

2020

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WANT TO PREPARE FOR
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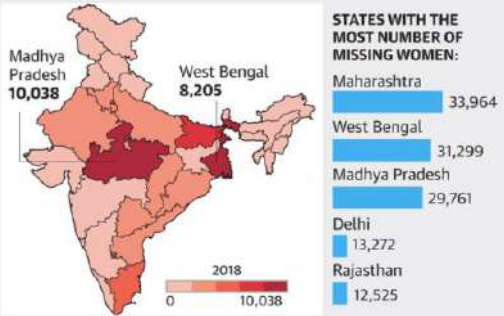
NATIONAL NEWS

NEWS	QUESTIONS
<p>1. For the first time, an India-Africa defence conclave will be conducted during the 11th edition of DefExpo 2020 being held in Lucknow, UP.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • So far, India has partnered with eastern and southern African countries in the field of defence and now, for the first time, the western countries are initiating the defence ties with India. • It is the first time it is being held in Lucknow on the theme of ‘India: The Emerging Defence Manufacturing Hub’ and ‘Digital Transformation of Defence’. • During the Conclave, Indian and several African countries have adopted a joint declaration – Lucknow Declaration – to fight terrorism and preserve maritime security. • The declaration mentioned to strengthen UN Counter-terrorism mechanism. 	<p>Q.) Which country will conduct the defence conclave with India, for the first time, during the DefExpo 2020?</p> <p>[a] Japan [b] South Korea [c] Australia [d] Africa [e] New Zealand</p>
<p>2. According to a study by National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) named as ‘Missing Women and Children in India’, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh have shown the highest number of missing women and children respectively in the years 2016, 2017 and 2018.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The study is based on the Crime in India Report compiled by NCRB for the years 2016, 2017 and 2018. • In Madhya Pradesh, Indore showed the highest number of missing children. • Mumbai and Kolkata witnessed the highest incidence of children and women being trafficked. 	<p>Q.) Which state has shown the highest number of missing women cases, according to the National Crime Records Bureau’s study?</p> <p>[a] Maharashtra [b] Madhya Pradesh [c] Bihar [d] Uttar Pradesh [e] West Bengal</p>



Yet to be found

In 2018, most number of missing children were reported from Madhya Pradesh (10,038), followed by West Bengal (8,205). In the same year, most number of missing women were reported from Maharashtra, followed by West Bengal. The map shows the number of missing children by State:



3. International Sugar Conference 2020 was organized in Pune.

Q.) Where was the International Sugar Conference held?

- [a] Pune
- [b] Ahmedabad
- [c] Surat
- [d] Delhi
- [e] Mumbai

4. Department of Science and Technology has launched a scheme called “Sophisticated Analytical & Technical Help Institutes (SATHI)”.

Q.) Department of Science and Technology has launched a scheme called SATHI to enable academia, start-ups, manufacturing, industry and R&D labs to access the science & technological instruments at one place. What does ‘S’ stand for?

- Purpose: to enable academia, start-ups, manufacturing, industry and R&D labs to access the science & technological instruments at one place. It also aims to reduce dependency on foreign sources.
- Govt has planned to set up five SATHI Centres every year for the next four years.
- The govt will provide Rs 500 crores to 100 top-performing departments in universities and IITs etc to improve their research facilities to global benchmarks.

- [a] Sophisticated
- [b] Systematic
- [c] Symposium
- [d] Strategic
- [e] Standalone

5. India has organized the 4th East Asia Summit (EAS) Conference on Maritime Security Cooperation in Chennai.

Q.) Which country has organized the 4th East Asia Summit (EAS) Conference on Maritime Security Cooperation?

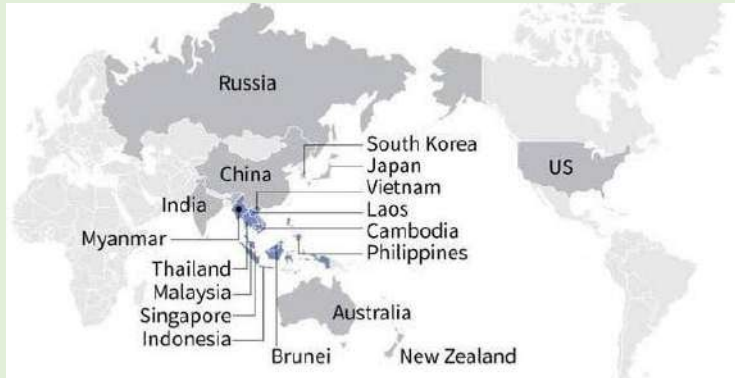
- Organizer: Ministry of External Affairs in partnership with the Governments of Australia and Indonesia.

- [a] Australia
- [b] Japan
- [c] South Korea



- Knowledge Partners of the Conference: National Maritime Foundation and Research and Information System for Developing Countries.

18 Members of EAS are:



- [d] India
- [e] New Zealand

6. Government has formed a group of ministers, headed by Harsh Vardhan (Minister of Health and Family Welfare), to monitor India's preparedness for tackling the novel coronavirus (Covid-19).
- Also, Department of Biotechnology (under the Ministry of Science and Technology) has partnered with the Coalition of Epidemic Preparedness and Innovations (CEPI) of Norway to fund the development of vaccines for the novel coronavirus (Covid-19).

Q.) Who heads the group of ministers formed by the government to monitor India's preparedness for tackling the novel coronavirus?

- [a] D. V. Sadananda Gowda
- [b] Arjun Munda
- [c] Harsh Vardhan
- [d] Smriti Irani
- [e] Rajnath Singh

OR

Q.) Which country's Coalition of Epidemic Preparedness and Innovations has the Department of Biotechnology partnered to fund the development of vaccines for the novel coronavirus?

- [a] Norway
- [b] Switzerland
- [c] Denmark
- [d] Netherlands
- [e] Britain



7. India's biggest rural technical festival titled 'Antahpragnya 2020' was organized at Rajiv Gandhi University of Knowledge Technologies-Basar (RGUKT-Basar) in Telangana.

- Theme: Spot and encourage rural tech innovators.
- RGUKT is the first institute in India to implement block-chain technology.

Q.) Where is India's biggest rural technical festival – 'Antahpragnya 2020' – being held?

- [a] Telangana
- [b] Madhya Pradesh
- [c] Maharashtra
- [d] Assam
- [e] Arunachal Pradesh

8. According to a report submitted by National Productivity Council (NPC), the application of Soil Health Card scheme's recommendations has led to a decline in the use of chemical fertiliser by 8-10% and increased the productivity by 5-6%.

Q.) When was the soil health card scheme launched?

- [a] 2003
- [b] 2015
- [c] 2010
- [d] 2019
- [e] 2014

OR

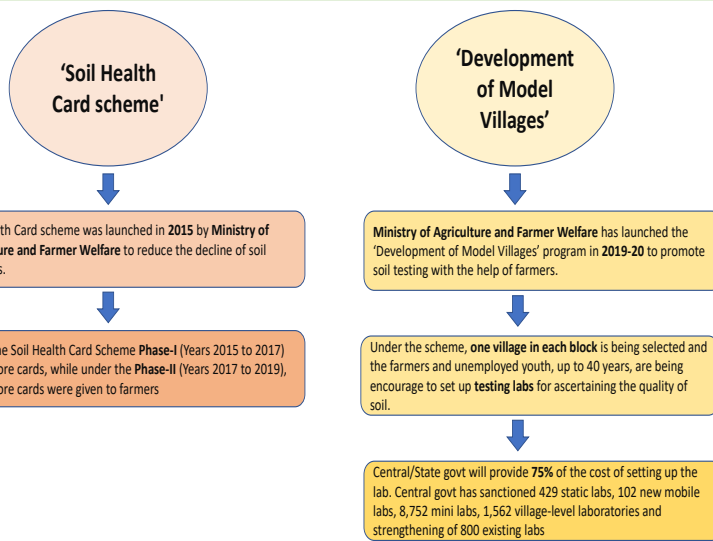
Q.) According to the report submitted by National Productivity Council, the application of Soil Health Card scheme's recommendations has led to a decline in the use of chemical fertiliser by __?

- [a] 5-10%
- [b] 9-10%
- [c] 6.75-10%
- [d] 7.25-10%
- [e] 8-10%

OR

Q.) How many under the Soil Health Cards were distributed during the Phase-I (Years 2015 to 2017) of the scheme?

- [a] 12.17 crore





- [b] 10.74 crore
- [c] 5.09 crore
- [d] 7.70 crore
- [e] 15.44 crore

OR

Q.) How many villages will be selected from each district under the Development of Model Villages scheme for setting up the testing labs for ascertaining the quality of soil?

- [a] 1
- [b] 2
- [c] 5
- [d] 4
- [e] 3

9. According to the World Cancer Report released by International Agency for Research on Cancer (a specialized unit of WHO), 1 in 10 Indian will develop cancer during their life-time and 1 in 15 Indians will die of cancer.

- Reason: “socio-economic inequalities” is a major cause for the rapidly increasing burden of cancer in India.
- Together, the six common types of cancer accounted for almost half (49%) of all new cases in both men and women.
- India accounts for about 1/5th of the global burden of cervical cancer.
- According to WHO, the cancer cases in the world will rise by 60% by 2040. Low and Middle-Income Countries will see an increase of 81% in new cancer cases if current trends continue.

Q.) According to the World Cancer Report released by International Agency for Research on Cancer, India accounts for about ___ of the global burden of cervical cancer?

- [a] 1/3rd
- [b] 1/5th
- [c] 1/2nd
- [d] 1/4th
- [e] 1/6th

OR

Q.) According to a new study by WHO, cancer cases in the middle and low income countries would increase ___ by 2040?

- [a] 67%



CANCER BURDEN IN 2018

► Socio-economic inequalities a major cause for rapid rise in cancer cases in India, says a study

NEW CASES	DEATHS
1.16 million	7,84,800



Number of cases of six most common types of cancer

Breast cancer	1,62,500
Oral cancer	1,20,000
Cervical cancer	97,000
Lung cancer	68,000
Stomach cancer	57,000
Colorectal cancer	57,000

In men | Oral, lung, stomach, colorectal and oesophageal cancer accounted for **45%** of new cancer cases

In women | Breast, cervical, ovarian, oral and colorectal cancer account for **60%** of cases

Source: WHO's World Cancer Report

- [b] 37%
- [c] 81%
- [d] 49%
- [e] 33%

10. World Health Organization has also released the “Report on Cancer: Setting priorities, investing wisely and providing care for all” which provides measures to save 7 million lives from cancer.

- Tobacco is the biggest risk factor for cancer, with about 80% of the world’s smokers in low and middle-income countries.
- 64% of the world’s daily smokers live in 10 countries, and half of the world’s male smokers live in just three countries - China, India, and Indonesia.

Q.) According to the WHO’s Report on Cancer: Setting priorities, investing wisely and providing care for all, what is the percentage of tobacco consumers live in low and middle-income countries?

- [a] 80%
- [b] 90%
- [c] 30%
- [d] 40%
- [e] 50%

11. Rajya Sabha committee, chaired by Bhupender Yadav, has presented its 15 recommendations on the Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill 2019.

- Major recommendations – allow single woman (divorcee or widow) to conduct surrogacy; increase insurance cover for surrogate mothers from 16 months to 36 months; delete the definition of infertility.
- Definition of infertility in the bill – “inability to conceive after 5 years of unprotected intercourse”.

SURROGACY BILL, 2019 was passed in Lok Sabha in August 2019.

Q.) Who heads the Rajya Sabha committee which has given recommendations on the Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill 2019?

- [a] Ajay Maken
- [b] Bhupender Yadav
- [c] Mukul Banerji
- [d] Sanjay Kumar Yadav
- [e] Ram Kumar Azad


Provisions of the bill: -

- Aim: - Prohibits the exploitation of surrogate mothers and to protect the rights of children born through surrogacy.
- It will establish a 'National Surrogacy Board' at the central level and 'state surrogacy boards' at states/UTs level for supervising the code of conduct of surrogacy clinics among other things.
- 228th report of Commission of India recommended to prohibit commercial surrogacy and to allow altruistic (for humanitarian reasons) surrogacy.

12. First ever India-Central Asia Business Council has been organized in New Delhi to promote trade and investment between India and Central Asian countries.
- Under the India-Central Asia Dialogue, the governments have committed to create a vibrant partnership.
 - 5 central Asian countries namely Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyz Republic along with India have joined the council.

13. Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) has organized the 22nd India International Sea Food Show (one of Asia's largest food fair) in Kochi, Kerala.
- Theme: Blue Revolution: Beyond Production to Value Addition
 - MPEDA has set a target to reaching exports of marine products to \$10 billion by 2022 and \$15 billion in the next 5 years from \$6.7 billion in 2018-19.
 - India is currently the fourth largest producer of seafood in the world.

Q.) How many Central Asian countries are a part of the First ever India-Central Asia Business Council?

- [a] 5
- [b] 3
- [c] 2
- [d] 6
- [e] 10

Q.) Where was the 22nd India International Sea Food Show held?

- [a] Kerala
- [b] Maharashtra
- [c] Madhya Pradesh
- [d] Arunachal Pradesh
- [e] Karnataka

OR

Q.) How much does the Marine Products Export Development Authority aim to increase exports of Indian seafood products by 2022?

- [a] \$12 billion



- [b] \$10 billion
- [c] \$15 billion
- [d] \$30 billion
- [e] \$7 billion

OR

Q.) Marine Products Export Development Authority has set a target to increase exports of marine products to _____ in the next 5 years?

- [a] \$15 billion
- [b] \$22 billion
- [c] \$30 billion
- [d] \$20 billion
- [e] \$12 billion

14. Jammu and Kashmir administration has renamed the Public Health Engineering and Irrigation and Flood Control Department as the 'Jal Shakti Department'.

- J&K has also implemented the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) to provide piped water supply to all households in the UT by December 2021.
- Jal Jeevan Mission aims to provide the piped water supply to every households by 2024.

Q.) By which year does J&K administration aim to provide piped water supply to all households in the UT under Jal Jeevan Mission?

- [a] 2025
- [b] 2024
- [c] 2021
- [d] 2022
- [e] 2023

15. Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has launched two indices for the year 2019 for cities – Municipality Performance Index and Ease of Living Index – which will be conducted during Feb 1-29, 2020.

- Purpose: both these indices will assess the quality of life of citizens in 100 smart cities and 14 other million plus cities.

Municipality Performance Index
2019

Ease of Living Index 2019

Q.) How many enablers will be used in the Municipality Performance Index 2019?

- [a] 5
- [b] 10
- [c] 7
- [d] 12
- [e] 18



Parameters: Five enablers – Service, Finance, Planning, Technology and Governance – which have been further divided into 20 sectors which will be evaluated across 100 indicators.

Parameters: It will assess the ease of living of citizens across **three** pillars – Quality of Life, Economic Ability and Sustainability which are further divided into 14 categories across 50 indicators.

OR

Q.) Which of the following will not be considered as a pillar while assessing the Ease of Living Index 2019?

- [a] Quality of Life
- [b] Sustainability
- [c] Economic Ability
- [d] Technological advancement
- [e] None of the Above

-

Purpose: to provide a holistic view of Indian cities and assess the services provided by local bodies, the effectiveness of the administration, the results generated through these services in terms of the liveability within cities and, the citizen perception of these results.

-

Citizen Perception Survey: For the **first** time, a Citizen Perception Survey is being conducted as part of the ease of living index (which carries 30% of the marks of the Ease of Living Index).

16. According to a study conducted by the Centre for Wildlife Sanctuaries and Wildlife Institute of India, population of leopards in India has decreased by 75-90% in India in the past 120 to 200 years.

- The research has been published in PeerJ journal.
- Leopards live in the Western Ghats, the Deccan plateau’s semi-arid region, the Shivalik hill-region in north India and the Terai region along the Gangetic plains.
- There is no dedicated census for the leopard in India. The leopard population was ascertained during the tiger census 2014 was around 12,000 to 14,000.

Q.) According to a study conducted by the Centre for Wildlife Sanctuaries and Wildlife Institute of India, population of leopards in India has decreased by ___ in India in the past 120 to 200 years?

- [a] 75-90%
- [b] 75-80%
- [c] 40-60%
- [d] 50-80%
- [e] 45-70%

17. Northern Coalfield Ltd (subsidiary of Coal India), in collaboration with IIT-Banaras Hindu University, has set

Q.) Recently, Northern Coalfield Ltd (subsidiary of Coal India), in



up a Research and Development centre named as ‘SARAS’ (Science and Applied Research Alliance and Support) to increase the coal production.

- World Confederation of Productivity Science seminar has been organized in New Delhi.
- The CMD of Northern Coalfield Ltd - Prabhat Kumar Sinha - has been elected as the member of World Academy of Productivity Science for his significant contributions to the coal sector.

collaboration with IIT-Banaras Hindu University, has set up a Research and Development centre named as ____ to increase the coal production?

- [a] Saras
- [b] Sparsh
- [c] Paras
- [d] Parasan
- [e] Prayaas

18. As part of the “Abhedya” project of the India Army, Major Anoop Mishra has developed the world’s 1st bulletproof helmet that can an AK-47 bullet attack from a distance of less than 10 meters.

- Indian Army’s College of Military Engineering (Pune) has also developed India’s first and world’s cheapest gunshot locator named as ‘Parth’ to detect the exact location of the bullet from a distance of 400 meters.
- Mishra had also developed the sniper proof jacket.

Q.) What is the name of the India’s first and world’s cheapest gunshot locator developed by Indian Army’s College of Military Engineering?

- [a] Arjuna
- [b] Dhananjaya
- [c] Parth
- [d] Dheer
- [e] Prahar

19. Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change will organize the 13th Conference of Parties (COP) of the Convention on Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.

- Theme of COP 13 – Migratory species Connect the Planet and Together We Welcome Them Home
- Mascot of COP 13 – Great Indian Bustard
- India has been appointed the Chair of the conference.

Q.) Which of the following is the mascot of the 13th Conference of Parties (COP) of the Convention on Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals?

- [a] Himalayan Monal
- [b] Nilgiri Flycatcher
- [c] Blue-winged Parakeet
- [d] Bugun Liocichla
- [e] Great Indian Bustard

OR

Q.) When was the UN’s Convention on Migratory Species adopted?

- [a] 1979

About the Conference:

- ♣ UN’s Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), also known as the **Bonn Convention**, aims to conserve terrestrial, aquatic and avian migratory animals and their habitats.
- ♣ As of November 1, 2019, CMS has 130 Parties.
- ♣ Secretariat – Bonn, Germany



<p>♣ Signed on – Adopted in 1979 and entered in to force in 1983.</p>	<p>[b] 1966 [c] 1954 [d] 1973 [e] 1980</p>
<p>20. For the first time, Tripura has observed the Hornbill festival (which is observed by Nagaland).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purpose: - to conserve the striking forest bird “Hornbill” and to boost the livelihood of the people through tourism. 	<p>Q.) Which state has observed the Hornbill festival for the first time in 2020?</p> <p>[a] Assam [b] West Bengal [c] Madhya Pradesh [d] Uttarkhand [e] Tripura</p>
<p>21. India will host the BIMSTEC Disaster Management Drill 2020 in Bhuvneshwar, Odisha.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BIMSTEC – Bay of Bengal initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation. • BIMSTEC has seven members which are India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand. 	<p>Q.) Where will India host the BIMSTEC Disaster Management Drill 2020?</p> <p>[a] Tamil Nadu [b] Odisha [c] Kerala [d] Andhra Pradesh [e] Karnataka</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p>Q.) How many countries are members of BIMSTEC group?</p> <p>[a] 7 [b] 10 [c] 5 [d] 15 [e] 20</p>
<p>22. The Parliamentary Standing Committee, headed by Bhartruhari Mahtab, has submitted its recommendations on reforming some of the provision of ‘Labour Code on Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions of</p>	<p>Q.) Who heads the panel that has submitted its recommendations on reforming some of the provision of ‘Labour Code on Occupational Safety,</p>



Workers' to include unorganized workers under the aegis of the bill.

- The committee has recommended to use 'workers' for everyone in the workforce to safeguard against any of them being excluded from the benefits of the code.
- The committee has given several recommendations apart from this.

Health and Working Conditions of Workers' to include unorganized workers under the aegis of the bill?

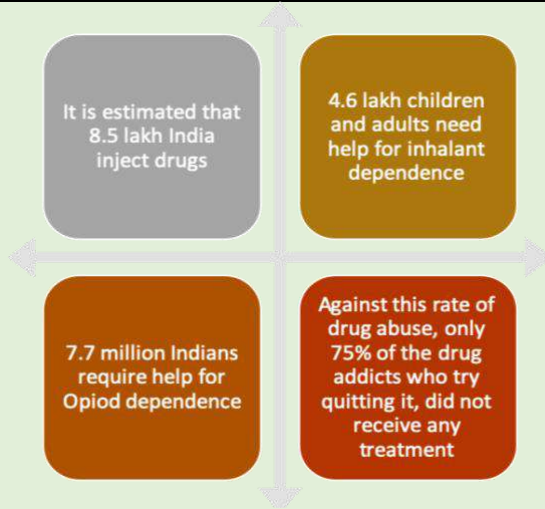
- [a] Satish Chandra Dubey
- [b] Ram Kumar Sharma
- [c] Bhartruhari Mahtab
- [d] Sarfaraz Alam
- [e] Santosh Kumar

23. Central govt is planning to roll out a National Action Plan for a 'Nasha Mukt Bharat' (expected to be completed in this year) worth Rs 336 crore to curb the increasing drug abuse.

- Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) has identified a total of 272 worst affected districts mostly located in Punjab, Haryana, Delhi, UP, and the North-east.
- The prevalence of Opioid use in India is three times the global average.
- The new policy would aim to scale up the treatment centres as well as trained personnel.
- The national plan is based on the AIIMS first ever "National Survey on Extent and Substance Use in India" which was published in June 2019 (covered in Spotlight).

Q.) How many districts have been identified by the Narcotics Control Bureau as the worst drug-affected districts?

- [a] 272
- [b] 300
- [c] 280
- [d] 115
- [e] 102



24. 5th edition of AJEYA WARRIOR 2020 - joint military exercise of Indian Army and United Kingdom Army will be conducted at Salisbury Plains, UK.

Q.) With which country does India conduct the joint military exercise - AJEYA WARRIOR 2020?

- [a] United Kingdom
- [b] Belarus
- [c] Australia
- [d] Japan
- [e] Germany

25. Budget 2020 had proposed to develop the five new smart cities on the pattern of Gandhinagar's Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT).

- Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade is working closely with Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs to identify the cities.
- These cities would be set up as business districts.

Q.) As announced by FM Nirmala Sitharaman in Budget 2020, how many new smart cities will be developed on the pattern of Gandhinagar's Gujarat International Finance Tec-City?

- [a] 5
- [b] 7
- [c] 10
- [d] 2
- [e] 3

26. 3rd International Conference on Arbitration has been organized in New Delhi by the Indian Council of Arbitration and FICCI.

Q.) Where will the 3rd International Conference on Arbitration be organized?

- [a] India



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The conference focussed on “Arbitration in the Era of Globalization”. 	<p>[b] Switzerland [c] Netherlands [d] Germany [e] USA</p>
<p>27. Supreme Court will convene an International Judicial Conference on “Judiciary and the Changing World” in New Delhi.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Representatives and heads of 22 countries, International Court of Justice and East African court of justice are likely to participate. 	<p>Q.) Which country is going to convene an International Judicial Conference on “Judiciary and the Changing World”?</p> <p>[a] India [b] Sweden [c] England [d] Germany [e] France</p>
<p>28. 6th International Conference on Climate Services was held at the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, Pune (IITM).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Earth Sciences is planning to conduct a ‘decadal forecast of climate’ to ascertain a more accurate forecast. The new climate forecast system would be explored as a research programme to be taken up by the IITM along with collaboration from the Indian Meteorological Department and other entities. 	<p>Q.) Where was the 6th International Conference on Climate Services held?</p> <p>[a] Maharashtra [b] Tamil Nadu [c] Gujarat [d] West Bengal [e] Bihar</p>
<p>29. Union Cabinet has announced to include pending litigation in debt recovery tribunals (DRT) in the Direct Tax Vivaad se Vishwas Bill, 2020.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The disputes of search and seizures where the recovery is below Rs 5 crore can be taken in this scheme. Cabinet has also approved to infuse Rs 2500 crore into 3 PSU insurers – National Insurance Company, Oriental Insurance Company and United General Insurance Company (which are also going to merge). 	<p>Q.) How much amount has been approved by the Cabinet for recapitalization of 3 PSU insurers – National Insurance Company, Oriental Insurance Company and United General Insurance Company?</p> <p>[a] Rs 2500 crore [b] Rs 4000 crore [c] Rs 2400 crore</p>



	<p>[d] Rs 3000 crore</p> <p>[e] Rs 2000 crore</p>
<p>30. World's largest cricket stadium – Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Stadium also known as the Motera Cricket stadium – will be inaugurated in Ahmedabad by US President Donald Trump during his visit to India.</p>	<p>Q.) Where is the World's largest cricket stadium located?</p> <p>[a] India</p> <p>[b] England</p> <p>[c] Sri Lanka</p> <p>[d] Australia</p> <p>[e] New Zealand</p>
<p>31. “CLIMISHCON” – the international conference on changes in hydrological cycle, ocean ecosystem, fisheries and food security due to global climate change has been organized in Kochi, Kerala.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organizers – Department of Fisheries, Kerala and CUSAT’s School of Industries Fisheries. 	<p>Q.) Where has the “CLIMISHCON” – the international conference on changes in hydrological cycle, ocean ecosystem, fisheries and food security due to global climate change been organized?</p> <p>[a] Kerala</p> <p>[b] Chhattisgarh</p> <p>[c] Karnataka</p> <p>[d] Gujarat</p> <p>[e] Rajasthan</p>
<p>32. Ministry of HRD and Ministry of Health have jointly launched the School Health Ambassador Initiative under Ayushman Bharat.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The teachers will act as the School Health Ambassadors for children to provide information about healthy habits. The School Health Programme (SHP) under Ayushman Bharat was jointly launched by Ministry of HRD and health in 2018. 	<p>Q.) When was the School Health Programme launched under Ayushman Bharat was by Ministry of HRD and health?</p> <p>[a] 2015</p> <p>[b] 2013</p> <p>[c] 2018</p> <p>[d] 2016</p> <p>[e] 2017</p>
<p>33. BIMSTEC ‘Conference on Combating Drug Trafficking’ was held in New Delhi.</p>	<p>Q.) Where was the BIMSTEC ‘Conference on Combating Drug Trafficking’ organized?</p>



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organizer: - Narcotics Control Bureau (operating under Ministry of Home Affairs). 5th edition of the BIMSTEC summit will be held in Sri Lanka. India has so far signed 26 bilateral agreements, 15 MoU and 2 security pacts with other countries to fight the drug. 	<p>[a] New Delhi [b] Karnataka [c] Punjab [d] Kerala [e] Karnataka</p>
<p>34. For the first time in India, a five-star hotel will be built above the railway tracks in the Gandhinagar railway station in Gujarat.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Being built by Leela Hotel, the hotel is expected to be completed by Dec 2020. 	<p>Q.) For the first time in India, a five-star hotel will be built above the railway tracks in the ___ railway station?</p> <p>[a] Gandhinagar railway station [b] Howrah Junction Station [c] Lucknow Charbagh Station [d] Gorakhpur Railway Station [e] Cuttack Railway Station</p>
<p>35. Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has released a draft of the Visionary Perspective Plan (2020-2030) to conserve ecosystems, habitats, avian diversity and landscapes of India.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> According to the draft, there are 1,317 bird species in India. Out of these 72 are endemic, 100 are threatened, 17 are critically endangered, 63 are vulnerable and 20 are endangered. Around 270 species (21% of avifauna) of birds fall under the “rare” category. Around 219 bird bio-diversity areas are under severe pressure generated by human activities. A total of 2,01,503 lakh wetlands spread across 2.25 hectares in India are under stress mainly due to agricultural run-offs and urbanization. 	<p>Q.) How many birds species exist in India, according to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, draft of the Visionary Perspective Plan (2020-2030)?</p> <p>[a] 1,317 [b] 5,007 [c] 3,876 [d] 4,210 [e] 2,097</p>
<p>36. First of its kind, National Organic Food Festival will be organized in New Delhi by the Ministry of Food Processing to boost production of organic products.</p>	<p>Q.) Where will the National Organic Food Festival be organized for the first time?</p>



- Theme: Unleashing India's Organic Market Potential
- India is the world's 9th largest agricultural organic market. India aims to increase of the size of the organic sector to Rs 75,000 crores by 2025.

- [a] Chhattisgarh
- [b] Tamil Nadu
- [c] New Delhi
- [d] Gujarat
- [e] Arunachal Pradesh

37. India and Portugal have signed 14 agreements in the field of culture, transport, investment, industrial and intellectual property rights during the Portugal President Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa visit to India.
- As part of the agreement on culture, India and Portugal will develop National Maritime Heritage Complex at Lothal, Gujarat.
 - Portugal President Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa has been chosen as the President of European Council for 2021.

- Q.) Recently, Portugal President has visited India and signed 14 agreements with India in the field of culture, transport, investment, industrial and intellectual property rights. What is the name of the President of Portugal?
- [a] Pedro Sánchez
 - [b] Volodymyr Zelensky
 - [c] Erna Solberg
 - [d] Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa
 - [e] Klaus Iohannis

38. Global Investors Summit 2020 will be held in Jammu and Kashmir in April.

- Q.) Where will the Global Investors Summit 2020 be held?
- [a] Jammu & Kashmir
 - [b] Uttarakhand
 - [c] Kerala
 - [d] Arunachal Pradesh
 - [e] Meghalaya

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

NEWS	QUESTIONS
<p>1. Vietnam is the chair of ASEAN for 2020.</p>	<p>Q.) Which country has assumed the Chair of ASEAN for 2020?</p> <p>[a] Vietnam [b] Bangladesh [c] Philippines [d] Malaysia [e] Myanmar</p>
<p>2. Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program (TTCSP) at the University of Pennsylvania has released the 2019 Global Go To Think Tank Index Report which ranks world's top think tanks.</p> <p>Parameters –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resource indicators – Ability to recruit and retain leading scholars and analysts • Utilization indicators – Reputation as a “go-to” organization by media and policy elites in the country • Output indicators – Number and quality of policy proposals and ideas generated; publications produced etc. • Impact indicators – Recommendations considered or adopted by policy makers and civil society organizations. 	<p>Q.) Which think-tank has been ranked as the ‘2019 think-tank of the year in the world’ in the 2019 Global Go To Think Tank Index Report?</p> <p>[a] Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs (United States) [b] French Institute of International Relations (France) [c] German Institute of Development (Germany) [d] Carnegie Endowment for International Peace (United States) [e] Observer Research Foundation (India)</p>



Total Number Of Global Think-tanks Assessed In This Report Are 176.

2019 Think Tank of the Year in the World – Carnegie Endowment for International Peace (United States)

India's think tank rank – Observer Research Foundation (ORF) is ranked at 27th position (up from the 118th position in 2018).

Raisina Dialogue (curated by ORF) is ranked as the 7th best conference in the report (up from 12th position).
Syama Prasad Mookerjee Research Foundation was the highest-ranked Indian think tank with a political party affiliation at 31st position

India has the **second-largest number** of think tanks at 509. USA has the highest number at 1,871

Among **non-US think tanks** globally, ORF was ranked at 15th position and 3rd among the Think Tanks in the region – China, India, Japan and South Korea

3. Maldives has become the 54th member of Commonwealth of Nations.

- Commonwealth Secretary-General: Patricia Scotland
- Commonwealth of Nations – formed in 1931
- Maldives President – Ibrahim Mohamed Solih

Q.) Which nation has become the 54th member of Commonwealth of Nations?

[a] Singapore
[b] Maldives
[c] Hong Kong
[d] Philippines
[e] Fiji

4. US-based Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation has released a report on pneumonia on the side lines of the First-Ever Global Forum on Childhood Pneumonia held in Barcelona, Spain (in January).

Q.) What is the percentage of children U-5 Pneumonia deaths in India according to the report released by US-based Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation?

[a] 12%
[b] 14%
[c] 30%
[d] 21%
[e] 5%

About India	About World
A) In India , a total of 14% (approx. 1.27 lakh) children under-5 years die due to pneumonia. 50% of the cases were recorded from northern India	A) Globally, 9 million children U-5 will die in a decade because of pneumonia, if prevention is not strengthened
B) India aims to reduce the pneumonia mortality rate from 5 per 1,000 live births, at present, to less than 3 by 2025	B) In 2019 , more than 8 lakh children died because of pneumonia U-5 every year
-	C) 6.3 million children U-5 are expected to die due to pneumonia from 2020-2030

OR

Q.) By which year does India aim to reduce the pneumonia mortality rate from 5 per 1,000 live births, at present, to less than 3?

[a] 2024
[b] 2025



-	D) Highest number of deaths – Nigeria (1.4 million), India (880,000), Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC- 350,000) and Ethiopia (280,000)	<p>[c] 2022</p> <p>[d] 2030</p> <p>[e] 2023</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p>Q.) Which country has the highest burden of pneumonia deaths according to the report released by US-based Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation?</p> <p>[a] Ethiopia</p> <p>[b] China</p> <p>[c] India</p> <p>[d] Nigeria</p> <p>[e] Albania</p>
-	E) Johns Hopkins University model – Increasing pneumonia prevention services can save 3.2 million children U-5 years. It would also prevent 5.7 million extra child deaths from other major childhood diseases at the same time.	
-	F) Outdoor air pollution causes 17.5% of under-5 pneumonia deaths among children U-5 worldwide	
-	G) Indoor pollution contributes to an additional 29.4% (1.95 lakh) deaths	
5. Britain’s Prince Charles has disclosed a new Children’s protection fund for India as part of British Asian Trust.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He also announced Katy Perry (American singer) as the new ambassador for the British Asian Trust Children’s Protection Fund for India. • British Asian Trust had been working with business, government and civil society, to remove child labour as part of the Child Labour Free Jaipur Initiative. • British Asian Trust is chaired by Manoj Badale. 	<p>Q.) Who has been appointed as the brand ambassador of the British Asian Trust Children’s Protection Fund for India?</p> <p>[a] Emma Stone</p> <p>[b] Olivia Wilde</p> <p>[c] Scarlett Johansson</p> <p>[d] Blake Lively</p> <p>[e] Katy Perry</p>
6. USA has launched the International Religious Freedom Alliance consisting of 27-nations (as of now) to protect and preserve the religious freedom of people across the world.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reason: More than eight in ten people in the world live in a place where they cannot practice their religion freely. 	



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poland will host the next ministerial in Warsaw in July 2020 to take this alliance forward. 	<p>[e] Japan</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Q.) How many countries are members of International Religious Freedom Alliance?</p> <p>[a] 27</p> <p>[b] 30</p> <p>[c] 90</p> <p>[d] 50</p> <p>[e] 60</p>
<p>7. US-based Global Innovation Policy Centre has released the 8th edition of its ‘International Intellectual Property Index’ 2020.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Title of the report – “Art of the Possible” Total Countries – 53 Top Ranker – USA (95.28% score) Bottom Ranker – Venezuela (24.06% score) India’s Rank – 40 (38.46% score). India’s score is 19.23 out of 50. In 2019, India was ranked at 36th position. Parameters of the index: - Total 50 indicators were used in this index (including 5 new indicators and 2 additions to existing indicators). These indicators were classified into 9 categories. 	<p>Q.) Which country has topped in the ‘International Intellectual Property Index’ 2020?</p> <p>[a] India</p> <p>[b] Russia</p> <p>[c] China</p> <p>[d] USA</p> <p>[e] Canada</p>
<p>8. African Union Summit was organized in Addis Ababa (capital city of Ethiopia) on the theme of “Silencing the Guns” to counter terrorism.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> South African President Cyril Ramaphosa has taken over the chair of African Union from Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi. Recently, 50 African countries have signed Lucknow Declaration with India to counter terrorism. <p>About AU:</p>	<p>Q.) Where was the African Union Summit 2020 organized?</p> <p>[a] Ethiopia</p> <p>[b] Nigeria</p> <p>[c] Kenya</p> <p>[d] Egypt</p> <p>[e] Somalia</p>



Formed – 2002

HQ – Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Members – 55 countries

9. According to the World Bank's data, 44% adults (more than 2 billion) worldwide are obese or overweight and over 70% of them live in low and middle income countries.

- In the category of children U-5, 79% of the obese children live in middle income countries and 10% live in low and 11% live in high income countries.
- In the category of children aged 5-19, 73% of the obese children live in middle income countries and 9% live in low and 18% live in high income countries.
- In the category of adults above 20 years, 71% of the obese children live in middle income countries and 4% live in low and 25% live in high income countries.

Q.) What is the percentage of obese children U-5 living in middle income countries according to the World Bank's data on obese children?

- [a] 79%
- [b] 50%
- [c] 45%
- [d] 39%
- [e] 20%

10. 43rd Annual Governing Council meeting of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) 2020 was held at the headquarters of Food and Agriculture Organization's (FAO) in Rome, Italy.

- Theme – “Investing in sustainable food systems to end hunger by 2030”
- During the meet, it was announced that the UN will not be able to achieve its SDG targets by 2030 due to the lack of funds.
- It will achieve the goals only by 2040 with an annual investment of more than \$115 billion.
- By 2030, around 100 million people will be pushed to poverty due to the climate change.

About IFAD –

HQ – Rome, Italy

Q.) Where was the 43rd Annual Governing Council meeting of the International Fund for Agricultural Development 2020 held?

- [a] Geneva, Switzerland
- [b] Rome, Italy
- [c] Hague, Netherlands
- [d] Paris, France
- [e] London, England



President – Gilbert Hougbo	
<p>11. According to the “Military Balance 2020” report released by the International Institute of Strategic Studies, total global spending on defence has increased by 4% in 2019 (it is the highest increase in 10 years).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> China and US have increased their spending by 6.6% which led to overall increase in the spending at the global level. 	<p>Q.) What is the percentage of increase in the total global spending on defence in 2019, according to the “Military Balance 2020” report released by the International Institute of Strategic Studies?</p> <p>[a] 6.6%</p> <p>[b] 4%</p> <p>[c] 5%</p> <p>[d] 5.3%</p> <p>[e] 4.2%</p>

BANKING AND ECONOMY

NEWS	QUESTIONS
<p>1. Indian Bank has launched ‘Corporate Loan’ (to offer loans at an affordable interest rates) and ‘Ind Surya Shakthi’ credit products for the benefit of the textile sector.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under the Surya Shakthi, a term loan would be given to set up roof-top solar power plants to boost the renewable energy in the textile sector. Indian Bank MD and CEO – Padmaja Chundururu 	<p>Q.) Which bank has launched the ‘Corporate Loan’ (to offer loans at an affordable interest rates) and ‘Ind Surya Shakthi’ credit products for the benefit of the textile sector?</p> <p>[a] HSBC Bank</p> <p>[b] Indian Bank</p> <p>[c] Indian Overseas Bank</p> <p>[d] Canara Bank</p> <p>[e] Punjab National Bank</p>
<p>2. Economic Survey 2020 has been presented in the parliament by Minister of Finance Nirmala Sitharaman.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is prepared by Department of Economic Affairs under the guidance of Chief Economic Advisor – Krishnamurthy Subramanian. It is a precursor to budget. 	<p>Q.) What is the GDP growth rate for FY20 projected by Economic Survey 2020?</p> <p>[a] 5%</p> <p>[b] 5.3%</p> <p>[c] 4.9%</p> <p>[d] 5.2%</p> <p>[e] 5.1%</p>



- GDP growth rate for FY20 – 5% (lowest in 10 years).
- GDP growth rate for 2020-21 – 6-6.5%
- The survey has suggested to integrate “Assemble in India for the world” into “Make in India” to become a manufacturer of products rather than the assembler of products.
- For this Indian export market share has to rise about 3.5% by 2025 and 6% by 2030.
- Survey suggested to boost trade for creating 4 crore new well paid jobs by 2025 and 8 crore by 2030.
- Projected fiscal deficit – 3.3%
- Survey suggests to create a health score/ranking of NBFCs to assess their financial health on a timely basis.
- Growth rate for Agriculture – 2.8%; Industrial growth – 2.5%; Services – 6.9% for FY20.
- Inflation for FY20 – CPI will be 4.1% and WPI will be 1.5%.

OR

Q.) Who is the current Chief Economic Advisor of India?

- [a] Abhijit Banerjee
- [b] Arvind Subramanian
- [c] Gita Gopinath
- [d] Krishnamurthy Subramanian
- [e] Jagdish Bagwati

OR

Q.) Who presents the Economic Survey of India?

- [a] Minister of Finance
- [b] Prime Minister of India
- [c] Home Minister of India
- [d] Chief Economic Advisor of India
- [e] President of India

OR

Q.) Which sector has the highest growth rate projected by the Economic Survey 2020?

- [a] Services
- [b] Industry
- [c] Agriculture
- [d] Both A and B
- [e] Both A and C

OR

Q.) What is the consumer price inflation target for India, according to the Economic Survey 2020?

- [a] 4.2%
- [b] 3.5%



3. Budget 2020: “By 2030, India is set to have the largest working-age population in the world” said Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in her Budget speech.

- It is the longest budget speech in Indian history.

Sector	Budget allocation
Education	Rs 99,311.52 crore (5% increase)
Health sector	Rs 69,000 crore
Skill development	Rs 3,002.21 crore
Jal Jeevan Mission (for drinking water)	Rs 11,500 crore
Agriculture	Rs 2.83 Lakh Crore
For hosting the G20 Presidency in 2022 in India	Rs 100 Crore

- Budget mentions that, as part of the TB Harega Desh Jitega campaign, India will eliminate TB by 2025.
- Agriculture credit target has been set at Rs 15 lakh crore for NABARD for the year 2020-21.
- Milk production target has been double from 53.5 million metric tonnes to 103 metric million tonnes by 2025.
- Gross enrolment ratio of girls at the elementary level is 94.32%; at the secondary level it is at 81.32% as against 78% for boys at the same level; and at the higher secondary level, the ratio is 59.70% as against the 57.54% for boys.
- 5 Archaeological Sites – Rakhigarhi (Haryana), Hastinapur (UP), Shivsagar (Assam), Dholavira (Gujarat) and Adichanallur (Tamil Nadu) – will be developed as the ‘iconic destinations’.

[c] 3.2%

[d] 4.1%

[e] 2.2%

Q.) What is the Agriculture credit target set for NABARD for the year 2020-21, according to Budget 2020?

[a] Rs 15 lakh crore

[b] Rs 25 lakh crore

[c] Rs 30 lakh crore

[d] Rs 10 lakh crore

[e] Rs 20 lakh crore

OR

Q.) What is the gross enrolment ratio of girls at the elementary level, as mentioned by Budget 2020?

[a] 94.32%

[b] 81.32%

[c] 57.54%

[d] 59.70%

[e] 78.23%



- Govt proposed to set up an international bullion exchange at IFSC in GIFT City (Gujarat). The GIFT City would set up an International Bullion Exchange(s) in GIFT-IFSC – International Financial Services Centre.

4. National Statistical Office has estimated that GDP growth rate of India in 2018-19 was 6.1% against the 6.8% (mentioned earlier) due to lower growth in agriculture, manufacturing and mining sectors.

Sector	Revised Growth rate (at constant prices during 2018-19)	Previous forecasted growth rate
Primary sector	1%	2.7%
Secondary sector	6%	7.5%
Tertiary sector	7.7%	7.5%
Gross Value Added (GDP minus net product taxes)	6%	6.6%

- Q.) Recently, National Statistical Office has downgraded its growth projections for 2018-19. The growth rate for the primary sector has been reduced to ____ from 2.7%?

- [a] 2.5%
- [b] 1.0%
- [c] 2.3%
- [d] 1.5%
- [e] 2.1%

5. Minister of Finance has presented the FINANCE BILL, 2020 (provisions relating to direct taxes) along with the Budget 2020.

Key Highlights of the Finance Bill 2020:
A) Removal of Dividend Distribution Tax (DDT): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Earlier the dividend distributing companies had to pay a 20% DDT. Now, this requirement has been removed.
B) Allowed a 15% tax rate for power generation companies.
C) Taxpayer's charter has been proposed to enshrine the rights of taxpayers. Indian tax administration has to adhere to the charter's rules.
D) Tax Rules for Data collected from India: Companies generating revenue (in India or outside) by using the data collected from India will have to pay tax as per domestic tax provisions.
E) Amendments have been made in the tax regime to align with Multilateral Instrument (MLI). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MLI was developed by G20-OECD in 2017 to tackle the problem of Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (the BEPS Project).

- Q.) When was the Multilateral Instrument first put out by OECD?

- [a] 2012
- [b] 2014
- [c] 2017
- [d] 2010
- [e] 2009



- India ratified it in October 2019. It will become effective, in India, from 1st April 2020.
- MLI will prevent abuse of tax treaties by companies. It will restrict companies from shifting base into low tax countries and prompt them to pay legitimate taxes.

6. Budget 2020 has proposed to divest a part of government's shareholding in LIC through Initial Public Offer and sell its remaining share in IDBI bank.
- For FY21, government has set a divestment target of Rs 2.1 trillion as compared to Rs 1.05 lakh crore target for FY20.
 - For FY20, government has lowered its divestment target to Rs 65,000 crore from Rs 1.05 lakh crore.

- Q.) How much divestment target has been set by govt for 2021-22 in the budget 2020?
- [a] Rs 2.1 trillion
 - [b] Rs 1 trillion
 - [c] Rs 1.5 trillion
 - [d] Rs 1.2 trillion
 - [e] Rs 3.2 trillion

OR

- Q.) Recently, the government has lowered its divestment target to ___ from Rs 1.05 lakh crore for FY20?
- [a] Rs 72,000 crore
 - [b] Rs 13,000 crore
 - [c] Rs 65,000 crore
 - [d] Rs 80,000 crore
 - [e] Rs 35,000 crore

7. Fitch Ratings has predicted India's GDP growth rate for 2020-21 at 5.6%.
- For FY20 (2019-20) – 4.6%
 - General Government Debt is projected to remain close to 70% of GDP through FY22 (2021-22).

- Q.) What is the growth rate for India for 2020-21 by Fitch Ratings?
- [a] 6.7%
 - [b] 4.2%
 - [c] 5.6%
 - [d] 4.9%
 - [e] 6.2%

8. New Schemes proposed in Budget 2020:

- A) 'Vivad se Vishwas' scheme – Under the proposed 'Vivad se Vishwas' scheme, a taxpayer would be required to pay only the amount of the disputed taxes and will get complete waiver of

- Q.) Which of the following scheme has been proposed in the Budget 2020 for



interest and penalty, provided he pays by 31st March 2020. Those who will avail the scheme after 31st March 2020 will have to pay some additional amount. The scheme will remain open till 30th June 2020.

B) **NIRVIK (Niryat Rin Vikas Yojana)** – it will provide enhanced insurance cover to exporters and reduce premium for small exporters.

C) **One-Product One-District** – to promote for better marketing and export in the Horticulture sector. Under the scheme, the govt will promote one district to get specialization in one kind of horticulture product.

D) **Kisan Rail to be setup by Indian Railways through PPP:** To support faster supply of perishables goods (milk, meat, fish, etc). Express and Freight trains will have refrigerated coaches.

E) **Village Storage Scheme:** It will be run by the Women Self-Help Groups to provide farmers a good warehouse and reduce their logistics cost.

- Women will regain their position as **Dhaanya Lakshmi** through this scheme.

Note: - complete budget is analysed in this video –

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2u_I7spG1IU&t=1394s

supporting faster supply of perishables goods?

- [a] Kisan Rail
- [b] Krishi Shatabdi
- [c] Krishi Niryaat
- [d] Krishi Paryatan
- [e] Kisan Parivahan

9. RBI has increased the insurance cover on bank deposits to Rs 5 lakh from Rs 1 lakh.

- Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC), a wholly-owned subsidiary of the RBI, provides the insurance cover.

Q.) What is the new limit of insurance cover on bank deposits raised by RBI?

- [a] 6 lakhs
- [b] 5 lakhs
- [c] 2 lakhs
- [d] 4 lakhs
- [e] 3 lakhs

10. RBI has released its 6th bi-monthly monetary policy for 2019-20:

- Repo rate – at 5.15% (unchanged) – and other rates are unchanged.
- Growth rate for FY21 – 6%
- RBI has revised CPI inflation projection upwards to 6.5% for Q4 of 2019-20, 5.4-5% for H1 of 2020-21; and 3.2% for Q3 of 2020-21.

Q.) What is the repo rate kept by the 6th bi-monthly monetary policy?

- [a] 5.15%
- [b] 4.99%
- [c] 5.02%
- [d] 5%
- [e] 5.11%



Policy Rates	
Policy Repo Rate	: 5.15%
Reverse Repo Rate	: 4.90%
Marginal Standing Facility Rate	: 5.40%
Bank Rate	: 5.40%

- In its 6th bi-monthly policy, RBI has announced a new liquidity framework under which standalone primary dealers are allowed to participate directly in all overnight liquidity management operations.
- RBI has introduced Check Truncation System (CTS) across the country from September 2020 to fasten up the process of check clearance.
- CTS system was brought in India in 2010 by RBI.

11. The new Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS), being conducted by the Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation for authentic results, mentions that the labour force participation rate is 36.9% and unemployment rate is 6.1% for 2017-18.

Q.) What is the labour force participation rate according to the new Periodic Labour Force Survey being conducted by the Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation for 2017-18?

- [a] 39.7%
- [b] 40.8%
- [c] 71.9%
- [d] 36.9%
- [e] 23.4%

12. Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) has doubled the minimum net worth criterion for pension fund managers to Rs 50 crore from Rs 25 crore.

Q.) Recently, Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) has doubled the minimum net worth criterion for pension fund managers to ___?

- Now, the licenses of pension fund managers will remain valid until cancelled by the PFRDA. Earlier it was granted for 5 years only.

- [a] Rs 50 crore
- [b] Rs 90 crore
- [c] Rs 75 crore
- [d] Rs 20 crore



- Also, a pension fund or its sponsor cannot acquire equity stake in another pension fund.
- However, existing pension funds that have such cross holdings can continue it but cannot increase their holdings without the PFRDA's permission.

[e] Rs 40 crore

13. RBI has exempted banks from maintaining the cash reserve ratio for 5 years on their deposits for the amount equivalent to loans given to automobiles, residential housing, and MSMEs.

Q.) For how many years has RBI exempted banks from maintaining cash reserve ratio on their deposits for the amount equivalent to loans given to automobiles, residential housing, and MSMEs?

- [a] 2 years
- [b] 5 years
- [c] 4 years
- [d] 3 years
- [e] 10 years

14. Public Enterprises Survey 2018-19 – an annual survey assessing the profits and losses of CPSEs, ONGC, IOC, NTPC – has been released by the Department of Public Enterprises under the Ministry of Heavy Industries & Public Enterprises.

- The total income of CPSE is over Rs 24 lakh crores in FY19 against Rs 20 lakh crore in FY18, showing a growth of 20.12%.

Q.) According to the Public Enterprises Survey 2018-19, which PSU company is the top Profit-Making company?

- [a] ONGC
- [b] Indian Oil Corporation
- [c] NTPC
- [d] Coal India
- [e] TERI

Top 3 Profit Making CPSEs	Top 3 Loss Making CPSEs
ONGC	BSNL
IOC	AIR INDIA
NTPC	MTNL

15. S&P rating agency has forecasted India's GDP to grow at 7% in 2021.

- In 2022 and 2023, GDP will grow at 7.4%.

Q.) What is the new GDP growth rate for India for 2021 by S&P?

- [a] 6%



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Between 2020-24, the GDP growth average is 7.1%. S&P estimates India's GDP to grow at \$4.3 trillion in FY24. India's aim to become a \$5 trillion economy is difficult to achieve. 	<p>[b] 7%</p> <p>[c] 5.3%</p> <p>[d] 6.9%</p> <p>[e] 6.1%</p>
<p>16. IndusInd Bank has topped the 'Top 500 Banking Brands 2020' report released by TheBanker, by witnessing the highest increase in its brand value at 122%.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> China has topped the Top 50 Country table by brand value (which has been released as a part of the 2020 report), followed by USA at 2nd and Canada at 3rd, UK at 4th spots and Japan at 5th spot. India has been ranked at 8th position against the 10th position in 2019 with an increase of 13% in its brand value in 2020 at \$26,516 million. Total global brand value of the Top 500 banking brands is \$1,327 billion. Region-wise: Central and South America have increased the highest at 7.2%. 	<p>Q.) Which bank has topped the 'Top 500 Banking Brands 2020' report released by TheBanker, by witnessing the highest increase in its brand value at 122%?</p> <p>[a] IndusInd Bank</p> <p>[b] People's Bank of China</p> <p>[c] Bank of Japan</p> <p>[d] Federal Reserve System</p> <p>[e] De Nederlandsche Bank</p>
<p>17. Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) has downgraded its GDP growth forecast for the world for 2020 to 2.2% from the previous 2.3%.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reason: - due to the impact of novel coronavirus outbreak in China. For China, the GDP forecast has been reduced to 5.4% from 5.9% earlier for 2020. For India, the GDP forecast is 6.1% for 2020 as compared to 4.9% for 2019. Reasons for upwards projection for India – Low interest rate in India will increase the demand and Investment in 2020 and negligible spread of coronavirus. 	<p>Q.) What is the new GDP growth forecast for the world for 2020?</p> <p>[a] 2.2%</p> <p>[b] 2.3%</p> <p>[c] 2.5%</p> <p>[d] 3.3%</p> <p>[e] 3.2%</p>



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18. Facebook, in partnership with National Commission for Women (NCW) and Cyber Peace Foundation, has launched the “We Think Digital” programme to provide digital literacy training to 1 lakh women across 7 states.

- 7 states – Uttar Pradesh, Assam, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Jharkhand and Bihar.

Q.) Which company has launched the “We Think Digital” programme to provide digital literacy training to 1 lakh women across 7 states?

- [a] Facebook
- [b] Google
- [c] Amazon
- [d] Flipkart
- [e] None of the Above

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APPOINTMENTS

NEWS	QUESTIONS
1. Arvind Krishna has been appointed as the CEO of IBM (US based technology company). • James Whitehurst has been appointed as IBM President.	Q.) Who has been appointed as the CEO for IBM? [a] Brian Moynihan [b] Warren Buffett [c] Arvind Krishna [d] Sunil Bharti Mittal [e] Bob Dudley
2. M Ajit Kumar has been appointed as the chairman of the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs	Q.) Who has been appointed as the chairman of the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs? [a] M Ajit Kumar [b] Nima Dawa Bhutia [c] Vipul Bansal [d] Ambrish Sharma [e] Anil Yadav
3. Deepa Malik (para-athlete) has been appointed as the President of Paralympic Committee of India.	Q.) Who has been appointed as the President of Paralympic Committee of India? [a] Mariyappan Thangavelu [b] Devendra Jhajharia [c] Naresh Kumar [d] Deepa Malik [e] Karamjyoti Dalal
4. Pramod Agrawal has been appointed as the new CMD of Coal India Ltd.	Q.) Who has been appointed as the Chairman and Managing Director of Coal India? [a] Rajeev Suri [b] Pramod Agrawal [c] Shantanu Narayen



	<p>[d] Shweta Bhargava</p> <p>[e] Sunil Pathak</p>
<p>5. Indian Olympic Association has invited Sourav Ganguly (BCCI President) to become the Goodwill Ambassador of India at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.</p>	<p>Q.) Who has been invited by Indian Olympic Association to become the Goodwill Ambassador of India at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics?</p> <p>[a] Sourav Ganguly</p> <p>[b] Bajrang Punia</p> <p>[c] Mirabai Chanu</p> <p>[d] PV Sindhu</p> <p>[e] Kapil Dev</p>
<p>6. Thomas Gottstein has been appointed as the new CEO of Credit Suisse (which is headquartered in Switzerland).</p>	<p>Q.) Who has been appointed as the new CEO of Credit Suisse?</p> <p>[a] Thomas Gottstein</p> <p>[b] George Williamson</p> <p>[c] Oliver Acton</p> <p>[d] Noah Cummins</p> <p>[e] Harry Smith</p>
<p>7. G Narayanan has been appointed as the Head of the New Space India (NSIL).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NSIL is the new unit of ISRO that seeks to commercialize the technologies of ISRO. 	<p>Q.) Who has been appointed as the Head of the New Space India?</p> <p>[a] K Sivan</p> <p>[b] G Satheesh</p> <p>[c] G Narayanan</p> <p>[d] P Parameswaran</p> <p>[e] Atul Chakrobarty</p>
<p>8. Ajay Patel has been appointed as the President of All India Chess Federation.</p>	<p>Q.) Who has been appointed as the President of All India Chess Federation?</p> <p>[a] Girish Kumar</p> <p>[b] Piyush Patel</p> <p>[c] Neeraj Mishra</p> <p>[d] Ajay Patel</p>



	[e] Mehul Gupta
<p>9. Rajiv Bansal has been appointed as the CMD of Air India.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> India aims to sell 100% in the Air India. 	<p>Q.) Who has been appointed as the CMD of Air India?</p> <p>[a] Siddharth Chatterjee [b] Raghav Bhatia [c] Parth Bedi [d] Aditya Goel [e] Rajiv Bansal</p>
<p>10. World Bank has appointed Aart Kraay as its interim chief economist.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Bank's current chief economist Pinelopi Goldberg will resign on March 1, 2020. 	<p>Q.) Who has been appointed as the interim chief economist of World Bank?</p> <p>[a] Aart Kraay [b] Craig Reddie [c] Marco Lambertini [d] Gianni Infantino [e] Thomas Bach</p>

IMPORTANT DAYS

NEWS	QUESTIONS
<p>1. World Wetlands Day is observed on February 2.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Theme: Wetlands and Biodiversity 	<p>Q.) What is the theme of World Wetlands Day 2020?</p> <p>[a] Wetlands and Climate Change [b] Wetlands and Biodiversity [c] Wetlands for a Sustainable Urban Future [d] Wetlands for Disaster Risk Reduction [e] Wetlands for our Future</p>
<p>2. World Cancer Day is observed on February 4, 2020 marks the 20th anniversary of the day which was started in 2000.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The day is led by the Union for International Cancer Control (UICC). Theme: 'I am and I will' 	<p>Q.) When is the World Cancer Day observed?</p> <p>[a] February 7 [b] February 5 [c] February 10 [d] February 4</p>



<p>About UICC: Founded – 1933 CEO – Cary Adams Member countries – 173</p>	<p>[e] February 1</p>
<p>3. International Day of Zero Tolerance to Female Genital Mutilation is observed on February 6 by UN.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theme - Unleashing Youth Power: One decade of accelerating actions for zero female genital mutilation. • UN aims to end Female Genital Mutilation by 2030. • ‘A Piece of Me’ campaign was also organized by the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) to eradicate this practice. • WHO has mentioned that treatment of the victims of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) can cause \$1.4 billion per year globally 	<p>Q.) When is the International Day of Zero Tolerance to Female Genital Mutilation observed?</p> <p>[a] February 11 [b] February 2 [c] February 14 [d] February 21 [e] February 6</p>
<p>4. RBI will conduct the Financial Literacy Week 2020 from February 10-14, 2020 on the theme of “Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises”.</p>	<p>Q.) What is the theme of Financial Literacy Week 2020?</p> <p>[a] Women Entrepreneurs [b] Urban Development [c] Sandbox [d] MSME [e] Rural Regional Banks</p>
<p>5. 2nd edition of the World Pulses Day was observed on February 10, 2020 by the UN’s Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to highlight the importance of pulses.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Agricultural Cooperative Federation of India (NAFED), in association with Global Pulse Confederation (GPC), has hosted the global celebrations of the day in New Delhi. 	<p>Q.) Which country is organizing the global celebrations of the World Pulses Day 2020?</p> <p>[a] India [b] United States [c] Australia [d] Canada [e] Italy</p>



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the crop year 2018-19 India produced 22 million tonnes of Pulses and for the next year a target of 26.30 million tonnes is projected. 	
<p>6. International Day of Women and Girls in Science is observed on February 11 by UNESCO.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Theme - Investment in Women and Girls in Science for Inclusive Green Growth. 	<p>Q.) When is the International Day of Women and Girls in Science observed?</p> <p>[a] February 12 [b] February 16 [c] February 21 [d] February 11 [e] February 2</p>
<p>7. National Women's Day is observed on February 13 on the birth anniversary of Sarojini Naidu.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Women's Day is observed on 8th March annually. 	<p>Q.) On whose birth anniversary, does India celebrate National Women's Day?</p> <p>[a] Savitribai Phule [b] Sarojini Naidu [c] Swarnakumari Devi [d] Sister Nivedita [e] Ramabai Ranade</p>

AWARDS

NEWS	QUESTIONS
<p>1. RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das has been honoured as the Central Banker of the Year - Asia-Pacific for 2020 by 'The Banker' magazine of London.</p>	<p>Q.) Who has been honoured as the Central Banker of the Year - Asia-Pacific for 2020 by 'The Banker' magazine of London?</p> <p>[a] Jerome Powell [b] Zhou Xiaochuan [c] Shaktikanta Das [d] Haruhiko Kuroda [e] Raghuram Rajan</p>
<p>2. Pullela Gopichand has become the first Indian coach to receive the Coaches Lifetime Achievement Award for 2019 by International Olympic Committee.</p>	<p>Q.) Who has become the first Indian coach to receive the Coaches Lifetime</p>



- 2020 Summer Olympics to be held in Tokyo, Japan.
- 2022 Winter Olympics to be held in Beijing, China.

Achievement Award for 2019 by International Olympic Committee?

- [a] Ramkrishnan Sridhar
- [b] Sanjay Bangar
- [c] Pullela Gopichand
- [d] Bharat Arun
- [e] David Quinn

3. 92nd Academy awards (also called 'Oscars') for the year 2019 presented by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.
- Parasite has become the first non-English language film to win best picture.
 - Bong Joon Ho has become the first Asian and South Korean filmmaker to win the Academy Award for original screenplay.
 - Mathew Cherry is the 2nd sportsperson after Kobe Bryant to win an Oscar.

Q.) Which of the following picture has become the first non-English language film to win best picture Oscar?

- [a] Parasite
- [b] Judy
- [c] Joker
- [d] Hair Love
- [e] Marriage Story

Category	Winners
Best Picture	Parasite (Director - Bong Joon Ho)
Actor in A Leading Role	Joaquin Phoenix for "Joker" (directed by Todd Phillips)
Actress in A Leading Role	Renée Zellweger for "Judy"
Best Director	Bong Joon Ho for "Parasite"
International Feature Film	Parasite (a South Korean film)
Original screenplay	Parasite
Best Supporting Actor	Brad Pitt for One Upon a Time in Hollywood
Best Supporting Actress	Laura Dern for Marriage Story
Short animated film	Hair Love (director - Matthew Cherry)

4. Lalremsiami (from Mizoram) has been given the FIH Women's Rising Star of the Year 2019 award.

Q.) Which of the following pair has won the FIH Women's Rising Star of the Year 2019



- Vivek Sagar Prasad has also been chosen as the FIH Men's Rising Star of the Year 2019.

and FIH Men's Rising Star of the Year 2019?

- [a] Lalremsiami and Vivek Sagar Prasad
- [b] Rajani Etimarpu and Vivek Prasad
- [c] Deep Grace Ekka and Nilam Sanjeev Xess
- [d] Reena Khokhar and Sumit
- [e] Nikki Pradhan and Harmanpreet Singh

- Amit Panghal has been ranked at the number 1 position by the International Olympic Committee's Boxing Task Force. He is the 2nd Indian boxer to be ranked as number 1.
- Vijender Singh was the first Indian to be ranked as number 1 in 2009.

Q.) Who has been ranked at the number 1 position by the International Olympic Committee's Boxing Task Force?

- [a] Amit Panghal
- [b] Floyd Mayweather
- [c] Chayaphon Moonsri
- [d] Gervonta Davis
- [e] Jermall Charlo

- Manpreet Singh (National men's hockey team captain) has become the first Indian to win FIH's Player of the Year award 2019.

Q.) Who has become the first Indian to win FIH's Player of the Year award 2019?

- [a] Vivek Prasad
- [b] Harmanpreet Singh
- [c] Krishan Bahadur Pathak
- [d] Manpreet Singh
- [e] Varun Kumar

Category	Winner
FIH Women Player of the Year 2019	Eva de Goede (captain of Netherlands' team)
FIH Men's Goalkeeper of the Year 2019	Vincent Vanasch (Belgium)
FIH Women's Goalkeeper of the Year 2019	Rachael Lynch (Australia)
FIH Men's Coach of the Year 2019	Colin Batch (Australia)
FIH Women's Coach of the Year 2019	Alyson Annan (Australia)

- Dan David Foundation (headquartered at Tel Aviv University in Israel) has presented its 'Dan David Prize 2020'.

Q.) Which Indian has won the Dan David Prize 2020 in the field of gender equality in the Present category?

- [a] Gita Sen



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The award is given in 3 categories of Past, Present and Future. From India, Gita Sen has been awarded in the field of gender equality in the Present category. She works in the Public Health Foundation of India. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> [b] Nirupama Rao [c] Barkha Dutt [d] Chanda Kochhar [e] Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw
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SPORTS

NEWS	QUESTIONS
1. 108th Australia Open 2020 results: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Men's Singles: Novak Djokovic (Serbian) Women's Singles: Sofia Kenin (America) 	Q.) Who has won the women's singles at the Australia Open 2020? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> [a] Serena Williams [b] Ashleigh Barty [c] Sofia Kenin [d] Naomi Osaka [e] Justine Henin
2. Ngangom Bala Devi has become the first Indian woman to sign a foreign football club - 'Rangers FC' (a Scotland football club).	Q.) Who has become the first Indian woman to sign a foreign football club - 'Rangers FC'? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> [a] Aditi Chauhan [b] Ngangom Bala Devi [c] Jabamani Tudu [d] Sangita Basfore [e] Manisha Kalyan
3. Flame-throated Bulbul 'Rubigula' – state bird of Goa – has been declared as the official mascot for 36th National Games 2020 to be held in Goa. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The games will be organized under the aegis of Indian Olympic Association. CM of Goa – Pramod Sawant 	Q.) Recently, Flame-throated Bulbul 'Rubigula' has been declared as the official mascot for 36th National Games 2020. It is the state bird of which state? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> [a] Goa [b] Maharashtra [c] Tamil Nadu [d] Karnataka



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SAMEER



	[e] Odisha
4. Davis Cup 2020 (tennis) will be held in Madrid, Spain in November 2020.	Q.) Where will the Davis Cup 2020 be held? [a] Spain [b] Netherlands [c] Denmark [d] England [e] USA
5. Bangladesh has won the ICC Under 19 Cricket World Cup 2020 in held in South Africa.	Q.) Which country has won the ICC Under 19 Cricket World Cup 2020? [a] Bangladesh [b] India [c] South Africa [d] Sri Lanka [e] New Zealand
6. Fed Cup Finals 2020 (women's tennis tournament) will be held in Budapest, Hungary.	Q.) Where will the Fed Cup Finals 2020 be held? [a] Hungary [b] Japan [c] Spain [d] France [e] Ukraine
7. Pakistan has won the World Kabbadi Cup 2020 that was held in Pakistan.	Q.) Which country has won the World Kabbadi Cup 2020? [a] Pakistan [b] India [c] Thailand [d] Sri Lanka [e] Bangladesh
8. First edition of the Khelo India Winter Games 2020 (also known as National Winter Games) will be	Q.) Where will the First edition of the Khelo India Winter Games 2020 be held? [a] Uttarakhand



<p>organized in Ladakh in the first stage and in Gulmarg in Jammu and Kashmir in the second stage.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Sports will finance both games. J&K Sports Council and J&K Winter Games Association will organized the games. 	<p>[b] Arunachal Pradesh [c] Nagaland [d] Ladakh [e] Telangana</p>
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MISCELLANEOUS

NEWS	QUESTIONS
<p>1. World’s first liquid hydrogen fuelled superyacht named as “Aqua” has been manufactured by Sinot – a Dutch company.</p>	<p>Q.) What is the name of the World’s first liquid hydrogen fuelled superyacht?</p> <p>[a] Aqua [b] Broth [c] Swill [d] Breezer [e] Jax</p>
<p>2. “A Commentary & Digest on The Air, Act 1981” book has been written by Dr K K Khandelwal and Apoorva Kumar Singh.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was released by Haryana CM Manohar Lal Khattar. 	<p>Q.) Who has written the A Commentary & Digest on The Air, Act 1981 book?</p> <p>[a] Dr K K Khandelwal [b] Apoorva Kumar Singh [c] Vikram Seth [d] Both A and B [e] Both B and C</p>



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- 5) GENERAL AWARENESS
- 6) ECONOMIC & SOCIAL ISSUES
- 7) AGRICULTURE & RURAL DEVELOPMENT (WITH FOCUS ON RURAL INDIA)
- 8) COVERAGE OF YOJANA MAGAZINE & KURUKSHETRA MAGAZINE
- 9) COVERAGE OF LATEST STATE OF FOREST REPORT'
- 10) COMPREHENSIVE COVERAGE OF WEBSITE OF MINISTRIES
- 11) BUDGET SURVEY
- 12) AGRICULTURE CENSUS
- 13) BASICS OF AGRICULTURE
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- 2) ECONOMIC & SOCIAL ISSUES
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- 4) CURRENT AFFAIRS- FINANCE AND ESI
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- 6) MANAGEMENT VIDEO DISCUSSIONS
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