

PM-KISAN: PM Modi launches 'Pradhan Mantri KisanSamman Nidhi Yojana' from Gorakhpur, UP Gorakhpur, UP

- The Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Pradhan Mantri KisanSamman Nidhi Yojana (PM-KISAN) from Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh. On the launch day itself, the first instalment of Rs 2,000 was directly credited to the bank accounts of selected beneficiary farmers. Around 12 crore farmers are expected to benefit from PM-KISAN.
- The Pradhan Mantri KisanSamman Nidhi Yojana was announced in the Union Interim Budget 2019 by Finance Minister Piyush Goyal.
- The First Installment of Rs 2,021 crore was directly transferred into the bank accounts of 1,010,6,880 eligible farmers of 24 States and the Union Territories.
- The Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) under the Scheme PM-KISAN is being done through the System of Public Finance Management System (PFMS), a web-based payment and MIS IT application of the Government administered by the Controller General of Accounts (CGA).

GST Council reduces GST Rate on Real Estate projects; approves 5% rate for underconstruction houses construction houses

- The Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council met for its 33rd meeting and slashed GST rate on under-construction residential properties and the affordable housing projects.
- In case of non-affordable houses, the GST rate for under-construction flats and houses has been brought to 5 percent without Input Tax Credit (ITC), down from the present 12 percent. In case of affordable houses, the GST rate has been reduced to 1 percent without ITC from 8 percent.
- The revised rates will be applicable from April 1, 2019.

PM Modi dedicates National War Memorial to the nation

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated the National War Memorial to the nation in a solemn ceremonial function in New Delhi.
- The National War Memorial, located near the India Gate in New Delhi, is a fitting tribute to the soldiers who laid down their lives defending the nation, post-independence.
- The Memorial commemorates the soldiers who participated and made the supreme sacrifice in Peace Keeping Missions, and Counter Insurgency Operations.

The layout of the National War Memorial comprises four concentric circles, namely:

- Amar Chakra or Circle of Immortality
- Veerta Chakra or Circle of Bravery
- Tyag Chakra or Circle of Sacrifice
- Rakshak Chakra or Circle of Protection

Prime Minister Modi to confer National Youth Parliament Festival 2019 Awards

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will confer the National Youth Parliament Festival 2019 awards to the winners on February 27, 2019 at Vigyan Bhawan. Minister of State for Youth Affairs and Sports, Rajyavardhan Rathore had launched the National Youth Parliament Festival 2019 on January 12, 2019 in order to encourage the youth in the age group of 18-25 years to engage with public issues and understand the common man's point of view.
- National Youth Parliament Festival 2019 was jointly organised by National Service Scheme (NSS) and Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS) under the aegis of Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports. The themes of the festival were "Be the Voice of New India" and "Find solutions and contribute to policy".

Afghanistan begins export to India via Chabahar port

- Afghanistan has begun exports to India through Iran's Chabahar port. At the inauguration of the new export route in Zaranj city in western Nimroz province, President Ashraf Ghani said Chabahar port is the result of healthy cooperation between India, Iran and Afghanistan.

- Afghanistan's exports will increase to two billion dollar from the current one billion dollar in the next year. Indian ambassador Vinay Kumar said Afghanistan's exports to India have increased by 40 percent after the launch of air corridor between Kabul and New Delhi.

Nitin Gadkari lays foundation stone for Road Project in Phagwara

- Union Minister for Road Transport & Highways, Shipping and Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Nitin Gadkari laid the foundation stone for an elevated structure and vehicular underpass (VUP) on NH-44 at Phagwara City in Kapurthala district of Punjab.
- The length of this six lane project is 2.555 Kms, and approximate cost is Rs 165 crore. This project will bring safety and convenience to local road users.

Assam launches PRANAM commission to protect parents of state government employees

- Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal on February 26, 2019 launched the PRANAM Commission, which is a panel set up to look after the issues concerning a Bill brought in for the protection of parents of state government employees.
- The Parents Responsibility and Norms for Accountability and Monitoring (PRANAM) Bill, stated to be the first-of-its-kind bill in the country, aims to protect elderly parents of government employees in their times of need.
- The PRANAM Bill makes it mandatory for the state government employees to look after their parents and unmarried differently-abled siblings who do not have their own sources of income. Under the bill's provisions, if the PRANAM Commission gets a complaint that parents of a state government employee are being ignored, then 10 or 15 per cent of the employee's salary will be deducted by the government and paid to the parents or differently-abled siblings.

Exercise Sampriti 2019: India-Bangladesh joint military exercise

- India and Bangladesh will be conducting a joint military exercise, 'Exercise Sampriti 2019' at Tangail, Bangladesh from March 2 to March 15, 2019.
- This will be the eighth edition of the exercise which is hosted alternately by both countries. As part of the ongoing India-Bangladesh defence cooperation, Exercise Sampriti is an important bilateral endeavor between India and Bangladesh.
- The exercise is aimed to strengthen and broaden the aspects of interoperability and cooperation between the Indian and Bangladesh Armies. The exercise will involve tactical level operations in a counter insurgency and counter terrorism environment under the mandate of the United Nations.

ISRO to launch electronic intelligence satellite 'Emisat'

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) would be launching an electronic intelligence satellite Emisat for Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) in March 2019.
- In the special mission, ISRO would also be launching 28 third-party satellites and demonstrate its new technologies like three different orbits with a new variant of Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) rocket.
- The exact date of the mission has not been specified yet. ISRO would be using a PSLV rocket with four strap-on motors.
- For the first time, it will be trying to orbit the rocket at three different altitudes. The main passenger of the PSLV rocket will be DRDO's electronic intelligence satellite 'Emisat'. The satellite alone weighs about 420 kg. The remaining 28 satellites would cumulatively weigh about 250 kg.

National Institutes of Design inaugurated at Bhopal and Jorhat

- Union Minister of Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation, Suresh Prabhu inaugurated National Institutes of Design (NID) at Bhopal in Madhya Pradesh and Jorhat in Assam through video conference from New Delhi.

- Both institutes are autonomous institutions under the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry. The National Design Policy 2007 had recommended setting up design institutes on the lines of NID, Ahmedabad in other parts of India to promote design programs.
- Four new NIDs have been set up in Andhra Pradesh (Amaravati), Assam (Jorhat), Madhya Pradesh (Bhopal) and Haryana (Kurukshetra) with a total outlay of Rs. 434 crore.

Nigerian Prez Muhammadu Buhari re-elected for second term

- Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari has been re-elected for a second four year term. The country's Election Commission said, 76-year-old Buhari defeated his main rival, former Vice President Atiku Abubakar with a margin of around four million votes. Abubakar's People's Democratic Party has rejected the result.

Allahabad, Corporation, Dhanlaxmi Bank out of PCA

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) lifted lending curbs on two more public sector banks (PSBs), namely Allahabad Bank and Corporation Bank, besides also freeing private lender Dhanlaxmi Bank from the Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) Framework.
- Last month, Bank of India, Bank of Maharashtra and Oriental Bank of Commerce were taken out of the PCA Framework. In a statement, the central bank said that the Board for Financial Supervision (BFS) reviewed the performance of banks under PCA and noted that the government has infused fresh capital on February 21 into various banks, including some of the banks currently under the PCA framework.
- Of these banks, Allahabad Bank and Corporation Bank had received Rs 6,896 crore and Rs 9,086 crore, Capital infusion has shored up their capital funds and also increased their loan loss provision to ensure that the PCA parameters were complied with the regulator said.
- With the removal of Allahabad Bank and Corporation Bank, six public sector undertaking (PSU) banks — IDBI Bank, UCO Bank, Central Bank of India, Indian Overseas Bank, Dena Bank and United Bank of India are still under the PCA framework.

Paytm Payments Bank Launches Zero Balance Current Account

- Following a six month ban on starting new accounts by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Paytm Payments Banks has launched a zero balance current account with features such as unlimited free digital transactions and free debit card etc.
- This new feature targets individuals, sole business owners and other small businesses who could not meet the minimum required balance of current accounts offered by traditional banks.
- At the end of the day, account balances above INR 1 Lakh will be automatically transferred to a current account in a partner bank. However, there is no cap on amount deposits and transactions frequency during the day. Further, the unlimited cash deposits feature will also aid small merchants who receive large chunk of their payments in cash.

DCB Bank launches Open Banking for next-generation banking solutions

- DCB Bank announced the launch of its Open Banking Platform, a significant step towards creating a collaborative ecosystem with enterprises, fintechs and app developers, and enhancing customer-service delivery.
- Over 20 startups, fintechs, merchants, enterprises and developers will partner with DCB Bank for access to its Open Banking Platform APIs as well as collaboration on innovation and customer centric products.
- The Open Banking Platform APIs will provide seamless integration of banking services by improving the existing banking technology infrastructure and at the same time meet the growing demand for innovative solutions from new-age customers. DCB Bank runs a global innovation programme — DCB Bank Innovation Carnival — wherein it nurtures a strong relationship with the fintech and startup ecosystem.

- The Open Banking Platform will further strengthen this ecosystem and allow fintechs and startups to test their innovations quickly and efficiently.

ICICI Bank launches new super-premium credit card 'Emeralde'

- Private Sector lender ICICI Bank announced the launch of a new addition to its 'Gemstone collection of credit cards'.
- Christened, 'ICICI Bank Emerald Credit Card', the facility offers best-in-the industry rewards and benefits for senior professionals and self-employed entrepreneurs who are always on the go.
- The card has been curated with the best-in class experiences and features across travel, wellness and lifestyle for premium customers. A host of the new features are unprecedented in the industry.

SHREYAS: Union HRD Ministry launches Scheme to provide apprenticeship opportunities to graduates

- The Union Minister for Human Resources Development, Prakash Javadekar launched the 'Scheme for Higher Education Youth in Apprenticeship and Skills' (SHREYAS) for providing industry apprenticeship or training opportunities to fresh graduates of 2019.
- Launched primarily to skill non-technical students of BA, BSc. BCom courses, the SHREYAS programme intends to introduce BA, BSc, and BCom (Professional) courses in the higher educational institutions.
- These courses will be available to the students from Academic year April-May 2019. The scheme aims to boost the employment skills of Indian youth by providing them with 'on the job work exposure' through the National Apprenticeship Promotional Scheme (NAPS) and the National Career Service (NCS).

Jitendra Singh presents National e-Governance Awards 2019

- Minister of State in Prime Minister's Office, Dr Jitendra Singh presented the National e-Governance Awards, 2019 in New Delhi.
- The awards are given every year to recognise and promote excellence in implementation of e-Governance initiatives. The Minister gave the award in six categories. The initiative seeks to disseminate knowledge on effective methods of designing and implementing sustainable e-Governance initiatives.

Abhijeet Gupta lifts Cannes International Open trophy

- In Chess, Indian Grandmaster Abhijeet Gupta lifted the Cannes International Open trophy yesterday.
- He took an easy draw with Pier Luigi Basso of Italy in the ninth and final round. Having been tied for the top spot in the previous edition, Abhijeet won the tournament with 7.5 points. It was a clear point lead over nearest rivals Nikita Maiorov of Belarus, Nasuta Grzegorz of Poland and Yuri Solodovnichecko of Ukraine.

Manpreet Singh honoured with AHF's Player of the Year

- The Asian Hockey Federation has honoured Indian skipper Manpreet Singh with the 2018 Player of the Year award.
- Women team's striker Lalremsiami has bagged the Rising Player of The Year prize. Manpreet had led the Indian team to an unbeaten streak at the Asian Champions Trophy in Muscat where the team was declared joint winners with Pakistan. He also contributed to the team's silver medal win at the FIH Champions Trophy in Breda.

National Science Day 2019 observed; Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize to be conferred

- The National Science Day 2019 was observed across India on February 28, 2019 to mark the discovery of the Raman Effect by Indian physicist Chandrasekhara Venkata Raman (CV Raman).
- This year celebrations of the Day were organised by the Department of Science & Technology (DST). The theme of National Science Day 2019 was "Science for the People and the People for Science."

World Rare Disease Day observed

- World Rare Disease Day is observed on 29th February on Leap Years. 2019 World Rare Disease Day is observed on 28th February, 2019.
- The theme of 2019 World Rare Disease Day is Show your rare, show your care.

World NGO Day observed on 27 February

- The 2019 World NGO Day was observed globally on 27 February, 2019.
- The theme of 2019 World NGO Day was Celebrating Diversity & Inclusion.

RBI, Bank of Japan sign Bilateral Swap Arrangement for India to access 75 billion in US dollars

- The Reserve Bank of India and Bank of Japan have completed signing of the Agreement for Bilateral Swap Arrangement (BSA) between India and Japan.
- The BSA was negotiated between India and Japan during the visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Tokyo in October 2018.
- This BSA provides for India to access USD 75 billion and was approved by the Union Cabinet in January 2019. India can access the agreed amount of USD 75 billion for its domestic currency for the purpose of maintaining an appropriate level of balance of payments or short-term liquidity.
- The BSA provides India flexibility to use these reserves if at any point of time, in its judgment, there is need to use the resources available under BSA.

Nitin Gadkari inaugurates highways projects worth Rs 6900 Crore and NamamiGange Projects in Bihar

- Union Minister for Road Transport & Highways, Shipping and Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Nitin Gadkari inaugurated and laid foundation stones for sixteen National Highways projects worth Rs 6943.04 crore in Chhapra and Madhepura, Bihar on February 28, 2019.
- He also laid the foundation stone for several works under NamamiGange programme worth Rs 2826 crore at these two places.
- Gadkari also dedicated to the public 6 Ghats renovated and developed at a cost of Rs 19.75 crore. He also laid the foundation stone for 8 projects of rehabilitation and development work of Ghats at Chhapra at a cost of Rs 22 crore.

Dharmendra Pradhan hands over 100th Letter of Intent under SATAT scheme

- Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas & Skill development and Entrepreneurship, Dharmendra Pradhan handed over the 100th Letter of Intent (LoI) to the Compressed Bio-Gas (CBG) Entrepreneur under the SATAT scheme.
- The Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation (SATAT) is a developmental effort that would benefit both vehicle-users as well as farmers and entrepreneurs.
- SATAT was launched in October 2018 with a four-pronged agenda of utilising more than 62 million metric tonnes of waste generated every year in India, cutting down import dependence, supplementing job creation in the country and reducing vehicular emissions and pollution. Within 5 months of its launch, over 100 LoIs have been issued under the scheme.

Piyush Goyal announces "South Coast Railway (SCoR)" a new Zone of Indian Railways in Andhra Pradesh

- Railways Minister Piyush Goyal announced the "South Coast Railway (SCoR)" as the new Zone of Indian Railways.
- The new zone SCoR will comprise of existing Guntakal, Guntur and Vijayawada divisions of Andhra Pradesh. Waltair division shall be split into two parts. One part of Waltair division will be incorporated in the new South Coast Railway zone and will be merged with the neighbouring Vijayawada division.
- Remaining portion of Waltair division shall be converted into a new division with headquarter at Rayagada under East Coast Railway (ECoR). South Central Railway will comprise of Hyderabad, Secunderabad and Nanded divisions.

" Suresh Prabhu inaugurates 'Aviation Conclave 2019' with theme of "Flying for All"

- Suresh Prabhu, Union Minister of Commerce, Industry and Civil Aviation inaugurated the Aviation Conclave 2019 with the theme of "Flying for All". The conclave was about the future of Indian aviation.
- It brought together industry leaders, government and regulators for setting the tone and propelling to realize the Vision-2040. Over 30 industry leaders participated in 5-key sessions- Drone-Ecosystem Policy Roadmap, Roadmap for Manufacturing Aircraft, the Project Rupee Raftaar- Aircraft Financing from India, the National Air Cargo Policy and the Mission to transform Indian Airports into Next-Gen Aviation Hubs.

Monkeys declared as Vermin Species in Himachal Pradesh

- Himachal Pradesh Forest Minister Govind Singh Thakur informed that monkeys have been declared as Vermin species for next one year for eleven districts and 91 tehsils and sub-tehsils in Himachal Pradesh. Due to monkeys menace in Himachal Pradesh, humans are getting affected.
- Thus to resolve this issue, it became necessary to declare monkeys as vermin species.

PM Modi confers Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prizes for Science & Tech

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday conferred the Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prizes for Science and Technology for the years 2016, 2017 and 2018 in New Delhi.
- Among the ten scientists who got the prize for 2017 are Dr Deepak Gaur of Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi and Dr S Suresh Babu of Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre.
- There were thirteen prize winners for 2018. They include Dr Amit Kumar of IIT, Delhi and Dr Nitin Saxena, IIT, Kanpur.
- The Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize is the most coveted national recognition bestowed upon young scientists and engineers to honour their research and developmental work in India.
- It was first instituted in 1957 to honour the eminent scientist Dr Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar who was also the founder Director and the chief architect of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, CSIR.

World Zero Discrimination Day observed

- The 2019 World Zero Discrimination Day is observed on 1 March, 2019.
- The theme of 2019 World Zero Discrimination Day is "Act to change laws that discriminate".

Centre, ADB sign 926 million dollar loan agreement to operationalise two lines of Mumbai

- The Union Government signed a 926 million dollar loan agreement to operationalise two of the Mumbai Metro Rail System. The move will ease the distress of millions of commuters each day and help provide a cleaner and less congested city.
- The loan agreement was signed by Sameer Kumar Khare, Additional Secretary (Fund Bank and ADB), Department of Economic Affairs, on the behalf of the Indian Government and Kenichi Yokoyama, Country Director of ADB's India Resident Mission on behalf of ADB.
- The project loan is the single largest infrastructure loan in ADB history approved by the ADB Board on February 26, 2019. It will help fund lines 2A (Dahisar to D.N. Nagar), 2B (D.N. Nagar-Bandra-Mandale), and 7 (Dahisar [East] to Andheri [East]), totaling about 58 kilometers (km).
- The project will fund 63 six-car trains, signaling and safety systems and help establish a new dedicated metro operations organization to manage the entire metro network in Mumbai.
- The project will be implemented by the Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA). It is expected to be completed by the end of 2022.

Cabinet approves payment of Rs 1450 crore of National Housing Bank

- The Cabinet approved the payment of the face value of the subscribed share capital of Rs.1450 crore in National Housing Bank (NHB) to Reserve Bank of India (RBI) consequent to amendments made to the NHB Act, 1987 in 2018.

- The expenditure of Rs.1450 crore will be met out of Gross Budgetary Support 201819. The beneficiaries are the Reserve Bank of India and the Housing Sector.
- NHB is an apex agency established to operate as the principal agency to promote housing finance institutions in India. The change in ownership from RBI to Central Government will also segregate RBI's role as banking regulator and as owner of NHB.

Cabinet approves 'Pradhan Mantri JI-VAN yojana' for nancial support to Integrated Bioethanol

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the 'Pradhan Mantri JaiVidhan- VatavaranAnukoolfasalawasheshNivaran (JIVAN) Yojana' for providing financial support to the Integrated Bioethanol Projects.
- The scheme aims to incentivise 2G Ethanol sector and support the industry by creating a suitable ecosystem for setting up commercial projects and increasing Research & Development in this area.
- The Pradhan Mantri JI-VAN Yojana will be supported with the total financial outlay of Rs 1969.50 crore for the period 2018-19 to 2023-24.
 - Rs 1800 crore for supporting 12 Commercial projects
 - Rs 150 crore for supporting 10 demonstration Projects
 - Rs 9.50 crore will be provided to Centre for High Technology (CHT) as administrative charges

Indian economy expected to grow at 7.3% in 2019-20: Moody's

- Indian economy is expected to grow at 7.3 per cent in calendar years 2019 and 2020, the US-based rating agency Moody's stated on March 1, 2019.
- In its quarterly Global Macro Outlook for 2019 and 2020 released today, the agency said the country is less exposed to a slowdown in global manufacturing trade growth than other major Asian economies and emerging markets and is poised to grow at a relatively stable pace in the two years.

CCEA approves foreign investment of more than Rs. 5000 crore and up to Rs.25,000 crore in Vodafone Idea Limited

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved the FDI Proposal for Foreign Direct Investment of more than Rs. 5000 crore and up to Rs. 25000 crore in Vodafone Idea Limited (VIL) as part of a proposed equity fund raise by way of a Rights issue of equity shares.
- It also approved to take on record the proposed changes in the indirect foreign investment in the subsidiaries of VIL. The Vodafone Idea Limited (VIL) is a public listed company incorporated under the Companies Act, 1956.

Minister lays foundation stone for National Institute of Unani Medicine

- AYUSH Minister Shripad Yesso Naik on March 1, 2019 laid the foundation stone for National Institute of Unani Medicine at Ghaziabad in Uttar Pradesh.
- The Minister informed that his Ministry is establishing the Institute in Ghaziabad as a part of its commitment towards provision and promotion of quality education, research and healthcare services through Unani Medicine and other AYUSH systems.
- He further said that this institute would be developed with an approximate cost of 300 crore rupees on 10 acres of land. It would be one of the largest institutes of Unani Medicine in Northern India.

CCEA approves construction of four lane bridge over River Brahmaputra between Dhubri and Phulbari

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved construction of four lane bridge including approaches over river Brahmaputra between Dhubri on North Bank and Phulbari on South Bank on NH-127 B in the State of Assam/Meghalaya.
- The total length of the bridge will be 19.282 km. The bridge will be built under the scheme of 'North-East Road Network Connectivity Project Phase-03' under loan assistance with Japan at

the civil construction cost of Rs.3548 crore and total capital cost of Rs.4997.04 crore including the cost of Rs.55.68 crore towards the cost of land acquisition.

AIIMS Rewari: Cabinet approves setting up of 22nd AIIMS at Manethi, Haryana

- The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved the establishment of new All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Rewari at Manethi, Haryana at a cost of Rs 1299 crore.
- The Cabinet also approved the creation of a post of Director in the basic pay of Rs 2,25,000 (fixed) plus Non-Practicing Allowance (NPA) for the above AIIMS.
- The site for this AIIMS has already been finalised at Manethi in Rewari, Haryana. Like other AIIMS in the country, the AIIMS Rewari will also be set up under the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY).

Hasmukh Adhia Appointed Non-Executive Chairman Of Bank Of Baroda

- Former Finance Secretary Hasmukh Adhia was appointed as non-executive chairman of Bank of Baroda on Friday, according to a Personnel Ministry order.
- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved his appointment as part-time nonofficial director as well as non-executive chairman on the board of Bank of Baroda for a period of three years, it said. Mr Adhia, a 1981-batch IAS officer of Gujarat cadre, superannuated on November 30 last year.
- He last served as the Finance Secretary.

WEEKLY OBJECTIVE MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS ON CURRENT AFFAIRS: FOR WEEK 08/52 (FEB 26-MARCH 4- 2019)

1. Name the annual navy drill organized by the Iran Government, held in the waters of Strait of Hormuz, Makran coast, Oman Sea?
(a) Sarv 19 (b) Velayat 97 (c) Great Prophet IX
(d) Eghtedar-e Velayat (e) None of these
2. Which Country declared year-long state of emergency?
(a) Sudan (b) Pakistan (c) Iran (d) Yemen (e) None of these
3. Which of the following Currency is traded by Zimbabwe recently?
(a) ZWR dollar (b) ZWL dollar (c) ZWD dollar (d) RTGS dollar (e) None of these
4. Which State government conferred with Platinum award in Web Ratna under the category State/UT by Digital India Awards?
(a) Kerala (b) Tripura (c) Madhya Pradesh (d) NewDelhi (e) None of these
5. Name the Best Mobile App,that won the Gold in the Digital India Awards?
(a) eCourts Services (b) Meeseva App (c) ePathshala (d) T App Folio (e) None of these
6. What was the theme of the 14th Agricultural Science Congress held at New Delhi?
(a) Theme – “Strengthening Agriculture and Maritime Cooperation”
(b) Theme – “Partnering for change, engaging the world”
(c) Theme – “Resilient and Innovative Agriculture Transformation”
(d) Theme – “Innovations for Agricultural Transformation”
(e) None of these
7. Which of the following State becomes the first state in India to deploy specially-trained dogs to check smuggling of liquor?
(a) Gujarat (b) WestBengal (c) Bihar (d) Odisha (e) None of these
8. What is the helpline number launched by Uttarakhand Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat for quick redressal of public complaints?
(a) 1890 (b) 1895 (c) 1900 (d) 1905 (e) None of these

9. Name the Asia Pacific Region's biggest multinational military exercises, held in Thailand?
 - (a) Ekuverin
 - (b) Cobra Gold
 - (c) YudhAbhyas
 - (d) Shatrujeet
 - (e) None of these
10. Name the new social impact bonds launched by World Bank, United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women(UN Women) and Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) with an Initial corpus of Rs.300 Crore?
 - (a) Health and welfare Bonds(HWB)
 - (b) Employment Generation Bonds(EGB)
 - (c) Development Impact Bond (DIB)
 - (d) Women's Livelihood Bonds (WLBs)
 - (e) None of these
11. Which of the following is the only Indian company to make it to '50 Most Innovative Companies' list?
 - (a) JioSaavn
 - (b) TCS
 - (c) Wipro
 - (d) Infosys
 - (e) None of these
12. Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh was elected as the President of which of the following organization for the third time?
 - (a) Wrestling Federation of India (WFI)
 - (b) Indian Polo Association
 - (c) Indian Weightlifting Federation
 - (d) Indian Rugby Football Union
 - (e) None of these
13. Who was appointed as the Prime Minister of Sudan?
 - (a) Gaafar Nimeiry
 - (b) Bakri Hassan Saleh
 - (c) Mohamed Tahir Ayala
 - (d) Ismail al-Azhari
 - (e) None of these
14. Central Excise day is observed annually on _____?
 - (a) 25th February
 - (b) 24th February
 - (c) 26th February
 - (d) 22nd February
 - (e) None of these
15. Which country had signed agreement with India's National Skill Development Corporation(NSDC) Aerospace and Aviation Sector Skill Council for skilling Indians in aviation during Aero India 2019?
 - (a) Malaysia
 - (b) Singapore
 - (c) Russia
 - (d) US
 - (e) None of these
16. Who became the first woman to co-pilot the indigenously made combat fighter jet "Tejas" in the Aero India 2019?
 - (a) PV Sindhu
 - (b) SainaNehwal
 - (c) Nirmala Sitharaman
 - (d) Sushma Swaraj
 - (e) None of these
17. Name the scheme announced in Interim Budget 2019-20 and launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Gorakhpur to provide Rs.6000 per too small and marginal farmer families owning land upto 2 hectares?
 - (a) Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana
 - (b) Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana
 - (c) Pradhan Mantri KisanSamman Nidhi Scheme
 - (d) Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana
 - (e) None of these
18. GST rate of _____ per cent was levied without Input Tax Credit (ITC) on residential properties outside affordable segment?
 - (a) 3 per cent
 - (b) 5 per cent
 - (c) 7 per cent
 - (d) 4 per cent
 - (e) None of these
19. Who launched the "National Action Plan – Viral Hepatitis" in Mumbai?
 - (a) Ashwini Kumar Choubey
 - (b) Narendra Modi
 - (c) Rajnath Singh
 - (d) Piyush Goyal
 - (e) None of these

20. In which University, did Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled a bust of Mahatma Gandhi during his visit to South Korea?
 - (a) Seoul National University in Seoul, South Korea
 - (b) Yonsei University in Seoul, South Korea
 - (c) Korea University in Seoul, South Korea
 - (d) Hongik University in Seoul, South Korea
 - (e) None of these
21. According to the 2019 Passport Index which country topped the list?
 - (a) UAE
 - (b) India
 - (c) US
 - (d) Germany
 - (e) None of these
22. Name the film, which became the first super hero film to win a "Best Original Score" in 91st Academy Awards or Oscar Awards?
 - (a) Aquaman
 - (b) Avengers: Infinity War
 - (c) Wonder Woman
 - (d) Black Panther
 - (e) None of these
23. Which film won the Oscar in the Best Picture category?
 - (a) Bohemian Rhapsody
 - (b) Green Book
 - (c) Roma
 - (d) First Man
 - (e) None of these
24. Rashid Khan became first bowler in T20I history to pick 4 wickets in 4 balls. He belongs to which country?
 - (a) India
 - (b) Afghanistan
 - (c) Sri Lanka
 - (d) South Africa
 - (e) None of these
25. Scientists from Harvard-Smithsonian Centre for Astrophysics discovered an exo planet, that orbits its star in just 11 hours. What is the name of the newly discovered exoplanet?
 - (a) Hot Earth
 - (b) Proxima Centauri b
 - (c) Gliese 581c
 - (d) Ross 128 b
 - (e) None of these
26. What is the theme of the News18 Rising India Summit held in New Delhi?
 - (a) Theme-"Beyond Politics: Defining National Priorities"
 - (b) Theme-"Partnership with Youth to Achieve the SDGs-Moving from Policy to Action"
 - (c) Theme-"Shaping A New India"
 - (d) Theme-"Towards a Common Future"
 - (e) None of these
27. Name the 3 day festival based on the life and ideology of Mahatma Gandhi, held in India International Centre (IIC), New Delhi?
 - (a) Janmashtami
 - (b) Kajli Teej
 - (c) Words in the Garden
 - (d) Feast of Our Miracles
 - (e) None of these
28. Who will be conferred with 2019's META Lifetime Achievement Award at the 14th Mahindra Excellence in Theatre Awards (META) festival, held in New Delhi?
 - (a) Mahesh Elkunchwar
 - (b) Mulk Raj Anand
 - (c) Jhumpa Lahiri
 - (d) Ruskin Bond
 - (e) None of these
29. Which country bought Indian raw sugar for the first time in five years?
 - (a) Japan
 - (b) Russia
 - (c) Iran
 - (d) Bangladesh
 - (e) None of these
30. Who was appointed to the Amazon's Board of Directors?
 - (a) Shikha Sharma
 - (b) Indra Nooyi
 - (c) Sunil Mittal
 - (d) Shantanu Narayen
 - (e) None of these
31. Who launched the book 'Quality, Accreditation and Ranking – A Silent Revolution in the Offing in Indian Higher Education' edited by EPSI's Alternate President, Dr. H Chaturvedi?

- (a) Arun Jaitley (b) Venkaiah Naidu (c) Narendra Modi
 (d) Ram Nath Kovind (e) None of these
32. Which Country broke Australia's record for the highest Twenty20 cricket?
 (a) New Zealand (b) Iran (c) Ireland
 (d) Afghanistan (e) None of these
33. Who won the Cannes International Open trophy in Cannes, France?
 (a) Pier Luigi Basso (b) Abhijeet Gupta (c) Nikita Maiorov
 (d) Nasuta Grzegorz (e) None of these
34. Where did India successfully test fired the short range Quick Reaction Surface-to-Air Missile (QRSAM) for the Indian Army?
 (a) Anekal in Bengaluru (b) Chandipur in Balasore district, Odisha
 (c) Balanagar, Hyderabad (d) Dhamra, Odisha (e) None of these
35. Where did Tejas Networks Launches World's First Ultra-Converged Broadband Product?
 (a) World Sustainable Development Summit, New Delhi
 (b) First global conference on Blue Economy, Nairobi
 (c) Mobile World Congress, Barcelona
 (d) First Global Conference on Air Pollution and Health, Geneva
 (e) None of these
36. Where did Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the National War Memorial(NWM)?
 (a) Maharashtra (b) New Delhi (c) Gujarat
 (d) Odisha (e) None of these
37. Where did Civil Aviation Ministry Suresh Prabhu inaugurated the "Aviation Conclave 2019"?
 (a) Mumbai (b) New Delhi (c) Bengaluru
 (d) Odisha (e) None of these
38. When was the World NGO Day 2019 celebrated?
 (a) 25th February, 2019 (b) 26th February, 2019 (c) 27th February, 2019
 (d) 28th February, 2019 (e) None of these
39. Which Country will host the 2020 ICC Women's T20 World Cup?
 (a) Bangladesh (b) India (c) New Zealand
 (d) Australia (e) None of these
40. Who became the 2nd Indian to hit two consecutive T20 tons?
 (a) Unmukt Chand (b) Ishan Kishan (c) Virat Kohli
 (d) Rohit Sharma (e) None of these
41. Who was elected as the President of Nigeria for the second time?
 (a) Muhammadu Buhari (b) Ibrahim Babangida (c) Shehu Shagari
 (d) Abdulsalami Abubakar (e) None of these
42. Hemand Bhargava was appointed as the Non-Executive Chairman of which of the following bank?
 (a) Union Bank of India (b) IDBI Bank (c) Yes Bank
 (d) Indian Bank (e) None of these
43. Central Zone Power Distribution Company (CZPDC), Bhopal along with which of the following Distribution Company, honoured with the Saubhagya Award?
 (a) Damodar Valley Corporation, West Bengal
 (b) West Zone Power Distribution Company (WZPDC), Indore
 (c) Dakshin Haryana Bijli Vitran Nigam, Haryana
 (d) Chamundeshwari Electricity Supply Corporation, Karnataka
 (e) None of these

44. Name the app launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during National Youth Parliament Festival 2019?
 (a) Khelo India App (b) MyGov App (c) UMANG App
 (d) Seva App (e) None of these
45. Which of the following Edition of India-Italy Joint Commission for Economic Cooperation (JCEC), held in New Delhi?
 (a) 19th (b) 15th (c) 17th
 (d) 20th (e) None of these
46. Name the policy approved by Cabinet to develop India as a Software Product Nation Unit?
 (a) Software Product Nation Policy 2019
 (b) Software Products and its Policy 2019
 (c) National Policy on Software Products 2019
 (d) National Policy on Software Information 2019
 (e) None of these
47. India had signed MoU with which of the following country in the field of Renewable Energy?
 (a) Morocco (b) Russia (c) Tajikistan
 (d) Thailand (e) None of these
48. Name the Scheme, funded by the World Bank and the Government of India, in order to strengthen the unorganised food processing sector concentrated in rural areas?
 (a) Gram Samridhi Yojana
 (b) Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojna
 (c) Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana
 (d) Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana
 (e) None of these
49. Which of the following city hosted the 79th Indian History Congress (IHC)?
 (a) Mumbai, Maharashtra (b) Kolkata, West Bengal (c) Guwahati, Assam
 (d) Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh (e) None of these
50. Where did AYUSH Minister laid the foundation for National Institute of Unani Medicine recently?
 (a) Mumbai in Maharashtra (b) Ghaziabad in Uttar Pradesh (c) Guwahati in Assam
 (d) Bhubaneswar in Odisha (e) None of these

ANSWER KEYS

| | | | | | | | | | |
|----|---|----|---|----|---|----|---|----|---|
| 1 | b | 11 | a | 21 | a | 31 | b | 41 | a |
| 2 | a | 12 | a | 22 | d | 32 | d | 42 | b |
| 3 | d | 13 | c | 23 | b | 33 | b | 43 | b |
| 4 | b | 14 | b | 24 | b | 34 | b | 44 | a |
| 5 | c | 15 | b | 25 | a | 35 | c | 45 | d |
| 6 | d | 16 | a | 26 | a | 36 | b | 46 | c |
| 7 | c | 17 | c | 27 | c | 37 | b | 47 | c |
| 8 | d | 18 | b | 28 | a | 38 | c | 48 | a |
| 9 | b | 19 | a | 29 | c | 39 | d | 49 | d |
| 10 | d | 20 | b | 30 | b | 40 | b | 50 | b |