

### Current Affairs March Questions 2018

1. **Union Cabinet has approved the continuation of Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) beyond the 12th Plan period (2012-2017) for three years up to 2019-20. What is the fund allocated for this purpose?**

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|------------------|------------------|
| 1. Rs 4000 crore | 2. Rs 4500 crore |
| 3. Rs 5000 crore | 4. Rs 5500 crore |
| 5. Rs 6000 crore |                  |

Answer - 4. Rs 5500 crore Explanation : Union Cabinet has approved the continuation of Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) beyond the 12th Plan period (2012-2017) for three years up to 2019-20. PMEGP is a credit linked subsidy programme for generation of employment opportunities through establishment of micro enterprises in rural as well as urban areas. Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) is the nodal implementation agency for implementation of PMEGP at national level. Extending this programme for another three years will generate sustainable employment opportunities for 15 lakh persons. The programme has been continued with a total outlay of Rs 5500 crore.

2. **Which state government has decided to establish State Sanskrit Education Council to improve formal education of Sanskrit in the state?**

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|--------------|--------------|
| 1. Rajasthan | 2. Assam     |
| 3. Sikkim    | 4. Karnataka |
| 5. Delhi     |              |

Answer - 5. Delhi Explanation : Delhi government has decided to establish State Sanskrit Education Council to improve formal education of Sanskrit in Delhi. Deputy Chief Minister of Delhi, Manish Sisodia has ordered the education department to go through representations received by Delhi government regarding Sanskrit education in schools and colleges. He said that, the education department will study the representations and take necessary steps to form a Delhi State Sanskrit Education Council.

3. **Which city will host the 2020 Summer Olympics?**

- |           |            |          |           |
|-----------|------------|----------|-----------|
| 1. Bern   | 2. Beijing | 3. Tokyo | 4. Greece |
| 5. Mumbai |            |          |           |

Answer - 3. Tokyo Explanation : On 28th February 2018, the Tokyo Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games, launched the superhero mascots for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, at the Kakezuka school in Tokyo.

The winning Olympic and Paralympic mascots have not yet been named. The Olympic mascot has a futuristic blue and white chequered pattern. It is said to have a special power that enables it to move anywhere instantly. The Paralympic mascot has a pink and white design inspired by cherry blossoms. It is said to have special power to move things just by looking at them. Name for the mascots will be decided by the selection panel and a formal launch will be

performed in July or August 2018. The mascots were selected through voting after designs were submitted.

4. **Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has allowed a limit of Rs. \_\_\_\_\_ for foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) to go long in Interest Rate Futures (IRFs)?**

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|---------------|---------------|
| 1. 1000 lakh  | 2. 5000 lakh  |
| 3. 1000 crore | 4. 2500 crore |
| 5. 5000 crore |               |

Answer - 5. 5000 crore Explanation : Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has allowed a limit of Rs. 5000 crore for foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) to go long in Interest Rate Futures (IRFs). An agreement to buy or sell a debt instrument at a specified future date, at a price that is fixed today, is referred to as Interest Rate Futures (IRFs). IRF is a derivative instrument based on an underlying security, which can either be a Government Bond or a Treasury Bill. Currently, the FPI limit for Government Securities (G-Secs) is mutually interchangeable between investments in G-Secs and investment in IRF, with long position in IRF capped at 90% of G-Sec limit. The decision to increase the position limit has been taken to further market development and to ensure that FPIs can access IRFs in an uninterrupted way.

5. **In which state, the world's largest solar park 'Shakti Sthala' was inaugurated?**

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|---------------|-------------------|
| 1. Kerala     | 2. Rajasthan      |
| 3. Karnataka  | 4. Madhya Pradesh |
| 5. Uttarkhand |                   |

Answer - 3. Karnataka Explanation : Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah inaugurated 'Shakti Sthala' a solar power park with 2,000 megawatt capacity at Pavagada in Tumakuru district of Karnataka. The Shakti Sthala is built on an area of 13,000 acres. It was set up at a cost of Rs 165 billion. It generated 600 MW power as of January 2018. Additional 1,400 MW would be generated by December 2018. Karnataka Energy Minister D. K. Shivakumar said that, farmers of the Pavagada region who have leased out land for the park are partners and beneficiaries of Shakti Sthala. Around 2,300 farmers are part of this project. They have rented their lands for Rs 21,000 per acre per annum. Siddaramaiah said that, Karnataka has become the third-largest producer of renewable energy in India.

6. **Who won silver medal in in the women's 50kg freestyle event, at the Asian Wrestling Championships in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan?**

- |                   |                   |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Subba Reddy    | 2. Aravind Godson |
| 3. Rajendra Kumar | 4. Harpreet Singh |
| 5. Vinesh Phogat  |                   |

Answer - 5. Vinesh Phogat

Explanation : Vinesh Phogat won silver medal in in the women's 50kg freestyle event, at the Asian Wrestling Championships in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. India's Vinesh Phogat was defeated 2-3 by

China's Chun Lei in the finals of women's 50kg freestyle event. She won silver medal in the women's 50kg freestyle event. India's Sangeeta defeated Korea's Jieun Um in the women's 59kg freestyle event and won a bronze medal. India's Harpreet Singh defeated Uzbekistan's Khashimbekov 11-3 and won a bronze medal in the 82kg Greco-Roman event. India's Rajendra Kumar defeated Uzbekistan's Mirakhmedov and won bronze medal in the 55kg Greco-Roman event.

**7. Which Indian Actor-Politician has been honoured with a lifetime achievement award for his contribution to the fields of arts and politics at the annual 'Political and Public Life Awards' presented by Britain's Asian Voice weekly newspaper?**

- |                     |                     |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Kamal Hasan      | 2. Amitabh Bachchan |
| 3. Shatrughan Sinha | 4. Govinda          |
| 5. Vinod Khanna     |                     |

Answer - 3. Shatrughan Sinha Explanation : Indian Actor-politician Shatrughan Sinha has been honoured with a lifetime achievement award for his contribution to the fields of arts and politics at the annual 'Political and Public Life Awards' presented by Britain's Asian Voice weekly newspaper. 'Political and Public Life Awards' presented by Britain's Asian Voice weekly newspaper, honours individuals who have made a significant impact on public life or made a difference in their local communities. The award ceremony was held on March 1, 2018 at the Members' Dining Room in the House of Commons building in UK's Parliament complex. Shatrughan Sinha started his career as an actor in late 1960s. Till date, he has acted in over 225 films. He is a member of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). He represents Bihar state's Patna Sahib Constituency in the Lok Sabha.

**8. By defeating Pakistan, which country won the inaugural IBSF Snooker Team World Cup 2018 in Doha, Qatar?**

- |              |          |
|--------------|----------|
| 1. Argentina | 2. USA   |
| 3. India     | 4. Japan |
| 5. Malaysia  |          |

Answer - 3. India Explanation : India won the inaugural IBSF Snooker Team World Cup in Doha, Qatar. India beat Pakistan by 3-2 in the best-of-five final. In the finals, Indian duo of Pankaj Advani and Manan Chandra staged a remarkable recovery after being 0-2 down. In the semi finals, India won against Iran by 3-2, while Pakistan had beaten Hong Kong by 3-2.

**9. Shubhankar Sharma is related to which of the following?**

- |             |              |
|-------------|--------------|
| 1. Swimming | 2. Golf      |
| 3. Hockey   | 4. Wrestling |
| 5. Tennis   |              |

Answer - 2. Golf

Explanation : Indian golfer Shubhankar Sharma secured tied second position after the opening round of the World Golf Championships-Mexico Championship at Mexico City. Shubhankar Sharma fired six-under 65 and obtained tied second position after the opening round. Now, he is one shot behind Louis Oosthuizen. This is the first WGC tournament for Shubhankar Sharma. Shubhankar Sharma is 21 years old.

**10. In which state of India, the food processing centre will be launched, in collaboration with Israel?**

- |              |            |
|--------------|------------|
| 1. Assam     | 2. Manipur |
| 3. Meghalaya | 4. Mizoram |

5. Bihar

Answer - 4. Mizoram Explanation : Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER), MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh, launched the social media of "Namaste Shalom", a magazine on India-Israel relations. The magazine 'Namaste Shalom' is edited by Tarun Vijay, former MP. Mr. Daniel Carmon, Israeli Ambassador to India, and other officials were also present on the occasion. Dr Jitendra Singh said that, a food processing centre in collaboration with Israel will be launched in Aizwal, Mizoram on 7th March 2018. The centre has been established at a cost of Rs 8-10 crore. This centre has been set up exclusively for processing of citrus fruits. This is the first such centre with Israeli collaboration in the North East region. This centre has been established through tripartite collaboration of Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India, Government of Israel and State Government of Mizoram.

**11. Which State Government has launched 'Ama Gaon, Ama Vikas' (our village, our development) programme with an objective to reach out to the people in rural areas of the state and involve them in developmental activities?**

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|-------------------|----------------|
| 1. Gujarat        | 2. Maharashtra |
| 3. Madhya Pradesh | 4. Odisha      |
| 5. Goa            |                |

Answer - 4. Odisha Explanation : Odisha State Government has launched 'Ama Gaon, Ama Vikas' (our village, our development) programme with an objective to reach out to the people in rural areas of Odisha and involve them in developmental activities. On March 3, 2018, Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik flagged off 'Ama Gaon, Ama Vikas' video vans. These video vans will move across Odisha and will highlight various welfare schemes of Government. Through the Wi-fi enabled video walls in these vans, people would be able to send their grievances directly to the Chief Ministers' Office Secretariat in Bhubaneswar. Odisha State Government believes that this initiative will help in solving people's grievances instantly.

**12. Name the Indian Navy Sailing Vessel (INSV) which had arrived at a port in Cape Town in South Africa on 2nd March 2018?**

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|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. Tarini | 2. Nandhi | 3. Dhanvi | 4. Varuna |
| 5. Mhadei |           |           |           |

Answer - 1. Tarini Explanation : On 2nd March 2018, the all-women Indian crew circumnavigating the globe on the Indian Navy Sailing Vessel (INSV) Tarini arrived at a port in Cape Town in South Africa. This expedition by the all-women Indian crew is named Navika Sagar Parikrama. It has reached Cape Town in South Africa during the last phase of its voyage. This is the first all-women Indian crew to go on a circumnavigation of the globe. Captain of the vessel is Lieutenant Commander Vartika Joshi. INSV Tarini was flagged-off from Goa on 10th September 2017 by Union Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. INSV Tarini is expected to leave Cape Town on 14th March 2018 and return to Goa in April 2018, completing its voyage.

**13. Who won gold medal with a world record score at the ISSF World Cup 2018 in Guadalajara, Mexico?**

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|------------------|------------------|
| 1. Stacy Keibler | 2. Shahzar Rizvi |
|------------------|------------------|

3. Trish Stratus  
5. Jitu Rai

Answer - 2. Shahzar Rizvi Explanation : Indian shooter Shahzar Rizvi won gold medal with a world record score and Jitu Rai and ezzz Mehuli Ghosh won bronze medals at the ISSF World Cup in Guadalajara, Mexico. India's Shahzar Rizvi shot 242.3 making a world record in the finals of the men's 10m air pistol and defeated Germany's Christian Reitz (239.7). Shahzar Rizvi won gold medal in the 10m air pistol event. India's Jitu Rai scored 219 in the men's 10m air pistol event and won bronze medal. Mehuli Ghosh shot a world junior record 228.4 and won bronze medal in the women's 10m air rifle event.

**14. Davide Astori, passed away recently due to a sudden illness, in his room at the La di Moret hotel in Udine, Italy. He belonged to which of the following sport?**

1. Volleyball  
3. Football  
5. Swimming
2. Handball  
4. Wrestling

Answer - 3. Football Explanation : Davide Astori, an Italian footballer, passed away due to a sudden illness, in his room at the La di Moret hotel in Udine, Italy. Davide Astori was 31 years old. He was captain and defender of the Fiorentina team. He joined Fiorentina team in 2016. Earlier he had played for Cagliari team. The game that Fiorentina team was scheduled to play on 4th March 2018 was cancelled due to Davide Astori's sudden demise.

**15. India holds which rank in Global Firepower (GFP) list 2017?**

1. 1st  
3. 3rd  
5. 5th
2. 2nd  
4. 4th

Answer - 4.4th Explanation : In terms of military prowess, India has ranked 4th out of 133 countries on the Global Firepower (GFP) list 2017. Ranking in Global Firepower List is based on Country's Power Index Score, which is arrived at by assessing the countries on 50 parameters. Available manpower is the most important parameter and thus countries with large population tend to rank higher. Geographical factors, natural resources, logistical efficiency and local industry also affect the final ranking. Although nuclear stockpiles are not taken into consideration, recognised/suspected nuclear weapons possession fetches a bonus. More importantly, ranking does not solely rely on number of weapons available, rather it focuses on weapons diversification.

**16. Which Bank introduced a new variable interest rate mortgage product that will be linked to the 90-day Treasury bills and will change every quarter?**

1. Axis Bank  
3. Union bank of India  
5. IDBI Bank
2. HDFC Bank  
4. Citibank

Answer - 4. Citibank Explanation : Citibank introduced a new variable interest rate mortgage product that will be linked to the 90-day Treasury bills and will change every quarter. Citibank will charge a spread above the 90-day Treasury bill rate based on the borrower profile. Changes will be made in the rates once in every quarter on March 1, June 1, September 1 and December 1. Citibank will take the t-bill rate on 12th of February, May, August and November from Financial Benchmarks India Pvt Ltd to fix the benchmark rate. Citibank has chosen 90 day treasury bills since it provides better accuracy on local rates. Also, resetting the

rates every quarter, makes sure that, the rates are in line with market reality.

**17. 90th Academy Awards ceremony, popularly referred to as Oscars 2018, honouring the best films of 2017 was held in Los Angeles, California, United States. Which movie won the maximum number of awards?**

1. Darkest Hour  
3. A Fantastic Woman  
5. Blade Runner 2049
2. Call Me by Your Name  
4. The Shape of Water

Answer - 4. The Shape of Water Explanation : 90th Academy Awards ceremony, popularly referred to as Oscars 2018, honouring the best films of 2017 was held in Los Angeles, California, United States. The ceremony was hosted by comedian Jimmy Kimmel. Fantasy drama film, 'The Shape of Water' got the most awards (in 4 categories) including the Best Picture Award. 'The Shape of Water' was also credited with most nominations (in 13 categories).

**18. Who won the rapid event at the 11th Tal Memorial chess in Moscow, Russia?**

1. Viswanathan Anand  
3. Anatoly Karpov  
5. Shakhriyar Mamedyarov
2. Garry Kasparov  
4. Bobby Fischer

Answer - 1. Viswanathan Anand Explanation : Viswanathan Anand won the rapid event at the 11th Tal Memorial chess in Moscow, Russia. Viswanathan Anand completed the rapid event with 6 points and emerged as the winner. Shakhriyar Mamedyarov finished second with 5 points. It was a 10-player event. It was played as a single round-robin competition. Players should make all of their moves in 25 minutes.

**19. Sarat Mohanty passed away recently. Who was he?**

1. Dietician  
3. Wrestler  
5. Bike Racer
2. Comedian  
4. Horse Racer

Answer - 2. Comedian Explanation : On 3rd March 2018, Sarat Mohanty died following a long term illness, at a hospital in Odisha. Sarat Mohanty was 88 years old. He was a comedian. He had acted in several Odia movies. He had also acted in various TV serials. His popular works are: Laxmi, Amadabata, Kaa, Stree, Puja Phula, Bhulihuena, Malhajanha, etc.

**20. Shigmotsav or Shigmo is the biggest Hindu festival celebrated in which state?**

1. Rajasthan  
3. Goa  
5. Maharashtra
2. Gujarat  
4. Odisha

Answer - 3. Goa Explanation : On 3rd to 17th March 2018, Shigmotsav 2018 is conducted in various regions of Goa. Shigmotsav or Shigmo is the biggest Hindu festival in Goa. During the festival, parades are conducted that depicts the life of Goan people. The parade features folk performances by local men and women. Folk dances like Ghode Modni and Fugdi are performed. Shigmotsav 2018 focuses on traditional folk dances and performance of mythological scenes. During the parade, Goan people are seen in colorful dresses with multi coloured flags and they play large musical instruments like Dhol Tasha and flutes.

**21. Which city of US, for the first time, passed its own net-neutrality law after US regulator, Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) repealed rules set during Obama administration that banned internet providers from blocking content or interfering with online traffic?**

1. New York  
3. Washington
2. Los Angeles  
4. Chicago

5. Houston

Answer - 3. Washington Explanation : Washington became the 1st state in US to pass its own net-neutrality law after US regulator, Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) repealed rules set during Obama administration that banned internet providers from blocking content or interfering with online traffic. Washington's bill for its own net-neutrality laws was signed by Governor Jay Inslee. The bill forbids internet service providers from blocking or slowing the flow of web content, or from charging websites for higher delivery speeds. Provisions of this bill may technically be in contravention to FCC's order of repealing net neutrality rules which forbid states from filling the void with their own rules.

**22. What is "Saposhi"?**

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|---------------------------------------|--------------|
| 1. Malware                            | 2. Hurricane |
| 3. Warship                            |              |
| 4. Newly discovered species of Lizard |              |
| 5. Indian Navy Ship                   |              |

Answer - 1. Computer Malware Explanation : A new malware named Saposhi has been detected, which can take over electronic devices and make them as 'bots' that can be exploited for any purpose. Saposhi has been detected recently by cyber security agencies. It is being monitored and studied currently. So far, the Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT) has not released any alert about Saposhi. It has been said that, alerts and guidelines about protecting devices from Saposhi will be launched soon. Saposhi can take over electronic devices and can create a Distributed Denial Of Service attack.

**23. What is the fund allocated by the Central Government for the second phase of the Impacting Research Innovation and Technology (IMPRINT) India programme?**

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|------------------|------------------|
| 1. Rs 2500 crore | 2. Rs 2000 crore |
| 3. Rs 1500 crore | 4. Rs 1000 crore |
| 5. Rs 500 crore  |                  |

Answer - 4. Rs 1000 crore Explanation : Central Government has sanctioned a grant of Rs 1000 crore for the second phase of the Impacting Research Innovation and Technology (IMPRINT) India programme. Announcement in this regard was made by Union Minister for Human Resources and Development, Prakash Javadekar at the Visitors Conference held in New Delhi on March 6, 2018. Launched in 2015, IMPRINT India is a joint initiative of Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) and Indian Institute of Science (IISc), aimed at identifying areas of relevance to society that require innovation, ensuring higher funding support for research into these areas and measuring the research's impact on people's standard of living. Under the IMPRINT-I Programme, 142 projects at a cost of Rs. 318.71 crore are already under implementation. These projects are from important areas including security and defence, energy, health care, climate change, etc. Under the IMPRINT-II, a fund is being jointly created by the Department of Science and Technology and Ministry of Human Resource Development.

**24. Union Minister of State for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Mahesh Sharma, informed Rajya Sabha that headquarters of the Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI) has been shifted from Chennai to \_\_\_\_\_?**

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|---------------|----------------|
| 1. Ballabgarh | 2. Kurukshetra |
|---------------|----------------|

3. Mewat

5. Chandigarh

4. Gurgaon

Answer - 1. Ballabgarh Explanation : Union Minister of State for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Mahesh Sharma, informed Rajya Sabha that headquarters of the Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI) has been shifted from Chennai to Haryana's Ballabgarh. The reason cited behind shifting the headquarters is to ensure better coordination between the environment ministry and the board. AWBI is a statutory advisory body established in 1962 under The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960. It advises the Government of India's Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change on matters of animal welfare. Well-known humanitarian Rukmini Devi Arundale was instrumental in setting up the board and was its first chair.

**25. To celebrate the 70 years of successful Indo-Russia ties, 'Vision for Future' event was conducted in which city of India?**

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|--------------|-------------|
| 1. Ahmadabad | 2. Itanagar |
| 3. Hyderabad | 4. Gurgaon  |
| 5. New Delhi |             |

Answer - 5. New Delhi Explanation : On 6th to 8th March 2018, 'Vision for Future' event is conducted to celebrate the 70 years of successful Indo-Russia ties, in New Delhi. The Vision for Future event is organised by Ministry of External Affairs of India (Eurasian Division). It is co-organised by International Federation of Indo-Russian Youth Clubs and BRICS International Forum. The event is supported by Embassy of the Russian Federation in India and Russian Center of Science and Culture. This event is aimed at strengthening strategic partnership between India and Russia. Mains events of this programme are: First India-Russia Youth Parliament and India-Russia Excellence Award Ceremony & launch of Youth Festival Calendar. The event will highlight dynamic opportunities of cooperation between India and Russia to the youth.

**26. Which Indian Government's Firm participated in World ATM Congress (WATMC) 2018 which was held at Madrid, Spain from 6th to 8th March 2018?**

- |                    |         |
|--------------------|---------|
| 1. Indian Railways | 2. ONGC |
| 3. HAL             | 4. AAI  |
| 5. Indian Army     |         |

Answer -4. Airports Authority of India (AAI) Explanation : Airports Authority of India (AAI) is participating in World ATM Congress (WATMC) 2018 which is being held in Madrid, Spain from 6th to 8th March 2018. In context of this news, abbreviation ATM stands for Air traffic Management. World ATM Congress is world's largest international air traffic management (ATM) exhibition and conference which brings together the world's leading product developers, experts, stakeholders in aviation. It was conceived by the Civil Air Navigation Services Organization (CANSO) in partnership with the Air Traffic Control Association (ATCA). AAI has set up a stall at this conference for showcasing its achievements and initiatives.

**27. India will join the European Bank of Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) as its 69th member. Which is the largest shareholder in the EBRD?**

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|--------|----------|-----------|------------|
| 1. UK  | 2. China | 3. Russia | 4. Germany |
| 5. USA |          |           |            |

Answer - 5. USA Explanation : India will join the European Bank of Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) as its 69th member. EBRD is working for furthering the development of market-orientated economies and the promotion of private and entrepreneurial initiative in the European region. On becoming a member, India will take up a small stake in EBRD. On account of this, Indian companies would be permitted to undertake joint investments in regions in which the EBRD operates. Besides, having a stake will also give India a say in the direction of the EBRD's future work. Currently the U.S. is the largest shareholder in the EBRD.

**28. M K Bhargav recently passed away. He was related to which of the following sport?**

1. Football
2. Tennis
3. Snowball
4. Cricket
5. Swimming

Answer - 4. Cricket Explanation : M K Bhargav, former chairman of Madhya Pradesh Cricket Association (MPCA), passed away due to a long term illness in Indore, Madhya Pradesh. M K Bhargav was 78 years old. He had been suffering from a liver disorder and other health issues for a long time. He had also worked with the umpiring panel of the Board of Cricket Control of India (BCCI).

**29. With the recommendations of the 7th Central Pay Commission, The Union Cabinet has approved to release an additional instalment of Dearness Allowance (DA) to Central Government employees and Dearness Relief (DR) to pensioners with effect from 01.01.2018. What is the increased percentage?**

1. 5%
2. 4%
3. 3%
4. 2%
5. 1%

Answer - 4. 2% Explanation : The Union Cabinet has approved to release an additional instalment of Dearness Allowance (DA) to Central Government employees and Dearness Relief (DR) to pensioners with effect from 01.01.2018 corresponding an increase of 2% over the existing rate of 5% of the Basic Pay/Pension, to compensate for price rise. This will benefit nearly 48.41 lakh Central Government employees and 61.17 lakh pensioners. The combined impact on the exchequer on account of both Dearness Allowance and Dearness Relief would be Rs.6077.72 crore per annum and Rs.7090.68 crore in the financial year 2018-19. This increase is in accordance with the recommendations of the 7th Central Pay Commission.

**30. Which Indian city has ranked 16th in the top 20 costliest cities in the world list, as per the Knight Frank Wealth Report 2018?**

1. Kolkata
2. Pune
3. Patna
4. Haridwar
5. Mumbai

Answer - 5. Mumbai Explanation : Mumbai has ranked 16th in the top 20 costliest cities in the world list, as per the Knight Frank Wealth Report 2018. This index was developed based on four major indicators namely wealth, investments, lifestyle and future. Monaco has secured the first position among the top 20 costliest cities in the world. It is followed by Hong Kong in the second position. Third place is occupied by New York City and fourth place is bagged by London. The rise of Mumbai in this ranking is supported by the fast pace wealth creation in India.

**31. Name the Indian Architect who won the architecture's highest honour - the Pritzker Prize 2018 for the first time?**

1. Charles Correa
2. Laurie Baker
3. Raj Rewal
4. Rahul Mehrotra
5. Balkrishna Vitthal Das Doshi

Answer - 5. Balkrishna Vitthal Das Doshi Explanation : Architect Balkrishna Vitthal Das Doshi has been named the 2018 winner of architecture's highest honour - the Pritzker Prize. He is the first Indian and the 45th laureate to receive the award. The award ceremony will take place at the Aga Khan Museum in Toronto this May. Tom Pritzker, chairman of the Hyatt Foundation that sponsors the award made the announcement in Chicago, selecting Doshi as the 2018 Pritzker Architecture Prize Laureate. It is the most prestigious award in the field of architecture. His designs include the IIM-Bangalore; Centre for Environmental Planning and Technology, Ahmedabad; cultural spaces in Ahmedabad such as Tagore Memorial Hall, the Institute of Indology, and Premabhai Hall; among many others.

**32. In which lake, the Institute of Bioresources and Sustainable Laboratory (IBSD), has established a floating laboratory, to continuously monitor its water quality and improve it?**

1. Dal Lake
2. Chilika Lake
3. Wular Lake
4. Loktak Lake
5. Sambhar Lake

Answer - 4. Loktak Lake Explanation : The Institute of Bioresources and Sustainable Laboratory (IBSD), Imphal, has established a floating laboratory in Loktak Lake, Manipur, to continuously monitor its water quality and improve it. Manipur's Forest and Environment Minister, Thounaojam Shyamkumar Singh inaugurated the floating laboratory on 24th February 2018 in Imphal. Bhagaton Singh, Project Director of Loktak Development Authority (LDA) said that, the floating laboratory was launched as a joint venture between LDA and IBSD. The IBSD worked for 4 months to get the boat, redesign it and obtain equipment for the laboratory. This lab will work 24x7 and will monitor the entire lake. This floating laboratory has been set up on a budget of Rs 5. Lakh. Further equipments for Rs 20 lakh will be procured to improve its efficiency.

**33. Israeli and American troops train together through "Juniper Cobra" exercise in Israel. Juniper Cobra was started in the year \_\_\_?**

1. 2001
2. 2005
3. 2010
4. 2012
5. 201

Answer - 1. 2001 Explanation : Israeli and American troops train together through "Juniper Cobra" exercise in Israel. Over 5,000 Israeli and American troops are undergoing training together in Israel. Brig. Gen. Zvika Haimovich, chief of Israel's air defence command, said that, Juniper Cobra is not focused on any particular adversary. It is aimed to train for very complex scenarios like simultaneous attacks from enemy countries and militant groups. Israel faces potential threat from Lebanese militant group Hezbollah and Iranian forces. Juniper Cobra comprises field training, computer simulations and live-fire drills of sophisticated missile-defence systems. Juniper Cobra was started in 2001. It has been conducted every two years since then.

**34. India ranks \_\_\_\_ on the Mastercard Index for Women Entrepreneurs (MIWE), a list of 57 nations released by Mastercard?**

1. 39            2. 45            3. 49            4. 50  
5. 52

Answer - 5. 52 Explanation : India ranks 52 on the Mastercard Index for Women Entrepreneurs (MIWE), a list of 57 nations released by Mastercard. The report focuses on female entrepreneurs' ability to "capitalize the opportunities granted through various supporting conditions within their local environment". New Zealand is at the top of the list, with Sweden, Canada, US, Singapore, making the top five in the index. The index was based on 12 indicators and 25 sub-indicators representing 78.6

**35. According to an assessment done by leading brand valuation firm, Brand Finance, which company was named as the fastest growing IT services brand in the world?**

1. CTS            2. Verizon       3. HCL            4. TCS  
5. IBM

Answer - 4. TCS Explanation : According to an assessment done by leading brand valuation firm, Brand Finance, Tata Consultancy Services was named as the fastest growing IT services brand in the world. As per the Brand Finance IT Services 15 annual report for 2018, TCS now has a total brand value of USD 10.391 billion; a growth of 14.4 percent from last year's total of USD 9.081 billion, with an increase of USD 1.309 billion. The new value is the fastest incremental growth of all companies in the industry, and places TCS in the top three most valuable brands in the global IT services sector along with IBM and Accenture.

**36. South Korean player Chung Jae-sung is related to which of the following?**

1. Swimming            2. Handball  
3. Football            4. Cricket  
5. Badminton

Answer - 5. Badminton Explanation : South Korean badminton player Chung Jae-sung, who won bronze in the men's doubles at the London Olympics, has died at the age of 35, the Korea Badminton Association. Yonhap News quoted local police as saying Chung had been diagnosed with arrhythmia three years ago and that he had complained of chest pains at times.

**37. Which Indian city hosted the four-day biennial event 'WINGS INDIA 2018'?**

1. Kanpur       2. Kolkata       3. Delhi       4. Allahabad  
5. Hyderabad

Answer - 5. Hyderabad Explanation : Ministry of Civil Aviation and Airport Authority of India and FICCI jointly organized the four-day biennial event 'WINGS INDIA 2018' in Hyderabad. Theme of the four-day biennial event this year is 'India-Global Aviation Hub'. WINGS INDIA 2018 is a platform for interactions, forging alliances, investments and air connectivity between the States and the global aviation players & stakeholders. The conference will focus on fostering partnership to transform Indian aviation and the role of conducive regulatory framework to facilitate growth of civil aviation market. The event was attended by senior ministers of Telangana Government and senior officials of Ministry of Civil Aviation, DGCA, AAI and representatives from FICCI.

**38. Who was appointed the new Director General of the Union government's publicity wing, Press Information Bureau (PIB)?**

1. Frank Noronha            2. Menaka Gandhi  
3. Ravi Shankar            4. Manoj Sinha  
5. Sitanshu Kar

Answer - 5. Sitanshu Kar Explanation : All India Radio's News Services Division (NSD) director general Sitanshu Kar has been appointed as the next Director General of the Union government's publicity wing, Press Information Bureau (PIB). Kar will be replacing Frank Noronha, who took charge of the PIB in 2014. Press Information Bureau publicizes information to the print, electronic and new media on government plans, policies, programme initiatives and achievements. It has nationwide network of 8 regional offices and 34 branch offices.

**39. 'MILAN 2018', a multinational naval exercise hosted by Indian Navy began on March 6, 2018 at \_\_\_\_\_?**

1. Puducherry            2. Goa  
3. Andaman and Nicobar Islands  
4. West Bengal            5. Kerala

Answer - 3. Andaman and Nicobar Islands Explanation : 'MILAN 2018', a multinational naval exercise hosted by Indian Navy began on March 6, 2018 at Port Blair, Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Conducted biennially since 1995, MILAN is a congregation of navies of several countries, organised by Indian Navy at the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, under the aegis of the Andaman and Nicobar Command. Objective behind MILAN 2018 is to expand regional cooperation and combat unlawful activities in critical sea lanes in Indian Ocean region. Theme of 'MILAN 2018' is 'Friendship Across the Seas'. Total 28 warships including 17 from India and 11 from Australia, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Thailand are participating in MILAN 2018. During the course of this event, 39 delegates from 16 countries will deliberate on the regional security situation. MILAN 2018 will conclude on March 13, 2018.

**40. With which International Financial Organisation, Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) inked a 150 million Euros loan agreement for a second line of credit (LoC)?**

1. Export-Import Bank of India  
2. World Bank  
3. Asian Development Bank  
4. European Bank for Reconstruction and Development  
5. European Investment Bank

Answer - 5. European Investment Bank Explanation : Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) and European Investment Bank (EIB) inked a 150 million Euros loan agreement for a second line of credit (LoC). Funds procured through LoC will be utilised for financing renewable energy and energy efficiency projects in India. More than 1.1 million households in India will be benefited from clean energy produced through these projects. The LoC is for tenure of 15 years and includes a grace period of three years. IREDA is the financing arm of the New and Renewable Energy Ministry of Government of India, while EIB is the long-term lending institution of the European Union.

**41. Which Indian state hosted the Deodhar Trophy 2017-18?**

1. Telangana            2. Rajasthan

3. Himachal Pradesh                      4. Punjab  
5. Assam

Answer - 3. Himachal Pradesh Explanation : India B team won the Deodhar Trophy 2017-18 at the Himachal Pradesh Cricket Association Stadium in Dharamsala, Himachal Pradesh. India B team defeated Karnataka team by six wickets in the final and won the Deodhar Trophy 2017-18. Man of the Match: Ravikumar Samarth. Ravikumar Samarth of Karnataka team scored 107 runs and received the Man of the Match honour.

**42. Which country won the Sultan Azlan Shah Cup 2018 title, in Malaysia?**

1. Australia                                      2. Libya  
3. Switzerland                                  4. USA  
5. Sweden

Answer - 1. Australia Explanation : Australia won the Sultan Azlan Shah Cup 2018 title, in Malaysia. Australia defeated England 2-1 in the final and won the Sultan Azlan Shah Cup. England finished in the second position. Argentina defeated Malaysia 3-2 and secured third place. Malaysia completed in the fourth position. India defeated Ireland 4-1 and finished in the fifth position.

**43. The book 'Fulfilling Babu's Dreams is the tribute of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to whom?**

1. Sardar Vallabhai Patel                      2. Subash Chandra Bose  
3. Indira Gandhi                                  4. Mahatma Gandhi  
5. Jawaharlal Nehru

Answer - 4. Mahatma Gandhi Explanation : President Ram Nath Kovind, received the first copy of the book 'Fulfilling Babu's Dreams – Prime Minister Modi's Tribute to Gandhiji' from Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev, who launched it at an event in Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi. Ram Nath Kovind said that, this book highlights the importance of connecting sanitation with broad mass participation, which is an important point in India's developmental process. He said that, this book focuses on connecting Mahatma Gandhi's ideals with nation-building activity.

**44. In which state, India's first coastal policing academy 'The National Academy of Coastal Policing (NACP)' was set up?**

1. Gujarat    2. Odisha  
3. West Bengal                                      4. Maharashtra  
5. Goa

Answer - 1. Gujarat Explanation: The National Academy of Coastal Policing (NACP), India's first coastal policing academy, has been set up in Okha, in Devbhoomi Dwarka district of Gujarat. This is said to be the first-of-its-kind institution in India. It will be run by a multi-agency team of paramilitary and defence forces. This academy aims to sharpen the skills of marine forces of various Indian states that have coastal lines. The Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPRD) will pilot the setting up of NACP. The Border Security Force (BSF) will ensure security of the campus. The navy and the Coast Guard will help in developing the training curriculum, providing skilled trainers and access to jetties and boats for the academy. Faculty from the Navy, Coast Guard and the BSF, will train police personnel and staff of other security agencies. Training will be provided on maritime laws, seamanship, boat work, navigation, weapons handling, usage of sea guidance and surveillance gadgets and survival skills for long haul operations on the sea etc. The

National Academy of Coastal Policing (NACP) will start functioning from April 2018.

**45. The World Ocean Summit 2018 was held at \_\_\_\_\_?**

1. River Ganga, India                              2. River Mississippi, US  
3. River Murray, Australia                      4. River Maya, Mexico  
5. River Nile, Egypt

Answer - 4. River Maya, Mexico Explanation: On 7th to 9th March 2018, the World Ocean Summit 2018 was held in Riviera Maya, Mexico. This was the fifth World Ocean Summit. It was hosted by the Economist Group. Over 360 leaders from government, industry, multilateral organisations, scientific community and civil society all over the world took part in the World Ocean Summit 2018. Problems related to the world's seas and solutions to protect ocean resources were discussed in the summit.

**46. Which country unveiled the world's biggest flag?**

1. Chile    2. Argentina                                      3. South Sudan  
4. Libya    5. Bolivia

Answer - 5. Bolivia Explanation: Bolivia unveiled its 200 km long flag, which it claims to be the world's biggest flag. The flag extends between the cities La Paz and Oruro. It is made of blue cloth and features Bolivian national symbols. Its width is three meters. Bolivian people held the flag as a sign of support for Bolivia's claim for access to the Pacific coast. Bolivia demands access to the Pacific Ocean, which it lost to Chile in a war in the 19th century. Bolivia will present its case demanding access to Chile's Pacific coast at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on 19th March 2018.

**47. Which bank announced that it has entered into a strategic partnership with two new broking partners, Celebrus Capital Ltd and Fortune Wealth Management Co India Pvt. Ltd. for providing Portfolio Investment Scheme (PIS) services to Non-resident Indians (NRIs)?**

1. ICICI Bank    2. Canara Bank  
3. IDBI Bank    4. Federal Bank  
5. HDFC Bank

Answer - 4. Federal Bank Explanation: Federal Bank announced that it has entered into a strategic partnership with two new broking partners, Celebrus Capital Ltd and Fortune Wealth Management Co India Pvt. Ltd. for providing Portfolio Investment Scheme (PIS) services to Non-resident Indians (NRIs). Reserve Bank of India's Portfolio Investment Scheme enables NRIs to purchase and sell shares and convertible debentures of Indian companies on a recognized stock exchange through their NRI Savings Account with a designated bank branch. Including the above stated entities, Federal Bank has partnered with total nine broking companies, for providing NRI clients, the facility to invest in shares and debentures of Indian companies in the secondary market. These strategic tie-ups are in line with Federal Bank's objective to double the PIS business in terms of a number of accounts and total volume.

**48. Which bank has launched instant overdraft 'InstaOD' facility for MSME (Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises) customers which can be availed online without visiting a branch and submitting physical documents?**

1. Dena Bank    2. Yes Bank  
3. Indian Bank    4. Corporation Bank

## 5. ICICI Bank

Answer - 5. ICICI Bank Explanation: ICICI Bank has launched instant overdraft 'InstaOD' facility for MSME (Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises) customers which can be availed online without visiting a branch and submitting physical documents. Currently, this facility is only for a few lakh of pre-qualified current account customers of ICICI Bank. The pre-qualified customers can get overdraft facility up to Rs 15 lakh for a year anytime, anywhere using ICICI bank's Internet and mobile banking app. For availing the OD under this facility, the customer has to select the limit required, confirm the details and submit the application by following simple steps. On basis of repayment track records, the OD facility can be renewed on annual basis.

**49. Dr Ketzia David Prakasam has been presented the "Academy Award for Nobel Peace 2018". She is from which country?**

1. Japan
2. India
3. Netherlands
4. Sweden
5. USA

Answer - 5. USA Explanation: Dr Ketzia David Prakasam has been presented the "Academy Award for Nobel Peace" from the USA. Dr Ketzia David Prakasam is a philanthropist, social worker and spiritual worker. She has become the first Indian woman to receive this award. The award was presented on International Women's Day (8 March 2018). She received the award from the founder Chairman of the Academy Award for Global Peace.

**50. Begum Hamida Habibullah recently passed away. She was the former minister of which state?**

1. West Bengal
2. Nagaland
3. Chhattisgarh
4. Uttar Pradesh
5. Tripura

Answer - 4. Uttar Pradesh Explanation: On 13th March 2018, Begum Hamida Habibullah, former Uttar Pradesh minister, died due to a long term illness at her home in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh. Begum Hamida Habibullah was 102 years old. She was a former Rajya Sabha member. She entered politics and joined the Congress party around 1965. She became an MLA from Haidergarh. She was made the state minister of social and Harijan welfare, national integration and civil defence from 1971 to 1973. She was tourism minister from 1971 to 1974. She was also a member of the Executive Committee of Uttar Pradesh Congress Committee (UPCC) till 1980. She was the president of Mahila Congress, UPCC, in the 1972 to 1976 period.

**51. India has ranked \_\_\_\_\_ out of 156 countries in the World Happiness Report 2018.**

1. 129th
2. 130th
3. 131st
4. 132nd
5. 133rd

Answer - 5. 133rd Explanation : India has ranked 133rd out of 156 countries in the World Happiness Report 2018. World Happiness report is an annual report published by the U.N. Sustainable Development Solutions Network. It was first published in 2012. The World Happiness Report 2018 ranks 156 countries by their happiness levels and 117 countries by the happiness of their immigrants. Rankings of country happiness in World Happiness Report 2018 are based on the pooled results from Gallup World Poll surveys from 2015-2017. Variables on which average happiness across countries has been derived are –

GDP Per Capita, Social Support, Healthy Life Expectancy at birth, Freedom to make life choices, Generosity and Perceptions of corruption.

**52. An India-UK Joint Team has won the Newton-Bhabha Fund for a project on Groundwater Arsenic Research conducted in which river basin?**

1. Ganga River Basin
2. Yamuna River Basin
3. Godavari River Basin
4. Damodar River Basin
5. Son River Basin

Answer - 1. Ganga River Basin Explanation : An India-UK Joint Team has won the Newton-Bhabha Fund for a project on Groundwater Arsenic Research in Ganga River Basin. The Department of Science and Technology, India and Natural Environment Research Council, UK, have undertaken this project jointly. Purpose of the project: to develop solutions to the water issues faced in Arsenic-affected Ganga River Basin. Indian Team: consists of representatives of IIT Kharagpur, National Institute of Hydrology, IIT Roorkee and Mahavir Cancer Sansthan and Research Centre of Patna. The project will focus on studying the arsenic poisoning issue and the effect it will create in the next 25 to 30 years and will recommend water remedial technologies. Prof Abhijit Mukherjee will lead the project at IIT Kharagpur. He said that initially the project will be conducted in 3 sites - Bijnor and Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh and Nadia in West Bengal.

**53. Member-countries of the World Health Organisation (WHO) South-East Asia Region, including India, committed to intensifying efforts to eradicate \_\_\_\_\_ by 2030?**

1. Poverty
2. Tuberculosis
3. HIV/AIDS
4. Diabetes
5. Pneumonia

Answer - 2. Tuberculosis Explanation : Member-countries of the World Health Organisation (WHO) South-East Asia Region, including India, committed to intensifying efforts to eradicate tuberculosis (TB) by 2030. This commitment was made during 'End TB Summit' in New Delhi. The Summit built on the Delhi Call to Action adopted by member countries of the WHO South-East Asia Region in March 2017 and set the stage for the September 2018 United Nations (UN) High-Level Meeting on TB. The member-countries have resolved to collectively reach out to 2 million missing TB cases and 150000 multidrug-resistance cases by 2020 and take necessary action to end TB.

**54. 'LaQshya' program is related to which of the following?**

1. Maternity
2. Agriculture
3. Schools
4. College
5. Politics

Answer - 1. Maternity Explanation : The launch of 'LaQshya' program that aims to improve quality of care in labour room and maternity Operation Theatre (OT), was recently announced by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. Aim: LaQshya aims to enhance quality of care for pregnant women in labour room, maternity Operation Theatre and Obstetrics Intensive Care Units (ICUs) and High Dependency Units (HDUs). Implementation: It will be implemented at all Medical College Hospitals, District Hospitals and First Referral Unit (FRU), and Community Health Center (CHCs). This program will reduce maternal and newborn mortality count. It will offer Respectful

Maternity Care (RMC) to all pregnant women in public health facilities. This program will implement 'fast-track' initiatives to obtain results in 18 months. Facility that obtains 70% score on NQAS will be given LaQshya certification. Facilities that obtain more than 90%, 80% and 70% score will be awarded Platinum, Gold and Silver badge respectively.

**55. Who was invited as the chief guest, in the golden jubilee of independence celebrations of Madagascar, the island nation?**

1. Sushma Swaraj
2. Smriti Rani
3. Arun Jaitely
4. Narendra Modi
5. Ram Nath Kovind

Answer - 5. Ram Nath Kovind Explanation : Indian President Ram Nath Kovind was on a six-day official visit to island nations of Mauritius and Madagascar from March 11, 2018. These visits of President Kovind held lot of significance as Mauritius and Madagascar are located in Indian Ocean, a region where China has been increasing its naval presence in recent times. Besides, President Kovind's visit to Madagascar was the first ever visit by an Indian President and he was chief guest at the island nation's golden jubilee of independence celebrations, a high honour.

**56. India has ranked \_\_\_\_ among 114 countries on the World Economic Forum's (WEF's) Energy Transition Index?**

1. 76th
2. 77th
3. 78th
4. 79th
5. 80th

Answer - 3. 78th Explanation : India has ranked 78th among 114 countries on the World Economic Forum's (WEF's) Energy Transition Index. Energy Transition Index benchmarks 114 countries on the current level of their energy system performance, and the readiness of their macro environment for transition to a secure, sustainable, affordable and inclusive future energy system. The index is a part of first edition of 'Fostering Effective Energy Transition report', prepared by World Economic Forum (WEF) with analytical support from McKinsey & Company.

**57. Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has raised the exposure limit under exchange traded currency derivatives (ETCD) for residents and foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) to \_\_\_\_\_ across all currency pairs.**

1. USD 250 million
2. USD 200 million
3. USD 150 million
4. USD 100 million
5. USD 500 million

Answer - 4. USD 100 million Explanation : Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has raised the exposure limit under exchange traded currency derivatives (ETCD) for residents and foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) to USD 100 million across all currency pairs. This decision comes after RBI raised the exposure limit to USD 100 million in February 2018. ETCD, in USD/INR, EUR/INR (Euro), GBP/INR (Great British Pound) and JPY/INR (Japanese Yen) are primarily used by Indian exporters and importers and foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) to hedge their risk against currency price fluctuations. It is to be noted that for taking positions within the prescribed limit, corporate/individuals are not required to present any proof on underlying exposure. Earlier exposure limit was USD 15 million for USD-INR contracts and USD 5 million for other currency pairs.

**58. Emily Nasrallah recently passed away. Who is she? Which country's cricket team has released the book named 'A Tribute to Jagu' as a tribute to former BCCI President Jagmohan Dalmiya?**

1. Pakistan
2. India
3. Australia
4. Sri Lanka
5. Afghanistan

Answer - 4. Sri Lanka Explanation : Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) has released the book named 'A Tribute to Jagu' as a tribute to former BCCI President Jagmohan Dalmiya. This book has been compiled by SLC as a commemoration of Jagmohan Dalmiya's contributions to cricket. They honoured him posthumously as the greatest non-Sri Lankan contributor to Sri Lankan cricket. Avishek, son of Jagmohan Dalmiya, who is the joint secretary of the Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB) received the book.

**59. In which city, National School of Drama (NSD) will be hosting the 8th edition of Theatre Olympics?**

1. Darjeeling
2. Mumbai
3. Delhi
4. Ahmadabad
5. Kanpur

Answer - 2. Mumbai Explanation : National School of Drama (NSD) will be hosting the 8th edition of Theatre Olympics in Mumbai from 24th March, 2018 to 7th April, 2018. Theatre Olympics is the largest international theatre festival and is being held in India for the first time. NSD is hosting the 8th edition of Theatre Olympics in Mumbai in collaboration with Directorate of Cultural Affairs, Maharashtra. Theme for the 8th edition of Theatre Olympics is 'Flag of Friendship'. The Jaipur chapter of the Theatre Olympics, 2018, will be organised by NSD under the aegis of Union ministry of Culture in collaboration with the Ravindra Manch Society and Rajasthan State Art and Culture department from 18th March, 2018 to 1st April, 2018. Concept of Theatre Olympics was established in 1993 in Greece, and thereafter it was held in Japan (1999), followed by Russia (2001), Turkey (2006), South Korea (2010), China (2014) and Poland (2016).

**60. Which country informed the UN Secretary-General its withdrawal from the International Criminal Court (ICC)?**

1. Bahrain
2. Kuwait
3. Oman
4. Philippines
5. Dubai

Answer - 4. Philippines Explanation : Philippines informed the UN Secretary-General its withdrawal from the International Criminal Court (ICC). Teodoro Locsin, permanent representative of Philippines to the UN, submitted a letter stating Philippines' withdrawal from ICC to UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres. The letter stated that, Philippines was withdrawing from the Rome Statute. The Rome Statute set up the ICC in 1998. Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte stated that, Philippines withdraws from ICC due to baseless and outrageous attacks by ICC against him and his administration. ICC had attempted to investigate Rodrigo Duterte on his anti-drugs campaign earlier.

**61. Indian Government signed a \$120 million loan agreement with which International Financial Institution for improving rail infrastructure which will enhance operational efficiency of Indian railways?**

1. World Bank
2. IMF
3. New Development Bank
4. Asian Development Bank
5. UNO

Answer - 4. Asian Development Bank Explanation : Indian Government and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) have signed a \$120 million loan agreement for improving rail infrastructure which will enhance operational efficiency of Indian railways. \$120 million loan is the third tranche of \$500 million multi-tranche financing facility for the Railway Sector Investment Program approved by the ADB Board in 2011. \$120 million procured as third tranche will be used to complete ongoing works for double-tracking and electrification of railway tracks along high-density corridors. In context of this news, High density corridors refers to busy freight and passenger routes in the states of Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. It also includes "Golden Quadrilateral" corridor that connects Chennai, Kolkata, Mumbai and New Delhi.

**62. A commodity exchange is liable to exit if there has been no trading operation on its platform for more than \_\_\_\_\_ months?**

1. Three
2. Six
3. Ten
4. Twelve
5. Twenty

Answer - 4. Twelve Explanation : Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), the regulator for the securities market in India has allowed the Universal Commodity Exchange (UCX) to discontinue operations as a commodity exchange. UCX had attained recognition as a multi-commodity exchange in 2012. However, board of UCX had suspended trading operations with effect from July 16, 2014 on account of drastic decline in trading volume and did not make attempts for revival thereafter. SEBI has allowed UCX to exit in accordance with its January 2016 circular laying out the mandatory requirements for exit of a commodity derivatives exchange. As per the circular, a commodity exchange is liable to exit if there has been no trading operation on its platform for more than twelve months.

**63. In which state "Nabakalebara festival" was celebrated?**

1. Gujarat
2. Rajasthan
3. Maharashtra
4. Nagaland
5. Odisha

Answer - 5. Odisha Explanation : On March 18, 2018, President Ram Nath Kovind released Rs 1000 and Rs 10 commemorative coins on Nabakalebara festival in Puri, Odisha. Nabakalebara is a festival observed in the Shree Jagannath Temple at Puri, Odisha at a predefined time according to Hindu Calender. It is a symbolic recreation of the wooden forms of deities at Jagannath Temple, Puri. 'Naba' means new and 'Kalebara' is body. The commemorative coins were released during the centenary celebrations of Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan. Odisha Governor S C Jamir, Union Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, and Minister of Tribal Affairs, Jual Oram were also present at the occasion.

**64. Which is the most expensive city in the world as per Worldwide Cost of Living 2018 report by Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU)?**

1. Paris
2. Zurich
3. Hong Kong
4. Oslo
5. Singapore

Answer - 5. Singapore Explanation : Singapore is the most expensive city in the world as per Worldwide Cost of Living 2018 report by Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU). Worldwide Cost of Living is a bi-annual study of 133 cities conducted by London-headquartered Economist Intelligence Unit. It serves as a reference for companies to calculate cost-of-living allowances

and prepare compensation packages for expatriates and business travellers. To derive the rankings, cost of more than 100 items such as cars, food, rent and clothing were compared across 133 cities.

**65. In which coastal state, Phase I of Varuna 18, an Indo-French Naval Exercise, began at?**

1. Gujarat
2. Kerala
3. Tamil Nadu
4. Odisha
5. Goa

Answer - 5. Goa Explanation : On 19th March 2018, Phase I of Varuna 18, an Indo-French Naval Exercise, began in Mormugao Port Trust (MPT) in Goa. The phase I of Varuna 18 will be conducted till 24th March 2018. Second and third phases will be conducted in April 2018 and May 2018 in Chennai and La Reunion Island respectively. Rear Admiral M A Hampiholi, Flag Officer Commanding, Western Fleet and Rear Admiral Didier Piaton, Joint Commander of the French Naval Forces deployed in Indian Ocean and French Joint Forces stationed in UAE, inaugurated the 1st phase of Varuna 18. Varuna 18 will be conducted in 3 sea areas: the Arabian Sea, the Bay of Bengal and South Western Indian Ocean. iv. First phase of Varuna 18 will be conducted in the Arabian Sea. French Submarine and frigate Jean de Vienne and Indian Naval Ship (INS) Destroyer Mumbai, frigate Trikand with internal helicopters participate in phase I of Varuna 18. INS Kalavari, P8-I and Dornier Maritiem Patrol Aircraft and Mig 29-K fighter aircraft also take part in this exercise.

**66. Which country won the Nidahas Trophy at R Premadasa Stadium, in Colombo, Sri Lanka?**

1. China
2. India
3. Russia
4. Japan
5. USA

Answer - 2. India Explanation : India won the Nidahas Trophy at the R Premadasa Stadium, in Colombo, Sri Lanka. India beat Bangladesh in the finals by four wickets. Dinesh Karthik was named Man of the Match. India won the toss and chose to field first. Indian team restricted Bangladesh team to 166 runs with eight wickets loss

**67. Which country hosted the First G20 meeting of finance ministers and central bank governors on 19th and 20th March 2018?**

1. Australia
2. Argentina
3. Spain
4. Norway
5. Finland

Answer - 2. Argentina Explanation : First G20 meeting of finance ministers and central bank governors under Presidency of Argentina was held on 19th and 20th March 2018 in Buenos Aires, Argentina. The meeting was attended by 22 finance ministers, 17 Central Bank Governors and 10 heads of international organizations, including International Monetary Fund (IMF) Managing Director, Christine Lagarde and Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, Achim Steiner. Discussions at the this two-day meeting revolved around infrastructure development and the future of work in the digital arena. Interestingly, concerns over U.S. President Donald Trump's decision to slap import tariffs on steel and aluminium, which may trigger a global trade war were not discussed at this meeting. This was the first of five such meetings to be held before Argentina hosts the G20 Summit on 30th November and 1st December 2018.

**68. Which country topped the overall medal list in the Paralympic Winter Games Pyeong Chang 2018 in South Korea?**

- |          |                |
|----------|----------------|
| 1. India | 2. South Korea |
| 3. China | 4. Russia      |
| 5. USA   |                |

Answer - 5. USA Explanation : On 18th March 2018, the Paralympic Winter Games Pyeong Chang 2018 in South Korea, concluded with Team USA having its most successful performance in 16 years. Team USA consisted of 74 athletes. It grabbed a total of 36 medals and topped the overall medal count. This is Team USA's highest medal count since 2002 when it won 43 medals. It also topped the gold medal count for the first time since 1992. It topped the overall gold medal count and also the gold medals won on each day of the Games. Oksana Masters became the female U.S. athlete to have won the highest number of medals in PyeongChang Olympics with five medals. Among men, Dan Cossen won six medals and topped the count. The U.S. Nordic skiing team won 16 medals. Kendall Gretsche bagged the first-ever biathlon Olympic or Paralympic gold medal for a U.S. athlete. The U.S. Paralympic Snowboarding Team won 13 medals. 18 military veterans on Team USA won a total of 9 medals.

**69. Central Government has approved the setting up of a Plastic Park in which state?**

- |                   |                |
|-------------------|----------------|
| 1. Rajasthan      | 2. Maharashtra |
| 3. Uttarakhand    | 4. Jharkhand   |
| 5. Madhya Pradesh |                |

Answer - 4. Jharkhand Explanation: Union Minister for Chemicals & Fertilizers, Ananthkumar has announced that Central Government has approved the setting up of a Plastic Park in Deoghar District of Jharkhand. The Plastic Park would be set up at a cost of Rs. 120 crores over an area of 150 acres. Range of polymer products including woven sacks, water tanks, moulded furniture, bottles, pipes mosquito nets, etc would be manufactured at this Plastic Park. Setting up of Plastic Park is likely to generate 6000 direct employment opportunities and 30000 indirect employment opportunities. Mr. Ananthkumar also requested the Jharkhand State Government to facilitate land/building infrastructure to set up a Central Institute for Plastic Engineering & Technology (CIPET) alongside the Plastic Park, for training necessary human resource (plastic engineers and technicians). Plastic Park, CIPET and the Plastic Recycling unit would together form an ecosystem that would encourage setting up of Plastic Industry at Deoghar and would make it a 'Plastic Hub' in future.

**70. The Norwegian Academy of Sciences and Letters declared whom, the winner of Abel Prize for 2018?**

- |                   |                     |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Richard Taylor | 2. James Arthur     |
| 3. Andrew Wiles   | 4. Robert Langlands |
| 5. Edward Frenkel |                     |

Answer - 4. Robert Langlands Explanation: The Norwegian Academy of Sciences and Letters said that, Canadian mathematician Robert Langlands has been named the winner of the Abel Prize for 2018. Robert Langlands will receive 6 million Norwegian kroner (\$776,000) from Norway's King Harald V at an award function to be held in Oslo on 22nd May 2018. Robert Langlands is awarded for his programme linking representation theory to number theory. He is 81 years old. He has worked in Princeton University and Yale University. At present he is a

professor at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, the United States.

**71. Which country's first space agency is Hellenic Space Agency?**

- |           |          |           |           |
|-----------|----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. Spain  | 2. Kenya | 3. Greece | 4. Norway |
| 5. Poland |          |           |           |

Answer - 3. Greece Explanation: Hellenic Space Agency, Greece's first space agency was officially launched on March 19, 2018. Although Greece will not start its own space exploration programme through this agency in near future, the agency is expected to benefit the country in various sectors viz. telecommunications, defense, medical applications, environmental monitoring, agriculture, fire prevention and control. Dr. Tom Krimigis, who is regarded as 'Space Exploration Pioneer' has been appointed Chairperson of the Board of Hellenic Space Agency. In the context of this news, it is to be noted that Greece has been a member of European Space Agency (ESA) since 2005 and has invested millions of Euros in its research programmes. Including the Greek and Cypriot telecommunications satellite Hellas Sat 3 which was launched from French Guiana in 2017, Greece currently has six transponders and three ground-based satellite hubs

**72. Union Cabinet has approved the launch of a new Centrally Sponsored Ayushman Bharat -National Health Protection Mission (AB-NHPM), which was announced in Union Budget 2018. This scheme will provide a benefit cover of Rs. \_\_\_\_\_ per family per year?**

- |            |           |           |           |
|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. 2 lakh  | 2. 4 lakh | 3. 5 lakh | 4. 6 lakh |
| 5. 10 lakh |           |           |           |

Answer - 3. 5 lakh Explanation: Union Cabinet has approved the launch of a new Centrally Sponsored Ayushman Bharat -National Health Protection Mission (AB-NHPM), which was announced in Union Budget 2018. AB-NHPM will provide a benefit cover of Rs. 5 lakh per family per year. The benefit cover will include pre and post-hospitalisation expenses. Besides, there will be no cap on family size and age. More than 10 crore families belonging to poor and vulnerable population (based on Socio-Economic Caste Census database) will be the target beneficiaries of this scheme. It will subsume the on-going centrally sponsored schemes -Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY) and the Senior Citizen Health Insurance Scheme (SCHIS).

**73. In which state, the world's longest sandstone cave named 'Krem Puri' has been discovered?**

- |              |              |            |           |
|--------------|--------------|------------|-----------|
| 1. Sikkim    | 2. Rajasthan | 3. Manipur | 4. Punjab |
| 5. Meghalaya |              |            |           |

Answer - 5. Meghalaya Explanation: The world's longest sandstone cave named 'Krem Puri' has been discovered in Meghalaya. Krem Puri was discovered in 2016. However its actual length was found between 5th February and 1st March 2018. It was measured by the Meghalaya Adventurers' Association (MAA). It is 24,583 metres long. This cave is over 6,000 metres longer than the world record-holder Cueva Del Saman, a sandstone cave in Edo Zulia, Venezuela. It has also become India's second longest cave in the general category. The longest India cave is the Krem Liat Prah-Umim-Labit system in the Jaintia Hills in Meghalaya.

**74. Which bank stated that it has received approval from Union Ministry of Corporate Affairs for**

**amalgamation of its fully-owned subsidiary All Bank Finance Ltd. (ABFL) with itself?**

1. Dena Bank
2. Axis Bank
3. SBI
4. Canara Bank
5. Allahabad Bank

Answer - 5. Allahabad Bank Explanation : On March 21, 2018, Allahabad Bank stated that it has received approval from Union Ministry of Corporate Affairs for amalgamation of its fully-owned subsidiary All Bank Finance Ltd. (ABFL) with itself. Bank's board had approved the proposed amalgamation in December 2016. All Bank Finance offers fee-based services like debenture trusteeship, distribution of mutual fund schemes, investment advisory and portfolio management and security valuation. For financial year 2016-17, ABFL's total income stood at Rs 13.30 crore, while the net profit was Rs 6.76 crore.

**75. On 20th March 2018, General Bipin Rawat, Chief of the Army Staff, released a book on Paramveer Chakra Awardees named 'Paramveer Parwane'. The book was authored by whom?**

1. Dr Sri Sathya
2. Dr Sonia Jairani
3. Dr Manish Gupta
4. Dr Divya Devi
5. Dr Prabhakaran Jain

Answer - 5. Dr Prabhakaran Jain Explanation: On 20th March 2018, General Bipin Rawat, Chief of the Army Staff, released a book on Paramveer Chakra Awardees named 'Paramveer Parwane'. Paramveer Parwane is a book on the bravery of Paramveer Chakra Awardees from 1947 to 1965. It has been authored by Dr Prabhakaran Jain. It is published by Medha Books. It consists of 11 short stories, poems, and songs. It talks about brave soldiers who sacrificed their lives in battles. It is available in paperback and coffee table book format. The second part of this book will be released soon.

**76. Which Airport has been rated as the world's best airport for the sixth consecutive year by UK-based consultancy firm Skytrax?**

1. Changi Airport, Singapore
2. Haneda Airport, Japan
3. Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru
4. Incheon International Airport, South Korea
5. Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport, Mumbai

Answer - 1. Changi Airport, Singapore Explanation: Singapore Changi Airport has been rated as world's best airport for the sixth consecutive year by UK-based consultancy firm Skytrax. Changi Airport, owned by Government of Singapore, is one of the world's busiest airports by international passenger and cargo traffic. In 2017, Changi Airport served 60 million passengers from almost 100 countries across the world. Major attractions at Changi airport include a rooftop swimming pool, two 24-hour movie theatres screening the latest blockbusters for free and a sunflower garden that features several varieties of sunflowers grown in the airport's on site nursery. The awards were announced at Skytrax World Airport Awards function held in Stockholm, Sweden. Changi Airport is followed by Incheon International Airport in South Korea at No.2 and Haneda Airport in Japan at No.3. Among Indian Airports, Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport, Mumbai ranked 63rd, while Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru and Indira Gandhi International Airport, Delhi ranked 64th and 66th respectively.

**77. What is the contribution of India to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA)?**

1. USD 25 million
2. USD 15 million
3. USD 10 million
4. USD 5 million
5. USD 1 million

Answer - 4. USD 5 million Explanation: India is among 20 nations that have pledged additional contribution to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). At the Extraordinary Ministerial Conference held in Rome, Italy on March 15, 2018, 20 nations together pledged nearly USD 100 million for the cause. Qatar Pledged the highest additional contribution of USD 50 million while India pledged USD 5 million. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres expressed gratitude to the 20 nations who pledged USD 100 million for Palestinian refugees and thereby helped to cover the shortfall in donations from the United States. The shortfall was created as, Donald Trump Administration in US, announced to indefinitely withhold USD 65 million dollars contribution to UNRWA.

**78. Reliance Industries (RIL) announced the merger of its digital music service JioMusic with which streaming service provider?**

1. Wynk
2. Saavn
3. Saregama
4. Raaga
5. Flipkart

Answer - 2. Saavn Explanation: Reliance Industries (RIL) announced the merger of its digital music service JioMusic with Saavn, a streaming service provider. The combined entity is valued at more than \$1 billion. JioMusic's valuation amounts to \$670 million. RIL said that, it will invest up to the rupee equivalent of \$100 million in the combined entity. Out of this, rupee equivalent of \$20 million will be invested for growth and expansion of the platform. The company will continue as an over-the-top (OTT) media platform. It will be available for download in all app stores. RIL will also acquire a partial stake from the existing shareholders of Saavn for \$104 million. The co-founders of Saavn: Rishi Malhotra, Paramdeep Singh and Vinodh Bhat will continue in their leadership roles.

**79. On March 23, 2018, world's biggest cruise ship, 'Symphony of the Seas' was delivered to US company Royal Caribbean Cruise Ltd. by French shipbuilder STX. What is the cost of the ship?**

1. USD 0.25 billion
2. USD 0.50 billion
3. USD 1.00 billion
4. USD 1.25 billion
5. USD 1.35 billion

Answer - 5. USD 1.35 billion Explanation: On March 23, 2018, world's biggest cruise ship, 'Symphony of the Seas' was delivered to US company Royal Caribbean Cruise Ltd. by French shipbuilder STX. Symphony had been under construction since early 2015 at STX France shipyard in St. Nazaire, France. It is 362 metres long and weighs nearly 228000 tonnes, being marginally bigger than its sister ship, the 'Harmony of the Seas', which too was built by STX France and was delivered to Royal Caribbean in 2016. The ship costs a whopping USD 1.35 billion. With 2700 cabins, it can accommodate more than 8000 people including 2200 staff members. The ship has range of modern amenities including an ice rink, water park and full-size basketball court.

**80. Which country has the highest number of Indian bank branches?**

1. USA      2. UK      3. Hong Kong   4. Switzerland  
5. Spain

Answer - 2. UK Explanation: In wake of Reserve Bank of India (RBI)'s ban on letters of undertaking (LoU), UCO Bank is planning to merge its two branches in Hong Kong. R K Takkar, MD and CEO, UCO Bank has stated that RBI ban on LoUs has negatively impacted the business of foreign branches, and in the changed scenario, one branch in Hong Kong would suffice to cater the needs of the region. Financing through LoUs and buyers credit accounted for nearly 50 per cent of business and was thus the bread and butter for most Indian banks in Hong Kong. In context of this news, it is important to note that almost zero capital is required for opening a branch in Hong Kong and that is the reason for Hong Kong being home to second highest number of foreign branches by Indian banks after the United Kingdom (UK). UK has highest number of Indian bank branches at 32, followed by Hong Kong with 17 branches.

**81. 4 days Madhavpur Mela festival was inaugurated in which state?**

1. Bihar      2. Sikkim      3. Gujarat   4. Rajasthan  
5. Punjab

Answer - 3. Gujarat Explanation: On 25th March 2018, the Madhavpur Mela started at Madhavpur Ghed village in Porbandar district of Gujarat. The Madhavpur Mela is held for four days till 28th March 2018. For the first time, there will be a cultural integration with the North-East people during this festival as the Madhavpur Mela and Mishmi Tribe of Arunachal Pradesh share common roots. This festival will feature art, dance, music, poetry, story-telling and folk drama from Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur and other North-Eastern States. There will also be sale of art and crafts of Gujarat and handloom and handicraft products from Arunachal, Manipur and other North-Eastern states. The Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA), Ministry of Culture and states of Gujarat, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur are playing a major role in this festival.

**82. In which state, India's first insect museum was inaugurated?**

1. Kerala      2. Tamil Nadu  
3. Karnataka      4. Odisha  
5. Goa

Answer - 2. Tamil Nadu Explanation: On March 26, 2018, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister K Palaniswamy, unveiled an insect museum at the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University in Coimbatore. The museum is fully dedicated to insects and claimed to be the first of its kind in India. It has been set up over 6691 sqft area at the cost of Rs. 5 crore. Insects preserved as specimens and also live ones, depicting different developmental stages are displayed at this museum. The lobby of this insect museum depicts the theme, "BUGS ARE KINGS". The museum has state-of-the-art amenities including a mini auditorium to screen insect movies and documentary films.

**83. Which city hosted the SARAS AajeevikaMela 2018?**

1. New Delhi      2. Mumbai  
3. Patna      4. Surat  
5. Ahmadabad

Answer - 1. New Delhi Explanation: On 23rd March to 1st April 2018, SARAS AajeevikaMela 2018 is held in Hall No. 7, PragatiMaidan, New Delhi. The SARAS Aajeevika Mela 2018 is

organized by DAY-NRLM (Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission). SHG (Self Help Group) women from all states of India display and sell their products in the SARAS Aajeevika Mela 2018. More than 350 stalls have been set up. The stalls feature handlooms, handicrafts, artefacts and heritage products, tribal ornaments, decorative items, metallic products, earthen utensils, paintings, organic food items, spices, processed food products, soft toys, utility items, brass and wrought iron products etc. Cultural programmes are also organized as a part of the Mela. Also workshops on soft skills, packaging, managing consumers etc. are also held during the mela.

**84. Which country topped the Speedtest Global Index, February 2018 for mobile internet with an average download speed of 62.07 Mbps?**

1. USA      2. China      3. Norway   4. Spain  
5. UAE

Answer - 3. Norway Explanation: According to internet speed testing analysis firm Ookla, India ranked 67th for fixed broadband and 109th for mobile internet speeds in February 2018 on Speedtest Global Index. Ookla's Speedtest Global Index compares internet speed data from around the world on month-to-month basis through 7021 servers globally. As per the index, global average mobile internet download speed in February 2018 was 22.16 mbps while global fixed broadband download speed was 42.72 Mbps. Fixed broadband download speeds in India has increased from average speeds of 18.82 megabit per second (Mbps) in November 2017 to 20.72 mbps in February 2018. Mobile internet download speed too has risen to 9.01 mbps in February 2018 from 8.80 mbps in November 2017. It is to be noted that on both the modes, download speed in India is still below the global average. However, India attained second rank in terms of showing most improvement in mobile data speeds.

**85. "Greeting and training Exercise" was carried out between USA and which country?**

1. China      2. Srilanka      3. Egypt   4. Poland  
5. India

Answer - 5. India Explanation: On March 25, 2018, Indian Navy's Talwar class frigate INS Tarkash carried out a greeting and training exercise with the U.S. Navy's Theodore Roosevelt Carrier Strike Group (TRCSG). Till now, TRCSG was deployed in Arabian Gulf in operations against the Islamic State. It will now be in the U.S. 7th Fleet area, responsible for counter-piracy, and training operations. As a part of this exercise, INS Tarkash sailed in formation with aircraft carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt and the guided-missile destroyers USS Preble, USS Halsey and USS Sampson. Besides navigating in specific formations, the exercise also included communication drills which offered unique opportunity to sailors from both

**86. Who was appointed the Principal Scientific Advisor to the Government of India?**

1. Senthil Nathan      2. PraveEM Sahay  
3. Promoth David      4. Premanand Sinha  
5. K Vijay Raghavan

Answer - 5. K Vijay Raghavan Explanation: On 26th March 2018, K Vijay Raghavan was appointed as Principal Scientific Advisor to the Government of India. K Vijay Raghavan replaces R Chidambaram. He is 64 years old. He has been appointed as Principal Scientific Advisor to the Government of India for a term

of 3 years. The Principal Scientific Advisor (PSA) post was created in 1999. PSA acts as the topmost advisor to the government on all issues regarding scientific policy. K Vijay Raghavan is a former director of National Centre for Biological Sciences. He served as Secretary of Department of Biotechnology from 2013 until last month.

**87. Pop singer Seo Minwoo passed away recently. She belonged to which country?**

1. China
2. Thailand
3. Russia
4. South Korea
5. Japan

**Answer - 4. South Korea** Explanation: On 25th March 2018, South Korean pop singer Seo Minwoo, died due to cardiac arrest at his residence in Gangnam, Seoul, South Korea. Seo Minwoo was a lead singer of the 100% band. He was 33 years old. He had also acted in TV shows and movies. The 100% band debuted in 2012.

Some of their popular songs are "Bad Boy," "Want U Back," "Better Days," and "Sketch U."

**88. India is \_\_\_\_\_ largest electricity producer in the world?**

1. Second
2. Third
3. Fourth
4. Fifth
5. Sixth

**Answer - 2. Third** Explanation: With production of 1423 billion units (BU) in Financial Year 2016, India was the third largest producer of electricity in the world. Over seven years to 2017, electricity production in India grew by 34%. India now produces more electricity than Japan and Russia, which had 27% and 8.77% more electricity generation capacity installed, respectively, than India seven years ago. According to a report by India Brand Equity Foundation (IBEF), a trust established by the commerce ministry, Electricity production in India stood at 1003.525 BU between April 2017-January 2018.

**89. SBI Cards announced that it has partnered with Indian Medical Association (IMA) to launch \_\_\_\_\_ ?**

1. Doctor's SBI Card
2. Doctor's Loan Card
3. Doctor's ID Card
4. Doctor's Appraisal Card
5. None of the above

**Answer - 1. Doctor's SBI Card** Explanation: SBI Cards announced that it has partnered with Indian Medical Association (IMA) to launch 'Doctor's SBI Card', which has been designed to complement the distinct lifestyles and needs of doctors. SBI Cards is a joint venture between India's largest bank, State Bank of India and The Carlyle Group, while IMA is the voluntary representative organisation of Doctors. Among other features just like regular cards, unique proposition of 'Doctor's SBI Card is the professional indemnity insurance cover of Rs 10 lakh to protect doctors against professional risks and liabilities. This is an industry-first feature which covers legal and defense costs as well as out of court settlements and court awards emanating on account of unforeseen events of claims raised by patients or related parties.

**90. Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of India have signed \$80 million loan agreement to modernize technical and vocational education and training (TVET) institutions in State of \_\_\_\_\_ ?**

1. Telanagana
2. Bihar
3. Himachal Pradesh
4. Madhya Pradesh
5. Maharashtra

**Answer - 3. Himachal Pradesh** Explanation : Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of India have signed \$80 million loan agreement to modernize technical and vocational education and training (TVET) institutions in State of Himachal Pradesh. Funds procured through this loan will be used to conduct short-term and long-term training programs in growth areas including electronics, automobiles, pharmaceutical, tourism and hospitality, health care etc Relevant and good quality TVET programs will be developed which will improve employment prospects of nearly 65000 youths by 2022. Funds will be deployed in establishing a polytechnic for women, seven Rural Livelihood Centres, six city Livelihood Centers and upgrade 11 employment exchanges into model career Centres.

**91. Who was appointed the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Ayushman Bharat National Health Protection Mission?**

1. Kurian Joseph
2. Navin Sinha
3. Indu Bhushan
4. Ranjan Gogoi
5. Sharad Arvind Bobde

**Answer - 3. Indu Bhushan** Explanation: On 27th March 2018, Indu Bhushan was appointed the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Ayushman Bharat National Health Protection Mission. Indu Bhushan is the Director General of East Asia Department, Asian Development Bank (ADB) in Manila, Philippines. He has been appointed as CEO of Ayushman Bharat National Health Protection Mission for 2 years. Earlier, he was Director General of the Strategy and Policy Department in ADB. He joined ADB in 1997.

**92. Name the committee appointed by SEBI to recommend on the Corporate Governance?**

1. Umesh Sinha Committee
2. JK Government Committee
3. Uday Kotak Committee
4. Inter Ministerial Committee
5. CABE Sub-Committee

**Answer - 3. Uday Kotak Committee** Explanation : On 28th March 2018, SEBI accepted most of the recommendations of Uday Kotak Committee on Corporate Governance. SEBI accepted 40 recommendations out of the 80 odd recommendations proposed by the Uday Kotak committee. Nearly 18 suggestions were rejected, such as sharing information with promoters and significant shareholders, an increase in the number of independent directors on board, minimum compensation to independent directors and more board meetings. The SEBI committee was formed to review corporate governance rules in June 2017. It is headed by Uday Kotak and has 21 members. The committee submitted its report on 5th October 2017. The committee had suggested the implementation of its proposals in phases

**93. Abiye Ahmed was elected as the new prime minister of which country?**

1. Libya
2. Kenya
3. Ethiopia
4. Somalia
5. Sudan

**Answer - 3. Ethiopia** Explanation : On 27th March 2018, Abiye Ahmed was elected as the new prime minister of Ethiopia. Abiye Ahmed has been elected as prime minister of Ethiopia following the resignation of Hailemariam Desalegn last month. The council of the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF) elected Abiye Ahmed as chairperson to succeed Hailemariam Desalegn. This automatically made Abiye Ahmed as

the prime minister of Ethiopia. He is 41 years old. He joined the House of Representatives in 2010. Earlier, he was a lieutenant colonel in the Ethiopian National Defense Force.

**94. Which state government launched '181-Sakhi', a toll-free helpline number for women?**

1. Manipur
2. Meghalaya
3. Assam
4. Punjab
5. Goa

Answer - 3. Assam Explanation : Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal launched '181-Sakhi', a toll-free helpline number for women. This helpline has been launched in wake of increasing crimes against women in Assam. Initially, the toll free helpline will work from 9 am to 5.30 pm, but will soon be a 24x7 service. It is a part of Union Ministry of Women and Child Development's scheme to provide 24 hours response to women affected by violence

**95. In which state, India's longest elevated road named "Hindon Elevated Road" was inaugurated?**

1. Madhya Pradesh
2. Gujarat
3. Haryana
4. Uttar Pradesh
5. Karnataka

Answer - 4. Uttar Pradesh Explanation : On 30th March 2018, Uttar Pradesh chief minister Yogi Adityanath inaugurated Hindon Elevated Road - India's longest elevated road, in Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh. The Hindon Elevated Road is a six-lane road. It is 10.3 km long. It has been built on 227 single pillars. It connects Raj Nagar Extension in Ghaziabad to UP Gate. It reduces the one hour journey to 18 minutes. The main objective of this road is to ease traffic movement between Ghaziabad and New Delhi. The total cost of the Hindon Elevated Road project is estimated to be Rs. 1,147 crore. This road has been constructed on Transit-oriented development (TOD) basis. It is a type of urban planning that makes public transportation easily accessible to residential, business and leisure space.

**96. With an objective to encourage early-stage start-ups, SEBI has decided to double the investment limit by angel funds in venture capital undertakings to \_\_\_\_\_ crore?**

1. Rs. 2 crore
2. Rs. 5 crore
3. Rs. 10 crore
4. Rs. 15 crore
5. Rs. 25 crore

Answer - 3. Rs. 10 crore Explanation : With an objective to encourage early-stage start-ups, Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has decided to double the investment limit by angel funds in venture capital undertakings to Rs. 10 crore. Angel funds/investors, encourage entrepreneurship by financing small start-ups at a stage when they find it difficult to obtain capital from conventional sources of finance such as banks and financial institutions. SEBI's decision to raise the maximum investment by angel funds in venture capital undertakings to Rs. 10 crore from the current Rs. 5 crore is based on the recommendations of its working group comprising of various start-ups, angel networks and consultants, which was formed to consider simplification of certain provisions of AIFs and thereby enhance ease of doing business for angel funds. In addition to this, SEBI would also increase the maximum period of accepting funds from an angel investor from three years to five years, as it will provide angel funds, more time to identify opportunities for investment.

**97. Government had decided to sell how many % stake in Air India?**

1. 10%
2. 25%
3. 50%
4. 75%
5. 76%

Answer - 5. 76% Explanation : The government has announced that, it has planned to sell 76 per cent stake in Air India. This has been mentioned in the expression of interest (EoI) document that was released on 28th March 2018. The government has planned to sell 76 per cent equity share capital of Air India along with subsidiary Air India Express and a 50% stake in Air India SATS (Singapore Airport Terminal Services) and also transfer the management control. It has been said that, the management or employees can directly take part in the bidding process or by forming a consortium. Ernst & Young LLP India has been named the transaction adviser for this disinvestment process.

**98. For the first time, which country's Central Bank has permitted domestic commercial banks to borrow funds from foreign banks and financial institutions?**

1. Bhutan
2. Myanmar
3. Nepal
4. Srilanka
5. Malaysia

Answer - 3. Nepal Explanation : For the first time, Nepal Rastra Bank (Nepal's Central Bank) has permitted domestic commercial banks to borrow funds from foreign banks and financial institutions. The permission has been granted in order to resolve liquidity crunch prevailing in Nepal's banking system since past few months. Following this permission, commercial banks of Nepal could now borrow loans up to 25 per cent of their core capital for the period from one year to five years. However, loans borrowed from abroad are to be utilised for financing only productive sectors such as agriculture, tourism, hydropower and outer infrastructure projects. It cannot be used to lend to the real estate sector in Nepal.

**99. Which country successfully tested its latest intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) "Sarmat"?**

1. Japan
2. China
3. Malaysia
4. UK
5. Russia

Answer - 5. Russia Explanation : On March 30, 2018, Russia successfully tested its latest intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) Sarmat. ICBM Sarmat was launch from Plesetsk in northwestern Russia. It will replace the Soviet-era Voyevoda, which is known as "Satan" in the West. 'Satan' is the world's heaviest ICBM. ICBM Sarmat weighs 200 metric tons and has a greater range than 'Satan'. On account greater range, it can even fly over the North or the South Poles and can strike targets anywhere in the world. ICBM Sarmat not only carries an array of warheads capable of dodging missile defences, but also carries a bigger number of nuclear warheads, thus making it more powerful than 'Satan'.

**100. R K Dorendra recently passed away. He was the former Chief Minister of which Indian state?**

1. Bihar
2. Haryana
3. Punjab
4. Manipur
5. Meghalaya

Answer - 4. Manipur Explanation : On 30th March 2018, former Manipur Chief Minister R K Dorendra Singh died at the Jawaharlal Nehru Institute of Medical Sciences Hospital in Imphal, Manipur. R K Dorendra Singh was 83 years old. He was the chief minister of Manipur four times between 1974 and 1993. Earlier, he was the Speaker of Manipur Assembly.