

## Coral Stone Mosques of the Maldives: The Vanishing Legacy of the Indian Ocean

CONTRIBUTED BY [HAWWA NAZLA](#)



Front Page Photos:

1. Coral Stone Mosques: <https://www.ichcap.org/coral-stone-mosques-of-the-maldives-the-vanishing-legacy-of-the-indian-ocean/>
2. Combat Adulteration: <https://fssai.gov.in/fssaivideolibrary/login>
3. Mahatma Gandhi's bicycle: <https://mumbaimirror.indiatimes.com/photos/news/in-pics-mahatma-gandhis-bicycle-now-fully-restored-at-the-sabarmati-ashram-in-ahmedabad/cr-5/mumbaiphotos/59516022.cms>
4. Society 5.0: [https://www8.cao.go.jp/cstp/english/society5\\_0/index.html](https://www8.cao.go.jp/cstp/english/society5_0/index.html)

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## **RESULTS OF CCE**

- GPSC-2019 Ranks : 7, 41, & 43
- MS. BABITARANI SWAIN [CCE-ROLL NO 16R/CCE/017] HAS SECURED AIR-401 IN THE CIVIL SERVICES EXAMINATION, 2017
- MR. DEVENKUMAR KESHWALA [CCE-ROLL NO: 40/2014-15] HAS SECURED AIR-702 IN THE CIVIL SERVICES EXAMINATION, 2017
- AIR-81 IN THE INDIAN FOREST SERVICE EXAMINATION-2016
- A CANDIDATE HAS BEEN RECOMMENDED BY THE RESERVE BANK OF INDIA SERVICES BOARD (RBISB) FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF OFFICER IN GRADE 'B' (DR)(OP)-2016. (ROLL NO: 1105000069)
- TWO CANDIDATES QUALIFIED FOR CENTRAL ARMED POLICE FORCES
- ONE OF THE CANDIDATES (ROLL NO: 0398026) QUALIFIED TO APPEAR UPSC (IAS/IPS/IRS...) CIVIL SERVICES INTERVIEW
- 22 CANDIDATES QUALIFIED FOR UPSC CIVIL SERVICE MAINS – 2016 (18 FROM 2016 BATCH & 4 FROM PREVIOUS)
- 4 CANDIDATES QUALIFIED FOR PHYSICAL TEST OF CENTRAL ARMED POLICE FORCES (ASSISTANT COMMANDANTS) EXAM.
- A GIRL ASPIRANT HAS BEEN RECOMMENDED TO AIR FORCE THROUGH AIR FORCE SELECTION BOARD

Dear All,

This compilation will be helpful for competitive examinations like UPSC and State Public Service Commission Examinations and also in updating in many fields like Automobile Engineering, Petroleum Exploration, Power, Computer, Information Technology, Space, Public Administration, Foreign Affairs, Indian Economy, Defence/Security, Environment and Sports.

This issue is of six parts:

Part 1: JUNE month NEWS

Part 2: JUNE: QUICK READ COMPILATION

Part 3: You can visit - Some sites related to new developments

Part 4: UPSC Prelims-2020 Q& A - You can check your awareness

Part 5: UPSC Mains-2019 Practice Questions & Answer links based on June PIB News

Part 6: Learn the Meaning

All the Best & Regards,

Dr S. Venkata Krishnan

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### **KANDUKURI VEERESALINGAM/ANDHRA RAJA RAM MOHAN ROY**

Veeresalingam was forward-looking in his outlook and was ahead of his times and he was against bigotry and superstitious beliefs. He was a strong advocate of widow remarriage, opposed dowry and caste systems as also child marriage and batted for empowering women through education

### **MDNIY**

Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga (MDNIY) under Ministry of AYUSH is organising the Yoga Mahotsav-2019 to sensitize the masses for celebration of IDY 2019.

### **FORM 21E AND INDEX CARD**

Based on both the EVM votes and Postal Ballots counted, the Returning Officer prepares **Form 21E** and **Index Card** in which the breakup of voter turnout, including tendered votes for the Constituency, is tallied to get the final voter turnout for each Constituency. Form 21E is the return of election as specified under rule 64 of the Conduct of Election Rules, 1961, for which the sole authority is the Returning Officer concerned. Also, INDEX CARD in use since last over five decades, is prepared by the Returning officer to furnish the voting data (including postal ballot data), *polled and counted*, after the declaration of the Result, which becomes the final authenticated data for all purposes including analysis and research.

### **USA & GSP BENEFITS**

The United States of America (USA) has w.e.f. 5 June 2019 withdrawn India's GSP benefits. These are unilateral, non-reciprocal and non-discriminatory benefits extended by some developed countries to developing countries. India as part of our bilateral trade discussions, had offered resolution on significant US requests in an effort to find a mutually acceptable way forward. It is unfortunate that this did not find acceptance by the US.

### **NARL**

National Atmospheric Research Laboratory (NARL) near Tirupati. The National Atmospheric Research Laboratory is an autonomous Research Institute funded by the Department of Space of the Government of India. NARL is engaged in fundamental and applied research in the field of Atmospheric Sciences. This laboratory was started nearly 25 years ago as a National MST Radar Facility with high-power MST radar to uncover mysteries of the middle atmosphere. This radar was recognized as the second powerful radar in the world and also the first of its kind in the equatorial Asian region. More so, it was built completely indigenously and credit goes to the scientists and engineers involved in realizing it. NARL has been providing very high-resolution wind information measured by the MST radar since its inception in 1993 for all rocket launches from Sriharikota and now providing weather forecast for planning the rocket launch.

### **CLIMATE CHANGE**

There are **two schools of thought** as regards climate change-- one believes that the climate change is due to the increasing human activities, while the other group has a contrarian view and believes that the climate change is due to the changing energy input from the Sun alone.

India has been an active member in the climate action plan right from the formation of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change through to the latest Paris Accord

### **ECI'S 9 WORKING GROUPS**

The Election Commission of India (ECI) has formed Nine working groups of CEOs and Commission Officers covering various facets of election process including Electoral Roll issues, Polling Stations management, MCC, Voting processes & Materials inventory, Capacity Building, IT applications, Expenditure Management, SVEEP and Media interface as also Electoral Reforms.

### **MISSION INDRADHANUSH**

The Government will use Mission Indradhanush approaches as part of UIP to ensure full immunization coverage and save all the children and pregnant women from vaccine preventable diseases by 2022

### **BOARD OF TRADE**

The Board of Trade advises the Commerce and Industry Ministry on policy measures connected with the Foreign Trade Policy in order to achieve the objectives of boosting India's trade.

### **COUNCIL FOR TRADE DEVELOPMENT AND PROMOTION**

The Council for Trade Development and Promotion ensures the continuous dialogue with State Governments and UTs on measures for providing an international trade enabling environment in the States and to create a framework for making the states active partners in boosting India's export.

### **RODRA WEBSITE**

Retired Officers Digital Records Archive (Rodra) Website. The aim was to establish an interface between the custodian of officers' Records i.e AG/MP 5&6 and veteran officers/Next of Kin (NOK) and to create a digital data repository in order to address documentation/pension related grievances and update on relevant policies.

### **SOME AIR POLLUTION FACTS**

- 92 percent of people worldwide do not breathe clean air.
- Air pollution costs the global economy \$5 trillion every year in welfare costs
- Ground-level ozone pollution is expected to reduce staple crop yields by 26 percent by 2030.

India has formulated and launched the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP). This is a long term time bound national level strategy and tackle the increasing pollution problem across the country. The objective of NCAP is comprehensive plan for prevention, control and abatement of air pollution besides augmenting the air quality monitoring network. The tentative national level target is reduction of PM2.5 and PM10 concentration by 20% – 30% by 2024. The focus of this year World Environment Day WED would be on the identified 102 Non attainment cities.

### **TAMIL NADU HEALTH SYSTEM REFORM PROGRAM**

The Government of India, Government of Tamil Nadu (GoTN) and the World Bank signed here today in New Delhi a \$287 Million Loan Agreement for the Tamil Nadu Health System Reform Program. The Program aims to improve the quality of health care, reduce the burden of Non-communicable Diseases (NCDs), and fill equity gaps in reproductive and child health services in the State of Tamil Nadu.

Tamil Nadu ranks third among all Indian States in the NITI Aayog Health Index which is reflected in vastly improved health outcomes. The State's maternal mortality rate has declined from 90 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2005 to 62 deaths in 2015-16 while infant mortality has declined from 30 deaths per 1000 live births to 20 in the same period. A key contribution to these achievements has been the establishment of emergency Obstetric and Neonatal Care Centers and the 108 ambulance service with previous support from the World Bank. These have ensured that no mother has to travel more than 30 minutes to access emergency obstetric and neonatal care 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Despite these impressive gains, certain challenges in health care remain, including quality of care and variations in reproductive and child health among districts. Tamil Nadu is also dealing with a growing burden of NCDs as they account for nearly 69 percent of deaths in the State.

### **SWACHH SURVEKSHAN LEAGUE 2020**

The objective of the Swachh Survekshan (SS) survey, which is conducted by an independent third party, is to encourage large scale citizen participation, ensure sustainability of initiatives taken towards garbage free and open defecation free cities, provide credible outcomes validated by third party certification, institutionalize existing systems through online processes and create awareness amongst all sections of society about the

importance of working together towards making towns and cities a better place to live in. Additionally, the survey also intends to foster a spirit of healthy competition among towns and cities to improve their service delivery to citizens, towards creating cleaner cities.

SS 2020 a quarterly cleanliness assessment of cities and towns in India-‘**Continuous Survekshan**’.

Ranks will be assigned in two categories, namely, cities with population of one lakh and above and cities with population of less than 1 lakh.

The exercise will cover all ULBs that have come into existence on or before 31 December 2018.

While SS 2016 had seen Mysuru emerge as the cleanest city in India, Indore has retained the title of the Cleanest City in the last three years.

**The achievements of SS 2019:** 84,000 informal waste pickers have been formally integrated into sustainable livelihoods, 4.6 lakh sanitary workers have been provided medical benefits and more than 1 crore citizens have participated in campaigns through Swachh Manch, 18,329 Garbage Vulnerable Points have been transformed and 345 landfill sites have been remediated. More than 370 cities are practicing segregation at source in more than 80 % of their wards.

### **CPGRAMS**

Centralized Public Grievance Redress And Monitoring System (CPGRAMS) is an online web-enabled system over NICNET developed by NIC, in association with Directorate of Public Grievances (DPG) and Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG). CPGRAMS is the platform based on web technology which primarily aims to enable submission of grievances by the aggrieved citizens from anywhere and anytime (24x7) basis to Ministries/Departments/Organisations who scrutinize and take action for speedy and favorable redress of these grievances. Tracking grievances is also facilitated on this portal through the system generated unique registration number.

#### **Issues which are not taken up for redress**

1. Subjudice cases or any matter concerning judgment given by any court.
2. Personal and family disputes.
3. RTI matters.
4. Anything that impacts upon territorial integrity of the country or friendly relations with other countries.
5. Suggestions.

### **SURVEY OF INDIA**

Survey of India, the national survey and mapping organization of the country under the Ministry of Science & Technology and set up in 1767, is the oldest scientific department of Government of India. In its assigned role as the nation's Principal Mapping Agency, Survey of India bears a responsibility to ensure that the country's domain is explored and mapped suitably and to provide base maps for expeditious and integrated development. Survey of India takes a leadership role in providing user focused, cost effective, reliable and quality geospatial data, information and intelligence for meeting the needs of national security, sustainable national development and new information markets. Maps and other publications of Survey of India can now be bought using Point of Sale Machines.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STUDY BY UNICEF**

Under the "Environmental impact of the Swachh Bharat Mission on Water, Soil, and Food" by UNICEF, groundwater samples were collected and studied from ODF and non-ODF villages of Odisha, Bihar and West Bengal. The study found that, in terms of faecal contamination, non-ODF villages were, on average:

- 11.25 times more likely to have their groundwater sources contaminated (12.7 times more from contaminants traceable to humans alone)
- 1.13 times more likely to have their soil contaminated
- 1.48 times more likely to have food contaminated and 2.68 times more likely to have household drinking water contaminated.

The study findings indicated that these substantial reductions may potentially be attributed to the improvement in sanitation and hygiene practices, as well as supportive systems such as regular monitoring and behaviour change messaging, which have all been critical aspects of the Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen).

### **ECONOMIC CENSUS**

Economic Census is the complete count of all establishment located within the geographical boundary of India. The Economic Census provides disaggregated information on various operational and structural variables of all establishments of the country. Economic Census also provides valuable insight into geographical spread/clusters of economic activities, ownership pattern, persons engaged, etc. of all economic establishments in the country. The information collected during Economic Census are useful for socio-economic developmental planning at state and district levels. Economic Census provides an updated sampling frame for follow-up enterprise surveys undertaken for detailed and comprehensive analysis of all establishments in the country.

#### **Economic Census-2019**

The Seventh Economic Census (7<sup>th</sup> EC) is being conducted by Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) in 2019. In the current Economic Census, MoSPI has partnered with CSC e-Governance Services India Limited, a Special Purpose Vehicle under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology as the implementing agency for 7<sup>th</sup> EC. In the 7<sup>th</sup> EC, an IT based digital platform for data capture, validation, report generation and dissemination will be used. The fieldwork for the 7<sup>th</sup> EC is likely to commence by the end of June 2019 or next month. The results of the exercise will be made available after verification and validation of the field work.

Economic Census will cover all establishments including household enterprises, engaged in production or distribution of goods/services (other than for the sole purpose of own consumption) in non-farm agricultural and non-agricultural sector will be counted. The coverage is same as the one in 6<sup>th</sup> Economic Census, conducted in 2013.

#### **Previous Economic Censuses**

Six Economic Censuses, (EC) have been conducted by the Union Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation. till date. The first Economic Census was undertaken in 1977.

### **8.4 BILLION CONNECTED DEVICES**

With around 8.4 billion connected devices currently in use across the globe, traditional cyber security systems were becoming obsolete and stressed the need to constantly update technology, improve software and computing prowess to meet myriad challenges confronting the world.

### **SHIFT IN THE COUNTRY'S EXPORTS BASKET**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in its first bi-monthly monetary policy statement (MPS) 2018-19, speaks about a marked shift in the country's exports basket -- a clear swing away from primary and traditional low value-added exports to higher value-added manufacturing and technology-driven items.

### **C R RAO INSTITUTE**

C R Rao Institute is working on important projects in the fields of Cryptography, Cryptanalysis and Wireless Communication with focus on Artificial Intelligence and Network Security, sponsored by Government of India

### **TRANSACTION OF BUSINESS RULES**

Under the Transaction of Business Rules, the Government has reconstituted Cabinet Committees. These include - Appointments Committee of the Cabinet, Cabinet Committee on Accommodation, Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, Cabinet Committee on Parliamentary Affairs, Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs, Cabinet Committee on Security, Cabinet Committee on Investment and Growth and Cabinet Committee on Employment and Skill Development.

## **TRACK & TRACE IN PHARMA SECTOR**

Track & Trace in Pharma sector will be implemented in three months

For continued confidence in exported pharmaceuticals from India, the government wanted a mechanism by which patients and regulators worldwide could verify their information. With this primary objective, the Indian government's National Informatics Centre (NIC) designed the Drug Authentication and Verification Application (DAVA) based on GS1 standards. Based on GS1 standards, DAVA enables manufacturers to share important information on these pharmaceuticals with regulators and patients, thereby further strengthening India's reputation as a leading producer of quality and safe drugs. [<https://www.gs1india.org/media/dava-case-study.pdf>]

### **To Synergise Export Promotion and Internal Trade**

A number of decisions required which include:

- Investigations on imports under the anti-dumping mechanism will be expedited, particularly products of the MSMEs with the help of industry associations
- Steps to boost exports of organic produce, and ways to rationalize the mandi fees across states would be examined
- The top 50 tariff lines, which constitute 60% of India's import to be examined in detail for possible ways to reduce import dependence
- ECGC would fast track the disposal of claims and put in public domain the pending claims for the benefit of the industry
- Meetings with State Export Commissioners to be held on pre-announced fixed dates to discuss issues related to export infrastructure and state specific export strategies
- Government would work with the States to develop product specific clusters for 50 sectors with high manufacturing potential.
- To leverage the railways real estate and use less utilized railway stations, the Ministry of Commerce will explore the possibility of setting up warehouses
- The concept of deemed approval for establishments, which currently require annual renewal of licenses will be explored in consultation with States.
- DPIIT/DOC will evaluate State Governments on a ranking framework on support provided to industry for manufacturing, exports and logistics support.
- DPIIT will encourage States to leverage public procurement by implementing Make in India in Public Procurement Order.
- DPIIT will work with Industry (including apex industry association like CII, FICCI, ASSOCHAM and PHDCCI) for organizing a National investor promotion event in next 6 to 9 months.
- Development of clusters for specific sectors especially for job creating industries will be pursued with States and Industry.
- APEDA will create a portal which will host the FPOs all over the country and link them to exporters.

The achievements of the government in terms of exports crossing half trillion mark for the first time with goods exports at all time high of USD 331 billion, "Ease of doing business" rank improving to 77 and logistics rank improving to 44<sup>th</sup>.

## **G20 MINISTERIAL MEETINGS IN JAPAN**

G20 is made up of 19 countries and the European Union(EU). The 19 countries are: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, The Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Turkey, the United Kingdom, and the United States. The G20 members represent two-thirds of the world's people and 85 percent of its economy.

The Trade and Digital Economy meeting is one of the 8 Ministerial meetings taking place in Japan alongside the 2019 G20 Summit. The other seven Ministerial meetings are Agriculture Ministers', Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors' meeting, Labour and Employment Ministers' meeting, Tourism

Ministers meeting, Ministerial meeting on Energy Transitions and Global Environment for Sustainable Growth, Health Ministers' meeting and Foreign Ministers' meeting.

### INDIA'S ENERGY EFFICIENCY

- ✓ India is implementing one of the largest Renewable Energy expansion programs, Energy Efficiency programmes and moving towards the achievement of our target to fulfill our commitments made in Paris Agreement on Climate Change'
- ✓ India will achieve 40% RE in energy mix by 2030.
- ✓ Energy efficiency programssuch as through PAT, UJALA, Standard & Labelling, ECBC etc energy efficiency programssuch as through PAT, UJALA, Standard & Labelling, ECBC etc
- ✓ India is achieving one of the largest expansion of renewable energy in the world and has become a net exporter of power in past 5 years.

### HIMACHAL FOLK ART

Like other parts of India, in Himachal Pradesh also, two stylistic streams of art and culture - classical or courtly (the Great Tradition) and folk (the Little Tradition) - were nurtured by the natives from the earliest times. Although no examples of art or craft objects are extant prior to the 3<sup>rd</sup> century BCE, the figures of Hindu deities engraved on the coins issued by the chieftains of the *janapadas* (republics) such as the Kunindas, the Malavas, the Audumbaras, etc. attest to the fact that the iconographic precepts governing the deities such as Shiva, six-headed Karttikeya or Kumara, Gaja-Lakshmi, Krittika, Rishi Vishvamisra, etc. were fully evolved by the 3<sup>rd</sup> century BCE. The stone statues of Vishnu and numerous reliefs carved in the Sarnath style and discovered from the Ambika Mata and Parashurama temples in Nirmand in Outer Saraj in Kulu district, popularly known as **the Kashi of the Himalayan region**, dated to the 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> centuries CE.

### AIR QUALITY

While poor air quality days which was 246 in the year 2014 have now come down below 200, the number of moderate to good **air quality** days have increased from just 108 in 2016 to 159 in 2018. The incidents of stubble burning has reduced by 25-30%

To combat air pollution, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change has launched the National Clean Air programme (NCAP) which is a mid-term 5 Year Action Plan with targets of 20-30% reduction of PM 2.5 and PM 10 concentration in 102 cities. It has been decided that each State Pollution Control Board - SPCB will tie up with a leading academic institution in the State that would act as the technical partner at the State level for the programme.

### CCI IMPOSES PENALTY

The Competition Commission of India ('Commission') has found Madhya Pradesh Chemists and Druggist Association ('MPCDA'), Indore Chemists Association ('ICA'), Himalaya Drug Company ('HDC') and Intas Pharmaceuticals Limited ('IPL') along with some of their office bearers/officials to be in contravention of the provisions of the Competition Act, 2002 ('Act'). In addition to this, the Commission also directed to organise at least five competition awareness and compliance programmes

### CCI APPROVES ACQUISITION

CCI approves Acquisition of Larsen & Toubro by Schneider and MacRitchie .

The approval is subject to modifications that are aimed at eliminating the likely anti-competitive effects of the proposed acquisition. The above order was a result of an in-depth inquiry undertaken pursuant to the notice given by Schneider and MacRitchie under the Competition Act, 2002 (Act). The Commission found that Schneider and L&T are the first and second leading players in terms of sales and distribution reach in the low voltage (LV) switchgear industry in India. Their consolidation would inter alia lock a large part of the LV

switchgear distributors and other downstream players with the combined entity, thereby making it difficult for new players to enter the market. Thus, the Commission was of the view that the acquisition of EA business of L&T would reduce competition and confer the combined entity, the ability to increase price.

In order to eliminate the competition concerns, the Commission has ordered the Acquirers to reserve a part of L&T's installed capacity to offer white labelling services to third party competitors. This facility would be available in respect of five high market share LV switchgears, which are generally used together in LV panels. Under the **white labelling services**, the third party competitors can take L&T products on a reasonable price for selling under their own brand, for a period of five years. Subsequently, these competitors can get access to the technology of white-labelled products to manufacture them, for the next five years. To open up their distribution network to competitors, Schneider would revise its commercial policies and remove de facto exclusivity in distribution agreements. Further, Schneider would not discontinue L&T products and not increase their average selling price, for a period of five years.

The remedies ordered by the Commission are expected to allow business expansion of competitors in the five white-labelled products thereby leverage their brand position in the overall LV switchgear business. The competitors could avail this opportunity to strengthen their portfolio of products, increase the viability of their own brand in a sustainable manner and become credible competitors.

### **RAILWAY & ENVIRONMENT**

Indian Railways is a lead signatory to India's NDC by committing to reduce 20% of fresh water consumption by 2030 and to reduce carbon emission by 32% over the base year 2005 by improving rail traction energy & fuel efficiency. Railways being a major consumer of energy, systematic programs have been launched towards improving energy efficiency and energy conservation including use of renewable sources of energy and alternative fuels in its energy mix. As part of its initiative for Green Buildings, 8 Production Units and 42 major Workshops are certified to ISO 14001.

Indian Railways (IR) has plans to set up 500 Mega Watt (MW) of Land based Solar plants, including those on its unused land. Out of the above, total 3 MW has already been set up on Railway's unused land.

### **FIRST OVERSEAS VISIT AFTER PM'S RE-ELECTION**

Visit to the Maldives and Sri Lanka will further strengthen our close and cordial ties with our maritime neighbours, in line with our 'Neighbourhood-First Policy' and the vision of Security and Growth for All in the Region.

Visit to the Maldives is reflective of the importance we both attach to our relationship as maritime neighbours and long-standing friends. We regard the Maldives as a valued partner with whom we share deep bonds of history and culture. Our bilateral relations with the Maldives have been greatly strengthened in the recent past.

Visit to Sri Lanka is to express our solidarity with the Government and the people of Sri Lanka in the wake of the terrible terrorist attacks there last Easter on 21 April 2019. India stands with Sri Lanka in the fight against terrorism.

### **EXPORT CREDIT**

Commerce and Industry Minister emphasized that India needs to aspire for a export target of USD one trillion each for goods and services and for that it is the joint responsibility of government, financial institutions and industry to ensure that export credit at competitive rates is available to business. We need to achieve a much higher level of export credit from the present level of 9.5 lakh crore. There is a need for a quantum jump if we want to achieve our export targets. In this regard, he asked RBI, ECGC, EXIM and SBI to explore regulatory reforms, innovative financial instruments and rationalizing credit disbursal procedures.

Commerce and Industry Minister stated that exporters should be able to take more and more export credit in foreign currency. Its share in total export credit should increase from the present level of about 50%. RBI was also asked to explore the possibility of use of its foreign exchange reserves for providing a line of credit for

swap to good banks for this purpose resulting in cheaper foreign currency loan. ECGC was asked to enable a credit guarantee cover for foreign currency lending to MSMEs. EXIM bank may provide refinance in foreign currency to the commercial banks to support exports credit particularly to MSMEs. ECGC should also extend export factoring for MSMEs.

Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) and other export promotion councils and industry bodies raised various issues including bank coverage charges, issues in exports to Iran, processing fee issues, collateral requirements and issues in loan disbursals. Many of the issues were immediately resolved with the intervention of the Commerce and Industry Minister. He requested the financial institutions and the departments concerned to take note of the remaining issues and come up with solutions in a time bound manner. FIEO was asked to submit a report on simplification of export credit procedures by 30th June, 2019.

The time has come when we should move away from subsidies to easy availability of cheaper credit to exporters, the Minister said.

Minister informed that in the last few years the share of export credit has come down and this is a cause of concern specially for the MSME sector that suffers due to demand of collateral from lending institutions.

Minister hoped that the export credit tripling in the next five years and allow India to be on par with the rest of the world where credit is cheaper and interest rates are lower.

### **FOOD CORPORATION OF INDIA**

The functioning of FCI is streamlined and fast paced as per recommendations of the Shanta Kumar Committee. The plan is to create 100 lakh ton silo storage capacity in the country. Previous government had constructed 6.75 lakh ton storage capacity while work is ongoing for 22 lakh ton storage capacity. The reason for slow progress in construction of silos is mainly due to the necessity of having 1.5km rail siding next to the silos. Now RITES has been assigned the task of changing the silo model and they will give their recommendations in 90 days to FCI. The target for completion of remaining silos is 2021 so that the wheat procured in March 2022 can be stored in these silos.

### **MOU BETWEEN MCA & SEBI**

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) and the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)

The MoU comes in the wake of increasing need for surveillance in the context of Corporate Frauds affecting important sectors of the economy. As the private sector plays an increasingly vital role in economic growth, the need for a robust Corporate Governance mechanism becomes the need of the hour.

The MoU will facilitate the sharing of data and information between SEBI and MCA on an automatic and regular basis. It will enable sharing of specific information such as details of suspended companies, delisted companies, shareholding pattern from SEBI and financial statements filed with the Registrar by corporates, returns of allotment of shares, audit reports relating to corporates. The MoU will ensure that both MCA and SEBI have seamless linkage for regulatory purposes. In addition to regular exchange of data, SEBI and MCA will also exchange with each other, on request, any information available in their respective databases, for the purpose of carrying out scrutiny, inspection, investigation and prosecution.

### **7 JUNE 2019- FOOD SAFETY**

First-ever World Food Safety Day celebrated by Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI). The theme "Food Safety, everyone's business".

‘Gandhiji on a Bicycle’ installed at the FSSAI complex

Gandhiji’s message - Eating less, eating safe and healthy food, and also reducing waste and sharing surplus food

FSSAI has developed the first State Food Safety Index (SFSI) to measure the performance of States on five parameters of food safety. The categories included Human Resources and Institutional Arrangements,



Compliance, Food Testing- Infrastructure and Surveillance, Training and Capacity Building and Consumer Empowerment.

Seven leading States/UTs based on the ranking for the year 2018-2019 for their food safety impressive performance. These were Chandigarh, Goa, Gujarat, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu. States such as Bihar, Delhi, Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh followed close behind. Golden Temple Street, Amritsar has been also recognized as a 'Clean Street Food Hub'.

FSSAI has declared seven campuses such as those of universities, schools, colleges/institutes, workplaces, defence/paramilitary establishments, hospitals and jails as '**Eat Right Campus**'.

Hand-held battery operated device called '**Raman 1.0**'. This device performs rapid detection (in less than 1 minute) of economically driven adulteration in edible oils, fats and ghee. The equipment tests more than 250 samples per battery charge, collects and stores data on the cloud using a smart device. This is the first of 19 such equipment and methods that have been provisionally approved by FSSAI for strengthening the food testing infrastructure in the country.

### **'FOOD SAFETY MAGIC BOX' WAS LAUNCHED**

This do-it-yourself food testing kit comprises a manual and equipment to check for food adulterants, which schoolchildren can use in their classroom laboratories. This kit is also useful for frontline health workers.

### **NATIONAL COMMUNAL HARMONY AWARDS**

The National Communal Harmony Awards have been instituted by the National Foundation for Communal Harmony (NFCH), an autonomous body under the Union Ministry of Home Affairs.

The National Communal Harmony Awards, 2019 consist of a citation each and a cash prize of Rs. 5 lakh in the individual category and Rs. 10 lakh in the Organization category. Individuals who have worked in the area of national integration and communal harmony for a minimum period of ten years is eligible for consideration of the Award while Organizations will be adjudged over a five years' work in the field of promotion of national integration and communal harmony.

### **FASTEST GROWING ECONOMY**

India is home to the fastest growing economy in the world. The latest report of the World Bank has mentioned that Indian economy grew by 7.2 per cent and that it is expected to grow by 7.5 per cent in the next two fiscal years. The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) too forecast that India would continue to be the world's fastest growing major economy and that India's growth rate would touch 7.5 per cent by 2020.

According to the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), FDI equity inflows in India in 2018-19 stood at US\$ 44.37 billion, indicating that government's effort to improve ease of doing business and relaxation in FDI norms is yielding results. As per a report of UBS, annual FDI inflows in the country are expected to rise to US\$ 75 billion over the next five years.

Currently, the **contribution of women to India's GDP** is 18 percent, one of the lowest proportions in the world, reflecting the fact that only 25 percent of India's labor force is female.

### **RELATIONS BETWEEN INDIA AND MALDIVES**

'Neighbourhood First' is our priority. And in the neighbourhood, Maldives is priority.

-PM

Maldives is my first foreign visit of my second term.

--PM

Relations between India and Maldives are older than history. From time immemorial, trade has flourished between Maldives and India. More than 2500 years ago, Maldives traded with Lothal, which is considered among the oldest ports in the world. A list of similarities exists in language also. For example, in Divehi language, 'Week' is called 'hafta' in India, and also in Divehi. 'Sunday' in Divehi is Aadittha, which is related to Aaditya or Sun. Monday is called Homa which bears similarity with 'Soma' or Moon.

India has stood shoulder-to-shoulder with Maldives to support its freedom, democracy, prosperity and peace. Be it the incident of 1988, or fighting natural calamities such as the Tsunami of 2004 or the more recent water shortage.

The unwavering focus of India is developmental cooperation and the social and economic development of the people of Maldives. Whether it is about water supply and sanitation on the islands, creating infrastructure and developing health and educational facilities: India's cooperation will always be focused on the welfare of the people and be based on the requirements and priorities of Maldives.

India's cooperation has lit up streets of Male with 2,500 energy-efficient and environment-friendly LED street lights.

Immediate financial requirements of the Maldives have been met with a \$1.4 billion financial package announced during President Solih's visit to India. Along with this many new projects of Social Impact have been started. And new lines of development work have also been opened under the \$800 million line of credit.

India agreed to assist in the development of infrastructure and conservation of the historic Friday Mosque in Addu. To increase the connectivity between the citizens of both the countries, we have also agreed to start a ferry service between Kulhudhuffushi and Male in Maldives and Kochi in India. With the release of Rupay card in Maldives, the number of Indian tourists will increase. Very soon we will take action on this. There has also been discussion on strengthening our defense cooperation. India's has assisted the Composite Training Center of the Maldives Defense Forces and the Radar System of Coastal Surveillance. This will further enhance the maritime security of the Maldives.

Serious challenges for both are

1. Terrorism
2. Climate Change
3. Openness, integration and balance in the Indo-Pacific

Maldives is a more suitable partner in realising this S.A.G.A.R vision and for cooperating to benefit from the Blue Economy.

### **NCGG- NATIONAL CENTER FOR GOOD GOVERNANCE**

The National Center for Good Governance (NCGG), India's leading civil services training institution, has entered into an MOU with the Maldives Civil Services Commission for capacity building of 1000 Maldives civil servants over the next 5 years. In 2019 NCGG has successfully conducted training programs for civil servants of Bangladesh, Myanmar, the Gambia and Maldives.

### **INTERNATIONAL DAY OF YOGA**

Prime Minister International Day of Yoga 2019 celebrations at Prabhat Tara, Ranchi, Jharkhand on 21st June, 2019. Ministry of AYUSH is the nodal Ministry for observation of International Day of Yoga across the country.

### **EDUCATION AND EAST ASIA**

Education is, indeed, one of the major catalysts of growth. The countries prosper once its citizens become educated. Studies have shown that the phenomenal growth of countries in East Asia was largely due their educational progress. As one recent OECD study conducted in 2012 showed, "on average, about half of the economic growth is related to labour income growth at the tertiary level of education."



## **BIHAR**

The reported rise in cases of Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES) from Muzaffarpur and Japanese Encephalitis (JE) from Gaya in Bihar. The Health Ministry is coordinating with Ministry of Women and Child Development for distribution of nutritious food with glucose in the meals to prevent development of AES.

Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare said that Ministry of Earth Science will be requested to upgrade its IMD observatory facility for improved monitoring of climate related parameters such as temperature humidity, rainfall, heat waves, etc., and share it with the State Government and NCDC for better preparedness and management of AES.

## **CYCLONE**

Deep Depression over Arabian Sea – Pre Cyclone Watch for Gujarat coast.

Deep Depression intensified into cyclonic storm “VAYU” over Arabian Sea

The National Crisis Management Committee (NCMC) under the chairmanship of Cabinet Secretary reviewed preparedness relating to the Cyclone ‘VAYU’.

## **TWO WHEELER SEGMENT BS – VI NORMS**

International Centre for Automotive Technology (ICAT) released India’s first Type Approval Certificate (TAC) for Bharat Stage - VI (BS – VI) norms for the two wheeler segment. This is India’s first certification in the two wheeler segment for the BS – VI norms that are the latest emission norms as notified by the Government of India.

ICAT has taken many steps in providing assistance and support to the automotive industry for the development, optimization and calibration of engines and vehicles for complying with these upcoming emission norms.

Bharat Stage norms are the automotive emission norms which the automotive manufacturers have to comply to sell their vehicles in India. These norms are applicable to all two wheelers, three wheelers, fourwheelers and construction equipment vehicles.

To curb growing menace of air pollution through the vehicles emission, the Government of India has decided to leapfrog from the exiting BS – IV norms to the BS- VI, thereby skipping the BS – V norms, and to implement the BS – VI norms with effect from 1st April 2020. Only those vehicles will be sold and registered in India from 1st April 2020 onwards, which comply to these norms. The norms are stringent and at par with global standards.

Last year, ICAT issued the approval for BS –VI norms to M/s Volvo Eicher Commercial Vehicles for the Heavy Commercial Vehicle segment which was also the first in its segment in India.

ICAT is the premier testing and certification agency authorized by Ministry of Road Transport and Highways for providing testing and certification services to the vehicle and component manufacturers in India and abroad. It has the latest equipment, facilities and capabilities to develop, validate, test and certify the engines and vehicles for the latest norms in the field of emission and many other facilities like crash lab, NVH lab, EMC lab and test tracks.

## **DIRECT PORT ENTRY**

The Direct Port Entry (DPE) facility would enable direct movement of containers from factories without intermediate handling requirement at any Container Freight Station thus facilitating the shippers to gate-in their factory-stuffed goods directly to the Container Terminal on 24 x 7 basis.

## **INDIA-US STRATEGIC ENERGY PARTNERSHIP**

Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas and Steel discussed with the US Secretary of Energy. Both the Ministers discussed about the ways to work together to enhance energy security and further develop gas-based economy in India. Expanding energy and Innovation linkages to bolster the strategic India-US Strategic Energy Partnership that was launched in last year. They also reviewed the current status of four Working Groups created under the Strategic Energy Partnership -Oil & Gas, Power & Energy Efficiency, Renewable Energy and Sustainable Development.

### **INFORMATION FUSION CENTRE – INDIAN OCEAN REGION (IFC-IOR), GURUGRAM**

Security and safety of the seas in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) is vital to world trade and the economic prosperity of many nations. The scale, scope and the multinational nature of activities at sea, necessitates a collaborative approach to maritime security. Considering this, the Information Fusion Centre – Indian Ocean region (IFC-IOR), Gurugram was launched in Dec 18 by the Hon'ble Raksha Mantri for enhancing maritime safety and security in the region. The centre has thus far established linkages with more than 16 countries and 13 international maritime security agencies.

### **THE FOREIGNERS (TRIBUNALS) ORDER, 1964**

The Foreigners (Tribunals) Order, 1964 was issued by the Central Government under Section 3 of The Foreigners Act, 1946. It is applicable to the whole country. Major amendments in the Foreigners (Tribunals) Order, 1964 were undertaken in 2013. The last amendment was issued in May, 2019. This Amendment Order provides for reference by District Magistrate to the Tribunal for its opinion as to whether the Appellant is a “foreigner” or not within the meaning of the Foreigners Act, 1946. Since NRC work is going on only in Assam, therefore, the aforementioned Order, issued on 30th May, 2019 is applicable only to Assam as on date for all practical purposes.

### **TRIPARTITE AGREEMENT WITH FRENCH RAILWAYS**

Indian Railway Station Development Corporation (IRSDC) entered an Tripartite Agreement with French Railways (SNCF) & AFD, a French Agency. Under this agreement, AFD a French agency, has agreed to provide in-kind grant financing up to 7,00,000 EURO, through French National Railways (SNCF)-Hubs and Connexions as a Technical Partner to IRSDC to support the Railway Station Development Program in India. This will impose no financial liability on IRSDC or Indian Railways.

### **MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF HEADS OF STATE OF THE SHANGHAI COOPERATION ORGANIZATION (SCO)**

India has actively participated in various SCO dialogue mechanisms since its full membership of SCO two years ago. The Summit is expected to discuss the global security situation, multilateral economic cooperation, people-to-people exchanges and topical issues of international and regional importance.

### **BEPS PROJECT**

India has ratified the Multilateral Convention to Implement Tax Treaty Related Measures to Prevent **Base Erosion and Profit Shifting**, which was signed by the Finance Minister at Paris on 2017. The Multilateral Convention is an outcome of the OECD / G20 Project to tackle Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (the "BEPS Project") i.e., tax planning strategies that exploit gaps and mismatches in tax rules to artificially shift profits to low or no-tax locations where there is little or no economic activity, resulting in little or no tax being paid. The BEPS Project identified 15 actions to address base erosion and profit shifting (BEPS) in a comprehensive manner.

### **COMMITTEE FOR SUB-CATEGORIZATION**

The Committee for Sub-categorization within **Other Backward Classes** in the Central List was constituted under article 340 of the Constitution with the approval of President on 2nd October, 2017. The Commission, headed by Justice (Retd.) Smt. G. Rohini commenced functioning in October, 2017 and has since interacted with all the Stats/UTs which have subcategorized OBCs, and the State Backward Classes Commissions. The Commission has come to the view that it would be appropriate to have a detailed consultation with the States/UTs in the light of the response received with respect to for the Consultation Papers issued by the "Commission" earlier. This is essential to ensure that no community is put in a grossly undeserving position and this process is likely to take a couple of months.

## **CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS OF ARTICLES 14, 16 AND 21**

To ensure compliance of the Constitutional Provisions of Articles 14, 16 and 21, Cabinet approves “The Central Educational Institutions (Reservation in Teachers' Cadre) Bill, 2019. The unit for reservation of posts in direct recruitment in teachers' cadre will be the University/Educational Institutions and not the Department.

### **TERM OF PRESIDENT'S RULE - JAMMU AND KASHMIR**

The Governor of Jammu & Kashmir issued a proclamation on 20.6.2018 under Section 92 of the Constitution of Jammu and Kashmir with the concurrence of the President of India, thereby assuming to himself the functions of the Government and Legislature of the State and making some incidental and consequential provisions. The State Assembly, initially kept in suspended animation was dissolved by the Governor on 21.11.2018.

The proclamation issued by the Governor on 20.6.2018 ceased on 19.12.2018 after six months. Under Section 92 of the Constitution of Jammu and Kashmir, there is no provision for further continuation of such Proclamation after six months. Hence, on the recommendation of Governor and having regard to the prevailing situation in the State, President issued a proclamation promulgating President's Rule in J&K under article 356 of the Constitution of India. Subsequently, a Resolution approving the subject Proclamation by President was passed in the Lok Sabha on 28.12.2018 and in the Rajya Sabha on 3.1.2019.

The present term of President's Rule is expiring on 2nd July, 2019 and the Governor has recommended that the President Rule in the State may be extended for a further period of six months with effect from 3rd July, 2019.

### **INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION CENTRE (NDIAC) BILL, 2019**

Making India as the hub of International Arbitration has been one of the pioneering initiatives of the Government. Setting up of an independent and autonomous regime for institutionalized domestic and international arbitration are a step in this direction.

This Bill provides for setting up of an independent and autonomous body for institutional arbitration and to acquire and transfer the undertakings of International Centre For Alternative Dispute Resolution (ICADR) to New Delhi International Arbitration Centre (NDIAC) w.e.f a specified date 2nd march, 2019.

#### **Background:**

It has been the endeavor of the Government of India to establish an independent and autonomous institution for resolving International and domestic commercial disputes expeditiously by Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanism. In this regard, a High-Level Committee (HLC), headed by Mr. Justice B.N. Srikrishna, former Judge of the Supreme Court of India, was constituted in the year 2017. The HLC recommended that the Government may take over the International Centre For Alternative Dispute Resolution (ICADR), an existing institution which has been established in the year 1995 using the public funds and develop it as an Institution of National Importance.

Taking into consideration the HLC's recommendations, a Bill, namely the New Delhi International Arbitration Centre (NDIAC) Bill 2018 was approved for introduction in the Parliament by the Cabinet in its meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> December, 2017. The Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 5<sup>th</sup> January, 2018 and was passed by the Lok Sabha on 4<sup>th</sup> January, 2019. The New Delhi International Arbitration Centre Bill, 2018 could not be taken up for consideration and passing by the Rajya Sabha in its 248<sup>th</sup> Session. Thereafter, the Parliament was adjourned *sine die* on 13<sup>th</sup> February, 2019.

The President, in view of the importance of the matter and urgency to make India a hub of institutionalized arbitration and promote 'Ease of Doing Business' in India, promulgated an Ordinance namely "The New Delhi International Arbitration Centre Ordinance, 2019" on 2<sup>nd</sup> March, 2019. In view of the provisions of the Article 107 (5) and 123 (2) of the Constitution, the New Delhi International Arbitration Centre Bill, 2019 is proposed to be introduced in the Parliament which will replace the New Delhi International Arbitration Centre Ordinance, 2019.

### **THE SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONES (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2019**

Amendment of sub-section (v) of section 2 of the Special Economic Zones Act, 2005, a trust or any entity notified by the Central Government will be eligible to be considered for grant of permission to set up a unit in Special Economic Zones.

### **CHILD LABOUR- ILO CONVENTIONS 182 AND 138**

The Theme of World Day against Child Labour for the year 2019 is ‘Children shouldn’t Work in Fields, but on Dreams’

Government has enacted the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2016 which came into force with effect from September 01, 2016. Now the employment of a Child below 14 years is completely prohibited in any occupation or processes. The Amendment prohibits the employment of adolescent (14-18 years) in hazardous occupations and processes.

National Child Labour Project (NCLP) aims to eliminate all forms of child labour through identification and preparing children withdrawn from work for main stream education along with vocational training. An online portal, PENCIL, was launched on 26.09.2017 for better monitoring & reporting system to ensure effective implementation of the provisions of the amended Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 and National Child Labour Project (NCLP) Scheme.

Census 2011 shows decline in Child Labour which has come down to 1.01 crore as compared to 1.26 crore in 2001.

Government of India in ratifying the ILO Conventions 182 and 138. ILO Convention No. 138 inter-alia prescribes that there should be a minimum age of entry to employment which should not be less than age of compulsory education or 15 years (relaxable to 14 years in the case of developing countries). ILO Convention 182 inter-alia, mentions the minimum age for working in hazardous occupations as 18 years.

### **DBT TRIBAL**

Ministry of Tribal Affairs has developed online portals namely DBT Tribal (<https://dbttribal.gov.in/>) and NGO Grants Online Application & Tracking System (<https://ngograntsmota.gov.in/>) for bringing in greater e-Governance in implementation of welfare schemes for STs.

### **OBJECTIVES OF CHANDRAYAAN-2**

To map the variations in lunar surface composition extensively in order to trace back the origin and evolution of the moon.

Focused studies on the extent of water molecule distribution on the surface, below the surface and in the tenuous lunar exosphere to address the origin of water on moon

### **KISAN CREDIT CARD**

The Kisan Credit Card was introduced in 1998, presently there are 6.92 crore live KCCs against 14.5 crore operational landholdings. The recent initiatives for KCC saturation include adding farmers engaged in Animal Husbandry & Fisheries; removal of inspection ledger folio charges and processing fee of loan under KCC; raising limit of collateral fee on existing agriculture loan from 1 lakh to 1.6 lakhs.

### **SOCIAL SECURITY - ESI CONTRIBUTION FROM 6.5% TO 4%**

Government Reduces the Rate of ESI Contribution from 6.5% to 4%. The reduced rate of contribution will bring about a substantial relief to workers and it will facilitate further enrollment of workers under the ESI scheme and bring more and more workforce into the formal sector. Similarly, reduction in the share of contribution of employers will reduce the financial liability of the establishments leading to improved viability of these establishments. This shall also lead to enhanced Ease of Doing Business. It is also expected that reduction in rate of ESI contribution shall lead to improved compliance of law.

The Employees' State Insurance Act 1948 (the ESI Act) provides for medical, cash, maternity, disability and dependent benefits to the Insured Persons under the Act. The ESI Act is administered by Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC). Benefits provided under the ESI Act are funded by the contributions made by the employers and the employees.

Under the ESI Act, employers and employees both contribute their shares respectively. The Government of India through Ministry of Labour and Employment decides the rate of contribution under the ESI Act

The Government of India in its pursuit of expanding the Social Security Coverage to more and more people started a programme of special registration of employers and employees from December, 2016 to June, 2017 and also decided to extend the coverage of the scheme to all the districts in the country in a phased manner. The wage ceiling of coverage was also enhanced from Rs. 15,000/- per month to Rs. 21,000/- from 01.01.2017

### DIGITAL INDIA

The Digital India Programme of the Government aims to transform India into a knowledge-based economy and digitally empowered society by ensuring digital access, digital inclusion, digital empowerment and bridging the digital divide.

Through Aadhaar, the Government has provided digital identity to 122.9 crore residents of the country with 99% coverage of the adult population as on 30th November 2018.

Similarly, India's unique payment systems such as BHIM-UPI and BHIM-Aadhaar are getting recognized globally. Over the past four years, digital payment transactions have grown multi-fold from 316 crore transactions in 2014-15 to **2071 crore transactions in 2017-18**.

BPOs have started operations at several locations, including, Bhaderwah, Budgam, Jammu, Sopore and Srinagar in Jammu and Kashmir, Guwahati, Kohima, Imphal in North-Eastern region, Baddi and Shimla in Himachal Pradesh, Patna and Muzaffarpur in Bihar, Jaleswar in Odisha.

### INDIA AND KYRGYZ RELATIONS

As two ancient and glorious civilizations, they are naturally connected to each other. India and Central Asia have had deep historical and cultural links. India and Kyrgyz Republic are the land of epics. For example, the Mahabharata and Ramcharit Manas in India and Manas in Kyrgyz Republic. Both are democracies and are full of diversity.

India and Kyrgyz Republic regularly consult each other closely. We hold the same views on many international topics. We have strong cooperation in United Nations and other international platforms. Our defense cooperation has increased in military training, joint warfare, field research and military technical areas. The two countries have decided to form a Joint Working Group on defense cooperation.

We had a bilateral investment treaty and the Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA). We have also agreed on a five-year road map in the field of trade and economic cooperation. An Indian trade show named '**Namaskar Eurasia**' will be organized in Bishkek this year.

Indian companies can study the opportunities in Kyrgyz Republic in the field of construction, railways, hydro power, and mining.

India has announced \$ 200 million worth of concessional line of credit.

India and the Kyrgyz Republic actively participated in the first India-Central Asia Dialogue at the level of foreign ministers held in Samarkand, Uzbekistan in January. They have also shared vision for prosperity, peace and stability in our shared area.

India and Kyrgyz Republic will also collaborate on issues such as **mountain ecology, green tourism and conservation of Snow Leopard**.

Kyrgyz Republic is a member of Eurasian Economic Union. To increase trade India also working on Preferential Trade Agreement with the Eurasian Economic Union.

### INDIA- SCO

The history, civilization and culture of India, have been interconnected with the SCO region for thousands of years. This shared area needs better connectivity in the modern era. Initiatives like International North South Transport Corridor, Chabahar Port, Ashgabat Agreement, clearly emphasize the focus of India on connectivity. India have also operated Air Freight Corridor between Kabul and Kandahar and New Delhi and Mumbai since

2017. The importance of people-to-people contact is no less than physical connectivity. India's e-tourist visa services are available for most of the SCO countries. Soon in the website of Indian Tourism Department will have a 24X7 Tourist Helpline with Russian interfaces in Russian language for the ease of the tourists of the SCO countries.

The letters HEALTH can be a good template for our collaboration:

H for Healthcare Cooperation  
E for Economic Cooperation  
A for Alternate Energy  
L for Literature and Culture  
T for Terrorism free society  
H for Humanitarian Cooperation



### KIMBERLEY PROCESS

The Kimberley Process is a joint initiative involving Government, international diamond industry and civil society to stem the flow of **Conflict Diamonds**. Conflict Diamonds means rough diamonds used by rebel movements or their allies to finance conflict aimed at undermining legitimate governments. It is also described in United Nations Security Council (UNSC) Resolutions.

In 1998, certain rebel movements in Africa (Sierra Leone, Angola, Democratic Republic of Congo, Liberia) were selling, among other things, illegally obtained diamonds – known as Conflict Diamonds – to fund their wars against legitimate governments. With a view to find ways to stop trade in Conflict Diamonds, world's diamond industry, United Nations, Governments and leading NGOs came together and in November 2002 at Interlaken, Switzerland, where the final draft of the Kimberley Process measures was ratified by more than fifty countries. The KPCS came into effect from 1st January, 2003 and evolved into an effective mechanism for stopping the trade in Conflict Diamonds.

India is one of the founder members of **Kimberley Process Certification Scheme** and is the Chair of Kimberley Process for the year 2019 with Russian Federation as Vice Chair. Since 2003, India has been actively participating in the KPCS process and is a member of all Working Groups of KP (except for Working Group on Artisanal and Alluvial Production, WGAAP).

As per the Scheme, each shipment of rough diamonds being exported and imported by crossing an international border be transported in a tamper proof container and accompanied by a validated Kimberley Process Certificate. The shipment can only be exported to a co-participant country in the KPCS. No uncertified shipments of rough diamonds are permitted to enter a participant country.

### ‘OPERATION VIJAY’

The year 2019, marks the 20th anniversary of victory in ‘**Operation VIJAY**’ popularly known as the ‘Kargil War’. The Kargil War is a saga of strong political, military and diplomatic actions. The Kargil War will always be remembered for its strategic and tactical surprises, the self-imposed national strategy of restraint in keeping the war **limited to Kargil - Siachen Sectors** and swiftly executed tri-services military strategy and plans. The Kargil War will also be remembered for the determination and daring junior leadership and the raw courage of our jawans at tactical level.

### SAHITYA AKADEMI AWARD

Sahitya Akademi has selected 22 writers for the Sahitya Akademi Bal Sahitya Puraskar 2019 and 23 writers for Yuva Puraskar 2019. Yuva Puraskar - age of 35 and below as on 1st January of the year of the award. The Award in the form of a casket containing an engraved copper-plaque and a cheque of Rs.50,000/- will be presented to the awardees

### INDIA'S FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION

Right to Information enabled improving governance in India by bringing transparency in decisions regarding major contracts, settlement of disputes and clarity in land matters. The large scale adoption of the Aadhar for subsidy disbursement has strengthened India's fight against corruption.



India's fight against corruption is based on enhanced use of technology, increased transparency, greater stakeholder engagement, severe penalties with timebound completion of disciplinary proceedings, credible deterrence with strong audit and accounting mechanisms. The Central Vigilance Commission has promoted Vigilance Awareness Weeks to "Eradicate Corruption and Build a New India."

- *The National Center for Good Governance is conducting a Special Training Program for Senior Civil Servants of Gambia under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation program (ITEC).*

### **SKILLING PROGRAM FOR ITI STUDENTS**

Directorate General of Training joins hands with Cisco and Accenture to set up a future-ready employability skilling program for ITI students. Along with the implementation partner Quest Alliance, this program will equip students enrolled in ITIs across India with skills for the digital economy over the next two years. Nearly 15,00,000 students across all the ITIs in India can access the digital learning module via the Bharat Skills portal. The program includes tailor-made curriculum with modules for digital literacy, career readiness, employability skills and advanced technology skills such as data analytics, and a blended learning model enabled by a combination of online self-learning via the Bharat Skills portal and in-classroom modules.

DGT under the aegis of Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship has been striving ahead in this technological age in hand holding the youth across the country & at the same time ensuring their digital skilling and industry readiness. Over the past year, DGT has collaborated with IBM, Adobe India, Microsoft & SAP to digitally revolutionize the vocational training system in India. Earlier in this year Bharat skills (<https://bharatskills.gov.in>), a self-learning seamless platform for ITI students & Teachers, a central repository of trade relevant study materials, video tutorials, question bank, mock test was launched. It gives the trainees an ability to learn from any location 24/7.

### **FIFTH MEETING OF GOVERNING COUNCIL OF NITI AAYOG**

The Prime Minister, delivered the opening remarks. Important points:

1. A common goal of achieving a New India by 2022
2. Swachh Bharat Abhiyan and PM AwaasYojana as illustrations of what the Centre and the States can accomplish together
3. Goal to make India a 5 trillion dollar economy by 2024
4. Centre and the States should work towards growth in exports, in order to raise per capita incomes.
5. The newly created Jal Shakti Ministry will help provide an integrated approach to water. States to also integrate their efforts towards water conservation and management. The spirit of per-drop, more-crop needs to be promoted.
6. The aim is to provide piped water to every rural home by 2024.
7. There is need for structural reform in agriculture. Need to boost corporate investment, strengthen logistics, and provide ample market support. The food processing sector should grow at a faster pace than foodgrain production.
8. Improvement in governance has led to remarkable progress in several aspirational districts
9. The battle against Naxal violence is now in a decisive phase
10. The target of eliminating TB by 2025
11. The need to review the implementation of the Agriculture Produce Marketing Committee (APMC) Act and possible reform in the form of the Model APMC Act

#### **Agenda before the Fifth Council Meeting were the following items**

1. Rain-Water Harvesting
2. Drought Situation and Relief Measures
3. Aspirational Districts Programme – Achievements And Challenges
4. Transforming Agriculture: Need For Structural Reforms With Special Emphasis On:
5. Agriculture Produce Marketing Committee (APMC) Act
6. Essential Commodities Act (ECA)
7. Security Related Issues with Specific Focus On LWE Districts

## **BYE ELECTIONS**

To the Council of States from Bihar, Odisha and Gujarat. The vacancies for Bye-elections to all Houses, including the Rajya Sabha, are considered as separate vacancies and separate notifications are issued and separate poll is taken for each of the vacancies although the programme schedule for the bye-elections may be common. This is in conformity with the provisions of Section 147 to 151 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, and has been the consistent practice of the Commission in such cases. Holding of separate elections has been upheld by the Hon'ble Delhi High Court (A.K. Walia Vs Union of India & Others) and (Satya Pal Malik Vs Election Commission of India)

## **17 JUNE - WORLD DAY TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION**

A flagship project on enhancing capacity on forest landscape restoration (FLR) and Bonn Challenge in India launched. A pilot phase of 3.5 years of this implemented in the States of Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Nagaland and Karnataka. Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) in partnership with The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), through this flagship project aims to develop and adapt best practices and monitoring protocols for the Indian states and build capacity within the five pilot states on FLR and Bonn Challenge. This will be eventually scaled up across the country through subsequent phases of the project.

**The Bonn Challenge** is a global effort to bring 150 million hectares of the world's deforested and degraded land into restoration by 2020, and 350 million hectares by 2030. At the UNFCCC Conference of the Parties (COP) 2015 in Paris, India also joined the voluntary Bonn Challenge pledge to bring into restoration 13 million hectares of degraded and deforested land by the year 2020, and additional 8 million hectares by 2030. India's pledge is one of the largest in Asia.

United Nations has 3 Rio Conventions namely, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). Established in 1994, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) is the only legally binding international agreement linking environment and development issues to the land agenda. In 1994, the United Nations General Assembly declared 17 June the "World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought" to promote public awareness and the implementation of the UNCCD in the desertification affected countries.

India is hosting the Fourteenth session of Conference of Parties (COP - 14) from 29th August - 14th September 2019. One of the primary functions of the COP is to review reports submitted by the Country Parties detailing how they are carrying out their commitments. India will take-over the COP presidency from China for two years until the next COP is hosted in 2021.

## **FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRY**

Indian Food Processing Industry has grown tremendously recording 11% growth rate, which is twice the pace of Global Industry. The sector has recorded double digit growth rate across all major sub-segments of the sectors both in terms of value and volume.

Despite huge domestic market of 1.3 billion customers with the youngest population globally and an abundant agricultural base, the processing levels in India remain low at 7.7% behind several economies such as China, Malaysia and US. India's share in global exports of processed food is only 2%. Besides, India also has a high share of harvest and post-harvest losses from major agricultural produces on account of poor storage, transportation and logistics to the extent of INR 92,651 Crores (\$13 Billion)-3 times the agricultural budget.

The government initiated a biennial event- World Food India to promote food processing sector at global level. The first such event was conducted in 2017 and received wide success. The event created Brand India in

global food map by positioning India as a World Food Factory. It was for the first time in India that all major policy makers and top industrialists across the globe in Food Processing Industries were together under one roof. World Food India 2017 had witnessed presence of India's top political leadership. The second edition of World Food India is planned at a much bigger and grandeur level from 1-4 November 2019.

### **PIRACY AND ARMED ROBBERY AGAINST SHIPS**

Indian Coast Guard (ICG) will be co-hosting 12th Capacity Building workshop with Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia (ReCAAP) **Information Sharing Centre (ISC)**.

The ReCAAP is the first regional Government-to-Government agreement to deal with piracy and armed robbery at sea in Asia. Presently 20 countries are members of ReCAAP. India played an active role in the setting up and functioning of ReCAAPISC along with Japan and Singapore. Union Government has designated ICG as the focal point within India for ReCAAP. India has hosted this workshop earlier in November 2011 at Goa and December 2017 at New Delhi.

Information sharing, capacity building and mutual legal assistance are the three pillars of co-operation under the ReCAAP agreement. An ISC has been established at Singapore to collate and disseminate the information among the contracting parties and the maritime community. Capacity building workshop is organised annually by the ISC and is co-hosted by one of the contracting parties. The main objective of this workshop is to share updated situation of piracy and armed robbery against ships in Asia and best practices of Asian countries. The workshop also aims to deepen the knowledge of participants on various issues related with piracy and armed robbery such as international laws, prosecution process, forensics and emerging threats.

### **GANGA TARINI & JALAJ**

'Ganga Tarini', a floating museum on a house boat which showcases a film display on Ganga and its rich biodiversity. It is a first of its kind initiative to inform people about the various facets of the river including the social, cultural, historical and economical aspects. Ganga Tarini has been developed by the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) in collaboration with NMCG.

'Jalaj', a boat which moves along the Ghats of Varanasi and the nearby villages, displaying and selling products prepared by the Ganga Praharis and local villagers, as a boost to better livelihood opportunities for people living along the banks of the Ganga. The trained Ganga Praharis also educate the local people and tourists regarding Ganga river, biodiversity and cleanliness.

### **COMING PROJECTS IN AP**

BEL's Advanced Night Vision Devices Factory at Nimmakuru in Krishna district. The factory seeks to cater to the futuristic requirements for night vision devices with an investment of about Rs 300 crores

BEL's Defence Systems Integration Complex at Palasamudram, in Anantapur district. The state-of-the-art facility will cater to the needs of Missile & Weapon Systems manufacturing for the ongoing and upcoming Missile programmes

Mishra Dhatu Nigam Limited's Greenfield Aluminum Alloy Production Plant at Bodduripalem in Nellore District, Missile Testing Facility at Nagayalanka in Krishna District, Naval Alternate Operating Base (NAOB) at Rambilli near Vishakapatnam and Naval Air Station at Bobbili in Vizianagaram district.

### **FINANCIAL STABILITY AND DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL**

The 20th Meeting of the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) was held under the Chairmanship of the Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs. The Meeting reviewed the current global and domestic economic situation and financial stability issues including, inter-alia, those concerning Banking and NBFCs.

The Council was also apprised of the progress made towards setting-up of the Financial Data Management Centre (FDMC) to facilitate integrated data aggregation and analysis as also a Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-Fin) towards strengthening the cyber security framework for the financial sector.

The Council also held consultations to obtain inputs/ suggestions of the financial sector regulators for the Budget.

### **DISPUTE RESOLUTION- SOLAR/WIND POWER**

In a major decision to facilitate the solar and wind energy projects, Union Minister of State for Power and New & Renewable Energy (IC) has approved a proposal to set up a Dispute Resolution Committee to consider the unforeseen disputes between solar/wind power developers and SECI/NTPC, beyond contractual agreement.

### **BOOST TO BATTERY-OPERATED OR ELECTRIC VEHICLES**

In order to give a boost to Battery-Operated or Electric Vehicles in the country, the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has initiated steps for providing for differential registration fees under the Central Motor Vehicles Rules 1989. For this, the Ministry has issued a draft notification

### **WORLD ARCHERY**

Indian archery contingent has superlative performance at the World Archery Championships held in Hertogenbosh, Netherlands bagging three medals in the Championship, one silver and two bronze medals at the event. Contingent also won an Olympic quota for Tokyo 2020.

### **HIGHLIGHTS OF ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT**

1. In the first joint sitting of Parliament after the election of the 17th Lok Sabha
2. This time, as compared to previous elections, more women have cast their votes and their participation has been almost equal to men.
3. New India's vision is:

**“Jaati-Bhedam Mat-Dwesham Adumilladey Sarvrum  
Sodar-tvain Vaadunn Matrukasthan Maanit”**

**-Kerala's Shri Narayana Guru**

**“Chitto Jetha Bhay-Shunno, Uchcho Jetha Shir.”**

**-Gurudev Rabindra Nath Tagore**

**Deen Dayal Upadhyaya's concept of Antyodaya**

4. To enhance agriculture productivity, an investment of Rs. 25 lakh crore will be made in the coming years.
5. The Government has made the agriculture policy both production-centric as well as income-centric
6. The storage facility will be provided to the farmers near their village through the 'Grameen Bhandaran Yojana'
7. To create 10,000 new 'Farmer Producer Organisations' to benefit the farmers
8. Government is committed to 'Neeli Kranti' which means 'Blue Revolution' - A separate Department has been constituted for integrated development of fisheries
9. We must conserve water for our children and future generations. The creation of the new 'Ministry of Jalshakti'
10. Government procurement, priority will be given to those enterprises where women's participation in the workforce is more than the prescribed limit.
11. The amount of scholarship has also been increased by 25 per cent
12. Goal is to establish 50,000 start-ups in the country by 2024

13. Higher educational institutions of India to find a place in the top 500 educational institutions of the world
  14. To make India a global sports powerhouse
  15. It is our objective to make India a 5-trillion dollar economy by 2024
  16. Zero Tolerance Policy against corruption
  17. Controlling fugitive economic offender and we are receiving information in this regard
  18. To build infrastructure in an eco-friendly manner
  19. Developing a transport system, which is not only fast and safe, but is also environment friendly
  20. On the lines of river Ganga, the Government will also endeavour to clean up other rivers such as Kaveri, Periyar, Narmada, Yamuna, Mahanadi and Godavari
  21. To address the challenges posed by air pollution
  22. To maximize the use of space technology for human welfare
  23. To establish three joint service agencies for space, cyber and special forces
  24. “Neighborhood First” policy
  25. Protecting the interests of Indians living and working abroad
- ‘we must hold fast to constitutional methods of achieving our social and economic objectives’.

**-Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar**

### **NATIONAL ACCREDITATION BOARD FOR CERTIFICATION BODIES**

The National Accreditation Board for Certification Bodies (NABCB), India’s national accreditation body, secured international equivalence for its accreditation programme for personnel certification bodies in the annual meetings of the Asia Pacific Accreditation Cooperation in Singapore today. NABCB signed the Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) of the Asia Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (APAC) for its accreditation programme based on international standard, ISO/IEC 17024.

With the above recognition, NABCB hopes to facilitate export of Indian services and skills into the world market by attesting that persons are certified following international standards by the certifying bodies.

Personnel Certification would support many professionals in India, especially those who do not have formal education or certificate programme. Any person carrying ISO/IEC 17024 certificate with NABCB logo will be recognized internationally. It can also be used by regulators for establishing confidence in certified personnel for different activities.

### **INDIAN NAVY EXECUTES OP SANKALP**

Indian Navy has deployed, in the Gulf of Oman, to re-assure Indian Flagged Vessels operating/ transiting through Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman following the maritime security incidents in the region.

IN Ships Chennai and Sunayna have been deployed in the Gulf of Oman and Persian Gulf to undertake Maritime Security operations. In addition, aerial surveillance by IN aircraft is also being undertaken in the area. The Information Fusion Centre - Indian Ocean Region which was launched by the IN in December 2018 at Gurugram, is also keeping a close watch on the movement of ships in the Gulf region.

### **P-75(I) PROJECT**

As a major initiative towards ‘Make in India’, the Government immediately on taking over has issued the Expression of Interest(s) for shortlisting of potential Indian Strategic Partners (SPs) for “Construction of six Conventional Submarines” for P-75(I) Project of the Indian Navy. The project cost is about Rs 45,000 Crores. This is the second project being undertaken under the latest Strategic Partnership (SP) Model, with the first being the procurement of 111 Naval Utility Helicopters (NUH). This would provide a major boost to the indigenous design and construction capability of submarines in India, in addition to bringing in the latest submarine design and technologies as part of the project. The case was approved by the Defence Acquisition Council.

### **RISKY EXPORTERS**

Introduction of manual checks in IGST refunds aimed at preventing unscrupulous exporters from defrauding the exchequer

The CBIC has recently instructed its Customs and GST formations to verify the correct availment of input tax credit (ITC) by few exporters who are perceived as “risky” on the basis of pre-defined risk parameters. Only 5,106 risky exporters have been identified so far as against about 1.42 lakh total exporters. Thus the risky exporters are only 3.5% of the total exporters.

Considering that about 20,000 Shipping Bills are filed by roughly 9,000 exporters on a daily basis, the intervention is negligible. Even for these risky exporters, the exports are allowed immediately. However, the refund would be released after verification of ITC within a maximum of 30 days.

### **BHAVISHYA SOFTWARE**

A major step towards Digitization was the ‘Bhavishya’ software, indigenously made by the Department of Pensions and meant to be a common platform for processing of pension cases on this platform by all civil Ministries and Departments of Government of India. This software brought on a common platform all the stakeholders who were till date decentralized on to a single platform.

### **MOU BETWEEN DAIC & DICCI**

Dr. Ambedkar International Centre (DAIC), Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and Dalit Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DICCI).

The overall motives of this MoU is the empowerment of SC and ST communities through research on Dalit entrepreneurship, empowerment, skill development capacity building among SC/ST women and youth, impact of different schemes of the Government on socio-economic conditions of SC and ST and other similar subjects.

Since DICCI brings together all Dalit entrepreneurs under one umbrella, acts as a one-stop Resource Centre for existing and aspiring Dalit entrepreneurs and promotes entrepreneurship among Dalits as a solution to their socio-economic problems. Therefore, DAIC as per its mandate of research in the field of Socio-economic Transformation for capacity building and for preparing and providing policy feed needs collaboration with organisations like DICCI for upliftment of SCs and STs.

DAIC through this collaboration will also try to find out how far the SC and ST communities have engaged themselves in starting and establishing their own businesses. The data will be used to identify the reason why the spirit of entrepreneurship has not been infused among Dalit youth to develop business leadership for empowering them to walk in step with the world.

### **‘ELECTORAL TECHNOLOGY’ FOR MYANMAR**

The India International Institute of Democracy and Election Management (IIIDEM) (ECI) organized five day training programme on Use of Technology in Elections for Election Officials of Union Election Commission of Myanmar. This training program for the officials of Election Commission of Myanmar for the forthcoming General Elections in 2020.

The successful implementation of technology in recently held elections to Lok Sabha 2019 in India where besides the EVM and VVPAT the introduction of IT applications like Voter Helpline Application, Application for persons with disabilities, Electronically Transmitted Postal Ballot System, C-vigil made lot of difference.

### **CLIMATE CHANGE & CROPS**

Government has conducted several studies to measure and quantify the adverse effects of climate change on agriculture. Extensive field and simulation studies were carried out in agriculture and allied sectors by several network centers consisting of ICAR Institutes such as Indian Agricultural Research Institute at New Delhi, Central Research Institute for Dryland Agriculture at Hyderabad, Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Kochi, Indian Institute of Horticultural Research, Bangalore etc. and State Agricultural Universities, located in different parts of the country. The climate change impact assessment was carried out using the crop simulation

models by incorporating the projected climates of 2020, 2050 and 2080. Most of the results were obtained through incorporating the future projections by using modeling techniques like Had CM3 model. From these projections, variability in temperature and rainfall pattern was observed in future periods with significant impact on crop yields. The Indian Network for Climate Change Assessment (INCCA) of the Ministry of Environment & Forests (MoEF) has studied the climate change impact assessment in the Himalayan region.

Clear indications of change in climate are being noticed in the country. Last three decades saw a sharp rise in all India mean annual temperature.

Spatio-temporal variations in projected changes in temperature and rainfall are likely to lead to differential impacts in the different regions. However, the major crops classified as risk prone under the impacts of climate change with reduced productivity are – Rice & Wheat especially in the Indo Gangetic Plains, Maize in Mid Indo-Gangetic Plains (MIGP) & Southern Plateau (SP), Sorghum & potato in West Bengal, and Southern Plateau.

The productivity is expected to increase in Soybean, Groundnut, Chickpea & Potato in Punjab, Haryana and Western Uttar Pradesh, Apple in Himachal Pradesh.

### **INSURANCE COVER FOR RISK-PRONE CROPS**

Government is committed to provide security to farmers. To provide claims against the crop yield losses due to natural risks/calamities, adverse weather conditions, pests & diseases etc. two major crop insurance schemes namely, Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) and Restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (RWBCIS) are being implemented by the Government.

PMFBY provides comprehensive risk coverage from pre-sowing to post harvest losses against non-preventable natural risks.

The RWBCIS provides indemnification for likely crop losses due to deviation in weather indices.

Further, to provide adequate risk coverage the sum insured has been equated to Scale of Finance at minimum uniform fixed premium rate payable by farmers i.e. maximum 2% for Kharif crops, 1.5% for Rabi Crop and 5% for annual commercial/horticultural crops, with balance of actuarial/bidder premium being shared by the Central and State Government on 50 : 50 basis; lowering of unit area of insurance to village/village panchayat level for major crops and to individual farm level for localised risks of hailstorm, landslide and inundation and post-harvest losses thereby promoting more realistic assessment of losses.

In addition, assistance is also provided to farmers through other schemes namely, PM KISAN (for regular income), PM ASHA (Price support), National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) and State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) for relief due to natural calamities etc.

### **BAN ON CROP RESIDUE BURNING**

The National Green Tribunal in the order passed on 2015, directed and prohibited agricultural residue burning in any part of the NCT of Delhi, State of Rajasthan, State of Punjab, State of Uttar Pradesh and State of Haryana.

Paddy Stubble burning is mainly practiced in Indo-gangetic plains of the States of Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh to clear the fields for Rabi Crop sowing. However, as informed by other States, the severities of uncontrolled crop residue burning incidences are not significant.

In 2018, a new Central Sector Scheme on 'Promotion of Agricultural Mechanization for In-Situ Management of Crop Residue in the States of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and NCT of Delhi' has been launched with the Central funds.

During 2018-19, funds have been released to the Government of Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh respectively for distribution of in-situ crop residue management machinery to the farmers on subsidy, establishment of Custom Hiring Centres (CHCs) of in-situ crop residue management machinery and undertaking Information, Education and Communication (IEC) activities for creating awareness among farmers.

Any person or body that is found offending the directions of National Green Tribunal is liable to pay Environmental Compensation and it is collected by the concerned State Governments. As per the information received from the State Governments, the Government of Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh have only collected the Environmental Compensation towards burning of crop residue.

## **ORGANIC FARMING**

Government of India has been promoting organic farming under two dedicated schemes namely Mission Organic Value Chain Development North Eastern Region (MOVCDNER) and Parampragat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) since 2015 through State Governments. Under these schemes, support has been provided for formation of farmers' clusters/ Farmer Producer Organisation; incentives to farmers for input procurement, value addition including post harvest infrastructure creation, packaging, branding, publicity, transportation, organic fairs etc.. Organic Farming has also been supported under other schemes viz Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) and Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), Network Project on Organic Farming under ICAR. Third party certification of organic farming is promoted by Agriculture Processed Food and Export Development Authority (APEDA), Ministry of Commerce.

## **NUTRIENT BASED SUBSIDY (NBS)**

Under the NBS Policy, the Government announces a fixed rate of subsidy (in Rs. per Kg basis), on each nutrient of subsidized P&K fertilizers, namely Nitrogen (N), Phosphate (P), Potash (K) and Sulphur (S), on annual basis taking into account all relevant factors including international prices, exchange rate, inventory level and prevailing Maximum Retail Prices of P&K fertilizers. The per Kg subsidy rates on the nutrients N, P, K, S are converted into per Tonne subsidy on the various subsidized P&K fertilizers covered under NBS Policy.

Urea is being provided to the farmers at a statutorily notified Maximum Retail Price (MRP). The MRP of 45 kg bag of Urea is Rs. 242 per bag (exclusive of charges towards neem coating and taxes as applicable) and the MRP of 50 kg bag of Urea is Rs. 268 per bag (exclusive of charges towards neem coating and taxes as applicable). The difference between the delivered cost of fertilizers at farm gate and net market realization by the urea units is given as subsidy to the urea manufacturer / importer by the Government of India.

## **PRICE RISE OF FOOD ITEMS AND VEGETABLES**

Prices of food items including vegetables are inter-alia affected by mismatch in demand and supply, shortfall in production owing to adverse weather conditions and seasonality, increased transportation costs, supply chain constraints like lack of storage facilities, artificial shortage created by hoarding and black marketing, etc.

Government has taken various measures from time to time to stabilize prices of essential food items which, inter-alia, include appropriately utilizing trade and fiscal policy instruments like import and export duty, Minimum Export Price, export restrictions, etc. to regulate domestic availability and moderate prices; imposition of stock limits and advising States for effective action against hoarders & black marketers ; and, provision of higher Minimum Support Prices to incentivize farmers for increasing production. Government is also implementing Schemes which, inter alia, include Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), National Food Security Mission (NFSM), National Mission on Oilseeds and Oil Palm (NMOOP), etc. for increasing agricultural production and productivity through appropriate interventions. Besides, Government is also implementing Price Stabilization Fund (PSF) to help moderate the volatility in prices of agri-horticultural commodities like pulses, onion, and potato. Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) has also formulated a new scheme "Operation Greens" for integrated development of Tomato, Onion and Potato (TOP) value chain which, inter alia, has the objective of price stabilization for producers and consumers by proper production planning in the TOP clusters and introduction of dual use varieties. These policy interventions by Government had ensured that prices of the majority of essential food items monitored by Department of Consumer Affairs (DoCA) have remained relatively stable over the period and with no major price rise.



### **35TH GST COUNCIL MEETING**

The Council took a decision regarding location of the State and the Area Benches for the Goods and Services Tax Appellate Tribunal (GSTAT) for various States and Union Territories with legislature. It has been decided to have a common State Bench for the States of Sikkim, Nagaland, Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh.

The tenure of National Anti-Profiteering Authority has been extended by 2 years.

The Council also decided to introduce electronic invoicing system in a phase-wise manner for B2B transactions. E-invoicing is a rapidly expanding technology which would help taxpayers in backward integration and automation of tax relevant processes. It would also help tax authorities in combating the menace of tax evasion.

The Phase 1 is proposed to be voluntary and it shall be rolled out from January 2020

### **POLICY INITIATIVES FOR FOOD PROCESSING**

100% Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) through automatic route in manufacturing of food products and 100% FDI under Government approval route for retail trading, including through e-commerce, in respect of food products produced and/or manufactured in India has been permitted.

A special fund of Rs.2000 crore has been created with the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) to provide affordable credit to food processing projects/units. Food & agro-based processing units and cold chain infrastructure has been classified as agriculture activity for Priority Sector Lending (PSL). Fiscal measures like 100% exemption of Income Tax on profit for new food processing units, 100 percent income tax exemption from profit derived by FPOs having annual turnover of Rs.100 crore have been allowed for activities such as post-harvest value addition to agriculture. Lower Goods & Service Tax (GST) rates for majority of food products have been fixed.

Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) is implementing Central Sector Umbrella Scheme-Pradhan Mantri Kisan SAMPADA Yojana (PMKSY). The period of implementation of the PMKSY is 2016-20 with a total outlay of Rs.6000 crore. The PMKSY has seven component schemes viz; (i) Mega Food Parks, (ii) Integrated Cold Chain and Value Addition Infrastructure, (iii) Infrastructure for Agro-Processing Clusters, (iv) Creation of Backward and Forward Linkages, (v) Creation/Expansion of Food Processing & Preservation Capacities, (vi) Food Safety and Quality Assurance Infrastructure, and (vii) Human Resources and Institutions. Under PMKSY, capital subsidy in the form of grants-in-aid ranging from 35% to 75% of the eligible project cost subject to maximum specified limit is provided to investors under the various schemes for undertaking infrastructure, logistic projects and setting up of food processing units in the country. The MoFPI has recently launched a new Central Sector Scheme "Operation Greens" for integrated development of Tomato, Onion and Potato (TOP) crops value chain, with an outlay of Rs.500 Crore to, inter alia, promote Farmers Producers Organizations (FPO), agri-logistics, processing facilities and professional management of FPOs.

### **LOW PERFORMING STATES (LPS)**

Janani Suraksha Yojana focuses on the poor pregnant woman with special dispensation for States having low institutional delivery rates namely the States of Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal, Bihar, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Assam, Rajasthan, Orissa and Jammu and Kashmir. While these States have been named as Low Performing States (LPS), the remaining States have been named as High performing States (HPS).

Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY) is a safe motherhood intervention under the National Health Mission (NHM). Launched with the objective of reducing maternal and neonatal mortality, Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY) promotes institutional delivery among pregnant women especially with weak socio-economic status i.e. women from Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and BPL households.

### **CLINICAL ESTABLISHMENTS (REGISTRATION AND REGULATION) ACT, 2010**

The Government of India has enacted Clinical Establishments (Registration and Regulation) Act, 2010 for registration and regulation of all clinical establishments (both Government and Private) in the Country. In accordance with the Clinical Establishments (Central Government) Rules, 2012 framed under the aforementioned Act, the clinical establishments (in the States / Union Territories where the said Act is applicable) are, inter-alia, required to follow Standard Treatment Guidelines as may be issued by Central/State

Governments, display their rates at a conspicuous place and charge the rates for each type of procedures and services within the range of rates determined from time to time in consultation with the State Governments.

The National Council for Clinical Establishments has developed a standard list of medical procedures and a standard template for costing of medical procedures, and the same have been shared with the States/UTs where the Act is applicable, for appropriate action. The implementation and enforcement of the said Act is within the purview of the State/UT Governments. As per the provisions of the Clinical Establishments Act, 2010, the State Government authorities namely, District Registering Authority at District level and State Council for Clinical Establishments at the State level are responsible for implementation and monitoring of the Act in the respective State/UT.

### **NATIONAL FAMILY HEALTH SURVEY/ANNUAL HEALTH SURVEYS**

Four rounds of National Family Health Survey (NFHS) were conducted in the country during 1992-93(NFHS 1), 1998-99 (NFHS 2), 2005-06 (NFHS-3) and 2015-16 (NFHS-4) with the technical support of International Institute for Population Sciences, Mumbai. The Three rounds (2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13) of Annual Health Survey (AHS) were carried out, through the Office of Registrar General & Census Commissioner of India for some states

### **ANAEMIA IN WOMEN**

The prevalence of anemia among women aged 15 to 49 years is 53%. the prevalence of anemia among adolescent girls aged 15-19 years is 54%. AnaemiaMukt Bharat(AMB) has been launched in the year 2018 as part of Intensified National Iron Plus Initiative (NIPI)Program for accelerating the annual rate of decline of anemia from one to three percentage points. The target groups for AMB are Children 6-59 months, 5-9 years, Adolescent Girls & Boys of 10-19 years, Women of Reproductive Age (15-49 years), pregnant Women and Lactating mothers. Weekly Iron and Folic Acid Supplementation (WIFS) Programme is being implemented to meet the challenge of high prevalence and incidence of anaemia amongst adolescent girls and boys.

### **FOR EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN THE OVERSEAS MARKET**

The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) has signed a Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) with Ministry of Japan , 2017 in Tokyo, Japan to transfer technical skills from Japan to India by advancing the Technical Intern Training Programme (TITP).

(MSDE) through NSDC has been collaborating with Ministry of Human Resources & Emiritisation, Government of UAE and Abu Dhabi Quality & Conformity Council (ADQCC) for benchmarking qualifications, assessment and certification between the two countries to create a platform for facilitating migration of skilled and certified workforce from India.

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### **NEW TRADES**

New trades were introduced in the year 2018 to keep pace with Technological innovations under the Craftsmen Training Scheme being implemented through Industrial Training Institutes:-

- i. Geo Informatics Assistant
- ii. Aeronautical Structure and Equipment Fitter
- iii. Additive Manufacturing Technician (3D Printing)
- iv. Remotely Piloted Aircraft / Drone Pilot
- v. Electrician Power Distribution
- vi. Technician Mechatronics
- vii. Solar Technician (Electrical)
- viii. Internet of Things (Smart Agriculture)



- ix. Internet of Things (Smart Healthcare)
- x. Internet of Things (Smart City)
- xi. Smartphone Technician cum App Tester

Channapatna in Karnataka, Bonthapally in Telangana, Etikoppaka, Vishakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh, Ambasamudram in Tirunelveli District of Tamil Nadu: Lacquerware Common Facility Centre.

### **C-ATFM SYSTEM (CENTRAL AIR TRAFFIC FLOW MANAGEMENT)**

The C-ATFM system is primarily meant to address the balancing of capacity against the demand to achieve optimum utilization of the major resources viz., airport, airspace and aircraft at every Indian airport where there is a capacity constraint.

The C-ATFM system integrates flight data from various subsystems like ATC Automation System, flight updates and flight update messages. The system also displays weather information along with static information about airports, airspaces and air routes. The system processes the demand and capacity information and provides decision-making tools to the ATFM Flow Manager for collaborative decision making and to ensure regulated flow of traffic at each airport in India.

The C-ATFM system is supported by 36 Flow Management Positions (FMP) at various airports including Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Bengaluru and Hyderabad among others. Eight defense airports are also part of the ATFM network which are provided with FMPs.

After successfully implementing the Air Traffic Flow Management System, India has become the seventh country after the US, Europe, Australia, South Africa, Japan, Brazil.

### **ZONAL CULTURAL CENTRES**

To protect, preserve & promote various forms of folk art and for creating awareness among people about cultural heritage of our country, the Government of India has set up seven Zonal Cultural Centres (ZCCs) with headquarters at Patiala, Nagpur, Udaipur, Prayagraj, Kolkata, Dimapur and Thanjavur. These ZCCs are implementing a number of schemes viz. Award to Young Talented Artistes, Guru Shishya Parampara Scheme, Theatre Rejuvenation Scheme, Research & Documentation Scheme, Shilpgram Scheme, Octave and J&K Festivals and National Cultural Exchange Programme (NCEP) for promotion of cultural development programmes in the country.

### **ASSISTANCE BY NABARD**

National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has reported that it extends refinance to banks and provides loan assistance to the State Governments for promotion and development of agriculture and other rural activities.

Financial assistance provided by NABARD to State Governments under various Funds i.e. Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF), Long Term Irrigation Fund (LTIF), Warehouse Infrastructure Fund (WIF), NABARD Infrastructure Development Assistance (NIDA) and Food Processing Fund (FPF)

### **PROJECT MONITORING-INVEST INDIA CELL (PMIC)**

The Government of India has set-up a Project Monitoring-Invest India Cell (PMIC), earlier known as Project Monitoring Group, for resolving of issues and fast tracking the setting-up and expeditious commissioning of large Public, Private and Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Projects. However, there is no prescribed criterion for classifying a project as a Stalled Project. The primary focus of PMIC is on expediting the approvals for clearances from Central and State Authorities for setting-up of projects. PMIC does not distinguish between a 'stalled' or an 'under implementation' Project in accepting a project for resolution of its issues.

### **PUBLIC ENTERPRISES**

As per Public Enterprises Survey 2017-18 there were 339 Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs), out of which 257 were in operation and 82 were under construction. Of the 257 operating CPSEs, 71 CPSEs had incurred losses during 2017-18. There were 16 Navaratna CPSEs as on 31.3.2018. Out of these, the strategic disinvestment has been completed in two CPSEs namely, Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. and Rural Electrification Corporation Limited. Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) has informed that the Government has given 'in-principle' approval for strategic disinvestment of 28 CPSEs including Subsidiaries, Units and Joint Ventures with sale of majority stake of Government of India and transfer of management control. The proceeds from strategic sale will depend on various factors, including market conditions, at the time of actual sale.

### **SAMAGRA SHIKSHA**

Department of School Education and Literacy has launched an Integrated Scheme for School Education-Samagra Shiksha, subsuming three erstwhile Centrally Sponsored Schemes of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan(SSA), Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan(RMSA) and Teacher education (TE) with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2018. The new integrated scheme envisages school education as a continuum from pre-school to senior secondary level and aims to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education at all levels. The scheme includes the Sports and Physical Education component under which provision for grants for sports equipment for indoor and outdoor games in all government schools has been made. Self Defence training for girls is an activity under Samagra Shiksha. Keeping in view, the rising number of crimes against girls and women in the country and to ensure safety and security of girls, Self Defence training is imparted to girls of class VI to XII belonging to Government Schools.

### **GEET RAMAYANA**

It is a collection of 56 Marathi language songs chronologically describing events from the Indian Hindu epic, the Ramayana. Geet Ramayan was acclaimed for its lyrics, music and singing. Written by G. D. Madgulkar and the songs composed by Sudhir Phadke, it is considered a "milestone of Marathi light music" and the "most popular" Marathi version of Ramayana. Hindi adaptation of popular 'Geet Ramayana' to be brought out by Publications Division.

### **NATIONAL POLICY ON BIO-FUEL**

The National Policy on Biofuels-2018 allows production of ethanol from damaged food grains like wheat, broken rice etc. which are unfit for human consumption. The policy also allows conversion of surplus quantities of food grains to ethanol, based on the approval of National Biofuel Coordination Committee.

Use of damaged foodgrains and surplus foodgrains for production of ethanol will increase its availability for Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Programme. During the ethanol supply year 2017-18, 150.5 crore litres of ethanol was blended in Petrol which resulted in foreign exchange impact of about Rs. 5070 crore and carbon emission reduced to the extent of 29.94 lakh tonnes.

The National Policy on Biofuels-2018 approved by the Government envisages an indicative target of 20% blending of ethanol in petrol and 5% blending of bio-diesel in diesel by 2030. Under EBP programme, ethanol blending in petrol is being undertaken by the Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) in whole country except island Union Territory (UT) of Andaman Nicobar and Lakshadweep wherein, OMCs blend up to 10 % ethanol in petrol under the EBP Programme.

Government has also approved Pradhan Mantri JI-VAN Yojana to provide Viability Gap Funding (VGF) to Second Generation bio-ethanol manufacturing projects to increase availability of ethanol for EBP programme.

### **BHARATMALA PARIYOJANA**

Under this proposal, the Ministry identified stretches for development of about 26,200 km length of Economic Corridors, 8,000 km of Inter Corridors, 7,500 km of Feeder Routes, 5,300 km Border and International connectivity roads, 4,100 km Coastal and Port connectivity roads, 1,900 km Expressways, National Corridor Efficiency improvement by development of ring roads around 28 cities, decongestion of about 125 choke points

and 66 congestion points, development of 35 nos. of Multimodal Logistics Parks. The programme is targeted for completion in 2021-2022.

### **SHYAMA PRASAD MUKHERJI RURBAN MISSION**

SPMRM aims to provide well planned basic amenities along with economic development activities. The mission has an objective for comprehensive development of 300 clusters out of which Integrated Cluster Action Plans for 279 clusters have been approved. Total investment in these 279 clusters is estimated at Rs. 26,258 Crores of which Rs. 5,150 crore has already been spent which includes Rs.800 crore from Critical Gap Funding and the remaining from convergence.

Basic amenities in a cluster typically comprises of provision of 24/7 water supply to all households, Solid and Liquid Waste Management facilities at the household and cluster level, provision of Inter and Intra village roads within the cluster, adequate street lights and public transport facilities using green technologies.

Economic Amenities in a cluster comprise various thematic areas in the sectors of Agri Services and Processing, Tourism, and Skill development to promote Small and Medium Scale Enterprises.

### **ACTION PLAN FOR 2020 OLYMPICS**

The Government is supporting sportspersons through National Sports Federations for their training, foreign exposures and competitions to enable them to obtain maximum quota for participation in the Tokyo Olympics, 2020. Under the Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS) customized training and allied facilities are also being made available to medal prospects and high achievers. Besides, 'out of pocket allowance' @ Rs. 50,000/- per month is given to the sportspersons included in TOPS for meeting their contingent and miscellaneous expenses.

### **WAPCOS**

WAPCOS Limited is a “**MINI RATNA-I**” and “**ISO 9001:2015**” accredited Public Sector Enterprise under the aegis of the Union Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India. WAPCOS is a leading technology driven consultancy and EPC organization with strong global presence in the fields of water, Power and Infrastructure Sectors. WAPCOS has successfully completed/on-going consultancy assignments in countries covering Asia, Africa, Middle East, South America and Pacific Island and is operating in more than 47 Countries, at present.

### **FALL ARMY WORM**

Government has taken note of Fall Army Worm (FAW) infestation in the country. The infestation has been found primarily on maize and to a small extent on Ragi and Sorghum.

The Indian Council of Agriculture Research has prepared a detailed Package of Practices (POP) against FAW in Maize crop. The POP, inter-alia, contains mechanical, cultural, biological and chemical measures to control FAW. The POP has been circulated to all the States for its implementation.

### **INFORMATION TO THE FARMERS**

Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare (DAC&FW) is providing agriculture related information including 'Weather conditions' to the farmers through Kisan Call Centre operating from 21 locations in 22 local languages.

India Meteorological Department (IMD) under the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) implements an operational Agromet Advisory Service (AAS) scheme, viz., GraminKrishiMausamSewa (GKMS) for the benefit of farming community in the country.

By making use of modern technology, Agromet Advisories are being disseminated through SMS and Interactive Voice Response (IVR) using Kisan Portal launched by the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare and also private companies like IKSL, Reliance Foundation and Mahindra Samriddhi under Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode.

KisanSuvidha mobile application has been developed by the Department to facilitate dissemination of information to farmers on the critical parameters viz., weather; market prices; plant protection; input Dealers (Seed, Pesticide, Fertilizer) farm machinery; soil health card; cold storages & godowns, veterinary centres and diagnostic labs. This app is available in 9 languages.

### **e-NAM**

Three reforms are mandatory for States/Union Territories (UTs) in their respective State Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) Acts for integrating their mandis with National Agriculture Market (e-NAM) platform i.e. (i) Provision for e-trading, (ii) Single point levy of market fee, (iii) Unified Single trading license for the State. States without APMC Act like Bihar need to provide legally enforceable guidelines and institutional mechanism for implementing e-NAM. Based on the proposals received from the compliant States/Union Territories (UTs), mandis are considered for integration by Government of India with e-NAM platform.

Four Plastic parks in the States of Assam (Tinsukia), Madhya Pradesh (Raisen), Odisha (Jagatsinghpur) & Tamil Nadu (Thiruvallur) are approved for implementation till 2019-20 in phase-I of the scheme.

The Scheme also provides building common infrastructure to support the plastic production units for hazardous waste management, incinerator, buildings and equipment/machinery for common facilities for characterization, prototyping & virtualization, non-destructive material testing, incubation, training, warehousing, plastic recycling, tooling, designing, Research & Development, plastic waste recycling etc. and establishment of effluent treatment plant, to ensure environmentally sustainable growth through innovative methods of waste management, recycling, etc

### **FERTILIZER IN THE COUNTRY**

- ✓ No shortage of any Fertilizer in the country: Minister
- ✓ The gap between demand (requirement) and production is met through imports.
- ✓ Government of India is reviving five closed fertilizer plants. These include Talcher, Ramagundam, Gorakhpur and Sindri plants of Fertilizer Corporation of India Ltd. (FCIL) and Barauni plant of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Ltd. (HFCL).
- ✓ Government of India has also proposed to set up a new Ammonia-Urea Plant at Brahmaputra Valley Fertilizers Corporation Limited (BVFCL), Namrup-IV having capacity of 12.70 LMT or Urea
- ✓ These projects upon implementation/ operationalization will bridge the gap between demand and supply of urea in the country and will rejuvenate the fertilizer sector.

### **AGRICULTURAL & PROCESSED FOOD PRODUCTS EXPORT DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (APEDA)**

APEDA, under the Ministry of Commerce and Industries, promotes export of agricultural and processed food products from India.

India's total agricultural product exports is valued at 38 billion USD for the financial year 2017-18, out of which 50% is contributed through APEDA's products. APEDA has been organising international buyers-sellers meet for different products in different parts of the country.

- *The BIS Act 2016 provides for action when the standard mark is used in relation to an article or process that does not conform to the relevant Indian Standard.*

### **STARVATION DEATHS**

No State/UT has reported any incidence of death due to starvation in the country.

However, to prevent the starvation deaths in the country and to provide food security to the vulnerable population and to ensure that people living below poverty line get adequate food grains, the Government has been providing food grains at highly subsidized prices to the targeted population through the State Governments/UT Administrations under National Food Security Act, 2013 and Other Welfare Schemes (OWS) (Mid Day Meal Scheme, Wheat Based Nutrition Programme, Scheme for Adolescent Girls, Annapurna Scheme, Allocation of foodgrains under Welfare Institutions & Hostels Scheme). The main responsibility for implementation of the Act including distribution of foodgrain lies with the States/UTs. An annual allocation of over 610 LMT of foodgrain is made by Government of India under NFSA and OWS.

Instructions to all States/UTs that no person/ household shall be deleted from the list of eligible beneficiaries/households and denied subsidized foodgrain under NFSA only on the ground of not possessing of Aadhar number.

### **SEBI - COMMODITY DERIVATIVES MARKET**

Consequent upon merger of regulatory functions of Forward Market Division with SEBI vide Finance Act 2015, SEBI is presently the regulator of commodity derivatives market. Cases of suspected speculation and price manipulation in the agricultural commodity derivatives are taken up by Government regularly with SEBI. Further, in order to strengthen and maintain the integrity of the commodity derivatives market, SEBI has taken various measures and has prescribed specific norms in the areas of risk management like, imposition of additional or/and special margins to contain high volatility in commodity derivatives prices, position limits, daily price limits, governance of stock exchanges, registration of brokers etc. SEBI is also carrying out integrated monitoring and surveillance of trading activity, under which, the commodity derivatives market is continuously kept under watch to ensure market integrity.

### **PULSES AND EDIBLE OILS**

The total availability of edible oils from all sources (primary and secondary) for 2018-19 is estimated at 99.94 LMT as against 103.80 LMT in 2017-18. The country has to rely on imports to meet the gap between demand and supply of edible oils. Import of edible oils is under Open General Licence. Government has taken various measures including initiatives for increasing production and productivity of pulses and oil seeds through National Food Security Mission (NFSM) and National Mission on Oilseeds and Oil Palm (NMOOP) respectively, promulgating appropriate Minimum Support Price (MSP) to incentivize production of pulses and oil seeds, introducing suitable trade and fiscal policy measures to promote availability of pulses and edible oil at reasonable prices.

### **DISTRIBUTION UNDER PDS**

Under National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA), the eligible households are entitled to receive foodgrains, namely- Wheat, Rice & Coarse-grains through Public Distribution System (PDS). As per entitlements under the Act, the Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) households are eligible to receive 35 kg of foodgrains per family per month, whereas the Priority Households (PHH) beneficiaries are eligible to receive 5 kg of foodgrains per person per month.

Distribution of subsidized sugar of 1 Kg per AAY family per month is also continued under PDS.

### **EXERCISE GARUDA-VI**

The Indian Air Force is participating in a bilateral exercise between Indian and French Air Force named Exercise 'Garuda-VI' France from 01-12 Jul 19. This is the sixth edition of Exercise Garuda and is being planned at French Air Force Base, Mont-de-Marsan.

### **NORTH EASTERN COUNCIL (NEC)**

The North Eastern Council (NEC) was established by North Eastern Council Act, 1971 initially as apex level advisory body for securing balanced and coordinated development and facilitating effective co-ordination amongst seven States of North Eastern Region. Subsequent to the amendment of NEC Act in December, 2002, Sikkim was added as 8th Member State, and NEC was mandated to function as a statutory Regional Planning Body for the North Eastern Region.

### **ELEPHANT BONDS**

High Level Advisory Group (HLAG) headed by Dr. Surjit S. Bhalla has been constituted by the Department of Commerce. The HLAG has made several recommendations for boosting India's share and importance in global merchandise and services trade. Among other things, the Report identifies tax reforms also to boost export and investment channels for exports.

The Committee has recommended “Elephant Bonds” as a specialised security product providing funds towards Long Term Infrastructure.

HLAG has also made recommendations for reforms in Financial Services Framework for making India a Preferred Destination for financial services.

### **CREDIT TO MSMEs**

The Government of India have received complaints / representations from time to time from Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) regarding constraints in accessing credit from institutional sources. These *inter-alia*, indicate, insistence on collateral, delayed sanctioning of credit, sanction of lower loan amount as against the required amount and charging of higher rate of interest etc.

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Government have taken several steps to ensure access of credit to MSMEs, which *inter-alia* include, advice to all Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) to achieve a 20% year-on-year growth in credit to Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs), allocation of 60% of the MSEs advances to the Micro Enterprise Accounts, a 10% Annual Growth in number of Micro Enterprise Accounts, additional working capital limit to meet the requirements arising due to unforeseen/seasonal increase in demand, adoption of one cluster, operationalising at least one specialised MSME Branch in every district, simplified computation of Working Capital of MSE units to make it minimum 20% of the Projected Annual Turnover of the unit for borrowable limits up to Rs.5 crore, setting-up of Trade Receivables Discounting System (TReDS) to solve the problem of delayed payment of MSMEs, etc.

### **NON-PERFORMING ASSETS**

As per Reserve Bank of India (RBI) data on global operations (provisional data for the financial year ending March 2019), Gross Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) of Public Sector Banks (PSBs) have declined by Rs. 89,189 crore from the peak of Rs. 8,95,601 crore in March 2018 to Rs. 8,06,412 crore in March 2019 (provisional data).

As per RBI inputs, the primary reasons for spurt in Stressed Assets have been observed to be, *inter-alia*, aggressive lending practices, wilful default/loan frauds/corruption in some cases, and economic slowdown.

### **WORLD BANK LOAN - UTTARAKHAND**

The Government of India, the Government of Uttarakhand and the World Bank signed here today a Loan Agreement of \$31.58 million for the Uttarakhand Public Financial Management Strengthening Project that will help improve the State’s ability to manage its Financial Systems and lead to Better Utilization of Development Resources.

This will support the State Government’s initiative to build and modernize the Technical and Financial Management Capabilities of its Local Bodies and the State-owned Enterprises.

This will improve capacity in the areas of cash and debt management, planning and budgeting, appraisal and monitoring of high value projects and public audit. It will support measures to improve transparency of Budget and Procurement Information. Using GIS mapping technologies, the Project will also strengthen the state’s revenue management systems, including that of urban local bodies.

Similar Projects in Himachal Pradesh, Assam, Rajasthan, and Chhattisgarh supported by World Bank’s Public Financial Management Engagements at the State Level.

### **ACUTE ENCEPHALOPATHY SYNDROME**

Strategic interventions of Health Ministry showing positive results as AES mortality rate has come down. Facilities being strengthened by deployment of biochemist and technicians from the Central Government Hospitals. Multi-disciplinary team deployed by Department of Health Research will continue to work on varied aspects of research concerning Acute Encephalopathy Syndrome (AES).

### **ORGAN TRANSPLANTATION**

To improve access to the transplantation for needy patients by promoting deceased organ donation, the Government has put in place National Organ Transplant Programme (NOTP). Under this programme, an apex



level National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation (NOTTO) at New Delhi and Five Regional Organ and Tissue Transplant Organizations (ROTTOS) at Chandigarh, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata and Guwahati have been set up. The Government has released funds to establish State Organ and Tissue Transplant Organizations (SOTTOs) in some States to organize an efficient mechanism for organ and tissue procurement/retrieval to promote deceased organ and tissue donation.

Further, to improve infrastructure for human organ and tissue retrieval, storage and transplantation in all parts of the country, the Government has:

1. Set up National/ Regional Bio-material Centres;
2. Provided financial support for establishing new Organ Transplant/retrieval facilities and strengthening of existing Organ Transplant/retrieval facilities.
3. Provided training to transplant experts including surgeons, physicians, transplant coordinators, etc.
4. Provided financial support for provision of Transplant Coordinators to medical colleges and trauma centres.
5. NOTTO disseminates relevant information to all concerned. A 24x7 callcentre with a toll free helpline number (1800114770) has been made operational. A number of activities, for generating awareness organized at different places in the country.

### **RESEARCH ON PROTON THERAPY**

Proton therapy, is a type of Radiation therapy, which is also called proton beam therapy. It uses protons rather than x-rays to treat cancer. At high energy, protons can destroy cancer cells. It can also be combined with x-ray radiation therapy, surgery, chemotherapy, and/or immunotherapy. Like x-ray radiation, proton therapy is a type of external-beam radiation therapy.

### **EMPANELMENT OF HOSPITALS FOR AYUSHMAN BHARAT**

Under Ayushman Bharat –Pradhan Mantri Jan ArogyaYojana (AB-PMJAY), all public hospitals (Community Health Centre and above), in the States implementing PMJAY, are deemed empanelled.

Hospitals belonging to Employee State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) may also be empanelled based on the bed occupancy ratio parameter.

All National institutes run by Ministry of Health & Family Welfare as well as Institute Of National Importance are part of the empanelled healthcare provider network for PMJAY.

As far as private hospitals are concerned, they are empanelled by State Health Agencies of respective States. For empanelment, guidelines have been issued to all the States laying down the detailed criteria and process.

### **HEALTH SERVICES FOR TRIBAL COMMUNITIES**

“Public Health and Hospital” being a state subject, the primary responsibility of improving the accessibility of health services for tribal communities is that of respective State/UT government. However, National Health Mission (NHM) supports the efforts of the State/UT governments to provide accessible, affordable and quality healthcare to all including tribal communities. Under NHM, tribal areas are given certain relaxed norms as under:

Relaxed norms for health facilities: Against the population norms of 5,000, 30,000, and 1,20,000 for setting up of Sub Centre, PHC and CHC respectively, in tribal and desert areas it is 3,000, 20,000 and 80,000 respectively.

A new norm of "time to care" has also been adopted for setting up Sub Health centres in tribal areas under which a Sub Health centre can be set up within 30 minutes of walk from habitation

States have been provided with the flexibility of relaxing the norm of one ASHA per 1000 population to one ASHA per habitation in Tribal/hilly and difficult areas.

While other States had Mobile Medical Units per 10 lakh populations subject to capping of 5 MMUs per district, in tribal and hilly states, this norm could be further relaxed as per need. Recently, the norms for MMU have been revised to have additional MMU wherever it exceeds 60 patients per day in plain areas and 30 patients per day in tribal/hilly areas.

In addition, all tribal majority districts whose composite health index is below the State average, have been identified as High Priority Districts (HPDs). These districts receive higher per capita funding, and are encouraged to adopt innovative approaches to address their peculiar health challenges.

In addition to routine immunization sessions, special drives like Mission Indradhanush, Intensified Mission Indradhanush, Gram Swaraj Abhiyaan (GSA), Extended Gram Swaraj Abhiyaan (eGSA) have been conducted to reach out to left out and hard to reach children which includes the underserved and hard to reach populations dwelling in forested and tribal areas.

Under Universal Immunization Programme (UIP) vaccines including Hepatitis B are provided free of cost across the country including tribal areas.

### **SALIENT FEATURES AND TARGETS OF AYUSHMAN BHARAT – HEALTH AND WELLNESS CENTRES**

1. Under AB-HWC, Comprehensive Primary Healthcare is being provided which includes promotive, preventive, curative, palliative and rehabilitative services.
2. The AB-HWCs are envisioned to provide an expanded range of services to include care for non - communicable diseases, palliative and rehabilitative care, Oral, Eye and ENT care, mental health and first level care for emergencies and trauma as well as Health promotion and wellness activities like Yoga apart from services already being provided for Maternal and Child Health including immunization and communicable diseases.
3. To provide comprehensive health coverage to the beneficiaries, free essential drugs and diagnostic services are also being provided through these ab-hwcs.

### **SALIENT FEATURES OF PRADHAN MANTRI JAN AROGYAYOJANA [PMJAY]**

1. Government of India has launched Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY) on 23.09.2018. PMJAY is centrally sponsored scheme. It is entirely funded by Government and the funding is shared between Centre and State governments as per prevailing guidelines of Ministry of Finance.
2. PMJAY provides health coverage up to Rs. 5 lakh per family per year for secondary and tertiary hospitalization to around 10.74 crore poor and vulnerable families (approx. 50 crore beneficiaries).
3. PMJAY is an entitlement based scheme. This scheme covers poor and vulnerable families based on deprivation and occupational criteria as per SECC database.
4. PMJAY provides cashless and paperless access to services for the beneficiary at the point of service in any (both public and private) empanelled hospitals across India. In other words, a beneficiary from one State can avail benefits from an empanelled Hospital anywhere in the Country.
5. Under PMAJY, the States are free to choose the modalities for implementation. They can implement the scheme through insurance company or directly through the Trust/ Society or mixed model.
6. There is no restriction on family size, ensuring all members of designated families specifically girl child and senior citizens get coverage.
7. A well-defined Complaint and Public Grievance Redressal Mechanism, has been put in place through which complaints/ grievances are registered, acknowledged, escalated for relevant action, resolved and monitored.
8. PMJAY has created a robust IT system for implementation and role of real time transaction data.



9. At National level, National Health Authority (NHA) has been set up as an attached office to Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to manage the implementation of the scheme.

### **NAXAL AFFECTED DISTRICTS**

The Government of India has a holistic, multi pronged strategy envisaged in Action Plan-2015 to combat LWE, which include development as an important prong. Apart from flagship/developmental Schemes being implemented by the line Ministries/ Departments, some specific schemes are also being implemented in LWE affected areas. Details are as follows:

Special Central Assistance (SCA) for filling critical gaps in public infrastructure and services of emergent nature in the most LWE affected districts.

1. **Road Requirement Plan-I & Road Connectivity Project for LWE affected Areas**
2. Skill Development in the LWE affected districts: The scheme envisages construction of ITIs and Skill Development Centers
3. Department of School Education & Literacy has sanctioned New Kendriya Vidyalayas (KVs) and new Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas (JNVs) in the most LWE affected districts, which did not have any KVs/JNVs. Under Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA), new/upgraded Schools and girl's hostels have been sanctioned in most LWE affected districts
4. **Installation of Mobile Towers in the LWE affected districts**
5. Financial inclusion as in LWE areas: For financial inclusion new bank branches & ATMs have been opened in most LWE affected Districts. In addition Branch Post Offices have been opened in LWE affected districts.
6. Government of India provides funds for Police Modernisation to all the States. Funds are also being provided under 'Special Infrastructure Scheme (SIS)' for strengthening the Special Forces of the States and State Intelligence Branches (SIBs) to LWE affected states. Construction of Fortified Police Stations in LWE affected States is also envisaged under the scheme.

### **SAFETY AND SECURITY OF WOMEN AND GIRLS**

'Police' and 'Public Order' are State subjects under the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India. State Governments are thus responsible for safety and security of the citizens including women and girls.

However, safety and security of women and children in the country is utmost priority for the Government. The Ministry of Women and Child Development has been administering various special laws relating to women such as the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005; Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961; Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act, 1986; the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 and the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006. The said Ministry is also administering the Juvenile Justice (care and protection of children) Act, 2015, the Commissions for Protection of Child Rights Act, 2005 and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012.

The Criminal Law (Amendments), Act 2013 was enacted for effective legal deterrence against sexual offences. Further, the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2018 was enacted to prescribe even more stringent penal provisions including death penalty for rape of a girl below the age of 12 years. The Act also inter-alia mandates completion of investigation and trials within 2 months each.

### **URBAN TRANSFORMATION**

Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation was launched with the objective of universal water supply, improvement in sewerage network, developing children and Divyang friendly green spaces & parks, improvement in storm water drainage and non-motorised urban transport & implementing a reform agenda under which States/UTs are incentivised for implementation of reforms.

8 Urban Local Bodies, i.e. Pune, Hyderabad, Bhopal, Indore, Visakhapatnam, Amravati, Ahmedabad & Surat have issued municipal bonds. Towards incentivising issuance of municipal bonds, an award of Rs.13 crore as incentive for every hundred crores of municipal bonds issued per ULB is being given.

Launched on 2015, Smart Cities Mission (SCM) is one of the most transformational urban missions. The objective is to strengthen urban infrastructure through application of smart solutions and provide a better quality of life to citizens. The operationalisation of 16 Integrated Control and Command Centres (ICCC) has contributed to providing several online services to the citizens. It has also helped in crime prevention, better surveillance and reduction in crime against women.

Ease of Living Index covering 111 Indian cities launched on 2018 with an objective to enable cities to assess the progress made in urban environments through various urban initiatives. The framework measures 'Ease of Living' across four pillars: institutional, Social, Economic & Physical. Top performing cities are Pune, Navi Mumbai, Greater Mumbai, Tirupati & Chandigarh.

Smart Roads built under the SCM has ensured safe and convenient access and routes to all users by reduced accidents on the road, promoting transit oriented development and providing spaces for users to stop and enjoy themselves. So far Smart Roads have been completed in 25 cities.

Smart Solar Energy under the SCM has reduced dependency on grid power. So far projects have been completed in 15 cities. Smart Wastewater projects in 10 cities.

A state-of-the-art India Urban Observatory has become operational in the MoHUA. The Observatory will plug into various sources of data from cities both from real-time and archival sources for generating insights through analytics for cities, academia, industry and governments. This will greatly contribute towards evidence policy making.

### **HAJ**

A record number of 2 lakh Indian Muslims will go to Haj this year. 2 lakh Indian Haj pilgrims include about 48 per cent women. The number of women Haj pilgrims going without "Mehram" (male companion) this year is double in comparison to last year. Saudi Arabia's decision to increase India's Haj quota to 2 lakh has ensured that for the first time since Independence.

25 June-International Day of the Seafarers

Shipping sector witnesses an unprecedented growth of 35 % in employment of Indian Seafarers. While India has created a large capacity in imparting class-room training for Merchant Navy, there was a major constraint in providing on-board ship training for the students enrolled for class room training.

### **THEME BASED CIRCUITS**

The Ministry of Tourism under its schemes of Swadesh Darshan and PRASHAD provides Financial Assistance to State Governments/Union Territories/Central Agencies for developing tourism infrastructure in the country.

Under the Swadesh Darshan Scheme, 15 themes have been identified for developing theme based circuits. These themes include Buddhist Circuit, Coastal Circuit, Desert Circuit, Eco Circuit, Heritage Circuit, Himalayan Circuit, Krishna Circuit, North-East Circuit, Ramayana Circuit, Rural Circuit, Spiritual Circuit, Sufi Circuit, Tirthankar Circuit, Tribal Circuit and Wildlife Circuit.

Under the PRASHAD Scheme, 41 religious cities/sites in 25 States have been identified for development which are Amaravati and Srisailem (Andhra Pradesh), Kamakhya (Assam), Parasuram Kund (Lohit District, Arunachal Pradesh), Patna and Gaya (Bihar), Balmeshwari Devi Temple (Rajnandgaon, Chhattisgarh), Dwarka and Somnath (Gujarat), Gurudwara Nada Saheb (Panchkula, Haryana), Maa Chintpurni (Una, Himachal Pradesh), Hazratbal and Katra (Jammu & Kashmir), Deogarh and Parasnath (Jharkhand), Chamundeshwari Devi (Mysuru, Karnataka), Guruvayoor, St. Thomas International Shrine (Malayattoor) and Cheraman Juma Mosque (Thrissur, Kerala), Omkareshwar and Amarkantak (Madhya Pradesh), Babedpara, West Jaintia Hills and Sohra (Meghalaya), Aizwal

(Mizoram), Kohima and Mokokchung Districts (Nagaland), Trimbakeshwar (Maharashtra), Puri (Odisha), Amritsar (Punjab), Ajmer (Rajasthan), Kanchipuram and Vellankani (Tamil Nadu), Tripura Sundari (Tripura), Varanasi and Mathura (Uttar Pradesh), Badrinath, Kedarnath, Gangotri and Yamunotri (Uttarakhand) and Belur (West Bengal).

### **“HEALTHY STATES, PROGRESSIVE INDIA”**

NITI Aayog released the Second Edition of “Healthy States, Progressive India” today. The report ranks states and Union territories innovatively on their year-on-year incremental change in health outcomes, as well as, their overall performance. The Round II report focuses on measuring and highlighting the overall performance and incremental improvement over a two year period (2016-17 and 2017-18) in the States and UTs

The ranking is categorized as Larger States, Smaller States and Union Territories (UTs), to ensure comparison among similar entities. The Health Index is a weighted composite Index based on 23 indicators grouped into the domains of Health Outcomes, Governance and Information, and Key Inputs/Processes. . Each domain has been assigned weights based on its importance and has been equally distributed among indicators.

Among the Larger States, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh & Maharashtra ranked on top in terms of overall performance, while Haryana, Rajasthan and Jharkhand are the top three ranking States in terms of annual incremental performance.

Among Smaller States, Mizoram ranked first followed by Manipur on overall performance, while Tripura followed by Manipur were the top ranked States in terms of annual incremental performance. Manipur registered maximum incremental progress

Among UTs, Chandigarh and Dadra and Nagar Haveli were ranked on top in terms of overall performance (Chandigarh-1 and Dadra and Nagar Haveli-2) as well as annual incremental performance (Dadra and Nagar Haveli-1 and Chandigarh-2).

### **26TH JUNE - INTERNATIONAL DAY AGAINST DRUG ABUSE & ILLICIT TRAFFICKING**

There is worrisome trend of substance abuse and said it was estimated that globally around 275 million people (in the age group of 15- 64) used drugs at least once during 2016. WHO - 4, 50,000 people died as a result of drug use in 2015.

### **SPACE POLICY**

Currently a ‘Space Activities Bill’ is being processed, which is under pre-legislative consultations. India is a State Party to UN Treaties on Outer Space activities. The obligations under these treaties, such as international responsibility for national activities in outer space and liability for damages caused by its space activities and space objects are to be implemented through national/domestic legislations. The current Bill will enable the formulation of necessary Rules under the Space Activities Act, to deal with damages under the liability provisions and mode of securing financial guarantee for compensating the damages.

Consequent to enactment of Space Activities Act, space activities of non-governmental sector in India would be authorized through a licence issued by the Government on certain terms and conditions. It would address the liability issues arising from their space activities, in a suitable/ rational manner, at par with international practices.

### **NavIC devices**

India’s own regional navigation satellite system named as “Navigation with Indian Constellation (NavIC)” is established by ISRO and is functional from April 2018 onwards. ISRO has completed all the necessary preparations with regard to establishment of Space Segment (currently Eight IRNSS satellites are in orbit) and Ground Segment (spread across India). The Seven satellites in the system are providing Positioning, Navigation and Timing (PNT) services and one satellite (IRNSS-1A) is providing messaging services.

The potential of this indigenous system is being demonstrated in various application sectors viz. vehicle tracking system, mobiles, timing & power synchronization, fisheries, surveying etc. For example, all commercial vehicles registered from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019 onwards are mandated to have vehicle trackers, which are also NavIC-enabled. More than 30 companies are manufacturing Automotive Research Association of India (ARAI) or International Centre for Automotive Technology (ICAT) approved NavIC-enabled vehicle trackers

in India. Through the provision of these services, the dependence on the American-owned GPS could be obviated.

ISRO/Antrix have taken up the responsibility of providing NavIC devices on trial basis. Around 200 devices for Tamil Nadu and 250 devices for Kerala are distributed. A few numbers, viz. 8 and 10 respectively are provided to fishermen of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka States for trial exercises. This device provides Emergency Warning Alerts like cyclone, high waves and Tsunami and also provides information on Potential Fishing Zone and International boundary crossing based on the position information from NavIC.

### **THORIUM-BASED NUCLEAR REACTORS**

Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) has planned the use of large deposits of Thorium available in the country as a long-term option. A three-stage nuclear power programme has been chalked out to use Thorium as a viable and sustainable option, right at the inception of India's nuclear power programme. The three stage nuclear power programme aims to multiply the domestically available fissile resource through the use of natural Uranium in Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors, followed by use of Plutonium obtained from the spent fuel of Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors in Fast Breeder Reactors. Large scale use of Thorium will subsequently follow making use of the Uranium-233 that will be bred in Reactors. The utilisation of Thorium, as a practically inexhaustible energy source, has been contemplated during the third stage of the Indian Nuclear Programme. As is the case with generation of electricity from Uranium, there will be no emission of green house gases from Thorium also and therefore, it will be a clean source of energy.

It is not possible to build a nuclear reactor using Thorium (Thorium-232) alone due to its physics characteristics. Thorium has to be converted to Uranium-233 in a reactor before it can be used as fuel.

Development of technologies pertaining to utilisation of thorium has been a part of ongoing activities in Department of Atomic Energy. With sustained efforts over the years, India has gained experience in different areas of Thorium fuel cycle. Efforts are currently on to enlarge the present Thorium related R&D work and activities to a bigger scale and towards development of technologies for the third stage of our nuclear power programme. Safety has been accorded paramount importance in all Thorium technology development studies. Commercial utilisation of Thorium, on a significant scale can begin only when abundant supplies of either Uranium-233 or Plutonium resources are available. Accordingly, the large scale introduction and utilization of Thorium in the programme has been contemplated after an adequate inventory of Plutonium becomes available from our Fast Breeder Reactors (FBRs), comprising the second stage of Indian nuclear power programme. This will be after a few decades of large scale deployment of FBRs. In preparation for the utilisation of Thorium in Third Stage of India's Nuclear Power Programme, efforts towards technology development and demonstration are made now so that a mature technology for Thorium utilisation is available in time.

### **POWER GENERATION THROUGH NUCLEAR ENERGY**

Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) set up in 1958, is the apex body regarding use of nuclear energy, it formulates policy of the Department of Atomic Energy in all matters concerning nuclear energy.

The targets for nuclear power generation are set on an annual basis, as a part of Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL)'s annual Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) considering planned biennial shutdowns (BSD) of units during the year, connections of new units to the grid if any, during the year etc. The generation target for the year 2018-19 was 36904 Million Units (MUs). The actual generation in the year 2018-19 was 37813 MUs.

The Government has planned to increase the installed capacity base of nuclear power in the country for increased electricity production from nuclear power. The present installed nuclear power capacity of 6780 MW would reach 13480 MW by the year 2024-25 with the completion of projects under construction (including 500 MW Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR), being implemented by Bharatiya Nabhikiya Vidyut Nigam Ltd. (BHAVINI). The Government has also accorded administrative approval and financial sanction for 12 nuclear power reactors aggregating a total capacity of 9000 MW, which are scheduled to

be completed progressively by the year 2031. On their completion, the total nuclear power capacity would reach 22480 MW. More reactors based on both indigenous technologies and with foreign cooperation may be planned in the future.

### **MEASURES FOR PROMOTION OF EXPORTS**

A new Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) 2015-20 was launched on 1st April 2015. The policy, inter alia, rationalised the earlier export promotion schemes and introduced two new schemes, namely Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS) for improving export of goods and 'Services Exports from India Scheme (SEIS)' for increasing exports of services. Duty credit scrips issued under these schemes were made fully transferable. The Mid-term Review of the FTP 2015-20 was undertaken in 2017. Incentive rates for labour intensive / MSME sectors were increased

A new Logistics Division was created in the Department of Commerce to co-ordinate integrated development of the logistics sector.

Interest Equalization Scheme on pre and post shipment rupee export credit was introduced from 2015

Various measures for improving ease of doing business were taken

A new scheme called Trade Infrastructure for Export Scheme (TIES) was launched with effect from 2017 to address the export infrastructure gaps in the country

A comprehensive Agriculture Export Policy was launched

A new scheme called Transport and Marketing Assistance (TMA) scheme has been launched for mitigating disadvantage of higher cost of transportation for export of specified agriculture products

New scheme called Scheme for Rebate of State and Central Taxes and Levies (RoSCTL) covering export of garments and made-ups was notified on 2019 providing refund of duties/taxes at higher rates.

Key difficulties faced by the exporters are as follows:

- i Technical and non-technical barriers to trade such as Sanitary and Phyto-Sanitary (SPS) standards imposed on agricultural items and quality standards on manufactured goods.
- ii Tariff advantages to the exporters of competing countries in key export markets due to trade agreements between their countries and destination countries/regions.
- iii Higher logistics and financing costs for Indian exporters.

### **NATIONAL RUBBER POLICY**

National Rubber Policy in March 2019. The National Rubber Policy includes several provisions to support the Natural Rubber (NR) production sector and the entire rubber industry value chain. The Policy covers new planting and replanting of rubber, support for growers, processing and marketing of natural rubber, labour shortage, grower forums, external trade, Centre-State integrated strategies, research, training, rubber product manufacturing and export, climate change concerns and carbon market.

### **TRADE DEFICIT BETWEEN INDIA AND CHINA**

Government of India has been taking continuous and sustained steps to bridge the trade deficit by lowering trade barriers for Indian exports to China. During the 11th session of India-China Joint Group on Economic Relations (JEG) held in New Delhi on 26th March 2018, the two countries agreed to increase bilateral trade in a more balanced and sustainable manner. In this regard, various meetings have been held at the official level with Chinese counterparts as a part of our ongoing efforts, to obtain market access for various Indian agricultural, dairy, and pharmaceutical products in light of the potential of these products in the Chinese market. Various protocols have been signed to facilitate export of Indian rice, rapeseed meal, tobacco and fishmeal / fish oil, chilli meal, from India to China.

### **SOFTWARE DEFINED RADIOS**

A major milestone in the indigenous series production of advanced technology Software Defined Radios (SDRs) has been achieved by signing the Contract with M/s BEL for induction of Software Defined Radios for Indian Navy by Ministry of Defence.

The SDRs have been designed and developed by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) in association with various agencies like Centre for Development of Advanced Computing

(CDAC), Centre for Artificial Intelligence & Robotics (CAIR) and Weapon and Electronics System Engineering Establishment (WESEE) of the Indian Navy. The SDRs will be manufactured by M/s Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL).

As part of the contract, present hardware based legacy communication sets will be replaced by software based multi-band, multi-functional and multi-role/mission radios to improve information sharing and situational awareness through secure communication means. Being indigenous, the SDRs are associated with indigenous waveforms designed to provide wide range of frequency usage and a major capability enhancement.

### **ORDNANCE FACTORIES**

Ordnance Factories and Defence Public Sector Undertakings have played a huge role in making our country a defence production hub. There are 41 Ordnance Factories and 9 DPSUs in our country contributing to more than Rs.58,000 crores approx. in defence production every year. Government provides support to Defence Public Sector Undertakings and Ordnance Factories to expand their activities. Four Defence PSUs, viz. Hindustan Aeronautical Ltd. (HAL), Bharat Electronics Ltd. (BEL), Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd. (MDL) and Bharat Earth Movers Ltd. (BEML) have recorded their highest turnover

### **PARIS PACT INITIATIVE**

The Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance is hosting a Meeting of Expert Working Group on Paris Pact Initiative on Illicit Financial Flows deriving from the trafficking of Opiates originating in Afghanistan. Paris Pact is a group of 58 countries and 23 International Organisations affected with drug trafficking of Afghan Opiates. Under the ambit of UNODC, Paris Pact Initiative has addressed the issue of drug problem related to opiates originating in Afghanistan, both at policy and implementation level. It has provided the platform for the Member Countries and International Organizations to coordinate and combat the trafficking and consumption of opiates on the principle of common and shared responsibility. This will lead to improving the effectiveness of India's AML/CFT framework as per FATF standards with respect to illicit financial flows linked to drug trafficking.

### **CYBER COORDINATION CENTRE**

Cyber Coordination Centre (CyCord) portal was launched by Hon'ble Prime Minister of India 2018 at DGPs/IGPs Conference as a one-stop platform for sharing all cyber related matters amongst Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs), government organizations and other stakeholders.

Primary objective of the Cyber Coordination Centre is to provide a platform to the Law Enforcement Agencies and other stakeholders to collaborate and coordinate their efforts to resolve cyber crime, and for other cyber related issues like sharing case studies/research findings, experience sharing, formulation of research problems, finding solutions to complex cyber issues, etc. Cyber Coordination Centre is an effective platform to deal with cyber issues.

Ministry of Home Affairs issues advisories on cyber related issues to States/UTs from time to time. Further, safety advisories/messages are also issued by Ministry of Home Affairs through twitter handle @CyberDost, FM radio and SMS.

### **CORRUPTION CASES AGAINST OFFICERS**

During last five years, i.e. May, 2014 to May, 2019 Sanction for Prosecution, under Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988, was granted against 23 officers of Indian Administrative Service and 4 officers of Indian Police Service. After obtaining sanction of the Central Government, the State Government / Investigating Agency files the charge-sheets to prosecute the accused IAS / IPS officer before the Court of Law. Recoveries are made from the officers in accordance with the decision of the Court of Law. During last five years, two officers of Indian Administrative Service have been dismissed on corruption charges, and nine officers of Indian Police Service have been suspended.

### **GST- PETROLEUM PRODUCTS**

Article 279A (5) of the Constitution provides that Goods and Services Tax Council shall recommend the date on which goods and services tax shall be levied on petroleum crude, high speed diesel, motor spirit, natural gas and aviation turbine fuel. Thus while, petroleum products are constitutionally included under GST, the date on which GST shall be levied on such goods, shall be as per the decision of the GST Council



## **TRANSGENDER**

The Registrar General of India (RGI), during Enumeration of Census 2011, for the first time provided three codes i.e. Male-1, Female -2 and others -3 for enumeration. This was at the discretion of the respondent. In case the respondent wished to record neither '1' nor '2', then enumerator was instructed to record sex as 'other' and give code '3'. It is important to note that the Census of India does not collect any data specifically on 'transgender'.

An Expert Committee was constituted in the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment to make an in-depth study of the problems being faced by the Transgender Community and suggest suitable measures to ameliorate their conditions. The Committee submitted its report on 2014. The Committee in its report has observed that the transgender community is a highly marginalized and vulnerable one and is seriously lagging behind on human development indices mainly in the area of education and employment.

The Hon'ble Supreme Court in its Judgment, 2014 in WP(C) 400/2012 (NLSA Vs. UOI) directed, inter-alia, the Centre and State Governments to take steps to treat Transgenders as socially and educationally backward classes of citizens and extend all kinds of reservation in cases of admission in educational institutions and for public appointments.

## **PERIODIC LABOUR FORCE SURVEY**

Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation has launched a new regular employment-unemployment survey, namely, Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) during April, 2017 with certain changes in survey methodology, data collection mechanism and sampling design vis-à-vis the earlier quinquennial (once in every five years) Employment and Unemployment surveys of NSSO. The PLFS has been launched with an objective of measuring quarterly changes of various labour market statistical indicators in urban areas as well as generating annual estimates of these indicators both for rural and urban areas, which can be used for policy making.

## **GURU NANAK DEV JI**

Gave three Golden Principles to humanity - Kirat karo (Earn Your Livelihood with honest ethical ways with earnest effort), Naam Japo (feel the divine benediction every moment, around you and realize it within your heart) and Wand Chhakko (Share with other selflessly).

## **GAGANYAAN PROJECT**

Gaganyaan project is approved by Government of India and is operating under a newly formed Centre, **HUMAN SPACE FLIGHT CENTRE (HSFC)**. Gaganyaan Project team is identified and appropriate management system is in place. The design activities are progressing for the targeted manned flight in December 2021. In order to meet the stringent schedule, help is being sought from Russia and France for human centric systems, where ISRO would gain experience. Discussions are in advanced stage with Russia in the areas of environmental control and life support system and part of the crew selection and training. With France, discussions are proceeding with respect to training of Flight surgeons and long term activities on bioastronautics, combined development and experiments in space medicine area.

## **NEW SPACE INDIA LIMITED**

New Space India Limited (NSIL), has been incorporated on 06<sup>th</sup> March 2019, as a wholly owned Government of India Undertaking/Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE), under the administrative control of Department of Space (DOS) to commercially exploit the research and development work of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) Centres and constituent units of DOS.

NSIL functions involve viz.

- (i) Small Satellite technology transfer to industry, wherein NSIL will obtain license from DOS/ISRO and sub-license it to industries;
- (ii) Manufacture of Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV) in collaboration with Private Sector;

- (iii) Productionisation of Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) through Indian Industry;
- (iv) Productionisation and marketing of Space based products and services, including launch and application;
- (v) Transfer of technology developed by ISRO Centres and constituent units of DOS;
- (vi) Marketing spin-off technologies and products/services, both in India and abroad; and
- (vii) any other subject which Government of India deems fit.

### **NUCLEAR WASTES**

India has adopted “**closed fuel cycle**”, where spent nuclear fuel is regarded as a material of resource. Closed fuel cycle aims at reprocessing of spent fuel for recovery of Uranium and Plutonium and recycling them back to reactor as fuel. This finally leads to a very small percentage of residual material present in spent nuclear fuel requiring their management as radioactive waste.

Safe management of radioactive waste has been accorded high priority right from the inception of our nuclear energy programme. High level radioactive waste also contains many useful isotopes like Caesium-137, Strontium-90, Ruthenium-106 etc. With the advent of new technologies based on partitioning of waste, emphasis is accorded to separation and recovery of these useful radio-isotopes so as to make use of the waste for various societal applications.

Initiatives/advancements w.r.t. partitioning of the waste have been implemented safely and successfully enabling recovery of useful radio- isotopes like Caesium-137, Strontium-90, Ruthenium-106 etc. and their deployment for societal applications. Utmost emphasis is given to waste volume minimization, effective containment and isolation of radio-activity followed by near zero discharge of radioactivity to the environment. As a waste management philosophy, no waste in any physical form is released / disposed to the environment unless the same is cleared, exempted or excluded from regulations. A comprehensive radioactive waste management is established taking into account the operational capability for the management of radioactive waste and an independent regulatory capability for its overview. The nuclear waste management practices are at par with international practices following the guidelines of International Atomic Energy Agency.

### **NATIONAL LOGISTICS**

India’s logistics sector is highly defragmented and the aim is to reduce the logistics cost from the present 14% of GDP to less than 10% by 2022. India’s logistics sector is very complex with more than 20 government agencies, 40 PGAs, 37 export promotion councils, 500 certifications, 10000 commodities, 160 billion market size. It also involves 12 million employment base, 200 shipping agencies, 36 logistic services, 129 ICDs, 168 CFSs, 50 IT ecosystems and banks & insurance agencies. Further, 81 authorities and 500 certificates are required for EXIM.

As per the Economic Survey 2017-18, the Indian logistics sector provides livelihood to more than 22 million people and improving the sector will facilitate 10 % decrease in indirect logistics cost leading to the growth of 5 to 8% in exports. Further, the Survey estimates that the worth of Indian logistics market would be around USD 215 billion in next two years compared to about USD 160 billion currently.

### **ONE NATION ONE RATION CARD**

One Nation One Ration Card (RC) which will ensure all beneficiaries especially migrants can access PDS across the nation from any PDS shop of their own choice. This will provide freedom to the beneficiaries as they will not be tied to any one PDS shop and reduce their dependence on shop owners and curtail instances of corruption. Integrated Management of PDS (IMPDS) is a system that is already operational in Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Telangana and Tripura wherein a beneficiary can avail his share of food grain from any district in the State. The Department of Food and PD is working on war footing to achieve the objective of One Nation One Ration Card and in the next two months beneficiaries of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh will be able to access the PDS shops. The objective of the department is to ensure that this is implemented nationally in a time bound manner. There will also be creation of a Central Repository of all RCs which will help in de-duplication.

### **ELECTORAL BONDS**

The Government of India has notified the Electoral Bond Scheme 2018 vide Gazette Notification. As per provisions of the Scheme, Electoral Bonds may be purchased by a person who is a citizen of India or incorporated or established in India. A person being an individual can buy Electoral Bonds, either singly or jointly with other individuals. Only the Political Parties registered under Section 29A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 and which secured not less than one per cent of the votes polled in the last General Election to the House of the People or the Legislative Assembly of the State, shall be eligible to receive the Electoral Bonds. The Electoral Bonds shall be encashed by an eligible Political Party only through a Bank account with the Authorized Bank.

It may be noted that Electoral Bonds shall be valid for fifteen calendar days from the date of issue and no payment shall be made to any payee Political Party if the Electoral Bond is deposited after expiry of the validity period. The Electoral Bond deposited by an eligible Political Party in its account shall be credited on the same day.

### **G20 SUMMIT AT OSAKA**

India will reiterate and endorse the importance of Universal Health Coverage (UHC) financing in developing countries, stressing on the significance for generating domestic resources, while using external aid strategically towards achieving UHC and recognizing that achieving UHC will promote sustainable development. Japan is hosting the first ever joint session of Health and Finance Ministers

India will also highlight the Ayushman Bharat programme which provides for holistic and integrated health care and is the principal vehicle for achieving UHC. The AB-Health and Wellness Centres provide essential primary and community health services such as maternal, neonatal and child health services including immunization and nutrition, thus fostering human capital development during children's critical early years. These Centres also provide services to prevent and manage common NCDs and major communicable diseases. The other component, AB- Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojna (PM-JAY) provides free and cashless care to about 500 million poor and deprived people for secondary and tertiary hospitalization care.

➤ *Deadline to submit suggestions on draft of New Education Policy is extended till 31st, July 2019*

### **RTE Act, 2009**

The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 provides for free and compulsory elementary education of equitable quality to all children, including the children of migrant workers, of 6-14 years age. The RTE Act provides for norms and standards for opening of schools in neighbourhood at elementary level. Section 6 of the Act mentions that 'The appropriate government and local authorities' shall establish, within the area or limits of a neighbourhood, a school, where it is not already established, within a period of three years from the commencement of the Act. Further, the Act places a compulsion on the State to ensure that no child from the weaker sections or disadvantaged groups is discriminated against in any manner or prevented from pursuing and completing elementary education.

### **NEOTERIC INNOVATORS**

Atal Tinkering Lab (ATL) is a program run by Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) under NITI Aayog to foster curiosity and innovative mindset in young students across India to encourage research and innovation in schools across the country. The vision of the initiative is 'To create One million children in India as Neoteric Innovators'.

### **CONSTITUTION 103RD AMENDMENT ACT 2019**

The Government is committed to ensure adequate representation and admission of students from poor economic backgrounds. In this regard, for advancement of Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) of the society, and in accordance with the Constitution 103rd Amendment Act 2019, this Ministry has issued instructions providing 10 percent reservation to EWS categories for admission in Central Educational Institutions (CEIs). This reservation for EWS categories would be provided without disturbing the existing entitlements for SC/ST and OBC categories. The above reservation is being provided from the academic year 2019-20 onwards in Central Educational Institutions, and would help in creating more than 2 lakh additional seats.

### M-15

The Government has notified mass emission standards for flex-fuel Methanol M15 or M100 and Methanol MD 95 vehicles. M-15 is a blend of 15 % methanol and 85 % Gasoline. Use of blended fuel M-15 in BS-IV cars can result in lowering down greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by about 5 to 10 percent thereby improving air quality. M-15 fuel blending is available as an option and there is no proposal to make blending mandatory in the near future.

### 29th June, 2019- Prof. P C Mahalanobis- STATISTICS DAY

The Government has been celebrating the Statistics Day, to popularize the use of Statistics in everyday life and sensitize the public as to how Statistics helps in shaping and framing policies. It has been designated as one of the Special Days to be celebrated at the national level and is celebrated on the birth anniversary of Prof. P C Mahalanobis, on 29th June, in recognition of his invaluable contribution in establishing the National Statistical System.

Every year, Statistics Day is celebrated with a theme of current national importance, that runs for a year by way of several workshops and seminars, aimed at bringing about improvements in the selected area. The theme of Statistics Day, 2019 is “Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)”. The theme has been chosen for intensive and focused discussions towards filling the data gaps and improvement of timelines/quality in SDGs.

MoSPI is responsible for the development of National Indicator Framework (NIF) for measuring the progress of the SDGs and associated targets at the national level. NIF will give appropriate direction to the policy makers and the implementers of various schemes and programs.

Prof. Mahalanobis is fondly remembered as the Father of Statistical System in the country. He had set up Indian Statistical Institute at Kolkata in 1931 for research and training in Statistics. Central Statistical Organization (CSO) and National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO), the pillars of official statistics, were conceived and envisioned by him. Celebration of Statistics Day in his memory is a source of inspiration for statisticians of the present day.”

### MUSEUMS FOR TRIBAL FREEDOM FIGHTERS

Sl. No.	Name of State	Location of Museum	Tribal Freedom Fighters / Heroes	
1	Gujarat	Garudeshwar, Rajpipla	Prominent freedom fighters from across the country.	
2	Chhattisgarh	Raipur	Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh	
3	Jharkhand	Ranchi	Birsa Munda	
4	Andhra Pradesh	Lammasingi	Shri Alluri Seetha Ram Raju	
5	Madhya Pradesh	Chhindwara	TantyaBheel, Bheema Nayak, KhajayaNayak,etc.	
6	Kerala	Kozhikode	Thalakkal Chandu	
7	Manipur	Makhal Village, Senapati	Rani Gaidinliu	
8	Telangana	Hyderabad	Ramji Gond	

### MISSING AND FOUND CHILDREN

The Ministry of Women and Child Development has developed web portals “TrackChild” and “Khoya-Paya” to track the missing and found children. The TrackChild Portal is implemented in association with various stakeholders including Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), Ministry of Railways, State Governments/UT Administrations, Child Welfare Committees, Juvenile Justice Boards and National Legal Services Authority. The “Khoya-Paya” has been integrated as a citizen corner on TrackChild portal.

### **MALNUTRITION IN THE COUNTRY**

As per the report of National Family Health Survey (NFHS) – 4 conducted by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in 2015-16, 35.7% children under 5 years of age are underweight, 38.4% are stunted and 58.5% are anemic. Further, 22.9% women (15-49 years of age) have chronic energy deficiency (BMI less than 18.5) and 53% are anemic.

The Government has accorded high priority to the issue of malnutrition and is implementing several schemes/programmes of different Ministries/Departments through States/UTs to address various aspects related to nutrition. This Ministry is implementing POSHAN Abhiyaan, Pradhan MantriMatruVandanaYojana, Anganwadi Services and Scheme for Adolescent Girls under the Umbrella Integrated Child Development Services Scheme as direct targeted interventions to address the problem of malnutrition in the country.

UN agencies provide technical support to the Government to prevent and reduce malnutrition among women and children. No financial assistance has been received from United Nations or UNESCO.

The monitoring systems in-built in the schemes are as under:

NITI Aayog undertakes periodic monitoring and evaluation of POSHAN Abhiyaan through their ‘Technical Unit’ for assessing the impact of the programme. In order to ensure regular monitoring and review of all sectoral programmes under POSHAN Abhiyaan, a National Nutrition Resource Centre – Central Project Monitoring Unit (NNRC-CPMU) has been constituted.

The Pradhan MantriMatruVandanaYojana is implemented through web based Management and Information (MIS) Software, viz., Pradhan MantriMatruVandanaYojana-Common Application Software (PMMVY-CAS) which is used as an effective tool for regular monitoring.

The Anganwadi Services Scheme has an in-built monitoring system since its inception to track the physical progress of the scheme in respect of various input process, output and impact indicators through a standardized Management Information System (MIS). Further, in order to strengthen the performance of Anganwadi Services, Government has introduced monitoring and review mechanism at different levels (National/ State/ District/ Block and Anganwadi level).

Under the Scheme for Adolescent Girls, monitoring committees have been set up at all levels (National, State, District, Block and Village level) to take stock of the progress of the scheme as also to strengthen the coordination and convergence between concerned departments.

### **CHILD RIGHTS**

India, as a signatory to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), has committed itself to ensure that all children enjoy their right to survival, development, protection and participation. In pursuance of this, the Ministry of Women and Child Development has adopted the National Policy for Children (NPC), 2013 which affirms the Government's commitment to realization of the rights of all children in the country. It recognizes every person below the age of eighteen years as a child and that childhood is an integral part of life with a value of its own, and a long term, sustainable, multi-spectral, integrated and inclusive approach is necessary for the harmonious development and protection of children.

The Government has enacted the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 (JJ Act), to provide care and protection to vulnerable children, which mandates that no waiver of any of the right of the child is permissible or valid (Section 3(ix) of the JJ Act, 2015).

As per Section 41(1) of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 (JJ Act), Notwithstanding anything contained in any other law for the time being in force, all institutions, whether run by a State Government or by voluntary or non-governmental organizations, which are meant, either wholly or partially, for housing children in need of care and protection or children in conflict with law, shall, be registered under this Act in such manner as may be prescribed, within a period of six months from the date of commencement of this Act, regardless of whether they are receiving grants from the Central Government or, as the case may be, the State Government or not.

The Ministry of Women and Child Development has commissioned the mapping of Child Care Institutions (CCIs) through National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) which was conducted by the Childline India Foundation with help of NGO partners. The Report is available at Ministry's website i.e. [www.wcd.nic.in](http://www.wcd.nic.in). On the direction of Supreme Court in the matter of "Exploitation of children in orphanage in state of Tamil Nadu vs. Union of India" W.P.(Crl) 102 of 2007, National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) is conducting social audit of the CCIs in the country.

### **FOOD SUPPLY IN ICDS**

Food fortification is a complementary strategy to address micronutrient deficiencies in addition to dietary diversification and micronutrient supplementation. Therefore, in order to reduce the prevalence of micronutrient deficiencies, emphasis is given on all the three strategies through the schemes/programmes implemented by the various departments/ministries. These include iron and folic acid supplementation, calcium supplementation, Vitamin-A supplementation and mandatory use of iodized salt.

The Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme is a Centrally sponsored Scheme implemented by States/UTs. The Scheme provides for a package of six services including Supplementary Nutrition (SNP) for children in the age group of 0-6 years and pregnant and lactating mothers.

In order to eradicate the corruption and strengthen the performance of Anganwadi Services Scheme, Government has introduced 5-tier monitoring and review mechanism at different levels (National, State, District, Block and Anganwadi level) for monitoring the status of implementation of the scheme.

The Supreme Court had directed that the contractors shall not be used for supply of nutrition in Anganwadis and preferably ICDS funds shall be spent by making use of village communities, self-help groups and Mahila Mandals for buying of grains and preparation of meals.

Since the Scheme is implemented by States/UTs, the complaints regarding improper implementation of the Scheme are referred to State Governments

### **STATEMENT ON BRICS LEADERS' INFORMAL MEETING**

- Held in the margins of the G20 Summit in Osaka, Japan
- Stressed the importance of a favourable global economic environment for sustained growth of international trade
- BRICS countries have been the main drivers of global growth
- Acknowledged the importance of, among others: open markets; stronger economic resilience; financial stability; well-designed and coordinated macroeconomic policies, as appropriate; structural reforms; adequate investment in human capital; reduction in poverty levels and inequality; effective competition to promote investment and innovation; open, fair, just and non-discriminatory business environments; cooperation in public-private partnerships (PPP); and infrastructure financing and development.
- Committed to multilateralism and international law, and our full support to the rules-based multilateral trading system with the WTO at its center
- To work constructively with all WTO Members on the necessary reform of the Organization

- Committed to the preservation of a functioning two-stage binding adjudication system for disputes in the WTO. urge that the Appellate Body selection process be initiated immediately.
- Committed to a strong, quota-based and adequately resourced International Monetary Fund (IMF) at the center of the Global Financial Safety Net
- Committed to work with the Executive Board towards the implementation of the IMF quota and governance reform
- Appreciated the role of the New Development Bank (NDB) in infrastructure financing and sustainable development
- NDB will be strengthened by the establishment of regional offices
- Stressed the continued importance of the BRICS Contingent Reserve Arrangement (CRA) as a mechanism to forestall short-term balance of payment pressures in member countries
- Make efforts to establish the BRICS Local Currency Bond Fund
- Condemned terrorist attacks
- To foster integrity in the public and private sectors
- Acknowledged that corruption, including illicit money and financial flows, and ill-gotten wealth stashed in foreign jurisdictions, is a global challenge
- Acknowledge the importance of varied sources of energy and technological advances to achieve a low emission future,
- Committed to the full implementation of the Paris Agreement, adopted under the principles of the UNFCCC including the principle of CBDR
- Stressed the importance of fully honoring official development assistance commitments and the provision of development resources, in accordance with the Addis Ababa Action Agenda[ It provides a new global framework for financing sustainable development by aligning all financing flows and policies with economic, social and environmental priorities.]
- Continue to support the G20 Action Plan on the 2030 Agenda, the G20 Initiative on Supporting Industrialisation in Africa and Least Developed Countries and the G20 Africa Partnership, including the Compact with Africa.
- Support to the Brazilian BRICS Chairship in 2019 and look forward to a successful 11th BRICS Summit in Brasilia, in November

➤ *Summit of 'Russia-India-China' (RIC) leaders held on the margins of G-20 Summit 2019*

### **PRIME MINISTER'S INTERVENTION AT THE BRICS LEADERS INFORMAL MEETING**

Three major challenges:

1. First, the recession and uncertainty in the world economy. One-sided decision and rivalry are dominating over rules based multilateral international trade systems. On the other hand, the lack of resources is reflected in the fact that there is an estimated deficit of \$ 1.3 trillion for investing in infrastructure development of emerging market economies.
2. To make development and progress inclusive and sustainable
3. Terrorism

### **MISLEADING DRUG ADVERTISEMENTS**

Department of Consumers Affairs has set up an online system called GAMA ((Grievances Against Misleading Advertisements) portal for registering public complaints of misleading advertisements of various commodities including AYUSH medicines and allied products. Drugs and Magic Remedies (Objectionable Advertisements) Act, 1954 and Rules thereunder encompass the provisions for prohibition of misleading advertisements and exaggerated claims of drugs and medicinal substances including AYUSH medicines and for the penalty to be imposed on the defaulters.

## **ORGANISED FARMING**

There is no specific scheme of the Government to promote organized farming. However, the Government is promoting contract farming and formation of Farmer Producer Organization (FPOs) in order to promote farming in organized manner.

The Government of India, through Small Farmers Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC), has been promoting formation of FPOs with technical handholding and financial support to leverage the collectivization from pre-production to post-harvest marketing.

The Government has formulated and released the progressive and facilitative Model Act “The ---State /UT Agricultural Produce & Livestock Contract farming and Services (Promotion & facilitation ) Act, 2018” in May, 2018 for its adoption by the States/Union Territories (UTs). The aforesaid Model Contract Farming Act provides that Farmer Producer Organisation (FPO) may enter into agreement with the contract farming sponsor to draw all the benefits of contract farming all along the agri-food value chain. Self Help Groups (SHGs) as part of FPOs can avail the benefits.

## **GREEN REVOLUTION**

Green Revolution made the country self-reliant in foodgrain production. Post Green Revolution, there is increase in the use of chemical fertilizers and irrigation water to meet the nutrients and water demand respectively, of high yielding varieties (HYVs) of crops. However, due to imbalanced use of fertilizers coupled with decrease in use of organic manure and over exploitation of ground water, there is deterioration of natural resources.

In order to meet the foodgrains requirement of the growing population of the country, the Government of India is laying emphasis on development of resource rich eastern region of the country for enhancing agricultural production. This would also help in reducing the over exploitation of natural resources in north western region, the traditional food bowl of the country. Considering potentiality of increasing production and productivity of foodgrains in eastern states, “Bringing Green Revolution to Eastern India (BGREI)”- a sub scheme of Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) is being implemented since 2010-11 in seven (7) eastern states of the country namely Assam, Bihar, Chhatisgarh, Jharkhand, Odisha, Eastern Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. After implementation of the programme, the production of rice has increased in seven eastern states from 45.65 million tonnes during 2009-10 to 57.18 million tonnes during 2017-18.

Besides, the Schemes/Missions namely, National Food Security Mission (NFSM), Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA), Sub-Mission on Seeds and Planting Material (SMSP), Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanisation (SMAM) etc. under the Umbrella scheme, “Green Revolution– Krishonnati Yojana” are also continued beyond 12<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan for the periods from 2017-18 to 2019-20. These schemes are for the development of the agriculture and allied sector in a holistic and scientific manner to increase the income of farmers by enhancing production, productivity and better returns on produce.

## **SCHEME FOR FARMERS AFFECTED BY CALAMITIES**

The State Government is primarily responsible for providing necessary relief measures in the wake of natural calamities. For undertaking relief measures, funds are available with the State Government in the form of State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF). Additional financial assistance, over and above SDRF, is considered from National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) for natural calamities of severe nature and is approved on the basis of Memorandum received from the State Government, in accordance with established procedures.

Agriculture is a state subject. The State Governments are responsible for disbursement of funds to the affected farmers. All individual beneficiary-oriented assistance is mandatorily/necessarily disbursed through the bank account of the beneficiary. In order to improve the disbursement and transparency in providing relief to the beneficiaries under various items, the State Government has to prepare a consolidated list of individual



beneficiaries in whose bank accounts, funds have been transferred. The list so prepared should be displayed on their website as well as the State/District and block/taluk levels for the purpose of verification and social audit.

### **PESTICIDE - TESTING AND MONITORING**

The Maximum Residue Limit (MRL) of a pesticide registered for a particular agriculture commodity is fixed by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI). The range of MRLs may vary both pesticide-wise and commodities-wise.

The Central Government has enacted the Insecticides Act, 1968 to regulate the import, manufacture, sale, transport, distribution and use of insecticides. The Registration Committee, constituted under Section 5 of the Insecticides Act, 1968 registers pesticides after considering data on different parameters such as chemistry, bio-efficacy, toxicity, packaging and processing to ensure efficacy and safety to human beings, animals and environment. In additions, technical reviews are carried out from time to time to assess the safety of pesticides for their continued use. Further the monitoring of quality of pesticides is a shared responsibility between the Central and State Governments.

Central Government and State Governments have notified Insecticides Inspectors to check sale of misbranded pesticides. Insecticide samples are drawn on regular basis and analyzed in State Pesticides Testing Laboratories (SPTLs) and at the two Regional Pesticides Testing Laboratories at Chandigarh and Kanpur. Action is initiated under the provisions of the Insecticides Act, 1968 against those samples which are found misbranded.

35 Central Integrated Pest Management Centres (CIPMCs) across the country. These CIPMCs propagate the use of Integrated Pest Management and recommend judicious use of chemical pesticide. The CIPMCs, inter alia, releases bio-control agents in the fields, conducts Farmers Field Schools and organizes IPM orientation programs.

### **HYBRID SEEDS**

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), State Agricultural Universities (SAUs) and private companies are engaged in the development of hybrids and High Yielding Varieties (HYVs) seeds of different crops suitable for the varied agro climatic conditions of the country for increasing yield of various crops. During last five years more than 100 hybrids (maize-44, pearl millet-13, sorghum-5, rice-3, sunflower-9, castor-7, sesame-2 and cotton 23) have been released under different All India Coordinated Research Projects (AICRPs) of respective crops by ICAR Institutes and State Agricultural Universities.

Govt. is promoting hybrids and also high yielding varieties of different crops by providing financial assistance to States and implementing agencies through various ongoing crop development programmes/schemes viz. National Food Security Mission (NFSM), Bringing Green Revolution in Eastern India (BGREI), Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) etc.

Financial assistance is being provided for distribution of hybrid seeds of rice, maize, jowar, bajra. Similarly financial assistance is also available for promoting use of hybrids of oilseed crops

### **FRAMEWORK FOR DOUBLING FARMERS' INCOME**

The Government had constituted an Inter-ministerial Committee in April, 2016 to examine issues relating to “Doubling of Farmers Income” and recommend strategies to achieve the same. The Committee has submitted its Report to the Government in September, 2018. The Committee on Doubling Farmers’ Income (DFI) recognises agriculture as a value led enterprise and has identified seven major sources of growth, viz., improvement in crop productivity; improvement in livestock productivity; resource use efficiency or savings in the cost of production; increase in the cropping intensity; diversification towards high value crops; improvement in real prices received by farmers; and shift from farm to non-farm occupations.

### **PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM (PDS)**

Public Distribution System (PDS) is operated under the joint responsibility of the Central and State/UT Governments. Central Govt. is responsible for procurement, allocation and transportation of foodgrains upto the

designated depots of the FCI. The operational responsibilities for identification of eligible beneficiaries/families, issuance of ration cards to them and maintenance of all records relating to beneficiaries and distribution of foodgrains, etc. rest with the concerned State/UT Government.

### **INS TARKASH AT ALEXANDRIA, EGYPT**

During the visit of Tarkash, professional interactions are planned with the Egyptian Navy towards further enhancing co-operation between the two forces. In addition, calls on senior Government and military authorities, sporting, cultural interactions, exchange visit of ships personnel and sharing of best practices, aimed at strengthening ties and mutual understanding between the two Navies, are also planned.

India and Egypt are two of the world's oldest civilizations. Building upon the rich and longstanding relations that have existed between India and Egypt, both nations have developed warm relations in several spheres. A number of bilateral agreements for cooperation and cultural exchange exist between the two nations. The geostrategic location of Egypt provides it the unique advantage of being at the crossroads of Africa, Asia and Europe. Crucial Sea Lines of Communication pass through Red Sea into the Mediterranean through Suez Canal in Egypt.

### **POWER PURCHASE**

Union Minister of State for Power and New & Renewable Energy (IC) in a major decision has approved the proposal to make it mandatory for distribution licencees to open and maintain adequate Letter of Credit (LC) as Payment Security Mechanism under Power Purchase Agreements. The **National Load Despatch Centre (NLDC)** & **Regional Load Despatch Centres (RLDC)** shall despatch power only after it is intimated by the Generating Company and /Distribution Companies that a Letter of Credit for the desired quantum of power has been opened and copies made available to the concerned Generating Company.

A **letter of credit** is a document from a bank or a financial institution on the buyer's behalf that assures the payment to the seller.

### **JNPT**

JNPT awarded 'Best Port of the year (Containerised)' at the 4th India Maritime Awards. The category 'Best Port of Year' evaluates the Ports across various parameters like Volume Handled, Year on Year Growth, Expansion Plans, New Initiatives, Variety of Cargo Handled, Handling Equipment, E- Business and Customer Satisfaction, to name a few. JNPT showed remarkable growth across all these parameters, be it crossing the 5 Million TEUs milestone in container handling for a financial year or the various projects underway such as the on-going development of the 4<sup>th</sup> Terminal, the mega road infrastructure development project, dredging of the navigational channel, development of Dry Ports, JNPT –SEZ project, automation & digitization of services and many similar initiatives focused on Port expansion and enhancing operational efficiency.

### **MAHILA SHAKTI KENDRA SCHEME- EMPOWERMENT OF RURAL WOMEN**

Mahila Shakti Kendra Scheme was approved in November, 2017 as a centrally sponsored scheme, for implementation during FY 2017-18 to 2019-20, to empower rural women through community participation. The scheme envisages community engagement through college student volunteers in 115 aspirational districts as part of block level initiatives, capacity building of women collectives in not more than 50% of the blocks in the aspirational districts, District Level Centre for Women (DLCW) in 640 districts to facilitate women centric schemes and to provide foothold for BetiBachaoBetiPadhao (BBBP) scheme, State Resource Centre for Women to support the respective government in implementation of women centric schemes/programs including BBBP.

### **SLAUGHTERING OF COWS**

Under the distribution of legislative powers between the Union of India and States under Article 246(3) of the Constitution, the preservation of cattle is a matter on which the legislature of the States has exclusive powers to legislate. Therefore, it is up to the States to enact laws on slaughter of cows. Further as per article 48 of Indian Constitution the state shall endeavour to organize agriculture and animal husbandry on modern and scientific

lines and shall in particular take steps for preserving improving the breed, and prohibiting the slaughter, of cows and calves and other milch and draught cattle. Several States have enacted laws banning cow slaughter and provision of penalizing the accused person has been provided in the State act.

### **ARCHAEOLOGISTS PROF. B.B. LAL AND DR. R.S.BISHT**

Prof. Lal is presently 99 years old and is the senior most archaeologist from ASI, and served in various senior capacities in Government of India, Indian Institute of Advanced Studies, Shimla; Professor in Gwalior University and member of various academic institutions. Prof. Lal was trained by Sir Mortimer Wheeler at Taxila in 1944 and later joined Archaeological Survey of India. Prof. Lal excavated several important landmark sites including Hastinapura (U.P.), Sisupalgarh (Orissa), Purana Qila (Delhi), Kalibangan (Rajasthan). From 1975-76 onwards, Prof. Lal investigated sites like Ayodhya, Bharadvaja Ashrama, Sringaverapura, Nandigrama and Chitrakoota under the Archaeology of Ramayana Sites. Prof. Lal has authored 20 books and over 150 research articles on various national and international journals.

Dr. Bisht had his basic education in Sanskrit and obtained degrees Visharad (1958) and Sahityaratna (1960), and later graduated in Ancient Indian History and Archaeology. Dr. Bisht is famous for his excavation at the Harappan site of Dholavira, one among the five largest Harappan sites in the Indian sub-continent. Dr. Bisht also excavated Harappan sites like Sanghol (Punjab), Banawali (Haryana) and other sites like Semthan (J&K), Chechar and Nalanda (Bihar).

### **‘GO TRIBAL CAMPAIGN’ OF TRIBES INDIA**

The campaign has been launched to widely promote the use of tribal products. to economically strengthen the tribals of our country as they are capable of producing many creative products including handicrafts. The tribal products are very pure and trustworthy and one can trust their quality and standard there is a initiative of Tribes India to promote tribal products globally through Amazon Global Selling and hoped that it will prove to be a milestone. the joint collaboration between TRIFED and Amazon, the tribal products will be available in about 190 countries and will help in establishing export market of tribal products worldwide. TRIFED is an organization under Ministry of Tribal Affairs and is engaged in marketing development of tribal products including tribal art and craft under the brand name “TRIBES INDIA”.

### **JAPANESE ENCEPHALITIS (JE) SITUATION IN ASSAM**

Central Team to Review Japanese Encephalitis (JE) situation in Assam. Japanese Encephalitis is vector-borne encephalitis transmitted by Culex groups of mosquitoes. These mosquitoes breed mainly in rice fields and large water bodies rich in aquatic vegetations. Migratory birds along with pigs in the community play an important role in the transmission of JE from one area to other areas.

### **DISASTER MANAGEMENT**

The Disaster Management Act lays down a three-tiered structure – at the national, state and district levels – as far as the disaster management authorities are concerned. But for disaster response, it provides only for the NDRF. However, seeing the need of NDRF like capacities at the state level, NDMA began to advocate setting up State Disaster Response Forces. Today 21 States have SDRF and some are in the process of setting up. The value of SDRF has already been proven in recent disasters such as in Cyclone FANI in Odisha. However, the task of professionalization of SDRF is yet to be accomplished in most of the states. Although each state should develop the SDRF according to its own requirements and available resources, there has to be some degree of standardisation in terms of minimum capacities, skills, tools and equipment in all the SDRFs.

### **CIVIL DEFENCE**

Civil defence as an institution does not exist in all the districts and all the states of India. If we want to actively engage them, then we need to change the role and functions of the Civil Defence and increase their presence to cover all the districts. Civil Defence volunteers can be effectively used for disaster prevention and preparedness by informing, educating and communicating with the communities. They can be used for ushering in a culture of community-based disaster risk reduction. Civil defence volunteers should be the messengers of long-term risk reduction.



## JUNE: QUICK READ COMPILATION



1. Siachen glacier
2. Thoise air field
3. China
4. Air pollution
5. Kerala
6. Nipah virus
7. Ustaad
8. Yet to join
9. 2nd global disability summit
10. BSVI
11. India – Marshall Islands TIEA
12. Ayushman Bharat
13. Train accidents has decreased
14. Forest cover increased
15. S.A.G.A.R
16. USD 200 billion by 2030
17. Steel
18. CBRN threats
19. Geo tagging
20. Aditya L1
21. Corona
22. Venus
23. In 2023
24. Second fastest digitizing economy
25. Vladimir Putin
26. 17<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha
27. Six superstar sectors
28. Unanimous election
29. GDP estimation in India- perspectives and facts
30. June 21
31. Chhau dance
32. 285.01 million tonnes
33. Fund of Funds
34. GST intelligence
35. Input tax credit
36. Pteropus
37. Gokul grams
38. Buy (Indian-IDD), Buy (Indian), buy and make (Indian)
39. Financial stability reports
40. CPC 2.0 project
41. Fastag
42. Van Dhan Vikas Karyakram
43. 4% of water
44. APY
45. Elephant bonds
46. 22 new AIIMS
47. Rohini-commission
48. Karnataka
49. Egg
50. Pashupalak calendar
51. Logistics Performance Index
52. Ventures Capital Fund
53. Angel fund
54. IFLADP scheme
55. Women officers
56. Polavaram project
57. BPR&D
58. Vietnam delegation
59. Central Vigilance Commission
60. Yamuna water taxi project
61. Shri B.P. Sharma
62. Creamy layer
63. Disinvestment of Air India
64. Working group for the revision
65. Electoral bonds
66. New education policy
67. Khadi in 5
68. Dispute Resolution Committee
69. Bonny Island, Nigeria
70. TPP
71. Tribes India
72. Domestic Violence Act
73. Khelo India
74. Birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda
75. National list of essential medicines
76. NIMZ
77. Resilient Kerala Program
78. One Stop Centre (OSC) scheme
79. India newborn action plan
80. Universal Immunization Programme
81. 122<sup>nd</sup> in the world
82. SDRF/ NDRF
83. Recirculatory Aquaculture System (RAS)
84. 104 satellites into the orbit
85. 36<sup>th</sup> rank
86. Akshara
87. P8i
88. 1<sup>st</sup> July, 2017
89. National Film Heritage Mission

- **Siachen Glacier**-the world's highest battle field-nearest air field is **Thoise air field**
- World Environment Day 2019 will be hosted by **China** with a theme of "**Air Pollution**".
- **Kerala**- Confirmation of a suspect case of **Nipah Virus** Disease by National Institute of Virology (NIV) Pune
- Employment oriented skill development schemes "Seekho aur Kamao", "Nai Manzil", "Garib Nawaz Skill Development", "**Ustaad**"
- Three States and one Union Territory (UT) are **yet to join** the Government of India in implementing AB-PMJAY. Delhi, Odisha, Telangana, and West Bengal
- '**2nd Global Disability Summit**' at buenos aires
- By 2020 India will leapfrog to **BSVI** from the current BSIV fuel standards
- The Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands for the Exchange of Information with respect to taxes (**India – Marshall Islands TIEA**) was signed
- **Ayushman Bharat**: several groups may have been left out of the scheme since the current target group is based on SECC 2011
- Indian Railways have taken several key measures, as a result of which the number of consequential **train accidents has decreased** from 118 in 2013-14 to 104 in 2016-17, to 73 in 2017-18 and further to 59 in 2018-19.
- India's **forest cover increased** by 1% in the last 5 years
- All decisions in 34 meetings of GST Council were taken unanimously without voting- Vice President of India [PIB Release ID: 1573718]
- **S.A.G.A.R** acronym stands for Security and Growth for All in the Region, which is a blueprint for us for cooperation in the Indo-Pacific
- Kothari Commission's report of 1964-68 which laid down the country's education policy - Vice President
- India's literacy rate is at 74.04%. The youth literacy rate, measured within the age group of 15 to 24, is 81.1%.
- Efforts to ensure that engineering goods exports from India double in the next 5 years and reach **USD 200 billion by 2030**.
- Although India is the second largest manufacturers of steel but India is also a net importer of **steel**
- Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi tincludes three sub components: Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi, Health Minister's Cancer Patient Fund and scheme for financial assistance for poor patients suffering from specified rare diseases.
- **CBRN threats**: Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear
- Japan to invest Rs 13,000 cr in Northeast
- 100 per cent **Geo tagging** and digitalisation of Waqf properties across the country to ensure these properties can be utilised for welfare of the society

- The solar mission **Aditya L1**, scheduled for launch in 2020. This would aim to study Sun's **Corona** and its impact on climatic changes.
- A mission to **Venus** has been planned for a tentative launch **in 2023**, with the objective to study the atmosphere and surface topography of Venus.
- A recent study conducted by McKinsey Global Institute, reports that India was the **second fastest digitizing economy** after Indonesia.
- President **Vladimir Putin** is heading the SCO next year
- States such as Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Telangana, Gujarat and Karnataka have adopted good practices in water conservation and rainwater harvesting.
- Increase in number of women Parliamentarians in the **17th Lok Sabha**
- 30% of country's total geographical area being affected by land degradation
- Food processing is one of the **six superstar sectors** under the Government of India's Make in India initiative
- Newly-elected Speaker of the Lok Sabha, Shri Om Birla - **unanimous election**
- Commerce and Industry Minister again reiterated that India will not allow multi-brand retail by foreign companies and on the pretext of B2B no entry will be allowed for multi-brand retail.
- The Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister released detailed note titled '**GDP estimation in India- Perspectives and Facts**'. The note can be accessed at <http://eacpm.gov.in/reports-papers/eac-reports-papers/>.
- Swami Rajarshi Muni of Life Mission, Gujarat, Ms. Antonietta Rozzi of Italy, Bihar School of Yoga, Munger and Japan Yoga Niketan, Japan are the recipients of the Prime Minister's Award for outstanding contribution for promotion and development of Yoga for the year 2019
- It was on December 11th 2014, the U.N. General Assembly approved by consensus a resolution establishing **June 21** as 'International Day of Yoga'. The resolution received backing from 177 countries.
- The '**Chhau dance**' of Jharkhand depicts different Asanas and Postures
- The total foodgrain production in the country increased from 251.54 [2015-16] to **285.01 million tonnes**
- Government of India has decided to revive Barauni unit of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited (HFCL) and Gorakhpur, Sindri, Talcher & Ramagundam units of Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited (FCIL)
- India's overall exports (merchandise and services) increased from 466.23 [2013-14] to 498.63 USD Billion [2017-18]
- Government of India has established **Fund of Funds** for Startups (FFS), to meet the funding needs of startups.
- Food Corporation of India handled (offtake) a quantity of 473.31 Lakh tonnes of foodgrains during the year 2016-17 excluding Decentralized Procurement (DCP) stocks. During such handling of huge quantity of stocks, a very minimal quantity of 0.09 Lakh tonnes (0.02%) got damaged due to rain, flood, cyclone, transit, negligence etc

- High Level Committee (HLC) on restructuring of Food Corporation of India (FCI) conducted a comprehensive review of the existing system of procurement, marketing, storage, preservation and distribution of foodgrains.
- The Directorate General of **GST Intelligence** Hqrs. arrests one person in connection with the taking by two firms Input Tax Credit (ITC) fraudulently to the tune of more than Rs.16 Crore.
- **Input tax credit** is an option in the GST which allows the taxpayers to claim credit for the taxes paid on purchase.
- **Pteropus** or fruit bats, which are the main reservoir of Nipah virus disease
- Funds have been sanctioned under Rashtriya Gokul Mission for setting up of 21 **Gokul Grams** as Integrated Cattle Development Centres
- To promote water conservation across the country ahead of the monsoon season, the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, recently wrote letters to all Sarpanches, urging them to undertake Rainwater Harvesting and Water Conservation activities in rural India.
- A call center has been set up by the Mumbai office of the Director General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) to address doubts/queries/questions of exporters and importers.
- 'Make in India' programme is being used by the Government for defence procurements by categorising the capital acquisition proposals under '**Buy (Indian-IDDm)**', '**Buy (Indian)**', '**Buy and Make (Indian)**', 'Make' and 'Strategic Partnership Model' categories of Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP)-2016.
- Data on NPAs is regularly published by RBI as part of its **Financial Stability Reports**. NPA data is not collated by RBI in terms of corporate houses / companies.
- The Government has approved Integrated E-filing & Centralized Processing Centre (CPC) **2.0 Project** of the Income Tax Department
- World Bank approves \$147 Million Loan to the Government of Jharkhand for the implementation of Jharkhand Municipal Development Project
- The Government proposes to integrate a **FASTag** Bank Mechanism with e-way bill and Logistic Data Services to track movement of goods and check GST evasion.
- 'On tap' licensing will enable entities to approach the RBI for obtaining licences for small finance banks on meeting laid-down criteria  
[<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/money-and-banking/rbi-to-issue-on-tap-licence-guidelines-on-small-finance-banks-in-august-2019/article27546737.ece>]
- **Van Dhan Vikas Karyakram** is a training and development of value chain components of the scheme of Mechanism for Marketing of Minor Forest Produce (MFP) through Minimum Support Price (MSP) and Development of Value Chain for MFP.
- 17% of the world's population which lives in India with just **4% of water** in the world available with us is the next big challenge facing the country.
- The BIS Act 2016 provides for action when the standard mark is used in relation to an article or process that does not conform to the relevant Indian Standard.

- Government has approved creation of dynamic buffer stock of pulses of upto 20 lakh MT.
- Government has signed a MoU with Mozambique for assured supply of Tur and other pulses.
- National Archives of India has successfully digitized total 303 declassified files of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose
- Atal Pension Yojana(**APY**) is open to all citizens of India between 18-40 years of age. Accordingly, Mudra beneficiaries, Self Help Group (SHG) members and Anganwadi workers who are citizen of India and fall between 18-40 years of age are eligible to join APY.
- Andhra Pradesh was given additional funds during the last three years in terms of Andhra Pradesh Re-organization Act apart from devolution and the Central share of Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSSs).
- Suggesting amnesty-like scheme, the panel asked the government to create "**Elephant Bonds**" (25-year sovereign bonds) in which people declaring undisclosed income will be bound to invest 50 per cent. The fund will be utilised only for infrastructure projects
- The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme namely "Up-gradation of existing State Government / Central Government Medical colleges to increase PG seats"
- The Union Government has approved / announced **22 new AIIMS** in the country.
- National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) compiles and publishes information on crime in its publication "Crime in India". Published reports are available till the year 2016.
- The four-member Commission headed by Justice (Retd.) G. **Rohini-Commission** for Sub-Categorisation of OBCs
- Number of Foreign Tourist Arrivals for medical purpose has shown an increase over last 3 years
- **Karnataka** is first State in the country to have enacted FRBM Act.
- The **milk** production in the country has increased, the **Egg** production has increased, the **poultry** meat production has also increased
- "**Pashupalak Calendar**" which is a month wise animal husbandry advisory for the farmers
- India's rank in World Bank's **Logistics Performance Index** moved up from 54 in 2014 to 44 in 2018.
- Trade deficit during 2018-19 has increased primarily due to higher imports of petroleum crude and products, electronic goods and machinery items and less export of gems and jewellery, textiles items and marine products.
- India's share in global trade (merchandise and services) was 2.1% (481.74 USD billion out of total 23,044 USD billion) for exports and 2.6% (600.62 USD billion out of total 23,112 USD billion) for imports in 2017.
- Startups receiving investments from **Ventures Capital Fund** are exempt from taxation as per provision of Section 56, (2) (vii b) of Income Tax Act 1961 (Act). **Angel Fund** is



sub category of Ventures Capital Fund under Category-I Alternative Investment Fund (AIF), hence, eligible for the same exemption.

- Leather sector has been identified as one of the focus sectors under Make in India programme of the Government of India. The implementation of **IFLADP scheme** would lead to development of infrastructure for the leather sector, enhance production, address environment concerns specific to the leather sector, facilitate additional investments and generate employment.
- Percentage of **women officers**: Army-3.89%, Navy-6.7%, Air Force-13.28%
- **Polavaram project** is very important to the people of Andhra Pradesh as it will irrigate nearly 3 lakh ha of land, generate hydel power with installed capacity of 960 MW and provide drinking water facilities to 540 enroute villages covering 25 lakh populations
- As per data on Police Organisation compiled by Bureau of Police Research & Development (**BPR&D**) out of the actual strength of 19,41,473 of police personnel in States/UTs as on 01.01.2018, the strength of women police personnel is 1,69,550.
- 8-member **Vietnam delegation** to India, discussed the administrative reforms policies being pursued in India.
- In all, 43,946 complaints were received by the **Central Vigilance Commission (CVC)** during the calendar years 2018 and 2019. Of these, 41,755 complaints were disposed of.
- Centre for Inland and Coastal Maritime Technology at IIT Kharagpur
- The proposed **Yamuna Water Taxi Project** will be a new means of urban transportation
- An Expert Committee has been constituted by the Government of India under the Chairmanship of **Shri B.P. Sharma** to examine the issues related to **Creamy layer** equivalence among the Socially and Educationally Backward Classes
- In a meeting on 28th June 2017, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs had in-principle approved the consideration for strategic **disinvestment of Air India** & its five subsidiaries. An Air India Specific Alternative Mechanism (AISAM) was constituted by CCEA for this.
- Government has constituted the **Working Group for the revision of** current series of Wholesale Price Index WPI (Base 2011-12) under Chairmanship of Dr. Ramesh Chand, Member, NitiAayog.
- Minister reviewed draft National Logistics Policy
- Sale of **Electoral Bonds** at Authorised Branches of State Bank of India
- India signs a Loan Agreement with the World Bank to help Treat and Eliminate Tuberculosis from India; The World Bank supported Program will cover Nine State in the country to achieve the target of eliminating TB by 2025
- India signs a Loan Agreement with the World Bank to develop 766 kms of Rajasthan's Roads and Highways as part of Rajasthan State Highways Development Project
- India signs a Loan Agreement with the World Bank for Improved Health Services in Andhra Pradesh

- Deadline to submit suggestions on draft of **New Education Policy** is extended till 31st, July 2019
- Khadi and Village Industries Commission has already obtained registration under Trade Mark “**KHADI**” in 5 countries of the world viz. Germany, UK, Australia, Russia and China.
- In a major decision to facilitate the solar and wind energy projects, Union Minister of State for Power and New & Renewable Energy (IC has approved the formation of a three member **Dispute Resolution Committee** to consider the unforeseen disputes between solar/wind power developers and SECI/NTPC, beyond contractual agreement.
- Five Indian seafarers from the vessel ‘MT Apecus’ were kidnapped and taken ashore from the vessel in the outer anchorage off **Bonny Island, Nigeria** and later the kidnapped Indian seafarers were successfully released
- Twenty Point Programme (**TPP**) was last restructured in 2006
- The SDGs comprise 17 goals, 169 targets and around 232 global indicators. Government has prepared the National Indicator Framework for monitoring SDGs in consultation with Central Ministries and Departments. NITI Aayog is responsible for implementation of SDGs and mapping of the Central Sector Schemes to the SDGs.
- “**Tribes India**” through Amazon Global Selling, under which Tribes India and Amazon Global Marketing will launch TRIBES India products globally through Amazon.com.
- State Governments and UT Administrations are responsible for implementation of The Protection of Women from **Domestic Violence Act** (PWDVA), 2005. The Central Government issues advisories and provides financial assistance and other support of spreading awareness about this law.
- Under **Khelo India** Scheme emphasis is laid on early scouting of talent and its nurturing, quality coaching and bridging critical gaps in sports infrastructure.
- The Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports organizes the National Youth Festival every year on the **birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda**. In the year 2019, the National Youth Festival was merged with National Youth Parliament Festival.
- Summit of 'Russia-India-China' (RIC) leaders held on the margins of G-20 Summit 2019
- The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) fixes the ceiling prices of the formulations as and when formulations are included in the **National List of Essential Medicines** (NLEM).
- District Agriculture Contingency Plans for 648 districts have been prepared by Central Research Institute for Dry land Agriculture (CRIDA) to mitigate the situation in drought affected areas.
- National Investment and Manufacturing Zone (**NIMZ**) in Kalinganagar, Jajpur district, Odisha.
- The Government of India, the Government of Kerala and the World Bank signed here today a Loan Agreement of USD 250 million for the First **Resilient Kerala Program** to

enhance the State's resilience against the impacts of natural disasters and climate change.

- India is the world leader in production of milk, banana, mangoes, spices, shrimp, pulses; and second cereals, vegetables and tea.
- Centre's 100-day Action Plan on disaster preparedness.
- As per Vision Document 2020, Government has planned to connect all State Capitals of North Eastern States by 2020 except Sikkim in which case, new line work has been sanctioned up to Rangpo in first phase
- All unmanned level crossings (UMLCs) on Broad Gauge (BG) have been eliminated on 31st Jan 2019.
- Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) 2016-20 is a flagship scheme of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship being implemented with an objective to provide skilling to one crore prospective youth under Short Term Training (STT) courses and Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) across the country for four years i.e. 2016-2020
- Houses Sanctioned Under PMAY(U) now Stands at 83.62 Lakhs; Uttar Pradesh tops list for Sanctioned Houses at 13 Lakhs
- The Government of India is implementing **One Stop Centre (OSC) scheme** for setting up One Stop Centre since 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015 to support women affected by violence.
- As per the last two rounds of National Family Health Survey (NFHS-3 in 2005-06 and NFHS-4 in 2015-16) conducted by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, the prevalence of malnutrition among women and children in the country has reduced.
- **India Newborn Action Plan** (INAP) was launched in 2014 to make concerted efforts towards attainment of the goals of “Single Digit Neonatal Mortality Rate” and “Single Digit Still birth Rate,” by 2030.
- **Universal Immunization Programme** (UIP) is supported to provide vaccination to children against life threatening diseases such as Tuberculosis, Diphtheria, Pertussis, Polio, Tetanus, Hepatitis B, Measles, Rubella, Pneumonia and Meningitis caused by HaemophilusInfluenzae B.
- Union Minister asserted that flow of raw sewage into the river Ganga will be completely stopped by 2022
- India's rank is **122<sup>nd</sup> in the World** in terms of water contamination.
- Although the Yamuna river flows only for 54 kilometres from Palla to Badarpur through Delhi, the 22-km stretch from Wazirabad to Okhla, which is less than 2 per cent of the river length of 1370 kilometres from Yamunotri to Prayagraj, accounts for about 76 per cent of the pollution level in the river"
- Financial assistance under **SDRF/ NDRF** in the wake of natural disasters is by way of relief and not for compensation of loss suffered/ claimed.
- **Recirculatory Aquaculture System (RAS)** is a technology adopted for aquaculture wherein water is recycled and reused after filtration and removal of suspended matter

and metabolites. The method is used for high-density culture of various species of fish utilizing minimum land area.

- The 39th Mission of PSLV, Indian space and research organization (ISRO) has created history by successfully launching **104 satellites into the orbit** on a single mission.
- India has moved from 44th rank to **36th rank** in the International Intellectual property Index
- Delegation of Indian Tobacco Exporters Visits China
- Government all set to implement "One nation-one ration card" scheme throughout India by 30th June, 2020
- The Orissa cyclone in 1999 in which more than 10,000 people had died in comparison to the recent cyclone “Foni” that claimed 64 lives, which reflected the huge capabilities built in Disaster Response mechanisms.
- **Akshara**, the library in Kerala's forests that PM mentioned in ‘Mann Ki Baat’
- only 8% of the water received from rains in the entire year is harvested in our country
- Long Range Maritime Reconnaissance aircraft **P8I**
- GST was launched on the **1<sup>st</sup> July, 2017**
- The **National Film Heritage Mission** is an important initiative of the I&B Ministry to preserve and conserve country’s cinematic heritage.

## VISIT THE SITES

### On the occasion of International Day of Yoga, PM leads Mass Yoga Demonstration at Ranchi

21 Jun, 2019



[https://www.pmindia.gov.in/en/news\\_updates/on-the-occasion-of-international-day-of-yoga-pm-leads-mass-yoga-demonstration-at-ranchi/](https://www.pmindia.gov.in/en/news_updates/on-the-occasion-of-international-day-of-yoga-pm-leads-mass-yoga-demonstration-at-ranchi/)

1. Strategy for New India @ 75:  
[https://niti.gov.in/writereaddata/files/Strategy\\_for\\_New\\_India.pdf](https://niti.gov.in/writereaddata/files/Strategy_for_New_India.pdf)
2. High Speed Diesel (HSD): <https://www.mrpl.co.in/product-hsd>
3. Government's proactive measures on detection and reporting of bank frauds:  
<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1573465>
4. Nipah virus infection: <https://www.who.int/csr/disease/nipah/en/>
5. 'Swachh Survekshan-2016,17,18,19':  
<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1573392>
6. 15th Finance Commission hold meeting with representatives of Autonomous Development Councils (ADCs) of Meghalaya  
<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1573354>
7. 15th Finance Commission holds meeting with Government of Meghalaya:  
<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1573345>
8. National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (UG) – 2019  
<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1573491>
9. Cabinet Committees (members):  
<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1573622>
10. NITI Aayog reconstituted:  
<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1573613>
11. G20 Ministerial Meetings in Japan: <https://www.japan.go.jp/g20japan/>
12. Society 5.0: [https://www8.cao.go.jp/cstp/english/society5\\_0/index.html](https://www8.cao.go.jp/cstp/english/society5_0/index.html)
13. FSSAI's video Library: <https://fssai.gov.in/fssaivideolibrary/about>
14. Government bond auctions: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/markets/bonds/et-in-the-classroom-government-bond-auctions/printarticle/5861953.cms>
15. Estimation of India's GDP growth: <http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1573962>  
<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1574000>

16. NDIAC – the future International Hub of Arbitration:  
<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1574071>
17. Governing Council Meeting of NITI/ Governing Council of NITI Aayog:  
<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1574443/>  
<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1574715>
18. India's Fight Against Corruption :  
<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1574649>
19. Ganga Praharis: <https://nmcg.nic.in/wii/prgbggp.aspx>
20. World Archery Championships: <http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1574947>
21. Address by the President of India to the Members of both the Houses of Parliament assembled together:  
<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1575025>
22. Finance Commission to visit Karnataka:  
<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1575031>
23. Schemes for Textile Sector : <http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1575203>  
<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1575202>
24. Centralized Processing Centre (CPC) 2.0 Project of the Income Tax:  
<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1575482>
25. Education Loans: <http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1575481>
26. List of Small Finance Banks, Payments Banks and New Private Sector Banks:  
<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1575429>
27. Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises MSME:  
<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1575380>  
<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1575379>
28. Defence Production: <http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1575777>
29. Piped Gas coverage: <http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1575761>
30. Terms of Reference of the Working Group for Revision of WPI:  
<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1576026>
31. Monitoring system to ensure quality food under Mid-Day-Meal Scheme:  
<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1576062>
32. Healthcare Schemes: <http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1576128>  
<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1576187>
33. 'Education Quality Upgradation and Inclusion Programme (EQUIP)':  
<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1576294>
34. Environment Friendly Technologies in Railways :  
<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1576171>
35. Effective water management: integrating innovation and technology:  
[https://www.ey.com/Publication/vwLUAssets/EY-ASSOCHAM-report-june-2019/\\$File/EY-ASSOCHAM-report-june-2019.pdf](https://www.ey.com/Publication/vwLUAssets/EY-ASSOCHAM-report-june-2019/$File/EY-ASSOCHAM-report-june-2019.pdf)



## TARGET 2020 UPSC CSE – QUESTIONS:PRELIMS/OBJECTIVE



1. Minister of Railways and Minister of Commerce and Industry are
  - A. Full-Time **Members of** National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog
  - B. Ex-officio Members of National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog
  - C. Special Invitees of National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog
  - D. None of the above
  
2. Which is correct about **G20**?
  1. Ever since G20 was formed India has been actively participating
  2. G20 sets the agenda for multilateral trade relations
  3. There are binding commitments in G20

A. 1, 2	C. 1, 3
B. 2, 3	D. 1, 2, 3
  
3. Which is correct about **G-24**?
  - A. The G-24 was established by the Group of 77 (G-77) as one of its Chapters
  - B. One of the objectives of G24 is to keep under review the course of the environmental situation
  - C. Both A & B
  - D. None
  
4. Records of Government Securities (G-secs) are maintained in the subsidiary general ledger — a demat account maintained by
  - A. NSDL or CDSL
  - B. RBI
  - C. Both A & B
  - D. None
  
5. **Had CM3 model** is in news. This is related to
  - A. The possibility of life on Mars
  - B. Human Embryo
  - C. Future information systems projection
  - D. Future Climate projection
  
6. The World Bank has released the Doing Business Report (DBR), 2019. In which indicator rank of India is seven?
  - A. Enforcing Contracts
  - B. Protecting Minority Investors
  - C. Registering Property
  - D. Starting a Business
  
7. Funds are also being provided under 'Special Infrastructure Scheme (SIS)' for strengthening the Special Forces of the States and State Intelligence Branches (SIBs) to LWE affected states. Which of the following states are beneficiaries?

1. Uttar Pradesh	4. Andhra Pradesh
2. Kerala	5. Jharkhand
3. Madhya Pradesh	

A. 1234	C. 1345
B. 2345	D. 12345

8. Funds from the corpus of Bharat Ke Veer Fund is applicable to

1. Assam Rifles (AR)
  2. Border Security Force (BSF)
  3. Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)
  4. Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB)
- A. 134  
B. 2  
C. 1234  
D. None of the above

9. Arrange from South to North

1. Araku Valley Railway
2. Kangra Valley Railway
3. Matheran Hill Railway
4. Nilgiri Mountain Railway

- A. 4312  
B. 4132  
C. 4321  
D. 4123

10.

A: Over the last three years, steel imports from China have come down

R: There are Antidumping and Countervailing measures on Chinese steel imports

- A. Both (A) and (R) are true and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).  
B. Both (A) and (R) are true, but (R) is not the correct explanation of (A).  
C. (A) is true, but (R) is false.  
D. (R) is true, but (A) is false

11. Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) has been constituted under

- A. The Biological Diversity Act, 2002  
B. The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986  
C. The River Boards Act, 1956  
D. The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974

12. Which set of states leading in the number of recognized startups

- A. Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Orissa  
B. Maharashtra, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu  
C. Maharashtra, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Telangana  
D. Uttar Pradesh, Telangana, Haryana, Tamil Nadu

13. Consider the following statement about prices of milk in the country – Which is Correct?

- A. Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying regulate the prices of milk in the country  
B. Prices are decided by the Cooperative and Private dairies based on cost of production  
C. Both A & B  
D. None of the above



Answers & Expalnation:

Q. No.	ANS	Q. No.	ANS	Q. No.	ANS	Q. No.	ANS	Q. No.	ANS	Q. No.	ANS	Q. No.	ANS
1	C	2	A	3	A	4	B	5	D	6	B	7	D
8	C	9	B	10	A	11	B	12	C	13	B		

2. There are no binding commitments in G20

3. One of the objectives of G24 is to keep under review the course of the international monetary situation

6. <http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1575110>

12. <http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1576140>

13. B- <http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1576166>



**TARGET 2019 UPSC CSE Mains - Practice Question & Answers – 2019**  
**[200 to 250 words]**



1. Explain Dos and Don'ts during Heat waves
2. Enumerate the measures by government on detection and reporting of bank frauds  
<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=190273>  
<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1575490>  
<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1575480>  
<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1575428>
3. Industry, academia symbiotic relationship necessary for innovation to thrive –Substantiate
4. Indian-Maldives bilateral cooperation is touching every aspect of normal life in Maldives - Substantiate  
[<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1573736>]
5. Describe the ways to Synergise Export Promotion and Internal Trade?  
<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=190305>
6. In G20 meeting, what concerns expressed by India?  
<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1573765>  
<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1573776>
7. Discuss the issues pertaining to renewable energy sector  
<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1573837>
8. Discuss the recent Statistical reforms  
<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1573808>
9. List the Implications of Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Bill, 2019  
<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1574075>
10. Challenges India's IAS officers face in the 21st century are no different from those of the 20th century – Do you agree?
11. Enumerate the obligations discussed in The All India Services (Conduct) Rules, 1968
12. Examine the role of women in trade unions in India.
13. Explain the power of Big Data for Public Governance.
14. What makes Indian democracy so special?  
<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1575003>  
<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=1574758>
15. Examine the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995  
<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1574830>
16. Democracy is in danger through “dysfunctional legislatures” – Do you agree?  
<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1575129>
17. Discuss the dissolution of Lok Sabha and lapsing of Bills in Rajya Sabha

<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1575129>

18. Discuss the Pendency of Bills in Rajya Sabha  
<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1575129>
19. Yoga is becoming a people's movement – Substantiate  
<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1575103>
20. Explain the insurance cover for risk-prone crops in India  
<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1575252>
21. Enumerate the major technology interventions in Agriculture in India?  
<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1575246>  
<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1576231>
22. Enumerate the measures for promotion of exports from India  
<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1575193>
23. Examine the U.S. decision to end preferential terms for India  
<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1575195>
24. Discuss the financial assistance to Startups in India  
<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1575112>  
<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1575194>
26. Discuss about agriculture credit in India  
<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1575484>
27. Enumerate the initiatives for improving Teaching Standards in the country  
<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1575471>
28. Suggest the features that could be the part of National Policy on Domestic Workers  
<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1575453>
29. Government is following a holistic and multi-pronged strategy for elimination of child labour-Substantiate  
<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1575448>
30. What policy initiatives taken by the Government to increase domestic production of oil and gas  
<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1575400>
31. What measures to combat food adulteration in the country?  
<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1575589>
32. Enumerate the major achievements of NEC  
<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1575585>
33. What measures by the Government of India to support Economically Weaker Section?  
<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1575649>  
<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1575648>
34. Critically analyse the steps to strengthen the Public Sector Banks (PSBs)

<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1575650>

35. Discuss the Interest subvention scheme for farmers

<http://vikaspedia.in/agriculture/agri-credit/interest-subvention-scheme-for-farmers>

<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1575647>

36. What measures to combat Economic Offenders?

<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1575642>

37. What are the steps have been taken to control terrorist activities?

<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1575578>

<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1575752>

38. Enumerate the initiatives for safety of women and girls

<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1575574>

<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1575214>

<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1575754>

<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1576186>

39. Identify the ways of advancing beekeeping in India

<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1575739>

40. India needs a holistic approach to fight drought & floods – Substantiae

<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1575744>

41. Describe the functions of New Space India Limited

<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1576000>

42. What steps by the government for the development of North Eastern Region?

<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1576069>

43. Discuss the present role of the New Development Bank and its future plans

<http://www.pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1576270>

44. Enumerate the recommendations of the PM at the BRICS Leaders Informal Meeting on the margins of G20 Summit

<http://www.pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1576133>

45. Discuss the impact of Minimum Support Prices on farmers

<http://www.pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1576242>

46. Discuss the Trade Margin Rationalisation Approach in the health sector?

[www.businessworld.in/article/Trade-Margin-Rationalisation-Needs-A-Rational-Approach/02-07-2018-153598/](http://www.businessworld.in/article/Trade-Margin-Rationalisation-Needs-A-Rational-Approach/02-07-2018-153598/)

<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1576130>

<https://www.financialexpress.com/opinion/pharma-pricing-trade-margin-rationalisation-a-game-changer/1225931/>

47. Enumerate the salient features of Startup India action plan

<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1576140>

48. Enumerate the goals for higher education sector

<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1576294>

49. India is a country built on the foundations of a civilization that is fundamentally tolerant - Do you agree?

50. What measures to improve the health and nutritional status to improve the health of mother and children of the country?

<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1575595>

## LEARN THE MEANING

1. Writers should also point to the foibles of the society
2. ECI organises debriefing Conference of State Chief Electoral Officers
3. ‘Siachen Warriors’ to prevail with aplomb in extreme harsh weather
4. Vedas are veritable treasure house of knowledge
5. “It is a betrayal of the people’s faith in these pillars of democracy,” he bemoaned.
6. Cases of violation of anti-defection laws require to be dealt with speed and alacrity to uphold the best democratic traditions.
7. One Year Moratorium for repayment after completion of studies in all cases
8. He is a consigliere to people with dreams
9. Providing piped safe drinking water to every household by 2024 is a stupendous task
10. It used to be a chat in a genial atmosphere