000  
D. Rs.7,500

**Answer B**

**Explanation** The Bihar state government is to provide an assistance of Rs.6,000 each to the flood-affected families. The announcement was made by Chief Minister Nitish Kumar at the meeting held in the State Disaster Management Authority. The relief amount of Rs.6000 will be transferred directly to the accounts of beneficiaries through the Public Financial Management System.

**72) Anoop Kumar Mendiratta, the new Union Law Secretary, will serve in the position till _________.**

A. 30 March 2023  
B. 30 April 2023  
C. 30 May 2023
D. 30 June 2023

**Answer A**

**Explanation** Anoop Kumar Mendiratta is appointed as the new Union Law Secretary. This is the first time such an appointment has been made. Anoop Kumar is currently the serving District and Sessions Judge in the North-East District, Karkardooma Courts, New Delhi. He will serve in the position till 30 March 2023, or until he attains the age of 60.

73) Which State launched the YSR Rythu Bharosa PM-Kisaan scheme?

A. Karnataka  
B. Telangana  
C. Andhra Pradesh  
D. Maharashtra

**Answer C**

**Explanation** Andhra Pradesh State government launched YSR Rythu Bharosa-PM Kisaan, the flagship farmer assistance scheme. The scheme was launched by the AP Chief Minister YS Jagan Reddy. YSR Rythu Bharosa-PM Kisaan was named after former Chief Minister YS Rajasekhara Reddy. Under the scheme, 54 lakh farmers will get Rs. 13,500 over three installments.

74) Under the YSR Rythu Bharosa PM-Kisaan scheme, 54 lakh farmers of Andhra Pradesh will get ________ over three installments.

A. Rs. 6,500  
B. Rs. 7,500  
C. Rs. 12,500  
D. Rs. 13,500

**Answer D**

**Explanation** YSR Rythu Bharosa-PM Kisaan was named after former Chief Minister YS Rajasekhara Reddy. Under the scheme, 54 lakh farmers will get Rs. 13,500 over three installments.

75) World Bank forecasts India's GDP forecast for 2019-20 from 7% to _______.
A. 5.75%
B. 6%
C. 6.25%
D. 6.75%

**Answer B**

**Explanation** World Bank said that India's growth rate is projected to fall to 6% in 2019-20 from 7% following the deceleration in the initial quarters of this fiscal. World Bank said that India is expected to gradually recover to 6.9% in FY21 and 7.2% in FY22 in its latest edition of the South Asia Economic Focus. In April 2019, World Bank projected India's growth rate as 7.5%.

76) Which TB drug is only the third new anti-TB drug to get approval in more than 40 years from the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA)?

A. Isoniazid
B. Rifampin
C. Ethambutol
D. Pretomanid

**Answer D**

**Explanation** Pretomanid got its approval from the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA). It is only the third new anti-TB drug to get approval in more than 40 years. It is also the first to be developed and registered by a not-for-profit organization.

77) Which Company was named the overall most outstanding company in India's IT services sector in Asiamoney's 2019 outstanding companies poll?

A. Infosys
B. Reliance Ltd
C. TCS
D. CTS

**Answer C**

**Explanation** Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) has been selected as the overall most outstanding company in India's IT services sector in Asiamoney's 2019 outstanding companies poll. Asiamoney's various investor surveys recognized TCS as the most awarded company of the decade in India including awards like the best-managed companies award, the corporate
governance poll.

78) Which organization launched a new scheme to promote investments in India?

A. Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs
B. Central Board of Direct Taxes and Customs
C. Central Board of Investments and Customs
D. None of the above

**Answer A**

**Explanation** The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) launched a new scheme to promote investments in India. The scheme also aims to enhance the ease of doing business. The scheme will enable the Make in India program.

79) ________ along with DCGI Pretomanid, a medicine used to treat drug-resistant tuberculosis (TB).

A. Lupin
B. Mylan
C. Novartis
D. Sanofi

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Multinational pharmaceutical company Mylan in collaboration with Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) is to launch Pretomanid, a medicine used to treat drug-resistant tuberculosis (TB). Mylan NV announced a global collaboration to make the experimental drug Pretomanid for the cure of pulmonary tuberculosis in the month of April 2019.

80) In which country will be the first to get Mylan's Pretomanid, the new TB drug first?

A. US
B. UK
C. Switzerland
D. India
Pretomanid drug is expected to be launched in the USA by the end of 2019. The United States will be the first country in which the product will be launched.

81) The U.S. observes _________ October as White Cane Safety Day every year.
A.10  
B.15  
C.20  
D.26

82) Which is the first-largest energy consumer in the world?
A.US  
B.India  
C.China  
D.Russia

83) Indian Railways (IR) has announced that it will become a net-zero carbon emitter by _________.
A.2022  
B.2025  
C.2028  
D.2030
Indian Railways (IR) has announced that it will become a net-zero carbon emitter by 2030. The move will be a part of India's strategy to combat climate change. The announcement was made by railways and commerce minister Piyush Goyal at the India Energy Forum by CERAWEEK in New Delhi.

84) Ministry of Shipping Organized the _________ Meeting of Maritime States Development Council (MSDC) in New Delhi.
A.13th  
B.17th  
C.20th  
D.25th

Answer B

Ministry of Shipping Organized the 17th Meeting of Maritime States Development Council (MSDC) in New Delhi on 15 October. The Ministry Of Shipping announced that it is to introduce a plan to develop a National Grid for Ports based on synergy between the Major and Minor ports in the country. The plan will be developed with six months. The MSDC meeting was chaired by Shri Mansukh Mandaviya, MoS (I/C) for Shipping and MoS Chemical and Fertilizers.

85) What is the theme for the 2019 World Food Day?
A. Working together for an international alliance against hunger  
B. Our Actions Are Our Future. Healthy Diets for A #ZeroHunger World  
C. Change the future of migration. Invest in food security and rural development.  
D. Social Protection and Agriculture: Breaking the Cycle of Rural Poverty

Answer B

World Food Day is observed on 16 October every year. The theme for 2019 is Our Actions Are Our Future. Healthy Diets for A #ZeroHunger World. The diet and eating habits of the people have changed because of urbanization and income growth. It causes obesity and other related disease among the people. The theme focuses on creating awareness about a healthy and nutritional diet.

86) Which of the following railways is the world's largest railway network?
A. Chinese Railways  
B. Japan Railways  
C. Indian Railways  
D. Thai Railways  

**Answer C**

**Explanation** Indian railways is the world's largest railway network. It has a rail network of around 125,000km under single management. IR is to go green by setting up solar power generation capacities in its large tracts of land along its network.

87) **When was World Food Day first observed?**

A. 1981  
B. 1973  
C. 1965  
D. 1994  

**Answer A**

**Explanation** The World food day was established by the member countries of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) in November 1979 at the 20th General Conference. On 16 October 1981, The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) announced the observation of the World food day on 16 October. The first World food day was observed in 1981. The day aims to honor the establishment date of FAO.

88) **How many Minor ports are there in India?**

A. 108  
B. 204  
C. 183  
D. 234  

**Answer B**

**Explanation** There are 204 Minor ports in India. Among 204 Minor ports, only 44 are functional. The Ministry of Shipping plans to revive the Minor ports.

89) India, as a part of climate commitments, has committed to produce ________ by 2030.
A. 175 GW
B. 250 GW
C. 500 GW
D. 750 GW

Answer C

Explanation India is moving to curb pollution and cut its dependence on foreign oil. The country has become one of the top renewable energy producers globally with ambitious capacity expansion plans. India is running the world's largest renewable energy program. The installed renewable energy capacity of the country is about 80 gigawatts (GW). As a part of its climate commitments, it also plans to achieve 175 GW by 2022 and 500 GW by 2030.

90) When was the Maritime States Development Council (MSDC) established?

A. 1991
B. 1995
C. 1997
D. 2000

Answer C

Explanation MSDC is the advisory body that ensures the development of the Maritime sector. It was established in May 1997. It is headquartered in New Delhi. It functions under the Ministry of Shipping. The Minister responsible is Minister responsible Shri Mansukh L. Mandaviya.

91) When is the World food day observed?

A. 23 September
B. 25 May
C. 26 July
D. 16 October

Answer D

Explanation World Food Day is observed on 16 October every year. The day is observed every year by people from around the world. The day aims to tackle global hunger. On this day, people reaffirm their commitment to eradicate worldwide hunger for a lifetime.
92) When was the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), the specialized agency of the UN, established?

A. 1945  
B. 1956  
C. 1963  
D. 1971  

**Answer A**

**Explanation** Food and Agriculture Organisation is a specialized agency of the United Nations, which leads international efforts to defeat hunger. It was established as a specialized agency in 1945. FAO aims to provide food security for all the people across the world.

93) Who is the Minister of Shipping in 2019?

A. Gajendra Singh Shekhawat  
B. Mansukh L. Mandaviya  
C. Nitin Gadkari  
D. Amit Shah  

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Mansukh Laxmanbhai Mandaviya is the Union Minister of State for Shipping and Union Minister of State for Chemical and Fertilizers. He is also a Rajya Sabha member from Gujarat.

94) Which Kit did the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)-Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI) release for the detection of Antigen?

A. sELISA  
B. xELISA  
C. IgM ELISA  
D. IexM ELIZA  

**Answer A**

**Explanation** Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)-Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI) released two diagnostic kits developed under the 'Make in India' initiative. The two kits are Bluetongue: Sandwich ELISA (sELISA) for the detection of Antigen and Japanese
Encephalitis IgM ELISA kit for the control of Swine.

95) According to the RBI guidelines on 'on tap' authorization of payment systems, the operator should have ______ net worth for WLAs (White Label ATMs).

A. Rs.10 crore  
B. Rs.50 crore  
C. Rs.100 crore  
D. Rs.200 crore  

**Answer C**

**Explanation** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issued guidelines on 'on tap' authorization of payment systems on 15 October. The minimum net worth for entities that enters the WLA segment should be Rs.100 crore. The net amount should be maintained at all times.

96) NGT was established under the __________.

A. National Green Tribunal Act 2008  
B. National Green Tribunal Act 2010  
C. National Green Tribunal Act 2012  
D. National Green Tribunal Act 2015  

**Answer B**

**Explanation** NGT was established on 18 October 2010 under the National Green Tribunal Act 2010. It is headquartered in Delhi. The Chairperson of NGT is Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel. NGT has been set up to handle the expeditious disposal of the cases pertaining to environmental issues.

97) Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated ________ DRDO Directors Conference in New Delhi.

A. 25th  
B. 28th  
C. 33rd  
D. 41st  

**Answer D**
Explaination Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated 41st DRDO Directors Conference in New Delhi on 15 October. The Chiefs of the three forces, DRDO Chairman G Satheesh Reddy, National Security Adviser Ajit Doval was among the delegations that were present in the conference.

98) Which of the following Institutes is to get a Living Lab to help startups gather real-time data on urban infrastructure?

A. IIIT Hyderabad  
B. IIT Ahmedabad  
C. IIT Guwahati  
D. IIIT Kanpur  

Answer A

Explanation International Institute of Information Technology (IIIT) Hyderabad signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the European Business & Technology Centre (EBTC). The agreement aimed to establish a Living Lab on the institute's campus. The lab will be set up by the end of 2020.

99) Which Kit did the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)-Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI) release for the control of Swine?

A. sELISA  
B. xELISA  
C. IgM ELISA  
D. IexoM ELIZA  

Answer C

Explanation Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)-Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI) released two diagnostic kits developed under the 'Make in India' initiative. The two kits are Bluetongue: Sandwich ELISA (sELISA) for the detection of Antigen and Japanese Encephalitis IgM ELISA kit for the control of Swine.

100) When was the European Business & Technology Centre (EBTC) established?

A. 2000  
B. 2003  

Answer A
European Business & Technology Centre (EBTC) was established in 2008. It is co-funded by the European Union (EN). It is headquartered in New Delhi. It is coordinated by EUROCHAMBRES, the Association of European Chambers of Commerce and Industry. It aims to promote European technologies and innovations to suit the local needs in India through various projects, programs, and initiatives by enabling Indo-European collaborations.

101) Who prepared the Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2019?

A. Concern Worldwide
B. Welt Hunger Hilfe
C. Writer Global Survey
D. A&B

Answer D

Explanation The Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2019 was jointly prepared by Concern Worldwide, an Irish aid agency, and Welt Hunger Hilfe, a German organization.

102) When was the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) established?

A. 1948
B. 1958
C. 1968
D. 1978

Answer B

Explanation DRDO was formed in 1958. It is headquartered in New Delhi, India. It functions under the Ministry of Defence. The Minister responsible is Rajnath Singh. The Chairman of DRDO is G Satheesh Reddy. DRDO is charged with the military's research and development.

103) India handed over _________ Mi-24V helicopters to Afghanistan's Air Force as a replacement for the helicopters gifted by India to Afghanistan in 2015 and 2016.
India handed over two more Mi-24V helicopters to Afghanistan's Air Force. H.E. Vinay Kumar, Indian Ambassador, handed over the 2nd pair of Mi-24V helicopters to Afghanistan Minister of Defence Asadullah Khalid at the military airport in Kabul on 16 October. The two Mi-24V helicopters are a replacement for the four helicopters gifted by India to Afghanistan in 2015 and 2016.

104) When was the National Green Tribunal (NGT) established?

A.2001  
B.1996  
C.2010  
D.2015  

Answer C  

Explanation NGT was established on 18 October 2010 under the National Green Tribunal Act 2010. It is headquartered in Delhi. The Chairperson of NGT is Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel. NGT has been set up to handle the expeditious disposal of the cases pertaining to environmental issues. NGT is given the power to hear all civil cases related to environmental issues and cases linked to the implementation of laws listed in the Schedule I of the NGT Act.

105) Bluetongue, a disease on domestic and wild ruminants is caused by

A.Virus  
B.Fungi  
C.Bacteria  
D.None of the above  

Answer A  

Explanation Bluetongue sandwich ELISA (sELISA) kit can be used to detect Antigen. The
insect-transmitted viral disease of domestic and wild ruminants is widespread among the sheep, goats, cattle, buffaloes, and camels in the country.

106) Which Organization launched India IP Guide in MIPCOM 2019?

A. Imports and Exports Promotion Council (IEPC)
B. Services Exports Promotion Council (SEPC)
C. Trade Promotion Council (TPC)
D. International Trade Exports Promotion Council (ITEPC)

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Services Exports Promotion Council (SEPC) launched India Intellectual Property (IP) Guide in 36th MIPCOM 2019 on 16 October at Cannes, France. MIPCOM 2019 is being held from 14 October to 17 October for the Media and Entertainment (M&E) industry.

107) Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) reported that ______ has emerged as the most punctual airline in August 2019.

A. IndiGo
B. Emirates
C. GoAir
D. Air Arabia

**Answer C**

**Explanation** Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) reported that GoAir has emerged as the most punctual airline in August 2019. The airlines created history in the Indian aviation sector. GoAir has set the record of a consecutive 12th-month achievement of distinction by being on top of on-time-performance (OTP) charts.

108) Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) is to launch _________ Authorized World Skills India Training Centers (AWSITC) across nine cities in India.

A. 8
B. 12
C. 14
D. 15
Answer C

Explanation Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) is to launch 14 Authorized World Skills India Training Centers (AWSITC) across 9 cities in India. The announcement was made by the Union Minister of MSDE Dr. Mahendra Nath Pandey. The centres aim to improve the Media and Entertainment sector.

109) Prince William and Kate Middleton visited ________ in 13 years to show the importance of quality education and highlight how girls benefit from pursuing higher education and professional career.

A. Vietnam  
B. Thailand  
C. India  
D. Pakistan

Answer D

Explanation Prince William and Kate Middleton are on a five day State visit to Pakistan from 14 October to 18 October 2019. This is the first royal visit to Pakistan in 13 years. The visit focuses on the importance of quality education and highlights how girls benefit from pursuing higher education and professional careers. The Royal couple visited Islamabad Model College for Girls in Islamabad.

110) According to the RBI guidelines on 'on tap' authorization of payment systems, the operator should have ______ net worth for Trade Receivables Discounting System (TReDS).

A. Rs.10 crore  
B. Rs.25 crore  
C. Rs.100 crore  
D. Rs.125 crore

Answer B

Explanation The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issued guidelines on 'on tap' authorization of payment systems on 15 October. For TReDS, the minimum paid-up equity capital should be Rs.25 crore. The net amount should be maintained at all times.
111) Where is Cannes located?
A. Australia
B. USA
C. France
D. Germany

Answer C

Explanation Cannes is a city located on the French Riviera. It is a commune located in the Alpes-Maritimes department, and host city of the annual Cannes Film Festival, Midem, and Cannes Lions International Festival of Creativity.

112) Which countries, in October 2019, suspended military exports to Turkey?
A. Britain
B. Spain
C. Germany
D. A&B

Answer D

Explanation Britain and Spain have joined hands with other major powers to suspend military exports to Turkey. The move comes after the incursion into northeastern Syria. The UK announced that no further export licenses would be granted to Turkey for items that might be used in military operations in Syria.

113) Which of the following countries borders Afghanistan?
A. Pakistan, Iran, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, China
B. Pakistan, Iran, Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan
C. Pakistan, Iran, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, China, Turkey
D. Pakistan, Iran, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, China

Answer A

Explanation Afghanistan is bordered by Pakistan in the east and south, Iran in the west, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan in the north, China in the far northeast.

114) Which airlines became the first in the world to use a TaxiBot?
A. Air India
B. Go Airways
C. Jet Airways
D. Spice Jet

**Answer A**

**Explanation** National carrier Air India (AI) became the first airline in the world to use a TaxiBot on an Airbus A320 aircraft operating a commercial flight with passengers onboard. The aircraft of AI 665 Delhi-Mumbai flight was brought to the runway at Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGI) airport's Terminal 3 using the TaxiBot. The aircraft was flagged off by Air India Chief Managing Director Ashwani Lohani. The move of Air India is towards a cleaner environment.

115) Which company is developing an Artificial intelligence (AI)-based tool for analysis of terrorist activities?

A. TCS
B. L&T
C. BEL
D. HUL

**Answer C**

**Explanation** The public-sector giant Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) has announced that it is developing an Artificial intelligence (AI)-based tool for analysis of terrorist activities. The firm aims to utilize the use of AI in the security field. The tool will be used in screening and segregating raw information and assist in generating intelligence assessments, decision-making, and operational planning.

116) International Institute of Information Technology (IIIT) Hyderabad signed MoU with _________ to establish a Living Lab on the institute's campus.

A. European Business & Technology Centre (EBTC)
B. Asian Business & Technology Centre (ABTC)
C. American Business & Technology Centre (ABTC)
D. Russian Business & Technology Centre (RBTC)

**Answer A**
International Institute of Information Technology (IIIT) Hyderabad signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the European Business & Technology Centre (EBTC). The agreement aimed to establish a Living Lab on the institute's campus. The lab will be set up by the end of 2020.

117) India ranked _________ in 2019 on the Global Hunger Index.

A.83rd  
B.92nd  
C.102nd  
D.113rd  

Answer C

India ranked 102nd in 2019 on the Global Hunger Index (GHI). It had slipped from 95th rank in 2010. Seventeen countries, including Belarus, Ukraine, Turkey, Cuba, and Kuwait, shared the top rank with GHI scores. The report said Ethiopia and Rwanda had shown notable progress.

118) __________ received the Best Airline award by Andaman Tourism Award 2019.

A.Air India  
B.IndiGo  
C.Jet Airways  
D.GoAir  

Answer D

GoAir received the Best Airline award by Andaman Tourism Award 2019 in its first edition for its leadership in attaining on-time performance for 12 consecutive months. The Andaman Tourism Award ceremony was organized at Port Blair in association with the Andaman Ministry of tourism and Andaman Association of Tour Operators.

119) National Green Tribunal directed the Indian Railways to evolve appropriate mechanisms to curb pollution caused in ____________.

A.Faizabad Railway station  
B.Matunga Railway station  
C.Vile Parle Railway station
National Green Tribunal directed the Indian Railways to evolve appropriate mechanisms to curb pollution caused in Faizabad Railway station, Uttar Pradesh. A Bench headed by NGT chairperson Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel, directed the Uttar Pradesh State Pollution Control Board (SPCB) to take steps for the assessment and recovery of environmental compensation.

120) Which Space agency unveiled two new spacesuits for moonwalking?
A.ISRO
B.NASA
C.JAXA
D.ESA

Answer B
Explanation NASA, the American space agency, unveiled two new spacesuits tailored for future moonwalking astronauts. The two new spacesuits are prepared for the upcoming Artemis program. In 2024, NASA will be sending astronauts back to the moon. Two NASA engineers staged the first zero-gravity space-wear under NASA's Artemis moon program. This is the first suit designed in about 40 years.

121) Who issued guidelines on 'on tap' authorization of payment systems?
A.BSE
B.RBI
C.SEBI
D.NSE

Answer B
Explanation The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issued guidelines on 'on tap' authorization of payment systems on 15 October. The guidelines, including minimum net worth criteria for different entities. The guidelines aim to encourage innovation and competition among the entities.

122) According to the RBI guidelines on 'on tap' authorization of payment systems, the operator should have _______ net worth for BBPOU (Bharat Bill
Payment Operating Unit).

A. Rs. 100 crore
B. Rs. 150 crore
C. Rs. 200 crore
D. Rs. 300 crore

Answer A

Explanation The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issued guidelines on 'on tap' authorization of payment systems on 15 October. The entities that desire to function or provide platforms for BBPOU should have an Rs. 100 crore net worth. The net amount should be maintained at all times.

123) Where is the 36th MIPCOM 2019 held?

A. Italy
B. Spain
C. France
D. Germany

Answer C

Explanation Services Exports Promotion Council (SEPC) launched India Intellectual Property (IP) Guide in 36th MIPCOM 2019 on 16 October at Cannes, France. MIPCOM 2019 is being held from 14 October to 17 October for the Media and Entertainment (M&E) industry.

124) The ________ edition of the Indian Handicrafts and Gifts Fair (IHGF) was held at the India Expo Centre & Mart at Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh.

A. 41st
B. 42nd
C. 48th
D. 50th

Answer C

Explanation The 48th edition of the Indian Handicrafts and Gifts Fair (IHGF) was held at the India Expo Centre & Mart at Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh. Textiles Secretary, Ravi Capoor, inaugurated IHGF Delhi Fair. The expo is being held from 16 October to 20 October 2019.
125) Which scheme was launched to strengthen and scale up the Eat Right India movement?

A. Food Safety Mitra scheme  
B. Food Security Measure scheme  
C. Food Safety Measure scheme  
D. Food Security Mitra scheme  

Answer A

Explanation The government launched the Food Safety Mitra (FSM) scheme to strengthen and scale up the Eat Right India movement. The scheme was inaugurated by the Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Dr. Harsh Vardhan. He also launched Eat Right Jacket, and Eat Right Jhola. The scheme is in line with the Fit India Movement.

126) What are the current handicraft exports of India?

A. Rs.22,340 crore  
B. Rs.25,000 crore  
C. Rs.26,590 crore  
D. Rs.28,700 crore  

Answer C

Explanation The skills of Indian artisans have the potential to achieve greater growth in both the sector and the artisans and the exporters. IHGF-Delhi Fair will increase the handicraft exports of India to Rs.100,000 crore from the exiting Rs.26,590 crore.

127) Where was the 48th edition of the Indian Handicrafts and Gifts Fair (IHGF) held?

A. New Delhi  
B. Greater Noida  
C. Lucknow  
D. Jaipur  

Answer B

Explanation The 48th edition of the Indian Handicrafts and Gifts Fair (IHGF) was held at the India Expo Centre & Mart at Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh. Textiles Secretary, Ravi Capoor,
inaugurated IHGF Delhi Fair. The expo is being held from 16 October to 20 October 2019.

128) Government partnered with _________ for the Second Phase of Going Online as Leaders (GOAL).

A. NITI Aayog  
B. Google  
C. Facebook  
D. A&C  

**Answer D**

**Explanation** Ministry of Tribal Affairs has partnered with NITI Aayog and Facebook for the Second Phase of Going Online as Leaders (GOAL), a Facebook program. GOAL aims to inspire, guide, and encourage the tribal girls from pan India to become village-level digital young leaders for their communities.

129) When was the Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH) established?

A. 1982-82  
B. 1986-87  
C. 1991-93  
D. 1996-98  

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts - EPCH, was established in 1986-87 under the Companies Act. EPCH aims to promote, support, protect, maintain, and increase the export of handicrafts.

130) When was Going Online as Leaders (GOAL) was launched in March 2019?

A. August 2019  
B. May 2019  
C. June 2019  
D. March 2019
Answer D

Explanation Going Online as Leaders (GOAL) was launched in March 2019. It connects underprivileged young tribal women with senior expert mentors to learn digital and life skills in various areas of business, fashion, and arts.

131) India ranked _________ in the World Giving Index (WGI) for the year 2019?
A. 41st
B. 63rd
C. 82nd
D. 101st

Answer C

Explanation India ranked 82nd in the 2019 World Giving Index (WGI). The survey ranking was released by the Charities Aid Foundation (CAF), an international organization. It aims to promote giving to transform lives and communities across the world.

132) Which company demonstrated India's first-ever live 5G video call using the millimeter-wave (mmWave) spectrum?
A. Ericsson
B. Samsung
C. Qualcomm
D. A&C

Answer D

Explanation Swedish-based Ericsson and American-based Qualcomm demonstrated India's first-ever live 5G video call using millimeter-wave (mmWave) spectrum. Ericsson partnered with Qualcomm to push 5G technology in India.

133) Which country topped the 2019 World Giving Index (WGI)?
A. USA
B. Myanmar
C. New Zealand
D. Australia
USA topped the World Giving Index (WGI) 2019 list. It is followed by Myanmar, New Zealand, Australia, Ireland, Canada, UK, Sri Lanka, and Indonesia.

134) Who is the President of NASSCOM?

A. Rishad Premji  
B. Debjani Ghosh  
C. Ireena Vittal  
D. Keshav R Murugesh

Answer B

Explanation Debjani Ghosh is the President of NASSCOM.

IAF launched fighter operations from _______ civilian airfields in the eastern part of India to undertake operations from dispersed locations in case of hostilities.

A. 3  
B. 5  
C. 6  
D. 8

Answer C

Explanation IAF launched fighter operations from 6 civilian airfields in the eastern part of India to undertake operations from dispersed locations in case of hostilities.

136) Who released the 2019 World Giving Index (WGI)?

A. World Health Organization (WHO)  
B. Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation  
C. Trust and Charity Association (TCA)  
D. Charities Aid Foundation (CAF)

Answer D
India ranked 82nd in the 2019 World Giving Index (WGI). The survey ranking was released by the Charities Aid Foundation (CAF), an international organization. It aims to promote giving to transform lives and communities across the world.

137) When is the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty observed?

A. 2 October  
B. 10 October  
C. 17 October  
D. 23 October  

Answer C 

International Day for the Eradication of Poverty is observed on 17 October every year. The day aims to raise awareness about the people who are struggling and living in poverty. Poverty should be eradicated, mainly in developing countries.

138) When was the Charities Aid Foundation (CAF) founded?

A. 1962  
B. 1974  
C. 1982  
D. 1996  

Answer B 

Charities Aid Foundation (CAF) was founded in the UK in 1974. It is headquartered in Kent, UK. CAF is a registered UK charity. It promotes general donation to charities.

139) What is the theme for the 2019 International Day for the Eradication of Poverty?

A. Poverty is not a curse; it is just a condition and can be removed completely!  
B. Poverty: A hinderance to the mental and physical growth of a person, Remove it away  
C. Acting together to empower children, their families, and communities to end poverty  
D. Poverty- A condition to be overcome through education  

Answer C 

The theme for the 2019 International Day for the Eradication of Poverty is Acting...
together to empower children, their families, and communities to end poverty. The theme focuses on providing a chance for people who struggle to live and who live in poverty to express their concerns to be heard.

140) Which country ranked last in the 2019 World Giving Index (WGI)?

A. China  
B. Canada  
C. Sri Lanka  
D. Indonesia

Answer A

Explanation The bottom three countries on the 2019 World Giving Index (WGI) list are Yemen, Greece, and China. The survey was conducted by CAF over the past decade, 2009 to 2018. The survey covered 1.3 million people worldwide.

141) When was the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty instituted?

A. 1965  
B. 1978  
C. 1992  
D. 2006

Answer C

Explanation On 22 December 1992, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted a resolution 47/196 to observe 16 October as the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty. The year 2019 marks the 27th anniversary of the declaration by UNGA. The day was instituted to provide an opportunity to acknowledge the effort and reflects the willingness of people living in poverty to use their expertise to contribute to the eradication of poverty.

142) When was the Competition Commission of India (CCI) established?

A. 1995  
B. 1998  
C. 2000  
D. 2003
Competition Commission of India (CCI) was formed on 14 October 2003. The chairman is Vijay Kumar Agarwal. The Secretary of CCI is PK Singh. CCI is responsible for enforcing the Competition Act 2002 across India.

143) Who approved the Kora Master Fund LP investment of $75 million in Edelweiss Securities Ltd.?

A. Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG)
B. Competition Commission of India (CCI)
C. Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)
D. Asian Development Bank (ADB)

Answer B

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) approved the Kora Master Fund LP investment of $75 million up to 10% in Edelweiss Securities Ltd. US-based Kora signed an agreement with Edelweiss in August 2019. As per the share subscription agreement, Kora is to invest in Edelweiss Securities Ltd (ESL) and Edelweiss Global Investment Advisory (EGIA) business subsidiaries.

144) What was the base year for the 2019 World Giving Index (WGI)?

A. 2006-15
B. 2007-16
C. 2009-18
D. 2010-19

Answer C

India ranked 82nd in the 2019 World Giving Index (WGI). The survey ranking was released by the Charities Aid Foundation (CAF), an international organization. It aims to promote giving to transform lives and communities across the world. The survey was conducted by CAF over the past decade, 2009 to 2018. The survey covered 1.3 million people worldwide.

145) Who is the Chairman of the Competition Commission of India (CCI)?

A. Saravana Kumar
B. PK Singh
C.Vijay Kumar Agarwal  
D.Subojith Singh

**Answer A**

**Explanation** Competition Commission of India (CCI) was formed on 14 October 2003. The chairman is Vijay Kumar Agarwal. The Secretary of CCI is PK Singh. CCI is responsible for enforcing the Competition Act 2002 across India. It aims to prevent activities that will cause an appreciable adverse effect on competition in India. CCI is a Trade Practices Commission.

146) Which a mobile app did Maharashtra State government launch to minimize the loss of life by making roads safe for driving?

A. Road-Seva Maharashtra  
B. e-RServ Maharashtra  
C. MRADMS Maharashtra  
D. None of the above

**Answer C**

**Explanation** The Maharashtra Highway Police launched MRADMS Maharashtra, a mobile application, for its personnel on 16 October. The app will collect and analyze the data related to road accidents in the state. Maharashtra state highway police will conduct training programs for its personnel on how to use the app. The aim of the app is to minimize the loss of life by making roads safe for driving.

147) Which State government is signing an MoU with NASSCOM to create more jobs for the youth by promoting investment in the information technology sector?

A. Maharashtra  
B. Manipur  
C. Mizoram  
D. Madhya Pradesh

**Answer D**

**Explanation** Madhya Pradesh State government is to sign an MoU with the National Organization of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM) on 17 October. The agreement aims to create more jobs for the youth by promoting investment in information technology,
sector. Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Kamal Nath has approved the proposal. The move has been considered as an important step for the IT sector.

148) India ranks ________ in the 2019 Hurun Global Unicorn List.

A. 3rd  
B. 7th  
C. 21st  
D. 43rd

**Answer A**

**Explanation** India ranked third in the 2019 Hurun Global Unicorn List. It accounts for 21 of the world's 494 unicorns. China topped the list with 206 Unicorns, followed by the US with 203 Unicorns. The first edition of the Hurun Global Unicorn List 2019 was released by the Hurun Research Institute. The list is a ranking of the world's billion-dollar tech start-ups that were founded in the 2000s and not yet listed on a public exchange.

149) When is the World Maths Day observed?

A. 18 September  
B. 15 October  
C. 15 May  
D. 12 April

**Answer B**

**Explanation** World Maths Day is celebrated on 15 October every year. The Day aims to encourage students globally to take part in competitive math-themed games. The winners of the events will be given an opportunity to win prizes and scholarships.

150) What is the theme of the 2019 Asia-Pacific Trade and Investment Report (APTIR)?

A. Indirect tax Measures (ITM)  
B. International tariff Measures (ITM)  
C. Non-tariff measures (NTMs)  
D. None of the above
Answer C

Explanation The theme of the 2019 Asia-Pacific Trade and Investment Report (APTIR) is Navigating Non-tariff Measures (NTMs) towards Sustainable Development. The report provided an overview of NTM trends and developments in Asia and the Pacific region.

151) Who released the Asia-Pacific Trade and Investment Report (APTIR) 2019?

A. UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)
B. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)
C. World Trade Organization (WTO)
D. A&B

Answer D

Explanation The Asia-Pacific Trade and Investment Report (APTIR) was jointly released by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). The theme of 2019 APTIR is Navigating Non-tariff Measures (NTMs) towards Sustainable Development.

152) Which Country is to host the 5th Edition of the World Coffee Conference?

A. China
B. India
C. Malaysia
D. Singapore

Answer B

Explanation Bengaluru has been selected to host the 5th Edition of World Coffee Conference from 7-9 September 2020. International Coffee Organization (ICO) that functions under the United Nations. The Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India, will host the 3-day event. The theme of the conference is Sustainability Through Consumption.

153) When is the Global Handwashing Day observed?

A. 10 October
B. 15 October
Global Handwashing Day is celebrated on 15 October every year. The Day is observed to increase awareness and understanding about the importance of handwashing with soap. It also encourages people to hand as it is an effective and affordable way to prevent diseases and save lives.

154) Who instituted the World Maths Day?

A. UNICEF  
B. Google  
C. 3P Learning  
D. Wiz Ltd.

**Answer C**

Explanation The World Maths Day was first instituted by 3P Learning in 2007. The 3P Learning company was founded in 2003 and is headquartered in Sydney, Australia. The company partnered with United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) to reach children with learning resources and teaching aids across the world.

155) Which Country topped the 2019 Hurun Global Unicorn List?

A. USA  
B. China  
C. Russia  
D. Japan

**Answer B**

Explanation India ranked third in the 2019 Hurun Global Unicorn List. It accounts for 21 of the world's 494 unicorns. China topped the list with 206 Unicorns, followed by the US with 203 Unicorns. The first edition of the Hurun Global Unicorn List 2019 was released by the Hurun Research Institute.

156) India is the _______ largest producer of coffee in the world.
A.3rd  
B.6th  
C.9th  
D.12th  

**Answer B**  

**Explanation** India is the sixth-largest producer of coffee in the world. It produces about 5% of the total world coffee production. Countries like India, Vietnam, Indonesia, Nepal account for almost 33% of the world's coffee production in Asia.

**157) How many Unicorns, start-ups, did Hurun Research find across the world based in 25 countries and 118 cities?**

A.255  
B.494  
C.678  
D.942  

**Answer B**  

**Explanation** Hurun Research found 494 Unicorns across the world based in 25 countries and 118 cities. The unicorns were worth $3.4 billion on average and $1.7 trillion in total.

**158) What is the theme for the 2019 Global Handwashing Day?**

A.Clean hands make the world go round  
B.Fight germ warfare  
C.Infection control is in your hands  
D.Clean Hands for All  

**Answer D**  

**Explanation** The theme for the 2019 Global Handwashing Day is Clean Hands for All. The theme focuses that no one should be left behind in the Sustainable Development Agenda. The theme promotes handwashing programs. It should be known that it can put individuals at higher risk for diseases that impact their health, education, and economic outcomes.

**159) Where was the Sangam festival 2019-20 held?**
A. Rajasthan
B. J&K
C. Himachal Pradesh
D. Uttar Pradesh

Answer B

Explanation Jammu University organized the five-day youth festival Sangam 2019-20. It was conducted by Jammu University's Bhaderwah campus in association with the Rashtriya Rifles. The youth festival was inaugurated by Lt. General Ranbir Singh, the General Officer Commanding-in-chief, Northern Command.

160) When was the World Maths Day instituted?

A. 2003
B. 2005
C. 2007
D. 2000

Answer C

Explanation The World Maths Day first instituted by 3P Learning in 2007. The 3P Learning company was founded in 2003 and is headquartered in Sydney, Australia. The company partnered with United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) to reach children with learning resources and teaching aids across the world.

161) Which State is to organize India's first KHON Ramlila program?

A. Andhra Pradesh
B. Bihar
C. Odisha
D. Uttar Pradesh

Answer D

Explanation Uttar Pradesh State government is planning to organize India's first training and performance program of world-famous KHON Ramlila. It is a masked form of Ramlila art of Thailand. The program will be organized by the Culture Department of Uttar Pradesh in collaboration with the Thai government.
162) How many Unicorns, start-ups, of Hurun Research, are present in India?

A. 42  
B. 35  
C. 21  
D. 15

**Answer C**

**Explanation** India ranked third in the 2019 Hurun Global Unicorn List. It accounts for 21 of the world's 494 unicorns.

163) The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) awarded __________ biomedical scientists for their work in the area of health research to solve various health issues.

A. 25  
B. 46  
C. 58  
D. 70

**Answer B**

**Explanation** The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) awarded 46 biomedical scientists for their work in the area of health research to solve various health issues. The awards were presented by Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan.

164) Debayan Saha, an IIT Kharagpur graduate, has invented a device called __________ to curb air pollution.

A. PM 2.0  
B. PM 2.5  
C. PM 3.0  
D. PM 3.5

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Debayan Saha, an Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT) Kharagpur graduate, has invented a device called PM 2.5. The device aims to curb air pollution. The device, when fitted near the silencer pipe in vehicles, will curb air pollution.
165) When was the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY) launched?
A.2014
B.2016
C.2017
D.2018

Answer D

Explanation When was the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY) was launched in September 2018. Ayushman Bharat is a healthcare scheme. The scheme aims to provide health assurance to 50 crore poor and deprived people in rural and urban areas.

166) Who launched the Team Cashless India campaign?
A. Visa
B. Rupay
C. MasterCard
D. Paytm

Answer C

Explanation Mastercard and its brand ambassador MS Dhoni have launched Team Cashless India campaign. It aims to bring more merchants and customers on board to boost digital payments in India. The move is in line with Mastercard's endeavor to create an ecosystem that encourages users to use digital payments for their day-to-day purchases.

167) Which state tops the Innovation Index 2019 launched by the NITI Aayog?
A. Karnataka
B. Kerala
C. Tamil Nadu
D. Bihar

Answer A

Explanation NITI Aayog - Institute for Competitiveness as the knowledge partner, released the India Innovation Index (III) 2019. Karnataka is the innovative primary state in India, and it topped the Index list.
168) Who chairs the Asia Health 2019 Conference?

A. Rajnath Singh  
B. Vikram Sharma  
C. Dinesh Kumar  
D. Dr. Jitendra Singh  

Answer D  

Explanation Dr. Jitendra Singh chairs the Asia Health 2019 Conference.

169) Who inaugurates 20th All India Conference?

A. Shri G Kishan Reddy  
B. Shri Vikram Sharma  
C. Shri Dinesh Kumar  
D. Shri Naresh Iyer  

Answer A  

Explanation Shri G Kishan Reddy inaugurates 20th All India Conference. The conference attended through organizations/ States/UTs. Around 80 Fingerprint experts/delegates from across the country attended the inaugural function.

170) First Robotic restaurant two humanoids to serve customers in __________?  

A. Tamil Nadu  
B. Odisha  
C. West Bengal  
D. Kerala  

Answer B  

Explanation A restaurant in Odisha opened its doors to customers claiming to be the first eatery in eastern India, where two indigenously developed robots will serve customers.

171) Which bank ties up with the electricity department for online bill payment?
A. City Union Bank
B. Yes Bank
C. HDFC Bank
D. ICICI Bank

Answer C

Explanation The state electricity department tied up with the HDFC Bank for online payment of electricity bills wherein consumers in Goa can pay their bills digitally using the additional payment gateway.

172) Which country to introduce a 3% web tax on digital giants from 2020?
A. Pakistan
B. Ireland
C. Italy
D. Russia

Answer C

Explanation Italian scheme to yield about 600 million euros ($662 million) a year alternative revenues will allow it to avoid a scheduled increase in sales tax.

173) Which state govt inks deal with STPI to set up IT Park? TamilNadu Goa Bihar Kerala
A. TamilNadu
B. Goa
C. Bihar
D. Kerala

Answer B

Explanation The Goa government signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) for setting up an information technology (IT) park at Dona Paula.

174) Italy to introduce ______ web tax on digital giants from 2020?
Italian scheme to yield about 600 million euros ($662 million) a year alternative revenues will allow it to avoid a scheduled increase in sales tax. Italy to introduce 3% web tax on digital giants from 2020.

175) Which bank launched a contactless mobile payment facility for credit card holders?

A. Canara bank  
B. Corporation Bank  
C. State Bank of India  
D. Dena Bank

Answer C

SBI Card launched SBI Card Pay a payment feature based on Host Card Emulation (HCE) technology for faster, convenient, and more secure card payments using mobile phones.

176) India's MiG 29 to fly with Eurofighter Typhoon in ____________?

A. Thailand  
B. Indonesia  
C. Oman  
D. Russia

Answer A

The MiG 29 fighter aircraft of the Indian Air Force (IAF) will be flying alongside the Eurofighter Typhoon. The F-16 in India's bilateral air exercise with Oman.

177) Who is appointed as Global body World Steel Association Vice-Chairman?

A. Suresh Kumar
B.Vikram Sharma  
C.Dinesh Raj  
D.Sajjan Jindal

**Answer D**

**Explanation** Global body World Steel Association elected JSW Steel Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) Sajjan Jindal as its vice-chairman.

178) __________ became the first Assam district to introduce online?

A.Barpeta  
B.Boitamari  
C.Boitamari  
D.Hailakandi

**Answer D**

**Explanation** Hailakandi becomes the first Assam district to introduce online.

179) Which country signed deal to lease Pacific island in Solomons?

A.China  
B.Pakistan  
C.Russia  
D.Indonesia

**Answer A**

**Explanation** China signs deal to lease Pacific island in Solomons.

180) National Institute of Nutrition (NIN) Hyderabad centenary year 2019 theme?

A.Empowering the nation through nutrition  
B.Nation - Nutrition  
C.Nutrition - Important for Health  
D.Health Advice for Indians
Answer A

Explanation The NIN centenary 2019 year theme was Empowering the nation through nutrition.

181) BETI BACHAO, BETI PADHAO scheme to empower women launched in ___________

A.Kerala  
B.TamilNadu  
C.Odisha  
D.Rajouri

Answer D

Explanation BETI BACHAO, BETI PADHAO scheme to empower women launched in Rajouri.

182) Which state extends maternity leave benefits to teachers, other staff of private educational institutions?

A.TamilNadu  
B.Kerala  
C.West Bengal  
D.Himachal Pradesh

Answer B

Explanation Kerala state extends maternity leave benefits to teachers, other staff of private educational institutions.

183) Who becomes the youngest cricketer to score List A double hundred?

A.Yashasvi Jaiswal  
B.Chetan Sharma  
C.Ashok Malhotra  
D.Sandeep Patil

Answer A

Explanation Yashasvi Jaiswal became the youngest batsman in the world who score a double century in List A cricket. He scored 203 runs during the Vijay Hazare Trophy Elite Group A.
184) Which state police tie-up with AI firm to prevent the spread of fake news?

A. Maharashtra  
B. Tamil Nadu  
C. Kerala  
D. West Bengal  

Answer A

Explanation: Maharashtra police ties up with AI firm to prevent spread of fake news.

185) Adani group inks MoU for $ ______ billion chemical venture?

A. 4  
B. 5  
C. 6  
D. 7  

Answer A

Explanation: Adani group inks MoU for $ 4 billion chemical venture.

186) Flight from Chennai lands at Jaffna as Sirisena inaugurates Lanka's ______ international airport?

A. 3rd  
B. 4th  
C. 5th  
D. 2nd  

Answer A

Explanation: The Flight from Chennai lands at Jaffna as Sirisena inaugurates Lanka's 3rd international airport.

187) DRDO signs ________agreements on Technology Transfer

A. 30
B.28
C.27
D.26

**Answer A**

**Explanation** Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) signed 30 licensing agreements for Transfer of Technology (ToT) with 16 Indian companies. The company includes three start-ups, at Vibrant Goa Global Expo and Summit 2019.

188) ________ IFFI announces International Jury and Films in International Competition Section?

A. 50th
B. 48th
C. 47th
D. 46th

**Answer A**

**Explanation** The 50th IFFI announces International Jury and Films in International Competition Section.

189) Who is appointed as ECI special observer for Sikkim Bye-Elections?

A. Suresh Kumar
B. Dinesh Raj
C. Vikram Kumar
D. Vivek Dube

**Answer D**

**Explanation** ECI appoints Shri Vivek Dube as Special Observer for Sikkim Bye-Elections.

190) Who led the Indian delegation at G20 Finance Ministers?

A. Shri Rajnath Singh
B. Shri Prakash Javedakar
C. Shri Nitin Gadkari
D.Smt Nirmala Sitharaman

**Answer D**

**Explanation** Finance Minister Smt Nirmala Sitharaman led the Indian delegation at G20 Finance Ministers.

191) Where is the headquarters of ECI?

A. New Delhi  
B. Mumbai  
C. Chennai  
D. Hyderabad

**Answer A**

**Explanation** The Headquarters of ECI is New Delhi.

192) India Govt organises __________foot artificial limb fitment camp in Bangladesh?

A. Jaipur  
B. Chennai  
C. Bihar  
D. Goa

**Answer A**

**Explanation** India Govt organises Jaipur foot artificial limb fitment camp in Bangladesh.

193) Which scheme to empower women was launched in Rajouri?

A. Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana  
B. Atal Pension Yojana  
C. BETI BACHAO, BETI PADHAI scheme  
D. Midday Meal Scheme

**Answer C**

**Explanation** BETI BACHAO, BETI PADHAO scheme to empower women launched in Rajouri.
194) Which company signed MoU for a $4 billion chemical venture?

A. Ashok Leyland  
B. Reliance Communications  
C. Adani Group  
D. Tech Mahindra  

**Answer C**

**Explanation** Adani group inks MoU for a $4 billion chemical venture.

195) Bangladesh Govt nods to appoint administrators for recovery of dues from _______two telecos?

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

**Answer A**

**Explanation** Bangladesh Govt nods to appoint administrators for recovery of dues from top two telecos.

196) Hailakandi becomes first _______district to introduce online?

A. Himachal Pradesh  
B. Haryana  
C. Bihar  
D. Assam  

**Answer D**

**Explanation** Hailakandi becomes first Assam district to introduce online.

197) Italy to introduce 3% web tax on digital giants from__________?

A. 2020  
B. 2019
198) Shri G Kishan Reddy inaugurated ___ All India Conference?
A. 20th
B. 18th
C. 19th
D. 21st

**Answer A**

**Explanation** Shri G Kishan Reddy inaugurates 20th All India Conference.

199) Who signed 30 agreements on Technology Transfer?
A. Central Armed Forces
B. Indian Navy
C. Indian AirForce
D. DRDO

**Answer D**

**Explanation** DRDO signs 30 agreements on Technology Transfer.

200) When was NITI Aayog formed?
A. 2013
B. 2016
C. 2014
D. 2015

**Answer D**

**Explanation** NITI Aayog founded in the year 2015.
201) Dr Jitendra Singh chaired the ______ Health 2019 Conference

A. South America
B. Africa
C. North America
D. Asia

**Answer D**

**Explanation** Dr Jitendra Singh chairs the Asia Health 2019 Conference.

202) Worldsteel elects Sajjan Jindal as ________.

A. Chairman
B. Vice Chairman
C. President
D. Vice President

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Worldsteel elects Sajjan Jindal as Vice Chairman.

203) India's MiG ______ to fly with Eurofighter Typhoon in Oman?

A. 29
B. 28
C. 25
D. 26

**Answer A**

**Explanation** India's MiG 29 to fly with Eurofighter Typhoon in Oman.

204) Where was the Asia Health-2019 Conference held?

A. Kathmandu
B. Beijing
C. New Delhi
D. Jakarta
Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) is organizing the first edition of ASIA HEALTH 2019 from 16 October to 19 October 2019 in New Delhi. The conference included all the events and initiatives of the Healthcare Department.

205) Centre approved the proposal for admission of girl children in ________.  
A. CBSE  
B. Sainik School  
C. Military School  
D. Others  
Answer B  
Explanation Defence Minister Shri Rajnath Singh approved the proposal for admission of girl children in Sainik schools. The approval will be effective from academic session 2021-22 in a phased manner.

206) Who organized the first edition of ASIA HEALTH 2019?  
A. World Health Organization (WHO)  
B. World Economic Forum (WEF)  
C. Indian Economic Forum (IEF)  
D. Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)  
Answer D  
Explanation Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) is organizing the first edition of ASIA HEALTH 2019 from 16 October to 19 October 2019 in New Delhi. The conference included all the events and initiatives of the Healthcare Department.

207) Where did the Ministry of Defence conduct a pilot project for the admission of girl children in Sainik School Chhingchhip 2 years ago?  
A. Mizoram  
B. Assam  
C. Uttar Pradesh  
D. Bihar
The Ministry of Defence conducted a pilot project for the admission of girl children in Sainik School Chhingchhip in Mizoram two years ago. The move comes after the success of the project. Defence Minister Shri Rajnath Singh approved the proposal for admission of girl children in Sainik schools. The approval will be effective from academic session 2021-22 in a phased manner.

208) When was the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) formed?

A.1895
B.1910
C.1925
D.1953

Answer A

Explanation Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) organization works with the Government on policy issues. CII acts as a catalyst for change in Indias economic policy reforms. It was formed in 1895.

209) The ________ Nuclear Energy Conclave was held in New Delhi.

A.1st
B.5th
C.8th
D.11th

Answer D

Explanation The Union Minister of Atomic Energy and Space, Dr. Jitendra Singh, inaugurated 11th Nuclear Energy Conclave in New Delhi on 18 October 2019. The conclave was organized by India Energy Forum (IEF).

210) Who is the President of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)?

A.Vikram Kirloskar
B.T.V. Narendran
C.Chandrajit Banerjee
D. Sathish Kumar

**Answer A**

**Explanation** Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) organization works with the Government on policy issues. It was formed in 1895. The President of CII is Vikram Kirloskar, Vice President is T. V. Narendran, and Director-General is Chandrajit Banerjee.

**211) Who organized the 11th Nuclear Energy Conclave?**

A. India Energy Forum (IEF)  
B. India Economic Forum (IEF)  
C. India Atomic and Space Forum (IASF)  
D. National Energy Forum (NEF)

**Answer A**

**Explanation** The Union Minister of Atomic Energy and Space, Dr. Jitendra Singh, inaugurated 11th Nuclear Energy Conclave in New Delhi on 18 October 2019. The conclave was organized by India Energy Forum (IEF).

**212) Which Country got its approval from UNGA to be added as a member of the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC)?**

A. India  
B. Syria  
C. Venezuela  
D. Costa Rica

**Answer C**

**Explanation** The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) approved the addition of Venezuela to its 47-member UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC). It was opposed by Venezuela has been under a severe economic collapse.

**213) What is the theme of the 11th Nuclear Energy Conclave?**

A. Atomic and Nuclear Energy - A lead to the newer and safer technologies  
B. Economics of Nuclear Power - Innovation towards Safer & Cost-effective Technologies  
C. Nuclear and Atomic Energy - To build an effective solution to the Changing World
D. None of these

**Answer C**

**Explanation** The Union Minister of Atomic Energy and Space, Dr. Jitendra Singh, inaugurated the 11th Nuclear Energy Conclave in New Delhi on 18 October 2019. The theme of the 11th Nuclear Energy Conclave was Economics of Nuclear Power - Innovation towards safer & Cost-effective Technologies.

214) When was the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) formed?

A. 2000  
B. 2002  
C. 2004  
D. 2006

**Answer D**

**Explanation** United Nations Human Rights Council was formed on 15 March 2006. It is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland.

215) Government is planning to set up a new Nuclear Power Plant in _________ of Haryana.

A. Gurugram  
B. Ambala  
C. Gorakhpur  
D. Karnal

**Answer C**

**Explanation** The Gorakhpur Nuclear Power Plant or the Gorakhpur Haryana Anu Vidyut Pariyojana (GHAVP) is a proposed nuclear power plant to be built on a 560 hectares (1,400 acres) area west of Gorakhpur village of Fatehabad district of Haryana.

216) How many member states are there in the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC), excluding the recent addition of Venezuela?

A. 25  
B. 28
UNHRC is an organ that functions under the UNGA. It aims to protect and promote human rights around the world. There are 47 members in UNHRC, excluding the addition of Venezuela.

217) Which of the following was inaugurated during the 11th Nuclear Energy Conclave to educate the students and the general public about the applications of nuclear energy?

A. Hall of Atomic Energy  
B. Hall of Nuclear Energy  
C. Hall of Nuclear & Atomic Energy  
D. Centre of Nuclear & Atomic Energy

Answer B

Explanation During the 11th Nuclear Energy Conclave, the Hall of Nuclear Energy was inaugurated in Pragati Maidan in Delhi. It aimed to educate the students and the general public about the applications of nuclear energy.

218) Who is the President of the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC)?

A. Tijjani Muhammad-Bande  
B. Mara Fernanda Espinosa  
C. Antnio Guterres  
D. Coly Seck

Answer D

Explanation Ambassador Coly Seck, the Permanent Representative of Senegal to the United Nations Office at Geneva, was appointed as the President of the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) for a one-year term beginning on 1 January 2019.

219) Who is appointed as the Director-General of the National Security Guard (NSG)?
A. Anup Kumar Singh
B. H. T. Sangliana
C. Vinod Chaubey
D. Gopika Jahagirdar

Answer A

Explanation Ahmedabad city Police Commissioner Anup Kumar Singh was appointed as the Director-General of the National Security Guard (NSG) by the Ministry of Home Affairs. The recommendation of the Ministry of Home Affairs for Singh's promotion was sent on 10 October to the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT). The appointment was approved by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC).

220) The ________ meetings of the International Monetary and Financial Committee (IMFC) of IMF and the World Bank Group was held in Washington DC, the US.

A. 20th
B. 25th
C. 35th
D. 40th

Answer D

Explanation The 40th meetings of the International Monetary and Financial Committee (IMFC) of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank Group was held in Washington DC, the US.

221) With which Country did India sign 4 MoUs, during the recent visit of President in October 2019, including the sharing of white shipping information?

A. Ethiopia
B. The US
C. Malaysia
D. Philippines

Answer D
Explanation Indian President Ram Nath Kovind is on a five days visit to the Philippines. President Kovind held talks with his Philippine counterpart Rodrigo Duterte. India and the Philippines signed 4 MoUs during President Kovind's visit. The agreements include the sharing of white shipping information between the Philippine Coast Guard and the Indian Navy.

222) Christine Lagarde was the former Chief of ________.  
A. UNGA  
B. ADB  
C. IMF  
D. World Bank

Answer C

Explanation Former IMF chief Christine Lagarde is appointed head of the European Central Bank (ECB). She was nominated to become the President of the European Central Bank by the European Union Council.

223) Who participated in the 40th meetings of the International Monetary and Financial Committee (IMFC) of IMF and the World Bank Group?  
A. President Ram Nath Kovind  
B. PM Narendra Modi  
C. FM Nirmala Sitharam  
D. EAM Subrahmanyam Jaishankar

Answer C

Explanation The 40th meetings of the International Monetary and Financial Committee (IMFC) of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank Group was held in Washington DC, the US. Union Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, along with other officials, participated in the Annual Meetings Plenary session of the meeting. The meeting focused on Global Developments and Prospects. The discussion on the World Economic Outlook released on 15 October 2019.

224) When was the Ayushman Bharat of India and Asia Health and Well-Being Initiative (AHWIN) of Japan signed by Indian PM Modi?  
A. 2015  
B. 2016
C.2017
D.2018

**Answer D**

**Explanation** Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC) was signed during the visit of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to Japan in the context of Ayushman Bharat of India and Asia Health and Well-Being Initiative (AHWIN) of Japan in October 2018.

**225) Who is appointed as the head of the European Central Bank (ECB)?**

A. Christine Lagarde  
B. David Malpass  
C. Kristalina Georgieva  
D. Gita Gopinath

**Answer A**

**Explanation** Former IMF chief Christine Lagarde is appointed head of the European Central Bank (ECB). She was nominated to become the President of the European Central Bank by the European Union Council.

**226) Ministry of Defence is expecting an estimate of increase of around __________ in its defence exports by 2024.**

A. Rs.20,000 crore  
B. Rs.35,000 crore  
C. Rs.50,000 crore  
D. Rs.65,000 crore

**Answer B**

**Explanation** An estimate made by the Ministry of Defence (MoD) said that India is expecting at a three-fold jump, around Rs 35,000 crore, in its defence exports by 2024. The announcement about the estimate was made by Army Chief Gen Bipin Rawat at an event of the Indigenous Defence Equipment Exporters Association held at New Delhi.

**227) __________ is an exchange of advance information on the movement and identity of commercial non-military merchant vessels.**
228) What is the current defence export rate in India?
A. Rs.11,000 crore
B. Rs.23,000 crore
C. Rs.18,000 crore
D. Rs.24,000 crore

Answer A
Explanation The defence exports are currently Rs.11,000 crore. An estimate made by the Ministry of Defence (MoD) said that India is expecting at a three-fold jump, around Rs 35,000 crore, in its defence exports by 2024.

229) Who is the President of the Philippines?
A. Benigno Aquino III
B. Joseph Estrada
C. Rodrigo Duterte
D. Gloria Macapagal Arroyo

Answer C
Explanation Rodrigo Roa Duterte is the 16th and current President of the Philippines and the first from Mindanao to hold the office. He is the chair of the ruling PDPLaban party.

230) Where was the 40th meetings of the International Monetary and Financial Committee (IMFC) of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) held?
A. Washington DC
B. London
C. Geneva
D. New York

**Answer A**

**Explanation** The 40th meetings of the International Monetary and Financial Committee (IMFC) of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank Group was held in Washington DC, the US.

**231) When was the Central Bank of the European Union formed?**

A. 1992
B. 1995
C. 1998
D. 1985

**Answer C**

**Explanation** The Central Bank of the European Union formed on 1 June 1998. It is headquartered in Frankfurt, Germany. The European Central Bank is the central bank for the euro and administers monetary policy within the Eurozone. It comprises 19 member states of the European Union and is one of the largest monetary areas in the world.

**232) Where will the next defence expo, in February 2020, be held?**

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

**Answer C**

**Explanation** MoD is to conduct the next defence expo in Lucknow in the first and second weeks of February 2020. In the defence expo, defence industries supported by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and private enterprises will showcase their worth.

**233) Where was the 1st Joint Committee Meeting (JCM) under the 2nd Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC), which was signed on Healthcare and Wellness in October 2018 by PM Modi, held?**
A. New Delhi  
B. Jakarta  
C. Tokyo  
D. Beijing  

**Answer C**

**Explanation** Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare Dr. Harsh Vardhan co-chaired the 1st Joint Committee Meeting (JCM) along with Dr. Hiroto Izumi, Special Advisor to Prime Minister in Tokyo on 19 October 2019. JCM was held under the 2nd Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC), which was signed on Healthcare and Wellness in October 2018.
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