

Samyak

An Institute For Civil Services

IAS PRE -2019

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Quick Digest

Last Weak Revision Booklet for IAS PRE. 2019

CURRENT ISSUES

(May 2018-April 2019)

Subject Wise Division.

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Subject Wise Issues for IAS PRE - 2019

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Economic development

1. RBI and MPC: Recent monetary policy report
 - (a) April 2019 (a) liquidity adjustment facility (LAF) is now 6.0 per cent,
 - (b) reverse repo rate under the LAF 5.75 per cent
 - (c) RBI will maintain the neutral monetary policy stance.
 - (d) global economic activity has been losing pace. (e) GDP growth for 2019-20 is projected at 7.2 per cent
2. **National Mineral Policy 2019**
 - Encouraging the private sector to take up exploration.
 - Encouragement of merger and acquisition of mining entities and transfer of mining leases and creation of dedicated mineral corridors to boost private sector mining areas.
 - Proposes to grant status of industry to mining activity to boost financing of mining for private sector and for acquisitions of mineral assets in other countries by private sector.
 - It also mentions that Long-term import-export policy for mineral will help private sector in better planning and stability in business.
 - It mentions to make efforts to harmonize taxes, levies & royalty with world benchmarks to help private sector.

In so far as the regulation in Minerals is concerned, E-Governance, IT enabled systems, awareness and Information campaigns have been incorporated.
3. **Software product policy**
 - It aims to help the industry grow at CAGR of 40% to reach \$70-80 billion by 2025, while creating employment opportunities for 3.5 million people.
 - Initially an outlay of ₹ 1,500 crore is being planned for various schemes under in policy in the next seven years.
 - Further, the policy proposes to create a ₹ 5,000 crore fund with industry participation to promote emerging technology such as Internet of Things, Artificial Intelligence, Blockchain, Big Data and robotics. Of this, government contribution will be ₹ 1000 crore.
4. **Sirsi Supari**
 - For the first time in the arecanut sector, 'Sirsi Supari' grown in Uttara Kannada has received the GI tag.
 - It is cultivated in Yellapura, Siddapura and Sirsi taluks of Karnataka.
 - Its GI number is 464.
 - The arecanut grown in these taluks have unique features like a round and flattened coin shape, texture, size, cross-sectional views, taste, etc.
 - These features are not seen in arecanut grown in any other regions.
 - Darjeeling tea became the first product to get this tag in 2005.
5. **Geographical Indication (GI) tag.**

5 varieties of Indian coffee which got GI tag

 1. **Coorg Arabica coffee** is grown specifically in the region of Kodagu district in Karnataka.

2. Wayanad Robusta coffee is grown specifically in the region of Wayanad district which is situated on the eastern portion of Kerala.
3. **Chikmagalur Arabica coffee** is grown specifically in the region of Chikmagalur district and it is situated in the Deccan plateau, belongs to the Malnad region of Karnataka
4. Araku Valley Arabica coffee can be described as coffee from the hilly tracks of Visakhapatnam district of Andhra Pradesh and Odisha region at an elevation of 900-1100 Mt MSL.
5. Bababudangiris Arabica coffee is grown specifically in the birthplace of coffee in India and the region is situated in the central portion of Chikmagalur district.

6. Ind. AS

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has deferred the implementation of new accounting rules, Indian Accounting Standards (Ind AS) for banks till further notice.

7. 'SuchitwaSagaram'

- The Department of Fisheries under the Union Agriculture Ministry has advised coastal States and Union Territories to consider adopting conservation measures already introduced by Kerala.
- One important component/measure under the Kerala model is - 'SuchitwaSagaram'(Clean Sea) initiative - to keep the marine environment clean and litter-free.

8. 3 Key Global Indices and India's performance

(a) Ease of Doing Business' (EDB)

- EDB is an indicator put out by the World Bank
- It is meant mainly as an index of the effect of government regulations on running a business.
- India's improvement is considerable. From a rank of 134 in 2014, India's rank improved to 77 in 2018.
- India is in the top 50% among 190 countries.

(b) HDI

- The social and economic dimensions of a country are based on the health of people, their level of education attainment and --their standard of living.
- It is published by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP).
- India was ranked 130 in 2014 and has remained in the same place out of 185 countries in 2018.
- India's HDI ranking has not improved despite it being the world's fastest growing major economy in recent years. (This reveals that an economy can grow fast without much progress in human development.)

(c) Environment performance index EPI-

- EPI is a biennial report by Yale and Columbia Universities along with the World Economic Forum.
- The issue categories are air quality, water and sanitation, water resources, agriculture, forests, fisheries, biodiversity and habitat, and climate and energy.
- India is among the bottom 5 countries on the index, at 177th place (2018). This is a drop of 36 points from 141 in 2016.

9. Unemployment rate stood at a 45-year-high: NSSO periodic labor force survey (PLFS)

- The country's unemployment rate stood at a 45-year-high of 6.1 per cent in 2017-18.
- The unemployment rate was at its highest level since 1972-73. The report said that joblessness stood at 7.8 percent in urban areas compared with 5.3 parts in the countryside.

10. CSO revealed: Two crore jobs created in 16 months to December 2018

- According to the payroll data of the Employees State Insurance Corporation (ESIC), nearly two crore jobs were created in 16 months to December 2018.
- The ESIC data is one of the payroll numbers released by the Central Statistics Office (CSO) in its reports based on people joining various social security schemes run by Employees Provident Fund Organization (EPFO) and Pension Fund Regulatory Development Authority (PFRDA).

11. ANGEL Tax reforms:

- Start-ups whose aggregate amount of paid-up share capital and share premium after the proposed issue of share does not exceed ₹ 10 crore are eligible for exemption from the tax.
- Definition of a start-up will be amended to include companies that have been in operation for up to 10 years rather than the previous limit of seven years.
- The 'angel tax' is the tax on share premium paid to acquire new shares in a company that the tax authorities regard as excessive.
- It is a 30% tax that is levied on the funding received by startups from an external investor.

12. Minimum wage:

- According to Expert Committee on Determining the Methodology for Fixation of the National Minimum Wage –
- Minimum wage for workers across the country be set at ₹ 375 per day, or ₹ 9,750 per month.
- It also recommended different national minimum wages for “different geographical regions of the country to suit the local realities and as per socio-economic and labour market contexts.”

13. Recapitalization of Banks

- The Centre has approved a recapitalization package of ₹ 48,239 crore for 12 public sector banks.

Objectives of Bank recapitalization:

- To bring the better-performing banks now in the Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) category out of the restrictive framework.
- To help those banks that had come out of the PCA to stay out of it.
- To equip non-PCA banks to meet regulatory requirements.
- To help the PCA banks to meet their requirements.

RBI's Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) Framework?

- RBI introduces Prompt Corrective Action when the Bank's financial conditions worsen below certain limits.
- The limits are based on three conventional financial indicators – CRAR (capital to risk weighted assets ratio), Net NPA and Return on Assets.

14. PM KISAN :

Pradhan Mantri KisanSamman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) scheme was announced during the interim budget 2019-20.

- The scheme aims to provide an assured income support to the small and marginal farmers.
- Under this programme, vulnerable landholding farmer families, having cultivable land upto 2 hectares, will be provided direct income support at the rate of Rs. 6,000 per year.
- This income support will be transferred directly into the bank accounts of beneficiary farmers, in three equal instalments of Rs. 2,000 each.
- This programme will be funded by Government of India.

15. MILLET Village

- The Project "Millet Village" was started in year 2017-18 in Attapady, Kerala.
- The project is intended for rejuvenating the traditional tribal agriculture.
- The project aims at protecting seeds of traditional varieties of millets and ensures food security and livelihood for tribals.
- Apart from production of Millets, Pulses, Oilseeds, Vegetables and Apiculture, it is proposed to start Procurement, Processing, Packing, Labelling and Marketing of value added finished products of millets. Similar projects will be implemented throughout the State in suitable locations.

16. Terms of reference of 15th finance commission

- (a) Review the **current status** of-finance, deficit,debt levels&fiscal discipline efforts
- (b) Impact of the GST
- (c) fiscal consolidation roadmap
- (d) Examine whether revenue deficit grants (to states) be provided at all
- (e) promoting digital economy& inclusive growth

17. Open data open government campaign-

- (a) Publishing information collected by the government to all
- (b) Promotes transparency, accountability and value creation
- (c) Use, reuse and free distribution of datasets, governments promote businesscreation, innovative and citizen-centric services

18. Global startup ecosystem report 2018

- (a) India ranked 17 among 100 countries
- (b) Bangalore, New Delhi and Mumbai top cities for startups.
- (c) Ecommerce; consumer services (hyperlocal) and fintech were among the top sectors.

19. UN India NITI Aayog investor Consortium for Women entrepreneurs

- (a) consortium to reduce gender disparities in start-up investments
- (b) by the UN India Business Forum and the Women Entrepreneurial Platform of NITI Aayog

20. Urban cooperative banks TO small finance Bank

- (a) They will provide a full suite of products/services, sustain competition, raise capital to UCBS.
- (b) minimum net worth of ₹ 50 crore and a CRAR of 9%
- (c) the same CRR and SLRnorms as scheduled commercial banks (SCBs)

21. Zero budget natural farming

- (a) Farmers use earthworms, cow dung, urine, plants, human excreta and such biological fertilizers for crop protection
- (b) Microbial culture,
- (c) Treatment of seeds, seedlings or any planting material
- (d) Moisture preservation through mulching

22. RBI financial stability report

- (a) FSR is a biannual publication
- (b) exercise for reviewing the health of macroeconomic environment, financial institutions, markets and infrastructure.
- (c) findings- banking sector shows signs of improvement, improvement in the asset quality of the banks, inflation remains contained.

23. Sunil Mehta committee on stressed asset

- It has proposed Project Sashakt 5-pronged route-

1. an SME resolution approach
2. bank-led resolution approach
3. AMC/AIF led resolution approach
4. NCLT/IBC approach
5. asset-trading platform

24. Difference between FRP and MSP

- (a) MSP- a form of market intervention against any market shortfall at the beginning of the sowing season for certain 25 Food and nonfood crops.
- (b) Fair and Remunerative Pricing is used in sugarcane industry to replace the MSP, based on the Rangarajan Committee report of reorganizing the sugarcane industry.
- (c) both are proposed by CACP.

25. Benami transactions and related policies

- (A) The Benami Transactions (Prohibition) Amendment Act, 2016
- (B) The benami (without a name) transaction refers to property purchased by a person in the name of some other person.
- (C) The person on whose name the property has been purchased is called the benamdar and the property so purchased is called the benami property
- (D) AIM- route the unaccounted money into the financial system; seize Benami properties and prosecute / punish those who are involved in these properties.

26. National policy on e-commerce

It bars-

- (A) online retailers from selling products through vendors in which they have an equity interest
- (b) exclusive deals with brands for selling products only on their platforms
- (c) a level playing field for all the vendors selling their products on the platform, and it shall not affect the sale prices of goods in any manner.
- (d) the policy disallows e-commerce players to control the inventory of the vendors.

27. Ease of living index -

- (a) Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)
- (b) Andhra Orissa and MP are the first 3
- (c) encourage all cities to move towards an 'outcome-based' approach to urban planning and management

28. UPI 2.0

- by National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)
- enhanced security features and overdraft facilities.

29. International Labor Organization report on India's wages

- India recorded the highest average real wage growth in South Asia during 2008-17
- the rate for india was 5.5 against a regional median of 3.7.
- Asia and the Pacific have enjoyed the highest real wage growth among all regions over the period 2006-17

30. All India rural financial inclusion survey by NABARD

findings:

- rural India is no longer predominantly agricultural
- 88% of agricultural households diversified their sources of income
- wage labor is the important source of supplementary income to farmers
- 47% of all rural households were "indebted"
- Only 6.9% of the households that had an agricultural loan had crop insurance

31. Public credit registry

- an information repository that collects all loan information of individuals and corporate borrowers
- It helps banks distinguish between a bad and a good borrower
- India's rankings will improve in the World Bank's ease of doing business index
- suggested by Viral Acharya committee

32. Human Development Index

- Index by UNDP
- India is at 130 in 2018 in HDI
- 3 parameters
- gross national income (GNI) per capita
- life expectancy at birth
- Education levels

33. NRI bonds

- By RBI to attract foreign investments
- It will curb sharp slide in the value of the rupee
- safe investment options for RBI due to Govt. backing

34. HLAG to boost trade

- Identifying and pursuing opportunities and for addressing challenges in order to find a way forward in the contemporary global trade scenario
- Dr. Surjit S. Bhalla will be the head of panel.

35. Pm Aasha

AnnadataAaySanraksHan Abhiyan

The three schemes that are part of AASHA are:

- the Price Support Scheme (PSS)
- the Price Deficiency Payment Scheme (PDPS)
- the Pilot of Private Procurement and Stockiest Scheme (PPPS)

36. Reasons behind falling rupee against \$

- Hikes in crude oil prices.
- Tariff war.
- Hovering trade deficit.
- Reduced capital flow to emerging economies
- Political uncertainties like demonetization

37. Measures to control rupee falling

- curb gold, crude oil imports
- attractive investment schemes like NRI bonds
- robust ease of doing business environment

38. Nobel in economics

D Nordhaus – Quantifying the impact of economic growth on the climate change and vice versa. (in a cyclic manner)

Mr. Romer – Importance of technology in achieving economic growth. Eg- Charter city.

39. National nutrition mission: Poshanabhiyaan

- Ministry of Women and Child Development
- Aims to ensure holistic development and adequate nutrition for pregnant women, mothers and children
- targets stunting, under-nutrition, anemia (among young children, women and adolescent girls) and low birth rate.

40. Ease of doing business index 2018

India now ranks 77 among 190 economies (2019)

- it captures the experience of small and mid-sized companies in a country with their regulators, by measuring the time, costs and red tape they deal with
- by World bank

41. Global multidimensional poverty index

- United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative
- India still had 364 million poor in 2015-16, the largest for any other country, although it is down from 635 million in 2005-06
- the 4 poorest states Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, and Madhya Pradesh

42. Dalwai committee: Doubling farmers income

- recommended greater private sector participation in Agri-marketing and logistics
- Ag market should be in concurrent list for ONE INDIA market platform.
- increasing the number of farmer producer and village producer organizations(FPO/VPO)

43. Indian Argo diplomacy with China

- pushing Agri-products into the Chinese market, while the Trade war is squeezing the free trade.
- Soya bean would be apparently on a priority along with Tea, non-basmati Rice and Sugar.

44. Global wage report: ILO

-key findings:

- First time focused on the global gender pay gap
- Lowest wage growth globally in 2017 since 2008
- Slow wage growth in high-income countries
- More robust wage growth in low- and middle-income countries
- Wage inequality highest in low-income countries

45. Strategy for new India @ 75 by NITI Aayog

- doubling of farmers' income, boosting 'Make in India', upgrading the science, technology
- reducing upper age limit to join the civil services to 27 years from the present 30 years for General Category candidates by 2022-23
- need for creating Agripreneurs
- participation of Private Sector in Indian Railways
- strong push to 'Zero Budget Natural Farming' techniques
- India towards a USD 5 trillion economy by 2030

46. SDG index by NITI Aayog

- performance of the States and UTs in India in their efforts to achieve the SDGs
- four groups - achievers, front runners, performers, and aspirants
- Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu are the three front runner States with a score of 69, 69 and 66 respectively out of 100.

47. Rationale: Amalgamation of banks (Bank of Baroda (BoB), Dena Bank and Vijaya Bank)

- consolidate the banking industry with a focus on overcoming the bad loan crisis
- able to absorb the weaker entity
- a target to meet the Global Basel III capital norms
- it is necessary for India to have globally stronger financial institutions

48. Sixth assessment report by IPCC: Impact on agriculture

- The Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C
- keeping warming to under 1.5°C as compared to pre-industrial times
- The world has already warmed 1°C since pre-industrial times
- It is likely to reach 1.5°C between 2030 and 2-degree 2050 if it continues to increase at the current rate.
- Diseases such as malaria, dengue, and conditions like premature deaths due to air pollution, undernourishment are likely to multiply.

49. Global economic prospects report: World Bank

- report titled "Darkening Skies,
- highlights:

- a. Despite ongoing negotiations, trade tensions have been remaining.
- b. the global growth is expected to slow down to 2.9% in 2019 and 2.8% in 2020
- c. Debt vulnerabilities in emerging market has increased
- d. frequent severe weather events would raise the possibility of volatility in international food prices, which could deepen poverty.

50. Dipp-DPIIT

Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) has been changed to Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)

Under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

New responsibilities-

- the promotion of internal trade (including retail trade),
- the welfare of traders and their employees,
- matters relating to facilitating Ease of Doing Business,
- matters relating to start-ups.

51. Tokenization by RBI

- tokenization of debit, credit and prepaid card transactions to enhance the safety of the digital payment's ecosystem in the country
- It will replace card details with a code, called a "token," which will be specifically for the card, the token requestor and the device being used to pay. Instead of the card's details, the token will act as the card at point of sale (POS) terminals and quick response (QR) code payment systems

(2) Science and Tech topics

1. Vande Bharat Express :

- -Vande Bharat Express or 'Train 18', India's first semi-high-speed train, was flagged off by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the New Delhi railway station.
- It can attain a top speed of 160 km per hour. However, its top speed would be restricted to 130 km per hour.
- It is a self-propelled train set and doesn't have a locomotive.

2. Chandrayaan 2

- India's second lunar exploration mission after Chandrayaan 1.
- Developed by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), the mission is planned to be launched to the Moon by a Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle Mark III (GSLV Mk III).
- It includes a lunar orbiter, lander and rover, all developed by India.
- Chandrayaan 2 will carry NASA's laser instruments
- NASA's laser instruments to help scientists to make precise measurements of the distance to the Moon
- Israeli lander Beresheet to also carry NASA-owned laser retroreflector arrays.

3. EMISAT mission

PSLV-C45/Emisat mission scheduled to lift-off from Sriharikota on April 1st be a memorable one for the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).

- PSLV-C45 will mark the 47th flight of the PSLV.
- It will be ISRO's first attempt at placing payloads in three different orbits.
- 436 kg Emisat — will be injected into a 749 km orbit. Emisat, the chief payload on PSLV-C45, is meant for electromagnetic spectrum measurements, according to the ISRO.
- After that, the fourth stage of the rocket will be maneuvered to a 504 km orbit for releasing 28 international satellites.

4. GRAPES-3 muon telescope

- GRAPES-3 is designed to study cosmic rays with an array of air shower detectors and a large area muon detector.
- For the first time in the world, researchers at the GRAPES-3 muon telescope facility in Ooty (TN) have measured the electrical potential, size and height of a thundercloud that passed overhead on December 1, 2014.
- Learning about the properties of thunderclouds can be useful in navigation of aircraft and preventing short circuits.

5. Mission Shakti

- It was an anti-satellite missile test, from the Dr A P J Abdul Kalam Island launch complex.
- This was a technological mission carried out by DRDO.

- The ASAT comprised a Ballistic Missile Defence (BMD) Interceptor developed by the DRDO.
- The significance of the test is that India has tested and successfully demonstrated its capability to interdict and intercept a satellite in outer space (after 100 kms from sea level) based on complete indigenous technology.
- India's space programme is a critical backbone of India's security, economic and social infrastructure.
- The test was done to verify that India has the capability to safeguard our space assets.
- It is the Government of India's responsibility to defend the country's interests in outerspace.
- India became the fourth country (after Russia, the United States, and China) to have the capability in taking down an enemy in space.

6. **Coffee Blockchain**

- With a view to enabling growers find better price for their produce, the Coffee Board has launched **Coffee Blockchain**, a marketplace app, developed in coordination with Eka Software Solutions.
- The pilot project has about 20 participants, including 14 coffee growers, and will run for four-to-six months.

7. **Seaplane operations**

- Four islands in the Andamans and three in Lakshadweep have been identified for seaplane operations.
- Bids invited for private sector participation in tourism-based projects.

Islands of Andaman : swaraj dweep, Shaheed dweep, Hutbay and long island.

Islands of Lakshadweep:Kavaratti, Agatti and Minicoy.

8. **New South Coast Railway zone:**

- The Centre announced the creation of a separate railway zone in Andhra Pradesh
- The new zone, South Coast Railway (SCoR), would comprise the existing Guntakal, Guntur and Vijayawada divisions. Additionally, the Waltair division would be bifurcated.

9. **PCSK-9 gene mutation:**

- The PCSK9 are a new class of injectable drugs that reportedly reduce 'bad' cholesterol levels by up to 60% when combined with a statin (another class of drugs prescribed to help lower cholesterol levels).

10. **GSAT-31**

- GSAT-31 has a unique configuration of providing flexible frequency segments and flexible coverage. The satellite will provide communication services to Indian mainland and islands.
- GSAT-31 will provide DTH Television Services, connectivity to VSATs for ATM, Stock-exchange, Digital Satellite News Gathering (DSNG) and e-governance applications. The satellite will also be used for bulk data transfer for a host of emerging telecommunication applications.

11. LOFAR telescope

- The Low-Frequency Array or LOFAR, is a large radio telescope network located mainly in the Netherlands, completed in 2012 by ASTRON, the Netherlands Institute for Radio Astronomy and its international partners.
- The discovery shed new light on some of the Universe's deepest secrets, including the physics of black holes and how clusters of galaxies evolve.
- More than 200 astronomers from 18 countries were involved in the study

12. Naval Airfield Integrated Security System

- After terrorists attacked the Pathankot Air Force Station, the system was formulated as a comprehensive project for upgrading the security of naval airfields.
- The measures forming part of the project include an anti-climbing fence, drain detection intrusion systems, a CCTV network and under-vehicle surveillance.

13. QRSAM-Quick Reach Surface-to-Air missiles

- Quick Reach Surface-to-Air missiles (QRSAM) - Indigenous missile developed by the DRDO was successfully test-fired from the Integrated Test Range Chandipur, off the Odisha coast
- It has a strike range of about 30 km, is capable of killing aerial targets, tanks and bunkers.

14. Niti Aayog discussion papers on artificial intelligence

- 5 Sectors (in focus) – Agriculture, Education, Health, Smart Cities & Transport.
- India has the Potential to become an AI “garage” solution provider for the world, with 40% solution potential.
- -NITI Aayog doesn't talk about funding, it just says about institutional structure.

16. Indo UN small Satellite program

- On conference on the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space (UNISPACE + 50) – 50th year
- -India to Teach Satellite Technology and satellite-building expertise to engineering graduates chosen from other countries.

17. Hayabusa 2 probe

- For - Ryugu Asteroid
- by – Japan
- To collect information about the birth of the solar system & origin of life.

18. Operation Sagar Rani

- -BY-Food safety department. (FSSAI)
- To- ensure the safety of fish sold in the market. Ensuring hygienic treatment at the handling & distribution centers.
- TO curb the limitless use of Formalin (Formaldehyde) – Toxic & Carcinogenic Preservatives.

19. Dhanush- indigenous Bofors

- Artillery Gun (indigenously) for army.
- Upgraded version of Swedish bofors of 1980s.

20. Coordinated patrol

- India – Indonesia (Naval Exercise)
- -In Java Sea – it was First bilateral exercise.
- It is Regularly Conducted with Indonesia, Myanmar and Thailand
- India also provides EEZ Surveillance at Maldives, Mauritius and Seychelles. (on request)

21. Human spaceflight program and success

- ISRO – will launch till 2024 by GSLV-III.
- Pad Abort Test (PAT) is crew escape system in case of any exigency at the launch pad.

22. “SRIMAN” rental a laboratory

- Scientific Research Infrastructure management and network- SHRIMAN
- Lease out labs to researchers across the country.
- All such labs which have equipment worth 10 lakh or more.
- Eg- DNA sequencing machines, radio telescope, particle accelerators.
- Not apply to strategic sectors.

23. INS Sahyadri and RIMPAC

- What- World’s largest international maritime warfare exercise with 26 countries.
- India is a member.
- Where - Around Hawaiian Islands & Southern California.
- Neighbor- China is not a member due to US had withdrawn the invitation
- Recurrence -Once in two years hosted by INDOPACON (Us Indo Pacific Command)

24. NASAMS- national advanced surface to air Missile system

- From US.
- A system shield for medium & long range surface to air missile
- (long range S-400)
- To defend Delhi NCR from such aerial attacks.

25. BN Srikrishna committee

- For what – on Data protection
- Draft personal data protection bill 2018

Recommendations –

1. Processing of critical central data of citizens should be remain within country.
2. Govt. to identify critical data.
3. Penalties & Compensation in violation of laws.
4. Definition of personal data along with right to be forgotten.

Personal Data – A natural person could directly or indirectly be identifiable through any such information, is considered as PD.

26. **Rice creek - project Shakti**

- BY-IIT Madras MeiTy + ISRO
- **What -SHAKTI** – India's First microprocessor (indigenous)
- Based on instruction set architecture (ISA)- a set of basic instruction called RISC-5
- **Purpose of ISA** – Command or language to execute functions.
- Open Source ISA means – Customizable to any device.
- **Significance** – reduce dependency on imported microchips for communication & defense sector.

27. **Gaganyaan**

The Program- (A) 3 Indians astronauts to space for up to 7 days.

(B) Two unmanned while one manned flight will besend.

Cost – 10,000 crore approved by union cabinet.

Agency – ISRO (obviously)

Vehicle – GSLV Mk-III

Orbit - LEO

28. **Ligo project**

- Laser Interferometer Gravitational Wave Observatory
- **-IndiGO** – Env. Min. allowed scientists to test suitability of land in Hingoli (MH) to host the project.
- **What** – Gravitational wave detector to measure ripples in the fabric of space & time. Events which emit electromagnetics waves or gravitational waves.
- **When** –In India by 2025
- **Background** – Firstly Established in US in 2002.
- **Presently** – 3 (1 in Livingston + 2 Louisiana) about 3000 km apart in L shape.
- Add on- Nobel for physics was for Gravitational waves

29. **Cyber varsity, maharashtra**

Why :-

1. A gap of 1.5 crore professionals in 10 sectors shortfall in the IOT & Cyber forensics sectors.
2. Required cyber professionals 30 lakh with each year, while the supply is only at 1 lakh.

What the Univ. will do ?

1. Train around 30k professionals per year.
2. 15 areas of IOT, AI & Data analytics.

30. **Debate on Pluto**

Background – IAU removed Pluto from planets in 2006. It was considered as dwarf planet.

Essential conditions to become a planet ?

- Orbit the sun.
- Massive enough to acquire an spherical shape
- Gravitational pull within it's orbit with clear orbit path.

Reason : Pluto was Not a Planet

- Pluto is affected by Neptune's gravity thus it doesn't clear it's orbit.

**31. Gene editing-
Crisper – Cas9**

Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic repeats”

CAS9 – Just an enzyme, which is guided by pre designed RNA sequences.

It works like a molecular scissors, to cut & paste a DNA stands at a specific locations and modify genes function.

Implications –

Positive (1) Potentials to edit out genes that can cause congenital/hereditary diseases.

Negative (2) Specter of eugenics.

Bio-Ethics (3) Control or detect evolutions.(Designer babies)

32. Milex 18 by bimstec

- Joint military ex.
- Aim – Planning & Conduct of CT operations.
- At Pune
- First of it's kind.

33. Comprehensive integrated Border Management System; CIBMS

Why – To stop infiltration on 2900 kms western border with Pakistan.
From GJ to J&K

How ?

1. Round the clock surveillance through sophisticated tech, thermal image.
2. Night vision devices, underground monitoring sensors.
3. Satellite imagery & UAV

Started – 2017

Target – 2 years (2900 km)

34. Data localisation

Concept - The personal data of a country's residents should be processed & stored in that country.

Types - 1. restrict the flow entirely.

2. Data mirroring (sharing but a copy should be stored)

Presently – Mutual legal assistance treaties (MLATs) for cross border sharing by individual.

In Our Country (recommendations) –

1. RBI's circular for payments data store mandatory by oct. 15, 2018 by everyone.
2. B.N. shrikrishna committee in draft law in data protection suggested 1. mirroring (personal data of Indians) 2. critical personal data must be stored & processed within India.
3. A leaked draft of e-commerce & cloud competing policy (draft) also tilting towards localization.

35. Digi Yatra

- Face recognition technology for flyers at airport.
- Biometric enabled digital processing technique by scanning a QR code along with facial recognition.
- Travelers will skip by queues at various check points.

36. Drone use policy

By Whom – Drone regulation by Min. of civil aviation (**DGCA**)

WHY – Development of drone infrastructure in India.

1. **Exceptions** – (I) No drone zone, (II) Nano below 50 ft. & micro below 200 ft., (III) Intelligence Agencies
2. **Regulations** – (I) No drone zone, (II) Intelligence Agencies

(2.1) Separation – 5 Categories (NMSML)

(a) Nano (250 gm) (b) Micro (c) Small (d) Medium (e) Large

- Nominal regulation for Nano flying up to 50 meter Height.
- No Drone zone-(Near airport, Military Sites, Segregated airspace)

37. Indo Russia s400 deal

TRIUMF missile

Long range air defense missile. It can destroy incoming hostile aircrafts, stealth fighters, missile & drones up to 400 kms.

We already have-

1. **short Range** - (1) Spyder (Israel) 15 km (up to), (2) AKASH (indigenous) up to 25 km
2. **Medium Range** – MR-SAM (DRDO – Israel aerospace) 70 km

38. Missions of NASA; kepler, & insight Rover

Kepler – Space telescope, It had discovered more than 4k planets (potential) and 2300 confirmed planets.

Key Discoveries :-

- (A) Habitable zone planets (B) Size classification
- (C) **Cannibal Star** – Death of solar system & white dwarf due to process of vaporizing a planet.
- (D) **Double Sunset** – Planet Tatooine, a part of double star system, hence 2 sunset is possible.
- (E) **Earth like planet** – ex.- **Kepler62f**
- (F) **Planet Candidates** – Small rocky cores enveloped by a thick atmosphere of Hydrogen & Helium.
- (G) **LIFE Candidates** -
- (H) **Solar System Cousin** – Sun like star named kepler-90, with a consortium of 7 planets.

39. Mars insights –

- Goal – To listen for quakes & tremors to unveil the inner mysteries of red planet.
- Why – To know how other rocky planets took their shape, like earth.
- It's the second mission after curiosity rover (2012)

40. GSAT 29, GSLV Mark 3, d2 rocket

(A)GSLV – MK –III

What- It is a launch vehicle, crucial for chandrayan – 2 and human space mission (Gaganyaan) by India.

Why in News –

It successfully placed “GSAT-29” the heaviest satellite in the Indian space history.

GSAT-29 – To fulfill communication requirements of areas remote areas such as NE & J&K, A milestone towards achieving self reliance in launching heavier satellite.

41. SPinnaker- human mimicking computer

Spiking neural network architecture machine.

What – World’s largest super computer can mimic human brain. It mimics biological neurons (The basic brain cells)

By – Univ. of Manchester, U.K.

42. Hysis- hyperspectral imaging satellite

India’s own earth observation satellite

Object – Polar synchronous orbit, along the earth’s geographic north & south pole.

(Not with Magnetic Pole)

Observation Targets – (Up till 2023)

1. Provide observation within

(A) Visible (B) Near infrared

(C) Short Wave Infrared bands (electromagnetic spectrum)

2. Earth’s Magnetic Field

3. Atmospheric activity and climate change.

43. Indian Nuclear triad : INS ARIHANT

Meaning – India is now capable of delivering nuclear weapons by aircraft, land based ballistic missiles and submarine launched missiles.

In line with “No first use & minimum credible deterrence”. Which means India will not use nuclear weapon unless she is attacked first, but she does have the capability to induce the second strike.

INS Arihant – 1st submarine built indigenously.

SSBN (strategic strike nuclear submarine) powered by a nuclear reactor thus it can travel farther

(submerged) without oxygen for fuel combustion.

Another two segments-

Army – Agni, Prithvi, Shurya, Brahmos, Nirbhay series.

IAF – Jaguars, SU 30 MKI, Rafale.

44. New definition of kilogram

Who Decides – General conference on weights and measures.

History – An artifact, “Le Grand K” in France, was the sole true kilogram since 1889. Which is a cylinder of platinum – iridium alloy.

Now – Kg will be defined in term of the “Planck constant”

It was derives from quantum physics, which can be used with a kibble balance (a weighing machine). This calculates the mass of an object using electro magnetic force.

Why - Accurate measurement is critical in many areas in Nano Tech., Precision engineering and dry development.

The fluctuation is about 50 parts in a billion.

45. **GSAT 7 A**

What - Military communication satellite, primarily built for IAF.

Command Area - It will provide communication capability to users in the

KU - band over the India region.

Ku-band provides superior real time aircraft to aircraft communication.

Additions - GSAT-7 (2013) has been providing similar linking facilities to ships of navy.

46. **Water on Bennu**

Osiris-REx spacecraft (NASA) has discovered water ingredients on Bennu.

It traced hydrogen and oxygen molecules which are embedded in the rocky surface.

Significance - It may hold the clues to the origin of life on the earth.

What is Bennu - It is an asteroid which orbits the sun of roughly the same distance as the earth.

OSIRIS - REx, launched in 2016, will fly back to the earth with samples from Bennu for study by September 2023.

47. **SSLV, Small satellite launch vehicle**

What - A baby rocket designed to launch small satellites.

Capacity - 500 kg to LEO & 300 kg to sun synchronous orbit.

Aim - Reduce the prices of launching for small satellites.

Develop commercially viable ecosystem for the same.

How - 1. Manufacturing cost of SSLV is only around 10% of that of PSLV.

2. Minimum personnel to design & it takes mere 15 days.

Specialty - 1.3 solid motor stages like PSLV & GSLV

2. Can launch multiple satellites also.

3. Can be assembled both vertically and horizontally.

48. **IFC, Information fusion centre**

What - Information managements and analysis Centre (IMAC) of navy will hold the IFC. IMAC is the single point centre, Which links all the 7500 km coastal radar claims.

Vision - Strengthen maritime security in the region and it will act a maritime information hub.

How - The signatory 21 countries exchange information on "white shipping"

49. **DNA technology use and application bill 2018**

- National and regional DNA data banks will be set up for maintaining a national database for identification of victims, suspects in cases, undertrials, missing persons and unidentified human remains.

- those leaking the DNA profile information to people or entities who are not entitled to have it, will be punished with a jail term of up to three years and a fine of up to Rs. 1 lakh

- all DNA data, including DNA profiles, DNA samples and records, will only be used for identification of the person and not for "any other purpose".

- the cross-matching between persons who have been reported missing on the one hand and unidentified dead bodies found in various parts of the country on the other
- The Bill establishes a DNA Regulatory Board to accredit the DNA laboratories

50. Innovation to cultivation program

What - A programme which connects **START UPS** of specific crops with their producers (Farmers) to convey the innovations at ground level.

By Whom - A non profit organization, MARICO innovation foundation.

Where - at Coimbatore.

Why - Transmit new technology of as the solution for organic micro nutrients, pest managements & soil health

51. CHANG" E -4 lunar probe

By CHINA

Tasks - Astronomical observation, surveying the moon's terrain, land form mineral make-up & environment

52. BeiDU navigation satellite system

News - It has expanded from regional to a global navigation system.

Plan - China plans to provide it to harness **OBOR** partnership. Pakistan has become the first country to use it instead of GPS.

Additions -

1. US - GPS
2. Russia - GLONASS
3. EU - Galileo
4. Japan - QZSS
5. India - IRNSS (NAVIC)

53. Cassini by NASA

Huygens Unmanned Spacecraft

By - NASA, ESA (EU), ASI (Italy)

Why - Robotic spacecraft to planet SATURN & its natural satellites (Titan & Enceladus)

Key Findings - The first to enter in the orbit, thus it has revealed the existence of earth like geographical features, lakes of liquid nitrogen & underground ocean on the moon Enceladus.

54. Operation Kabaddi

- Largest planned operation by the Indian army along with LOC to end cross boarder infiltration in 2001. (Post Kargil War)
- However owing to some issues it was not carried out.
- **News** - Book named "Line on Fire" revealed about that written by Happy mon Jacob.

55. Sea vigil exercise

What - On 10th year of 26/11, India conducted its largest coastal defense drill.

Why - To test our preparedness along the on tire coast across all 13 coastal states & Uts.

Addition - After 26/11

Navy - Responsible for overall maritime security (offshore & coastal)

Coast Guard - Coastal security in territorial waters.

(3) International Relations through Maps

1- Chagosislands: Mauritius

- International Court of Justice (ICJ) in an advisory opinion said that - Britain has an obligation to end its administration of the Chagos archipelago and complete the process of decolonization of Mauritius.
- It is a significant legal victory for Mauritius and other nations, including India, which supported its case.
- The Chagos Islands — referred to by the British as the British Indian Ocean Territory, but which is not recognised as such by Mauritius — is home to the U.S. military base Diego Garcia.

2. Raqqa (Syria) and Mosul (Iraq),

- Credible reports point to the Islamic State (IS) nearing extinction. Once described as a formidable 'Caliphate' of enormous wealth and with huge potential for expansion is now just a dot on the soil of Syria and Iraq.
- Ever since it lost control last year over two major cities, Raqqa (Syria) and Mosul (Iraq), it has lost its sheen

3. Golan Heights

- The Golan Heights, a rocky plateau in south-western Syria, has a political and strategic significance which belies its size. Whoever controls this area has a major strategic advantage.
- Golan Heights is the area captured from Syria and occupied by Israel during the Six-Day War, territory which Israel annexed in 1981.
- Israel unilaterally annexed the Golan Heights in 1981. The move was not recognised internationally.
U.S. President Donald Trump moved to recognise Israeli sovereignty over the territory seized in war.

4. Italy to join 'Belt and Road'

first G7 country to join 'Belt and Road'

- Chinese President Xi Jinping is set to sign a deal that will see Italy become the first member of the Group of Seven (G7) major industrialised nations to join China's "Belt and Road" infrastructure project (BRI), which is inspired by historic, centuries-old trade routes.
- Besides the BRI accord, various deals worth up to €7 billion (\$7.9 billion) are expected to be agreed, including agreements opening up the northern ports of Trieste and Genoa to Chinese containers.

5. 46th Session of the OIC's Council of Foreign Ministers

- The 46th Session of the OIC's Council of Foreign Ministers held in Abu Dhabi from March 1 to 2.
- For the first time, India has been invited to an Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) meeting as guest of honour.
- The Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) is the second largest inter-governmental organization after the United Nations which.
- It has membership of 57 states spread over four continents.
- It is an organisation of the collective voice of the Muslim world.

6. Strategic oil storage

- India invited Saudi Arabia to invest in its strategic oil storage even as it looks to resurrect a \$44 billion refinery project with the world's largest oil producer after the Maharashtra government denied land at the initial site.
- Saudi Oil Minister Khalid Al Falih, on his second visit to India, discussed with his Indian counterpart the 60-million-tonne (MT)-a-year mega oil refinery-cum-petrochemical complex.
- India has built 5.33 MT of emergency storage, enough to meet its oil needs for 9.5 days, in underground rock caverns in Mangalore and Padur in Karnataka and Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh.

7. Terror outfits & Pakistan

- -Pakistan has taken 44 members of banned organisations, including Jaish-e-Mohammad chief Masood Azhar's son and brother, into preventive detention, and put Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) offshoots Jamaat-ud-Dawa (JuD) and Falah-i-Insaniyat Foundation (FiF) on its proscribed list.
- Pakistan had earlier failed to ban the JuD and the FiF, which are banned by the UN Security Council.
- Both organisations were subsequently put on the National Counter Terrorism Authority (NACTA)'s list under the Anti-Terrorism Act, 1997.

8. SCO offers 'mediation' in India-Pak. Talks

- The eight-nation Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) offered to smoothen a bilateral dialogue between India and Pakistan so that the two countries can resolve their differences, following last month's terror attack in Kashmir

9. Countering Naga militants

- India's improved ties with Myanmar fueled the crackdown on Naga militants training camps.
- In late January, Myanmar took over National Socialist Council of Nagaland-Khaplang (NSCN-K), which is considered to be the mother lode of most extremist groups in the northeastern region.
- NSCN-K outfit had violated an agreement not to allow Myanmar territory to be used by "any rebel group to attack a neighbouring country [India]."
- Extremist groups such as the United Liberation Front of Asom and the United National Liberation Front of Manipur are known to use jungle routes for hit-and-run operations in India from the NSCN-K's base.

10. Draft Emigration Bill 2019

- The draft Emigration Bill proposes a **new legislative framework** for matters related to emigration of Indian nationals.
- It is **set to replace** the extant one under the **Emigration Act of 1983**.
- The intention of replacing the old Act is consistent with the government's effort to **weed out anachronistic laws** and **update them in line with modern conventions**.
- The United Nations' "2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" has for the first time recognized migration as a core element of the global development agenda, and has set several targets that relate to it.
- These cover student mobility, human trafficking and exploitation, labour migration and employment, migration governance, remittances and migration data.

11. Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) programme.

- -Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) is a preferential tariff system extended by developed countries (also known as preference giving countries or donor countries) to developing countries (also known as preference receiving countries or beneficiary countries).
 - India's new e-commerce rules which have impacted American companies like Amazon and Walmart (majority owner of Flipkart)
 - Price controls on medical devices (cardiac stents)
 - Tariffs on ICT products like smart watches and high-end mobile phones
 - Lack of greater market access for the U.S. dairy industry
- U.S. President announced that he intends to end preferential trade terms for India under the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) programme.
- The GSP programme accounts for some \$5.6 billion of India's exports to the U.S., making India the largest GSP beneficiary.
- Chemicals, gems and jewellery, engineering and textiles are among the Indian industrial sectors that benefit from the GSP.

12. India first' policy: Maldives

- Requests for a cricket stadium, renewable energy projects and a thousand additional slots for Maldivian students in Indian courses were the highlights of the discussions during India's External Affairs Minister recent visit to the Maldives, as the island nation reaffirmed its "India first" policy.
- Three agreements were signed during the visit; which officials called the first "full-fledged substantive bilateral" engagement at a political level with the new government in Male.
- One of the agreements is for visa exemption for diplomats and another for MoUs for development projects.

13. Student visa fraud charges

- Several Indian citizens or people of Indian origin have been arrested across cities in the U.S. on student visa fraud charges.
- Emerging patterns suggest most of the individuals are of Telugu origin.
- Eight "educational agents" were alleged to be running the racket, to commit visa fraud and to harbour aliens (non-U.S. citizens) for profit.

14. Visa Facilitation Agreement: Indo-Maldives

- India and Maldives exchanged an agreement to facilitate visas for travel between the two countries in a number of categories.
- "Visa Facilitation Agreement" - This Agreement provides a very liberal visa regime for Maldivian nationals to visit India for tourism, business, education & medical purposes.
- It also makes it easier for Indians to travel to Maldives for business purposes.

15. India signs defence pacts :

- India concluded defence cooperation and security protection agreements with Germany and Sweden.
- The agreement will enable both the countries to share classified information with each other.

16. Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030

- Saudi Vision 2030 is a plan to reduce Saudi Arabia's dependence on oil, diversify its economy, and develop public service sectors such as health, education, infrastructure, recreation and tourism.

17. Vienna Convention on Consular Relations, 1963

- India had moved the International Court of Justice stating that Pakistan has violated the rules of Vienna Convention on Consular Relations in detention, trial and conviction of **Kulbushan Yadav** an Indian Naval officer.
- The Article 36 of the Vienna convention is highlighted in the recent
- Article 36 states that, if any foreign national is detained or arrested on criminal or immigration charges, he/she is entitled to be notified about the right to notify the detainee country's consulate of his/her arrest. If the detained person requests, the police ought to fax the notice to the embassy. It also provides for a regular consultation with the consular officials during the detention and any trial if needed.
- A consul performs two functions: protecting in the host country the interests of their countrymen and furthering the relations between the two states.

18. Most Favored Nation (MFN)

That India decided to withdraw the Most Favoured Nation (MFN) status to Pakistan. (After Pulwama attack)

- Therefore, India will not treat Pakistan on an equal footing in trade as is expected of fellow members of the World Trade Organisation.
- India is set to raise tariff duty on imports to 200%.
- Non-tariff measures will also be increased.

19. Stop flow of India's share of water to Pakistan

- Water Resources Ministry issued details of various projects for stopping the flow of water to Pakistan.
- About 2 Million Acre Feet (MAF) of water annually from the Ravi is reported to be still flowing unutilised to Pakistan below Madhopur.
- Among India's various projects, Shahpurkandi project will help in utilizing the water from the Thein dam to irrigate 37,000 hectares of land in Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab, and generate 206 MW of power.
- Another facility is the Ujh multipurpose project that will create a storage of about 781 million cubic meter of water on river Ujh, a tributary of Ravi.
- The third project is the second Ravi-Beas link below Ujh.

20. Iran sanctions and relief for India

- The US has announced the re-impositions of the second set of penalties on nov.2018 that had been lifted under JCPOA, the 2015 nuclear deal.

- The first sanction against Iran were imposed by the U.S in Nov. 1979 when a group of radical students seized the American Embassy in Tehran and took hostage the people inside.
- UNSC passed a resolution 1696 in 2006 which demanded that Iran to cut half of its Uranium enrichment program and in December passed resolution 1737 to impose sanction after Iran refused to comply.
- ON April 2015 the P5+1 and Iran meeting reached a provisional agreement on a framework that once finalized and implemented would lifted most of the sanction.
- The final agreement, the JCPOA (Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action) was adopted on 2015 As a result, UN sanction were lifted on Jan 2016
- ON May 2018 US announced that to withdraw from the Iran nuclear deal. Which came into effect from Nov. 2018.

21. Quad (India, Australia, U.S., Japan)

- Quadrilateral security dialogue (QSD) was started in nov2007
- Later it was ceased due to Australia's withdrawal.
- Shared **objective**- Free, open and prosperous Indo-pacific region.
 - Challenges-
 1. Defining its common agenda.
 2. A common definition of the geographical area.
 3. Entire focus on the Indo-pacific makes the quad just maritime.

22. Kartarpur corridor

Place- on the bank of Ravi about 120 km northeast of Lahore.

- Nanak Saheb assembled a Sikh community and lived for 18 years until his death in 1539.
- corridor is from Deraa baba Nanak (India) To Kartarpur(Pakistan).
- Most Occasions for visit- Baisakhi the martyrdom day of Guru Arjan dev, death anniversary of Maharaja RanjitSingh and the birthday of Guru Nanak devji.
- PM Atal Bihari Bajpayee & Benazir Bhutto had pushed for it in 1996.

23. G20 summit

First meeting of G-20 in S. America as Buenos Aires, hosted the 13 th meeting of group of twenty

India will host in 2023(2019-japan, 2020 S. Arabia)

Theme -Building consensus for fair and sustainable development.

Key outcomes-

- G-20 Pledged to Reduce the **gender gap** in labor force by 25% by 2025.
- Commitment to fight **climate change** by upholding Paris agreement ALTHOUGH US reiterated its decision to withdraw from the Paris agreement and affirmed strong commitments to **economic growth**.
- Implementation of **INDCs**.

24. OPEC and Qatar

News- Qatar has left OPEC from Jan. 1ST 2019 in order to focus on gas production.

Since June 2017 Saudi and three other countries had been cutting their trade & transport with Qatar. They accused Qatar of supporting terrorism and its regional rival Iran.

25. Yellow vest movement

Yellow vests movement/yellow jacket/GILETS JAUNES

Against- high living cost in France

26. TECHPLOMACY of India

- France appointed a full time dedicated ambassador in 2017.
- China US has allowed Copenhagen to set up its special office of Techplomacy
- A major part of their mandate is to deal with technology giants like google, Facebook and other.
- Technology has been increasing its impact in every sector i.e.- public opinion, security
- telecom, AI climate change to chemical weapon
- Now diplomats has to go beyond their traditional focus on negotiating peace pacts and territorial settlements.

27. INDOPACOM

- The US military has renamed its Pacific Command to US-Indo Pacific Command, underlining the growing connectivity between India and Pacific Oceans.
- The symbolic move came in recognition of the growing importance of the Indian Ocean in US strategic thinking.
- Henceforth, the US Pacific Command, or PACOM, which was formed after World War II, will be known as the Indo-Pacific Command.

28. Operation Hodidah

- Yemeni port Hodeida was under the control of the Houthi rebels since 2015. They were supposed to be drawing support from Iran.
- Controls –
 - (a) The Houthis- northern Yemen (Hodeida and the Yemeni capital)
 - (b) The government controls much of the south.
- The Saudi Arabia and the UAE (non-Arabs) coalition was claiming that the Iranian military has used the port HODEIDA to supply the Houthis with weapons and ammunition.
- On Dec. 2018 an immediate ceasefire was concluded in the Red Sea port of Hodeida in peace talks in Sweden.
- - United Nations Mission to support the Hodeidah Agreement (UNMHA),

29. UN Commission on international trade law on commercial disputes

- UN commission on international trade and law.
- India participated in deliberations at the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) in New York to make prompt its dispute redressal mechanism.

- **Mean by Dispute redressal mechanisms:**
- Commercial disputes could be resolved not only through courts and arbitration but also through mediation.
- Arbitration:- (a) hearing and determine the dispute (b) by whom ?- persons chosen by parties.
- Conciliation:- A process of facilitating to get amicable settlement between parties.
- Mediation:- In line to reaching an agreement with the terms and conditions of disputed parties. In simple terms "it's a process whereby parties attempt to reach an reasonable settlement of their dispute with the mediation of a third person (the mediator).
- Why UNCITRA- the UN body to deal with how these settlement agreements in disputes in international commercial transactions will be implemented by courts in different countries. Too, Mandatory pre-litigation mediation has been introduced in commercial disputes.

30. FATF

- The Financial Action Task Force (FATF)- an inter-governmental organization, It is a "policy-making body".
- Tasks - (a) **sets standards** and (b) effective **implementation** of legal, regulatory and operational measures.it works to combat money laundering, terrorist financing, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and other related threats to the integrity of the international financial system
- Too, it does **Monitoring,reviewing andpromoting the adoption** and implementation of appropriate measures globally and **identifying** national-level vulnerabilities with the aim of protecting the international financial system from misuse.
- What is blacklist and grey list?
- Grey list- the countries that have deficiencies in their AML/CTF regimes, but they commit to an action plan to address these loopholes.
- Black list- the countries that do not end up doing enough.

31. Indo us 2 plus 2 dialogue and 4 Foundation agreement

- United States has been holding such ministerial dialogues only with Australia and Japan, and now with India. About India, Prior to the US, she had never held a 2+2 dialogue at the Ministerial level with any country.
- The new 2+2 dialogue implies strategic, defense, and security relationship at the forefront.(External Affairs and Defense ministries)

32. SCO and India

- **Shanghai Cooperation Organization's (SCO)**
- The SCO, in which China plays a leading role, is also comprised of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, India and Pakistan.
- India and Pakistan were admitted into the bloc in 2017.
- An Eurasian economic, political and security organization and headquartered in Beijing, China.

- Objective- military cooperation AND primarily centered on security-related concerns of Central Asian members with main threats being **terrorism, separatism and extremism**.

Ex Sary-Arka Anti-terror 2019- a joint exercise was announced during the 34th meeting of the SCO's Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) council held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) - a permanent organ of the SCO which focuses to promote cooperation of member states against the three evils of terrorism, separatism and extremism . HQ- Tashkent.

joint border operation "Solidarity 2019-2021".

33. 5C approach by China

- China's Ambassador for India suggested a "5 C" approach to bettering India-China ties with more "communication, cooperation, contacts, coordination, and control (and management of differences)".
- China will import more sugar, non-Basmati rice and high-quality medicines from India to reduce trade imbalance.
- A new \$100 b. bilateral trade target has been set by 2022.
- India allowed to facilitate the establishment of Bank of China branch in Mumbai.

34. 10th BRICS summit at Johannesburg

- Theme - "BRICS in Africa: Collaboration for Inclusive Growth and Shared Prosperity in the 4th Industrial Revolution".
- The occasion was also centenary of the birth of Nelson Mandela and every leader at summit recognizes his values, principles and dedication to the service of humanity
- Too, during the 10th summit, BRICS-AFRICA Outreach also held.

35. Us sanctions on India

What are the sanctions?-

- Two sets (Oil & non-oil products)
 - From august 2018 which includes.
- Iran's purchase of U.S currency.
- Iran's trade in gold and other precious metals
- Sale to Iran of auto parts commercial passenger aircrafts and related parts service.
 - From Nov. 2018 which restricts sales of oil and petrochemical products from Iran
- 8 Countries with exception to the sanctions-India, china, Turkey Italy, Greece, Japan S. Korea, Taiwan. The exception was over from 2nd of May 2019.
- Waivers are being granted in exchange for continued import cuts in order to not drive up oil prices.

36. Turkey crisis

The value of Turkey's currency, lira, has been depreciating since January and has lost more than 34% of its value against the dollar.

REASONS-

Construction Boom -

A construction boom was happening and it reached at its height in 2013 and 2014, as Turkish banks issued low-interest loans.

This construction sector has been at the heart of Turkey's economy, accounting for up to **20% of the country's GDP** growth in recent years .

-Target customers- the properties were built with the expectation that it would be bought by wealthy investors from Gulf countries.

But the demand from the Gulf failed to realize the hope.

So this lack of demand, alongside rising **costs for iron and steel**, has caused many projects to stall.

Further it was worsen by **poor regulations** of this industry.

These all factors affected the exchange rate of lira heavily.

37. UN habitat

- A policy dialogue- 'Urban Cafe: River for Habitat' held in New Delhi on the occasion of World Cities Day 2018. The National Mission for Clean Ganga partnered with UN Habitat were the organizers.
- It was a Get together of experts to discuss the deep association that rivers have with various aspects of human civilization – our cities, our economy and various facets of our daily lives, the challenges to maintaining healthy river ecosystems and ways to deal with the same.
- **About UN Habitat:**
- It an agency of United Nations for human settlements and sustainable urban development.
- Established - 1978 (First UN Conference on Human Settlements and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat I) held in Vancouver, Canada in 1976.)

Task - United Nations General Assembly promotes socially and environmentally sustainable towns and cities with the goal of providing adequate shelter for all. It is also a member of the United Nations Development Group.

38. Mattala airport

- Indian built airport at Hambatota, Shri Lanka
- Exercise MITRA SHAKTI
- The annual exercise as part of military diplomacy and interaction between armies of India & Sri Lanka.
- Sri Lanka's Indo-Pacific Endeavour 2019 joint exercise with Australia last month skirted Habbanatota.
- Sri Lanka is conducting a naval exercise with the US on Habbanatota.
- The week-long exercise known as Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (CARAT) began on April 20

39. Peace mission exercise by SCO

- Exercise SCO Peace Mission 2018
- Biennially for SCO member states
- The joint exercise of 2018 was conducted by Central Military Commission of Russia from 22 August to 29 August 2018 at Chebarkul, Chelyabinsk, Russia.
- The maiden participation of India after becoming a full member of the SCO in June 2017.
- This involves tactical level operations in an international counter insurgency or counter terrorism environment under SCO Charter.

40. Project Dantak Bhutan

An issue while Highway building in Bhutan of encroaching rights

1. The **Border Roads Organization**, which helps build Bhutanese roads under **Project Dantak**, decided to make highway markers in shades of the **Indian tricolor**.
2. Highway markers ? - reflective stickers on railings that guide traffic on Bhutan's steep mountain roads
3. The project was conceived by BRO in 1961 over 1500 km of roads through very difficult mountainous terrain in Bhutan.

41. Bimstec Summit Kathmandu

4th BIMSTEC Summit: Kathmandu Declaration and VARIOUS issues involved
THEME: "towards a peaceful, prosperous and sustainable bay of Bengal"
Declaration :

- (a) Decision about to reform BIMSTEC institutional foundation by starting negotiation on long overdue charter.
- (b) Policy reform to strengthen the BIMSTEC secretariat.
- (c) a permanent working committee will be set up.
- (d) Combating terrorism was paced in the joint declaration.
- (e) BIMSTEC free trade area (FTA) framework agreement was Signed by all member countries to stimulate trade and investment.
- (f) Trade negotiation committee (TNC) to negotiate in areas of trade in goods and services etc.
- (g) BIMSTEC development fund (BDF) was formed to prevent financial constraints.
- (h) two new priority sectors- blue economy and mountain economy. Along with focus on conservation of mountain ecosystems it was decided to establish an inter-governmental expert group to develop an action plan on blue economy

42. RCEP

RCEP has been proposed between the ten member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the six states with which ASEAN has existing FTAs (Australia, China, India, Japan, South Korea and New Zealand).

Aim: **Boost goods trade** within the group by eliminating most tariff and non-tariff barriers — a move that is expected to provide the region's **consumers greater choice** of quality products at affordable rates. It also recognizes liberalization of investment norms and do away with services trade restrictions.

43. Asia Pacific and Indian presence

- “SAGAR”- Security and Growth for All in the Region” is a program, announced by Mr. Modi during a visit to Indian Ocean Rim (IOR) countries in March 2015.
- Agalega islands- Mauritius (two outer islands)
- Addu atoll- Maldives
- Assumption Island- Seychelles
- Diego Garcia-British Indian Ocean Territory “BIOT”
- Socotra is strategically important at Gulf of Aden(Yemen)

44. Siang river and Arunachal Pradesh dispute

- India has made its longest single lane steel cable suspension bridge across the river.
- B/w Yingkiong and Tuting.
- Use- defence preparedness and people.

About the river-

Originates from Angsi glacier in Himalaya and enters through ARUNACHAL with the name Siang or Dihang (in plains of the region)

The life line of Arunachal Pradesh.

It is called Brahmaputra after the confluence of Dibang and Lohit.

45. CWC: Chemical Weapon Convention, 2000

- As a state party to the CWC India enacted Chemical Weapons Convention Act in 2000.
- Chemical Weapons convention (CWC) is also called as Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction.
- CWC aims to eliminate an entire category of weapons of mass destruction by prohibiting the development, production, acquisition, stockpiling, retention, transfer or use of chemical weapons by States Parties.
- It Prohibits of production and use of chemical weapons
- It seeks Destruction (or monitored conversion to other functions) of chemical weapons production facilities

46. International Criminal Court

- It prosecutes individuals for the international crimes of genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes.
- Too, complements existing national judicial systems and it may therefore only exercise its jurisdiction when certain conditions are met, such as -
 - (a) national courts are unwilling or unable to prosecute criminals
 - (b) when the United Nations Security Council or individual states refer situations to the Court.
- Located? - The Hague, it is the court of last resort for prosecution of genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity.
- It is the first permanent, treaty based, international criminal court established by, the Rome Statute, entered into force on July 1, 2002

47. Uzbek Afghan rail project

- Uzbek President has invited India to join Afghan rail project.
- The 75km rail link connects Hairatan on the Uzbekistan-Afghan border to the city of Mazar-i-Sharif in northern Afghanistan.
- The Amu Darya river is located at the border between Uzbekistan and northern Afghanistan. The Friendship Bridge, which was built by the Soviet Union, was the only crossing between the two countries prior to the opening of the rail link.
- The rail link of approximately 650 km, connecting the Afghan cities of Mazaar-e-Sharif and Herat, which may later be extended to Kabul.

48. PakalDul project: Indus water treaty

- PakalDul Dam is proposed 167m concrete-face rock-fill dam (CFRD) on Marusadar River, a tributary of Chenab River in Kishtwar district of J&K.
- The primary purpose of the dam is hydroelectric power generation.
- Its underground power house has four units each of 250 MW capacity (total 1000 MW).
- With 1000 MW capacity, it will be largest Hydro Power Project in J&K on completion.
- It is also the first storage Project in Jammu & Kashmir.

49. Us India defence cooperation

- **The Four Foundational Agreements between the US and its Partners**
- **General Security Of Military Information Agreement (GSOMIA)**
- For what ?- militaries to share the intelligence gathered by them was Signed in 2002.
- **Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA)**
- Access to each other's designated military facilities for refueling and replenishment was Signed by India in 2016.
- **Communications and Information Security Memorandum of Agreement (CISMOA)**
- Indian version- COMCASA(Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement) of CISMOA was signed 2018.
- **Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA)**
- For India and US militaries to share geospatial and satellite data with each other. Have not signed yet.
- -With Civil Nuclear Cooperation Agreement in 2008, the US declared India as a major defense partner in 2016. Too ,Supports India's membership of the NSG and terming India the net security provider in the Indian Ocean, and partner in the Indo-Pacific.
- License Exception Strategic Trade Authorization (STA-1) all four technology control regimes — the NSG, the Missile Technology Control Regime, the Wassenaar Arrangement and the Australia Group.
- Southern Naval Forces Central Command (NAVCENT) and the Indian Navy has been working towards deepening their maritime cooperation in the western Indian Ocean.
- Defense Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI)- prioritize co-production and co-development projects to pursue other avenues of defense innovation cooperation.

50 Intermediate range nuclear forces treaty

- **What says the treaty actually ?**
- INF Treaty, was signed between the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on the **Elimination of Their Intermediate-Range and Shorter-Range Missiles** was an arms control agreement between the United States and the Soviet Union which was signed in 1987.
- Under the INF Treaty, the agreed to (a) eliminate within three years all ground-launched-missiles of 500-5,500 km range (b) not to develop, produce or deploy these in future.
- **The News -**
- As Russian military has unveiled the specifications of its new missile-Novator 9M729 (SSC-8) ground-fired cruise missile. The U.S. has started portraying it worries that the weapons violates the 1987 Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty.

51. Migingo Island: Africa's smallest war

- The Migingo Island, claimed both by **Kenya and Uganda**, is a fisherman's paradise
- A rounded, rocky outcrop covered with metallic shacks, Migingo Island rises out of the waters of Lake Victoria like an iron-plated turtle. The densely populated island is barely a quarter of a hectare large. There's little else but a few bars, brothels and a tiny port.
- Migingo Island rises out of the waters of Lake Victoria like an iron-plated turtle. The densely populated island is barely a quarter of a hectare large.

52. Wuhan spirit

It is the capital city of Hubei Province in central China.

- Also a major industrial city for a long time.
- The 1911 Republican revolution started there.
- China normally prefer this place as a place other
- than Beijing or Shanghai, and Wuhan was a natural choice

Wuhan Spirit

- Apex Leaders of both the countries had a very successful meeting in Wuhan in April 2018.
- They concluded mutual trust and they jointly planned for the future of improvement and the strengthening of the China-India relationship

53. Indo relief to Indonesia

Operation Samudra Maitri

- The C-17 aircrafts were carrying medicines, generators, tents and water to provide immediate assistance.
- Also, Three Indian Navy ships — INS Tir, INS Sujatha and INS Shardul — have also been mobilized to carry out humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR).

54. India Italy Technology Summit 2018

- This year marks the 70th anniversary of diplomatic relations between India and Italy.

- the 24th edition of the India-Italy Technology Summit held in New Delhi recently.
- The Summit is organized by the Department of Science and Technology (DST).

The **focus** was on seven areas— Clean tech, Renewable, ICT, Healthcare, Aerospace, Education and Cultural Heritage.

The **objective-** (a) facilitate technology transfers (b) joint ventures (c) Research and Development (d) market access between industry and research institutions in India and Italy.

55. FOCAC forum on China Africa Corporation

- Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) 2018 Beijing Summit
- Estd- with a ministerial meeting in 2000.
- Now it is held triennially in china and Africa one by one.
- three new members to this year's FOCAC summit: the Gambia, Sao Tome and Principe, and Burkina Faso. (except Eswatini/ Swaziland)
- **Highlights-**
- China's new financial assistance plan of \$ 60b to reduce hunger, enhance security and industry n the continent.

56. Amendments in India for Cross-Border Insolvency in IBC in line with UNCITRAL

- Recommendation- Insolvency Law Committee, headed by Corporate Affairs Secretary Injeti Srinivas to India should adopt the UNCITRAL Model Law of Cross Border Insolvency, 1997 .
- A draft amendment by GOI on cross-border insolvency to further strengthen the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), which would help **lenders access overseas assets of a stressed company**.
- It focuses on cooperation from foreign countries to bring defaulters' assets there under consideration for insolvency proceedings.
- Regarding this, the draft favors adoption of an existing UN model law UNCITRAL on cross-border insolvency that has already been ratified by 44 countries.
- **How will it work?**
- As a cross-border insolvency law it will recognize that one country has to proceed with the main insolvency case while others with supplementary cases, depending on the location of defaulter's assets.
- Similarly,. India, too, will have to cooperate vice versa.

57. Bogibeel : on the northern bank of the Brahmaputra

- Between Dibrugarh and Dhemaji districts of Assam.
- Enhance "ease of living" as it reduces distances between Assam and Arunachal Pradesh. Because Dibrugarh is an important centre of healthcare, education and commerce in the region, and the people living north of the Brahmaputra, can now access this city, more conveniently
- country's longest road-cum-rail bridge. (length 4.94 km long)
- It will fulfill the lack towards development of the Northeast region which is the absence of robust connectivity.
- The iconic Bhupen Hazarika bridge (Dhola-Sadiya Bridge) over the Lohit river was commissioned recently by the Prime Minister.

(4) Health & Women-child development

1. Endosulfan agitation

- Victims of endosulfan poisoning in Kerala ended their five-day long indefinite hunger strike.
- They have been fighting a long and frustrating battle demanding financial aid, adequate rehabilitation packages and healthcare facilities.
- People living in more than 20 gram panchayats in Kasargod district were exposed to the insecticide endosulfan – a highly potent neurotoxin – between 1975 and 2000, when the public sector Plantation Corporation of Kerala sprayed the chemical aerially on its 12,000-acre cashew estates.
- Its residues spread far and wide via wind and rain, leaving a trail of destruction in the district and neighbouring regions of Karnataka, killing more than 1,000 people. It poisoned more than 6,000 people.
- Thousands of children were born with congenital disabilities, hydrocephalus, diseases of the nervous system, epilepsy, cerebral palsy, and severe physical and mental disabilities

2. Public health spending

- Government aims to increase public health spending to 2.5% of GDP. However, current health spending is only 1.15-1.5% of GDP.
- To reach its target, the government should increase funding for health by 20-25% every year for the next five years or more.

3. H1N1 influenza (or swine flu)

- -H1N1 virus is the subtype of influenza A virus that was the most common cause of human influenza in 2009. H1N1 flu is also known as swine flu caused by swine influenza virus that is endemic in pigs.
- The 'H' stands for hemagglutinin and 'N' for neuraminidase – both proteins on the outer layer of the virus.
- It is a pandemic outbreak – Means Disease outbreak occurs over a wide geographic area and affects a very high proportion of the population.
- Swine influenza is a respiratory disease that occurs in pigs that is caused by the Influenza A virus.
- It's a highly contagious disease that can easily spread from person to person.

IDSP was launched with World Bank assistance in November 2004 to detect and respond to disease outbreaks quickly

4. Monkey Fever

- Kyasanoor Forest Disease (KFD) is tick-borne viral hemorrhagic fever endemic to South Asia. The virus is transmitted to human beings through parasitic ticks which latch on to monkeys.

- KFD was first detected in the Kyasanur forest in Karnataka in 1957. Since then, between 400 and 500 human cases are reported each year in South Asia, mainly India.
- The disease is caused by Kyasanur forest disease virus (KFDV), a member of the virus family Flaviviridae, which also cause yellow fever and dengue.
- Rodents, shrews, and monkeys are common hosts for KFDV after being bitten by an infected tick. KFDV kills most primates it infects.
- The symptoms in humans include fever for more than 12 days, accompanied by cough, headache, diarrhea and vomiting. The fever is followed by mental disturbances, tremors and vision deficits.
- Vaccination against monkey fever is used in endemic areas of India.

5. West Nile Virus

- from Malappuram District of Kerala is suffering from a West Nile Virus (WNV), a mosquito-borne disease, mostly reported in the continental United States.
- West Nile fever is spread by Culex mosquitoes and the infection could be confirmed only if the second samples test positive.
- Symptoms include fever, headache, tiredness, and body aches, nausea, vomiting, occasionally with a skin rash on the trunk of the body, and swollen lymph glands.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) says West Nile virus transmits to humans through bites from infected mosquitoes.

6. Nipah virus

- The Tripura government sounded an alert after the death of five members of a family in Nipah virus attack in a Bangladesh village bordering West Bengal.
- -Nipah Virus is an emerging infectious disease that broke out in Malaysia and Singapore in 1998 and 1999.
- It first appeared in domestic pigs and has been found among several species of domestic animals including dogs, cats, goats, horses and sheep.
- The infection is also known to affect human beings.
- The organism which causes Nipah Virus encephalitis is an RNA or Ribonucleic acid virus.
- Nipah virus infection gets its name from the village in Malaysia where the person from whom the virus was first isolated succumbed to the disease.

7. Dry eye disease

- Dry eye disease could occur due to inadequate tear production (aqueous deficient), tear film instability due to evaporation or mixed type. Over 20.5% had dry eye disease caused by inadequate tear production, 35.5% due to tear film instability (evaporative) and 40% being mixed.
- As tears are not produced sufficiently in people who are aqueous deficient, it is a more dangerous form of dry eye disease. They have severe clinical disease.
- The disease is hugely underdiagnosed in India.
- The study was undertaken across 200 locations in Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and Karnataka between 2010 and 2018. The results were published in The Ocular Surface.

8. fight flu pandemics

- WHO's new strategy, for 2019 through 2030, aims to prevent seasonal influenza, control the virus's spread from animals to humans and prepare for the next pandemic.
- The new strategy called for every country to strengthen routine health programmes and to develop tailor-made influenza programmes that strengthen disease surveillance, response, prevention, control, and preparedness.
- WHO recommends annual flu vaccines as the most effective way to prevent the spread of the disease, especially for healthcare workers and people at higher risk of influenza complications.
- It also called for the development of more effective and more accessible vaccines and antiviral treatments.

9. Delhi End TB Summit

organized by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare jointly with the WHO's South-East Asia Region Office and international coalition Stop TB Partnership.

- Prime Minister had said India will fully eliminate tuberculosis by 2025, a good five years ahead of the global deadline of 2030.

10. -Now medical devices are treated as "DRUGS"

- Centre in a notification said that medical devices — **all implantable devices**, CT Scan, PET and MRI equipment, defibrillators, dialysis machines and bone marrow separators — will be treated as drugs for human beings with effect from April 1, 2020.
- Majority of medical devices are completely unregulated in India. With this move, all implantable devices and some diagnostic equipment will be brought into the regulatory framework.
- Also bringing medical devices into the regulatory framework is important from a patient safety perspective.

11. Cancer drugs:

- The government has brought 42 non-scheduled anti-cancer drugs under price control, capping trade margin at 30%, which would reduce their retail prices by up to 85%.
- The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has invoked extraordinary powers in public interest, under Para 19 of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 2013 to bring 42 non-scheduled anti-cancer drugs under price control.
- As per data available with NPPA, the MRP for 105 brands will be reduced up to 85%, entailing minimum savings of ₹ 105 crore to consumers.
- Currently, 57 anti-cancer drugs are under price control as scheduled formulations.

12. Competitive populism

- Competitive populism among political parties and offers of loan waivers and free power in the run-up to elections are just temporary solutions that do not address the need for structural changes to sustainably develop incomes in the country, Vice- President Venkaiah Naidu said.
- Populist measures may have short-term political gains, but lead to long-term economic problems as they are "unproductive,

13. ARTICLE 35 A

a Kashmiri woman, CharuWali Khan filed a petition to change the constitutional provision as she wanted succession rights in the state though she is settled outside the state.

- The article empowers the Jammu and Kashmir state's legislature to define "permanent residents" of the state and confer on them special rights and privileges in public sector jobs, acquisition of property in the State, scholarships and other public aid and welfare.
- The provision mandates that no act of the legislature coming under it can be challenged for violating the Constitution or any other law of the land.
- It was added to the constitution through a presidential order of 1954 with the then J&K government's concurrence.
- Article 35A does not allow people from outside the state of Jammu & Kashmir to work, settle or own property in the state.

14. LG Powers in UTs-

- under Section 44 of the Union Territories Act, 1963, the Administrator has to act on the 'aid and advice' of the Council of Ministers.
- Any difference of opinion between them can be referred to the President, and in the meantime the Administrator's action prevails on any urgent matter.
- Government of Union Territories Act, 1963 allows the L-G office discretionary powers, but these must be exercised judiciously and only in exceptional circumstances.
- Supreme Court (during the ruling on the limits of the L-G's powers in Delhi) had stressed the need for the L-G as well as people's representatives to "function in harmony within constitutional parameters". The L-G was cautioned against having a hostile attitude towards the Ministers.

15. Bills which have lapsed in Rajya sabha:

- The Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2019, that had set off a series of violent protests across the northeastern States, lapsed as the government failed to push it through Rajya Sabha.
- Along with the Citizenship Bill, the triple talaq Bill that criminalises instant divorce in a Muslim marriage has also lapsed.

16. Bharat ke Veer initiative

- a private initiative which aids families of paramilitary personnel killed in action
- The initiative had now been formalized into a registered trust for providing a platform for all citizens to contribute and provide assistance to the families of martyred personnel
- Akshay Kumar and former national badminton champion Pullela Gopichand have been included as trustees

17. Triple Talaq ordinance

- -Article 123 of the Constitution grants the President certain law-making powers to promulgate Ordinances when either of the two Houses of Parliament is not in session
- -The Triple talaq Bill makes pronouncement of triple talaq void and illegal. It seeks to make the practice of instant triple talaq a punishable offence with imprisonment of up to three years.

18. Adultery is not a crime

- Section 497 of the IPC mandates that “Whoever has sexual intercourse with a person who is and whom he knows or has reason to believe to be the wife of another man, without the consent or connivance of that man, such sexual intercourse not amounting the offence of rape, is guilty of the offence of adultery and shall be punished.
- five-judge bench of the Supreme Court said the 158-year-old law was unconstitutional and fell foul of Article 21 (Right to life and personal liberty) and Article 14 (Right to equality)
- The apex court also declared Section 198(1) and 198(2) of the CrPC, which allows a husband to bring charges against the man with whom his wife committed adultery, unconstitutional

19. Ending TB

- On March 13, 2018, the Prime Minister, who was inaugurating the End TB Summit, declared that India would end TB by 2025
- WHO) has launched a joint initiative “Find. Treat. All. #EndTB”

20. A law for HIV person (HIV act 2017)

- It aims to prevent and control the spread of HIV and AIDS in the country and provides for penalties for discrimination against those affected by the virus.
- India has the third largest HIV-infected population with an estimated 2 million people. The country aims to decrease new infections by 75 per cent between 2010 and 2020 and eliminate AIDS by 20

21. QS ranking

- QS Quacquarelli Symonds, the global higher education think tank.
- First-ever QS Ranking of India's higher education institutions.
- IIT Bombay topped the list

22. Road safety and Radha Krishna committee

- Justice Radhakrishnan Committee that said out of 18 crore vehicles plying across the country, only six crores have third party insurance due to which victims of road accidents are denied compensation by insurance companies
- -The Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill 2016 fixed the amount of compensation at Rs 2 lakh in case of death and Rs 20,000 for injury in road accidents

23. Under 15 and air pollution: W h o

- The report on air pollution and child health was recently released by the WHO on the sidelines of its first ever global conference on Air Pollution and Health
- About 93% of the world's children under the age of 15 (1.8 billion children) breathe polluted air every day that puts their health and development at serious risk.
- impacts neurodevelopment and cognitive ability and can trigger asthma, and childhood cancer and greater risk for chronic diseases such as cardiovascular disease later in life.

24. Tobacco product and pictorial warning

- Canadian cancer society recently released the sixth edition of Cigarette Package Health Warnings: International Status Report in Geneva at WHO framework convention on tobacco control conference
- It has ranked 206 countries and territories on the size of their health warnings on cigarette packages, and lists countries and territories that require graphic picture warnings
- India, Hong Kong and Thailand hold fifth place jointly with 85 per cent cigarette warnings

25. Global hunger index

- by Welthungerhilfe and Concern Worldwide
- The world has made gradual, long-term progress in reducing overall hunger, but there is an uneven progress.
- forcibly displaced people is on the rise, and hunger is often both a cause and a consequence of **displacement**, coordinated actions needs to be taken by international community, national governments, and civil society.
- India has been ranked at the 103rd position among 119 countries and is among the 45 countries that have "serious levels of hunger".

26. Anti-trafficking bill 2018

- stringent punishment of "from 10 years up to life imprisonment" for aggravated forms of trafficking
- proposes establishing a National Anti-Trafficking Bureau (NATB)
- a Relief and Rehabilitation Committee (RRC) and Rehabilitation Fund (RF) with an initial allocation of Rs. 10 crore.

27. Kudumbasree scheme

- The 'Kudumbashree' SHG was started in 1998 by the CPI (M)-led government in Kerala.
- - The 'Kudumbashree' women in Kerala played a significant role in the relief operations after the recent floods.
- It was envisioned as a part of the People's Plan Campaign and local self-governance, with women at the center of it.

28. MAA program

- "Mother's Absolute Affection" is a nationwide programme of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- -Build an enabling environment for breastfeeding through awareness generation activities, targeting pregnant and lactating mothers, family members and society in order to promote optimal breastfeeding practices.

29. AB- NHPS

- The National Health Protection Scheme (NHPS) is publicly funded health insurance schemes, particularly the RashtriyaSwasthyaBima Yojana (RSBY).
- The government has launched this scheme, which is envisions a massive coverage of 50 crore people.

30. Jan Arogya Abhiyan

- the world's largest health protection scheme
- two pillars under it –
- Ayushman Bharat (AB) - 5 lakhs health sub-centres will be converted into health and wellness centres.
- National Health Protection Mission (NHPM) - Provides health cover of Rs. 5 lakhs per family, per annum, reaching out to 50 crore beneficiaries.
- The benefits of the scheme are portable across the country for secondary and tertiary care hospitalisation.

31. Odf Plus campaign

- Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA) is set to launch the Swachh Survekshan 2019.
- Parallely, a slew of new initiatives under the SBM-Urban as well as the Ease of Living Index will also be launched.
- -The SBM ODF+ protocol focuses on sustaining community/ public toilet usage by ensuring their functionality, cleanliness and maintenance.
- The SBM ODF++ will focus on achieving sanitation sustainability by addressing complete sanitation value chain, including safe containment, processing and disposal of fecal sludge and septage.

32. Bill for leprosy patients

- The Lok Sabha has passed the Personal Laws (Amendment Bill), 2018, which seeks to remove leprosy as a ground for divorce. Leprosy is being removed as a ground for divorce as it is now a curable disease as against the earlier notion of it being incurable.
- It is in keeping with the UN General Assembly Resolution of 2010 on the 'Elimination of discrimination against persons affected by leprosy and their family members' .

33. Global education minorities report: UNESCO

- -Global Education Monitoring Report 2019 titled- "Migration, Displacement and Education: Building Bridges, not Walls"
- -The report highlights countries' achievements and shortcomings in ensuring the right of migrant and refugee children to benefit from quality education.
- -New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants in 2016, refugees have missed 1.5 billion days of school.

34. Andaman and Nicobar: Protection of indigenous people

- island protection zone (IPZ) 2019 for Andaman and Nicobar.
- for holistic development in the Islands under the guidance of the Island Development Agency.
- It allows eco-tourism projects 20 meters from the high tide line (HTL) in smaller islands like Baratang, Havelock and Car Nicobar, and at 50 meters in larger ones.

35. Maternity leave: New changes

The amendments to the Maternity Benefit Act, which were introduced this year, in particular the provision of 26 weeks of paid maternity leave and the mandatory creche facility

- applicable to all establishments employing 10 or more persons
- maternity benefit of 26 weeks (earlier 12)
- can be availed before 8 weeks from the date of expected delivery (earlier 6)
- woman who has two or more children, the maternity benefit will continue to be 12 weeks, which cannot be availed before 6 weeks from the date of the expected delivery.

36. Heatwave exposure: Lasent report

- Indians faced almost 60 mn heatwave exposure events in 2016, says journal loss of labour hours due to a surge in exposure to heatwave events in the country over the 2012-2016 period
- average length of heatwaves in India ranged from 3-4 days compared to the global average of 0.8-1.8 days, and Indians were exposed to almost 60 million heatwave exposure events in 2016
- Heatwaves are associated with increased rates of heat stress and heat stroke, worsening heart failure and acute kidney injury from dehydration.

37. Pm Matru Vandana Yojana

- Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) is a Maternity Benefit Programme that is implemented in all the districts of the country in accordance with the provision of the National Food Security Act, 2013.
- providing partial compensation for the wage loss in terms of cash incentives
- before and after delivery of the first living child (only once)
- cash incentive of Rs 5000 in three instalments

38. Hague convention on international child abduction

- treaty that establishes procedures that provide for the prompt return of children wrongfully retained or removed from their habitual residence.
- Often a male Indian migrant who is a green card holder comes to India to marry an Indian woman, not a green card holder, who he takes back on a dependent visa. They settle for example in the US and have children.
- Trouble erupts between them, the matter is taken to a US court and decisions in relation to child custody are made there, or perhaps ex-parte decisions when she has had to leave the country with her children.
- The mother, will be a "child abductor" and an application can be made to the authority in India for the return of the child to the place of: "habitual residence", that is the US or any other reciprocal country who has signed the convention
- India not signed the treaty for good reasons, no parent can 'abduct' her own child.

39. Sustainable development goals report 2018 by UN

- A fast-changing climate, conflict, inequality, persistent pockets of poverty and hunger and rapid urbanization are challenging countries' efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), according to a UN report
- The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2018 found that conflict and climate change were major contributing factors leading to growing numbers of people facing hunger and forced displacement, as well as curtailing progress towards universal access to basic water and sanitation services.

40. Trace and track campaign for counterfeiting drug

- According to the World Health Organization (WHO), around 35 % of the fake drugs sold globally come from India.
- fake drugs promote anti-microbial resistance in people and incur huge revenue losses.
- NITI Aayog, in collaboration with Oracle Technologies and Apollo Hospitals, is working on a technology.
- The technology will leverage blockchain technology to overcome the counterfeit drug problem.

42. Identification number for unorganized workers

- a national database and Aadhaar-seeded identification number system to facilitate welfare delivery to 40 crore workers in the sector.
- -The Union Ministry of Labor has called for tenders to design, develop and run the new UWIN — Unorganized Workers Identification Number — Platform.
- -The Socio-Economic and Caste Census 2011 will be used as the base for the platform

43. SNEHA: Suicide prevention centre

- Chennai-based Sneha, Tamil Nadu's sole suicide prevention centre, has helped over one lakh callers contemplating suicide to court life once again.
- Sneha's suicide-prevention hotline (8115050) has received over one lakh calls since its inception in 1986
- According to the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), one in three suicides committed in India is by a youth. While a suicide was attempted every 7.6 minutes in 1989, today it occurs every five minutes.

44. Transgender person bill 2018

- It provides them with employment and recognizes their right to "self-perceived gender identity".
- a certificate of identity as proof of recognition of identity as a transgender person and to invoke rights under the Billa grievance redressal mechanism in establishment and a National Council for Transgenders.
- Proposes welfare schemes and programmes which are "transgender sensitive, non-stigmatizing and non-discriminatory".

45. POCSO act amendment

The act will be amended to introduce the death penalty as a punishment for offences of penetrative sexual assault and aggravated penetrative sexual assault.

The following cases will be treated as “aggravated offence”.

- Cases of sexual assault by police officers,
- by members of the armed forces,
- by public servants,
- by relatives,
- gang-penetrative sexual assault,
- where the survivor is less than 12 years old and
- attempt to inject hormones in children to attain early sexual maturity for the purpose of penetrative sexual assault

A hefty fine would be imposed for not deleting, not destroying child pornographic material or not reporting child pornography.

46. Global nutrition report 2018

- the Global Nutrition Report 2018, India is facing a major malnutrition crisis as it holds almost a third of world’s burden for stunting.
- -With 46.6 million children who are stunted, India tops the list of countries followed by Nigeria (13.9 million) and Pakistan (10.7 million), the Global Nutrition Report 2018 said.
- -India also accounted for 25.5 million children who are wasted, followed by Nigeria (3.4 million) and Indonesia (3.3 million).

47. Nikshayposhan Yojana

DBT scheme for nutritional support to Tuberculosis (TB) patients — NikshayPoshan Yojana (NPY)

48. interdisciplinary cyber physical system

- National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems (NM-ICPS) to be implemented by Department of Science & Technology for a period of five years.
- -Cyber-physical systems integrate sensing, computation, control and networking into physical objects and infrastructure, connecting them to the Internet and to each other.
- -includes Central Ministries, State Governments, Industry and Academia.

49. Section 377 IPC

- The Supreme Court (SC) recently decriminalised homosexuality by striking off parts of Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) which were held violative of Fundamental Rights of LGBTQ Community.
- Article 14 of the Constitution guarantees equality before law and this applies to all classes of citizens.

- The pre-eminence of Constitutional morality in India that equality before law cannot be denied.
- Too, India is signatory of 'Yogyakarta Principles on the Application of International Law in Relation to Issues of Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity'.

50. Repatriation of prisoners

- As of March 2018, 7850 Indian national are lodged in foreign prisons of 78 countries
- Saudi Arabia has the maximum number of 2,181 Indian prisoners followed by the UAE with 1,628
- After the enactment of the Repatriation of Prisoners Act, 2003, 170 applications for repatriation have been received by India
- 63 Indian prisoners have been repatriated from foreign prisons.

Difference between Extradition and Repatriation:

- Extradition is the process the by which one state, upon the request of another, effects the return of a person for trial for a crime committed punishable by the laws of the requesting state
- Repatriation is the process which enables transfer of foreign prisoners to their native country where they can serve their remaining part of their sentence

51. The eat right movement by FSSAI

- The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) recently organised the Swasth Bharat Yatra, a key element of the 'Eat Right India Movement'.
- It is multi-sectoral effort with primary focus on daily intake – of salt, sugar, fat, phasing-out trans-fats from diets and promoting healthier food options.
- It is built on two broad pillars of Eat Healthy and Eat Safe.

52. Ban on Oxytocin

- Delhi High Court quashed a government ban on the retail sale and private manufacture of oxytocin.
- due to oxytocin's misuse in dairy cattle, fruits and vegetables.
- Oxytocin is a life-saving drug used to stem post-partum bleeding among new mothers
- Because of this, it had been listed by both the World Health Organization and the Health Ministry as an essential medicine

53. Practice of devadasi custom

- a religious practice whereby parents marry a daughter to a deity or a temple. The marriage usually occurs before the girl reaches puberty. In recent decades, the practice has been used to push young girls into prostitution.
- The practice of Devadasi system in any form is in total contravention of the provisions of Section 370 and 370A as amended through Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2013 as well as Section 372 of Indian Penal Code. It is also against Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act.
- It is not just in Karnataka but has also spread to neighbouring Goa.

54. ASER: Annual status of education report 2018

- by a non-governmental organization Pratham since 2005.
- presents a dismal picture of primary education in India.
- For the first time since India adopted RTE, reading abilities of Class V students in government schools have improved and their basic mathematical abilities have started growing faster.

55. Kasanur forest disease OR monkey fever

- KFD is caused by the Kyasanur Forest Disease Virus (KFDV). The virus was identified in 1957 when it was isolated from a sick monkey from the Kyasanur Forest. Since then, between 400-500 humans cases per year have been reported
- Rodents, shrews, and monkeys are common hosts for KFDV after being bitten by an infected tick.
- After an incubation period of 3-8 days, the symptoms of KFD begin suddenly with chills, fever, and headache. Severe muscle pain with vomiting, gastrointestinal symptoms and bleeding problems may occur 3-4 days after initial symptom onset. Patients may experience abnormally low blood pressure, and low platelet, red blood cell, and white blood cell counts.

56. Non communicable diseases are top killers: WHO

- According to WHO, Non-communicable diseases (NCDs)- mainly cardiovascular diseases, chronic respiratory diseases, diabetes and cancer — continue to be the top killers in the South-East Asia Region.
- The four 'major' NCDs are caused, to a large extent, by four modifiable behavioral risk factors:
 - (a) tobacco use
 - (b) unhealthy diet
 - (c) insufficient physical activity
 - (d) harmful use of alcohol

(5) Environment, Infrastructure and Energy

1. 14th CoP-CBD

- CBD Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity was held at the Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt. (Nov 2018)
- Key focus – “How to govern biological resources (or biodiversity) at different levels for the world’s sustainable future?”

CBD reports and studies highlighted that –

- Humans have mismanaged biodiversity so badly that we have lost 60% of resources (which can never be recouped).
- Convention’s objectives of conservation, sustainable use and equitable sharing of benefits were being compromised, including by the parties themselves.

2. IQAir Group

Ground-based sensors located in 3,000 cities from 73 countries and was compiled by IQAir Group, a manufacturer of air-monitoring sensors as well as purifiers and environmentalist group Greenpeace revealed that :

- Fifteen of the top 20 most polluted cities in the world are located in India.
- Gurugram in Haryana topped the list with an average annual particulate matter (PM 2.5) quality of 135 micrograms/cubic metre, in 2018.
- Of the cities analysed, 64% exceeded the WHO’s annual exposure guideline (10 micrograms/cubic metre) for fine particulate matter, also known as PM 2.5.
- India’s annual guidelines range from 40-60 micrograms/cubic metre, depending on whether they are residential or industrial areas.
- Every single one of measured cities with data in the Middle East and Africa exceeded the WHO guideline, while 99% of cities in South Asia, 95% of cities in Southeast Asia and 89% of cities in East Asia breached this level.
- Bangladesh the most polluted followed by Pakistan and India respectively.
- Iceland with the cleanest air.

3 Global Environmental Outlook (GEO) ,

GEO-6 theme: “*Healthy Planet, Healthy People*”

According to the Global Environmental Outlook (GEO), prepared by the United Nations Environment Programme –

- Global Environment Outlook (GEO) is released by **UN Environment Programme (UNEP)**
- The GEO project was initiated in response to the environmental reporting requirements of **UN Agenda 21**.
- Agenda 21 is a **non-binding action plan** of the **United Nations** with regard to sustainable development. It is a product of the **Earth Summit** (UN Conference on Environment and Development) held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in **1992**.
- Unless environmental protections were drastically scaled up, cities and regions in Asia, the Middle East and Africa could see millions of premature deaths by mid-century.

- India could save at least \$3 trillion in healthcare costs if it implemented policy initiatives consistent with Paris climate goals.
- In other words, ensuring that the globe didn't heat up beyond 1.5 degrees Celsius by the turn of the century.

4. Recent UN climate report : heat wave and sun stroke

- India to face threat of deadly heat waves
- If the average global temperature rises by more than one degree Celsius from the present, India could "annually" expect conditions like the 2015 heat wave that killed at least 2,000
- The report stated that capping the rise in temperature to 1.5 degrees Celsius would require "rapid and far-reaching" transitions in land, energy, industry, buildings, transport and cities.

5. Rising sea levels : implications

- Rising sea levels to affect water table in T.N.
- Fresh water will be replaced with saline water over time: study
- The water table would witness an incursion of sea water to the extent of 2-3mm every year.
- Rapid urbanisation and indiscriminate drawal have already led to salt water intrusion in many areas.
- There is a rise in sea level by 2mm every year based on a report by the Indian Network for Climate Change Assessment under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
- The sea would also be moving closer to the land by 0.5 m every year because of the increase in sea level.

6. New Delhi Declaration: Rhinos

- International boundaries will not come in the way of conservation of rhinos.
- The **New Delhi Declaration** was adopted during the second meeting of the Asian rhino range countries.
- Experts had noted that trans-boundary collaboration is needed between India, Nepal, and Bhutan for the conservation and protection of the greater one-horned rhino.
- There are no rhinos in Bhutan, but some from the Manas National Park in adjoining Assam or Buxa Tiger Reserve in West Bengal are known to cross over occasionally.
- India will collaborate with **Bhutan, Nepal, Indonesia** and **Malaysia** to increase the population of **three species of Asian rhinos**, including the **Greater one-horned rhinoceros** found in the Indian sub-continent.
- The **five rhino range nations** signed a declaration '**The Declaration on Asian Rhinos 2019**' for the conservation and protection of the species at the recently held Second Asian Rhino Range Countries meeting held in Delhi.

7. Wood snake

- A species of **wood snake** that wasn't seen for 140 years has resurfaced in a survey conducted by scientists in the **Meghamalai Wildlife Sanctuary**.
- The species is endemic to the Meghamalai forests and the Periyar Tiger Reserve landscape. (Tamil Nadu)

8. Starry dwarf frog

- -A “secretive” new species of frog has been discovered on the forest floor in India’s **Western Ghat mountain range**.
- Dubbed the Starry dwarf frog after the markings on its dark brown back, *Astrobatrachus kurichiyana* has an orange underbelly and is just 2cm in length.
- It has named as *Astrobatrachus kurichiyana* (genus *Astrobatrachus* after its starry spots and *kurichiyana* in honour of the Kurichiya tribal community who live in the area).

9. Odisha’s Rushikulya rookery and Devi river mouth

- Even after waiting for almost a month, Olive Ridley turtles have not yet arrived for mass nesting at Odisha’s Rushikulya rookery and Devi river mouth.
- The reasons are not fully understood yet.
- Mass nesting has already occurred at the Gahirmatha coast of the State.
- Only two species of marine turtles display a unique mass nesting behavior. This behavior is known as an 'arribada'

10. ASIAN Elephant alliance :

In news:

- Asian Elephant Alliance to secure 96 out of the 101 existing corridors used by elephants across 12 States in India.
- The joint venture is aiming at **raising £20 million (₹ 187.16 crore)** to secure the 96 remaining elephant corridors, old and new, in the next ten years.

About Asian Elephant Alliance

- Asian Elephant Alliance, an umbrella of five NGOs, was launched to reverse crisis facing elephants.
- The initiative aims to stem the crisis facing the world’s remaining Asian elephants – thought to number only 35,000 – 45,000.

11. Thane Creek Flamingo Wildlife Sanctuary

- panel gave nod to the Mumbai-Ahmedabad high-speed train corridor.
- The corridor is said to encroach some of the forest land of Thane Creek Flamingo Wildlife Sanctuary and the Sanjay Gandhi National Park, home to leopards, in Mumbai.
- The first lot of bullet trains are expected to ply on six high-speed corridors by 2022-23

12. GIR forest

- After as many as 23 lions died in Gujarat’s Gir forest since September (especially due to virus infection), the Centre and the Gujarat government have announced a ₹ 97.85 crore Asiatic Lion Conservation Project.
- -The Gujarat government has envisaged a ‘**Greater Gir**’ that includes, other than the existing Gir National Park, sanctuaries in Girnar, Pania and Mitiyala.
- Key aspects of the conservation project include undertaking “habitat improvement” measures, making more sources of water available, creating a wildlife crime cell, and a task force for the Greater Gir region.

13. Bramble Cay Melomys

- Australia officially declared a Great Barrier Reef rodent extinct.
- The rat-like Bramble Cay Melomys — whose only known habitat was a small sandy island in far northern Australia — has not been spotted in a decade.
- Bramble Cay Melomys is the first mammal believed to have been killed off by human-induced climate change.

14. Flying bulldog :

- Flying bulldog is world's largest bee and is roughly the size of a human thumb
- It has been rediscovered in a remote part of Indonesia
- First sighting was nearly 40 years ago
- The bee (Megachilepluto), which lives in the Indonesian island region of North Moluccas, makes its nest in termite mounds, using its large fang-like mandibles to collect sticky resin to protect its home from the termites.

15. Climate change performance index

- The Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) is an annual publication by Germanwatch, NewClimate Institute and Climate Action Network Europe.
- recently released shows that only few countries have started working towards limiting global warming below 2°C or even at 1.5°C.
- India ranks 11th in this year's CCPI, improving its standing by three places compared to the previous edition.
- Most notably India improved its performance in the Renewable Energy category,

16. National clean air programme

- It is a medium term national level strategy to tackle the increasing air pollution problem across the country in a comprehensive manner.
- participatory approach covering all sources of pollution and coordination between relevant Central Ministries, State Governments, local bodies and other stakeholders.
- 'Technology Assessment Cell' has been envisaged under NCAP to evaluate the technologies for prevention, control and abatement of air pollution.
- The tentative national level target of 20%-30% reduction of PM2.5 and PM10 concentration by 2024 is proposed under the NCAP taking 2017 as the base year

17. South Asian nitrogen hub

- Eighteen research institutions in India are among a group of 50 institutions — called the South Asian Nitrogen Hub (SANH) — in the United Kingdom and South Asia.
- The group has secured £20 million (about ₹ 200 crore) from the U.K. government to assess and study the quantum and impact of "nitrogen pollution" in South Asia.
- The SANH will study the impacts of the different forms of pollution to form a "coherent picture" of the nitrogen cycle

18. Household air pollution

- Indian Council of Medical Research has released its first comprehensive estimates of deaths, disease burden, and life expectancy reduction associated with air pollution in each state of India.
- Air pollution has become a year-round phenomenon particularly in north India which causes health impacts far beyond the seasonal rise of respiratory illnesses.
- One in every eight deaths in India is attributable to air pollution, which now contributes to more disease burden than smoking. In fact, the average life expectancy in India would have been 1.7 years higher if the air pollution level were less than the minimal level.
- Around 77% of India's population is exposed to outdoor air pollution levels above the National Ambient Air Quality Standards safe limit.

19. Asian water bird census

- AWC, the largest such census in Asia, is organised by Wetlands International, is an international programme that focuses on monitoring the status of waterbirds and wetlands
- Asian Waterbird Census (AWC) 2019 showed an increase in the bird count from last year and almost doubles that of 2017.

20. Coastal regulation zone notification

- The Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has notified the 2019 Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) norms, replacing the existing CRZ norms of 2011.
- To promote sustainable development based on scientific principles considering the natural hazards such as increasing sea levels due to global warming.
- To conserve and protect the environment of coastal stretches and marine areas, besides livelihood security to the fisher communities and other local communities in the coastal area.

21. Flamingo festival

- Flamingo Festival is held every year to promote tourism in Pulicat and Nellapattu. Flamingo Festival is being organised for the past 12 years. Migratory birds from Siberia have been visiting this place for breeding and the colourful birds are a treat to the eye of bird watchers.
- Nelapattu Bird Sanctuary: It is considered one of the biggest habitat for some hundreds of pelicans and other birds. Located about 20 km north of the Pulicat Lake on the Andhra Pradesh-Tamil Nadu border

22. Golden langoor breeding project

- Assam State Zoo, Guwahati, was selected to proceed with the Conservation Breeding Programme of Golden Langur.
- Gee's golden langur or simply the golden langur, is an Old-World monkey.
- Regions: It is found in a small region of Western Assam, India and in the neighboring foothills of the Black Mountains of Bhutan.

23. Zero budget natural farming

- a chemical free farming. Bio-pesticides, bio-fertilizers, onfarm / off farm natural inputs are used by farmers that results in reduction of input cost compared to inorganic cultivation which also contributes to savings.
- INDIA has been promoting various organic farming models like Natural Farming, Rishi Farming, Vedic Farming, Cow Farming, Homa Farming, Zero Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF) through Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) since 2015-16 and also through Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY).

24. Polar research to Arctic by India

- With Canada and Russia, key countries with presence in the Arctic Circle, India to establish new observation systems, according to a source. Presently India only has one Arctic observation station near Norway.
- the government is refocusing priorities to the Arctic because of opportunities and challenges posed by climate change.
- It has renamed the National Centre for Antarctic and Ocean Research (NCAOR) — since 1998, as the National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research
- India in 2015 set up an underground observatory, called IndARC, at the Kongsfjorden Fjord, half way between Norway and the North Pole

25. Bhitarkanika national park

- Bhitarkanika National Park in Odisha
- The Bhitarkanika National Park is one of the largest habitats of endangered estuarine crocodiles in the country .
- -The saltwater crocodile, also known as the estuarine crocodile, is the largest of all living reptiles, as well as the largest riparian predator in the world.

26. Bandipur National Park

- -Bandipur National Park – located in state of Karnataka
- It is one of the premier Tiger Reserves in the country along with the adjoining Nagarhole national park.
- -There is a significant reduction in the number of roadkill in Bandipur ever since the ban on night traffic through the tiger reserve was introduced in 2009.

27. South bent Nilgiris tahar

- Recent census has revealed that the population of the Nilgiritahr at the Mukurthi National Park has grown by an impressive 18% in the last two years, from 480 to 568.
- Mukurthi National Park (MNP) is protected area located in the western corner of the Nilgiris Plateau west of Ootacamund hill station in the northwest corner of Tamil Nadu state in the Western Ghats mountain range of South India.

28. International whaling Commission

- an international body set up by the terms of the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling (ICRW)
- provide for the proper conservation of whale stocks and thus make possible the orderly development of the whaling industry.
- The Indian Ocean Whale Sanctuary is an area in the Indian Ocean where the International Whaling Commission (IWC) has banned all types of commercial whaling.

29. Dhole

- Dhole – Indian wild dog
- IUCN Status : Endangered
- -Dhole is already extinct in about 10 Asian countries
- -It is a canid native to Central, South and Southeast Asia
- -less than 2,500 individuals surviving in the They occur in most of India south of the Ganges, particularly in the Central Indian Highlands and the Western and Eastern Ghats wild globally

30. Poland: COP 24

- COP24 took place from 2-14 December 2018, in Katowice, Poland.
- COP24 is the informal name for the 24th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).
- The Conference of the Parties (COP) is the supreme body of the UNFCCC
- The COP-24 finalized a “rulebook” to operationalise 2015 Paris Agreement
- The rulebook has addressed some concerns about the opaqueness of climate financing
- The rulebook set out how countries will provide information about their Nationally Determined Contributions describing their domestic climate actions, mitigation and adaptation measures.

31. CO2 level at risk

- The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has just released a special report on global warming of 1.5°C, over pre-industrial temperatures.
- The IPCC report identifies two main strategies; -
 - a. The first stabilizes global temperature around the 1.5°C mark with limited overshoot and the second permits temperatures to exceed 1.5°C temporarily before coming back down.
 - b. To limit warming to around 1.5°C with no or limited overshoot, global net carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions need to decline by about 45% from 2010 levels by 2030 and reach net zero around mid-century.
- In comparison, to limit warming to just below 2°C, the reductions needed are about 20% by 2030 and reach net zero around 2075.

32. Beach pollution

According to a study by the **National Centre of Coastal Research (NCCR)**

- **Tourism and fishing** contributing most of the plastic litter on beaches.
 - **Plastic litter** from tourism alone accounted for 40%-96% of all beach litter.
 - Gopalpur in Odisha is the worst hit.
 - After tourism, **fishing** was the next biggest source of litter. While fishing nets were a major contributor, the processing of fish on the beach also produced a lot of litter.
- September 15, 2018 was celebrated as International Coastal Cleanup Day.

33. Eco sensitive zone by Supreme Court

- National Green Tribunal (NGT) has asked the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) to consider declaring all elephant corridors in India as eco-sensitive zones.
- Eco-Sensitive Zones (ESZs) are areas notified by the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Government of India around Protected Areas, National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries.
- to create some kind of “shock absorbers” and They also act as a transition zone from areas of high protection to areas involving lesser protection

34. Pangolin and HANGUL

- The pangolin, which can be found all over India, seems doomed because of its scales, which are said to have medicinal value and are more expensive than gold, are sheared ruthlessly.
- Its meat too is in demand in China. Illegal trade continues not just in parts where there are tigers but also in parts where there are musk deer, otter, mongoose and other animals.
- Pangolins are the most trafficked mammals in the world

HANGUL: -

- Hangul is a sub-species of the European red deer, in Kashmir.
- It is state animal of Jammu and Kashmir.
- Majorly confined to the Dachigam National Park.
- Only one viable population left today in the wild is largely confined to the Greater Dachigam Landscape (1,000 sq.km.), encompassing the Dachigam National Park (NP) and adjoining protected areas.

35. Kaiga nuclear power plant: Recent news

- The Kaiga nuclear power plant, which is located in western Karnataka, has created a world record for the longest uninterrupted operation of 941 days.
- It broke the earlier record of 940 days by the Heysham plant in the United Kingdom.
- While the Kaiga (KGS-1) is a Pressurised Heavy Water Reactor (PHWR)

36. Bogibeel at Brahmaputra river

- The Bogibeel Bridge, inside Assam, is 20 km from the border with Arunachal Pradesh.
- It spans nearly five-km across the Brahmaputra river.
- It connects Dibrugarh on the Brahmaputra’s south bank to Dhemaji on the north bank.
- It will link Dibrugarh with North Lakhimpur district of Assam and parts of eastern Arunachal Pradesh.
- It is the country’s longest road-cum-rail bridge, and its fourth longest of any kind above water.

37. Green GDP and green skilling

- In 2009, the centre had announced plans for unveiling “green GDP” figures.
- The Green GDP figure accounts for the environmental costs of depletion and degradation of natural resources into the country’s economic growth figures.
- The Green Skill Development Programme (GSDP) of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) is an initiative for skill development in the environment and forest sector to enable India's youth to get gainful employment and/or self-employment.
- The number of people to be covered under GSDP will be 80,000 during 2018-19, 2.25 lakh during 2019-20 and about 5 lakh people by the year 2021.

38. Plastic waste management rules

1. The Union ministry of environment, forest and climate change amended the **Plastic Waste Management Rules (2016)**
2. According to the amendment, manufacturers, suppliers, and sellers of plastic (and plastic products) across the nation will now be required to phase out, over a period of two years, all such products which have no alternative use or are non-recyclable and non-energy recoverable

39. OCEMS

Online Continuous Emission Monitoring Systems (OCEMS)

- -Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has directed State Pollution Control Boards (SPCB) to close down industrial units that haven’t installed Online Continuous Emission Monitoring Systems (OCEMS).
- It is mandatory for a new industrial unit to install an OCEM to commence operations.
- The CPCB has since 2015 made it mandatory for industries to install OCEMS.
The industries that require OCEMS include distilleries (including fermentation industry), sugar, fertiliser, pulp & paper (paper manufacturing with or without pulping), pharmaceuticals, dyes and dye-intermediates, pesticides, tanneries, thermal power plants, iron and steel, zinc, copper and aluminium smelters.

40. Black softshell turtle

- The black softshell turtle or Bostami turtle (*Nilssonina nigricans*, previously placed in genus *Aspideretes*) is a species of freshwater turtle found in India (Assam) and Bangladesh (Chittagong and Sylhet).
- It was long believed to be inbred individuals of the Ganges softshell turtle (*A. gangeticus* or *N. gangeticus*) or the Indian peacock softshell turtle (*A. hurum* or *N. hurum*), but while it is a close relative of the latter, it is a distinct species.
- The black softshell turtle (*Nilssonina nigricans*) figures in the International Union for Conservation of Nature’s (IUCN) Red List as “extinct in the wild”.

41. Orange crocodile

- Orange crocodiles found in West African state of Gabon
- The reptile may have changed colour due to proximity to orange bats, according to scientists
- Orange crocodiles live in caves and in the total darkness, the animals survive on a diet of bats and crickets, unlike above-ground crocodiles of the same species which feed on fish and crustaceans.
- A comparison of cave-dwelling and above-ground crocodiles confirms that they have not become separate species. However, the subterranean creatures — whether orange or normal colour — have developed a specific “genetic signature.”

42. Mission Raftaar

- With a view to increasing speed of trains in Indian Railways, ‘Mission Raftaar’ was announced in the Railway Budget 2016-17.
- The mission envisages a target of doubling of average speed of freight trains and increasing the average speed of all non-suburban passenger trains by 25 kmph in the next 5 years.
- The Mission is being spearheaded by a cross disciplinary mobility Directorate in the Railway Board. The average speed is reckoned as one of the key indicators of all the railway productivity and efficiency in operations and utilization of assets.

43. Ken Betwa project (M.P. & U.P.)

- Country's first river interlinking project
- -The scheme, which involves deforesting a portion of the Panna Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh, was accorded clearance by the National Wildlife Board
- Another hurdle is a dispute over how Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh — the two beneficiaries — will share water in the Rabi season.
- The government is all set to begin work on an estimated \$87 billion plan to connect around 60 of India’s largest rivers; this includes the Ganga.

44. Solar bubble dryer

- The SBD is a low-cost drying technology that aims to provide a simple and flexible alternative to sun-drying while protecting from spillage, animals, weather and vehicles running over the grains.
- An innovative drying technology, Solar Bubble Dryer (SBD), developed jointly by International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), Philippines; Grainpro, a leading post-harvest solution providing company; and University of Hohenheim, Germany, was introduced to farmers in Odisha.

45. HFC: PHASE OUT

- Kigali Agreement, formally known as the Kigali Amendment to Montreal Protocol was adopted at the 28th Meeting of Parties to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete Ozone Layer (MOP28) at Kigali, Rwanda in October 2016.
- a framework for the reduction, and finally phasing out, of the production and use of **hydrofluorocarbons** (HFCs).
- legally binding on all the countries. It includes provisions for penalties which can be imposed on member nations for non-compliance to their respective targets

46. ACROSS & NFAR

(A) NFAR- National Facility for Airborne Research (NFAR)

- The scheme will provide improved weather, climate and ocean forecast and services, thereby ensuring transfer of commensurate benefits to the various services like Public weather service, disaster management, Agro-meteorological Services, Aviation services, Environmental monitoring services, Hydro-meteorological services, climate services, tourism, pilgrimage, power generation, water management, Sports & adventure etc.

(B) Atmosphere & Climate Research-Modelling Observing Systems & Services (ACROSS)" during 2017-2020.

- As the objective of the ACROSS scheme is to provide a reliable weather and climate forecast for betterment of society, the scheme will aim at improving skill of weather and climate forecast through sustained observations, intensive R & D.
- To ensure last-mile connectivity of the weather-based services to the end -user, a large number of agencies like the Krishi Vigyana Kendras of ICAR, Universities and local municipalities are roped in thus generating employment opportunities to many people.

47. Greater Flamingos at hope Island

- Recently a flock of five greater flamingoes were spotted on the Coast of Hope Island in East Godavari River Estuarine Eco (EGREE) System after a long gap of 25 years.
- Flamingoes are the indicators of healthy coastal environment,
- The species inhabits shallow eutrophic water bodies such as saline lagoons, saltpans and large saline or alkaline lakes.

48. Sangai deer

- It is an endemic and rare sub species of brow antlered deer found only in Manipur
- It is the state animal of Manipur
- Its habitat is restricted to the marshy wetland of Keiballamjao over the floating biomass in Loktak Lake which is locally called 'phumdi'
- Keiballamjao is the only floating national park in India.

49. CGD : City gas distribution

- Government of India has put thrust to promote the usage of natural gas as a fuel/feedstock across the country to move towards a gas based economy.

- Accordingly, development of CGD networks has been focused to increase the availability of cleaner cooking fuel (i.e. PNG) and transportation fuel (i.e. CNG) to the citizens of the country.
- India's natural gas consumption presently stands at 6.2% of its primary energy consumption and it has been targeted as 15% by 2020.

50. Pink Ball worm and fall armyworm

(A) PINK BALL WORM

It is an insect known for being a pest in cotton farming.

- The pink bollworm is native to Asia but has become an invasive species in most of the world's cotton-growing regions.
- The female moth lays eggs in a cotton ball, and when the larvae emerge from the eggs, they inflict damage through feeding.

(B) FALL ARMYWORM

- first detected in maize fields in India last year
- strike once every 10-12 years
- Native to the Americas, FAW has, since 2016, been aggressively moving eastwards, infesting Africa and making landfall in India last summer.
- It propagates similar to an army that "marches" slowly forward and consumes any foliage on the way.

51. National biofuel policy

- Bio fuels are liquid or gaseous fuels produced from biomass resources and used in place of, or in addition to, diesel, petrol or other fossil fuels for transport, stationary, portable and other applications.
- National Policy on Biofuel, 2018
- Goal: Achieve 20% blending of ethanol in petrol and 5% blending of biodiesel in diesel is proposed by 2030.
- The Policy categorises biofuels as:
 - "Basic Biofuels" – First Generation (1G) bioethanol & biodiesel
 - "Advanced Biofuels" – Second Generation (2G) ethanol, Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) to drop-in fuels
 - Third Generation (3G) biofuels, bio-CNG etc.

51. Humboldt Penguin

- Mumbai's Byculla zoo gives India its first baby penguin (Humboldt penguin).
- Humboldt penguin is a South American penguin that breeds in coastal Chile and Peru.
- The penguin is named after the cold-water current (Humboldt current) it swims in.
- IUCN status: Vulnerable

52. Nauradehi sanctuary

- Madhya Pradesh forest department has written to the National Tiger Conservation Authority to revive the plan to reintroduce cheetahs in the State's Nauradehi sanctuary.
- Cheetah — is the fastest land animal.
- India was once home to many cheetahs, but the last of them was killed in 1947 (in Chhattisgarh) and the cheetah was declared extinct in India in 1952. It is the only large mammal to have been declared extinct in our country in recorded history.
- According to the earlier action plan, around 20 cheetahs were to be translocated to Nauradehi from Namibia in Africa. The Namibia Cheetah Conservation Fund had then showed its willingness to donate the felines to India.

53. Mukurthi National Park

- Recent census has revealed that the population of the **Nilgiritahr** at the **Mukurthi National Park** has grown by an impressive 18% in the last two years, from 480 to 568.
- **Mukurthi National Park** (MNP) is protected area located in the western corner of the **Nilgiris Plateau** west of **Ootacamund hill** station in the northwest corner of **Tamil Nadu** state in the **Western Ghats mountain range** of South India.

54. Ethanol blending petrol

- Union Cabinet approved a national policy on biofuels.
- The new policy seeks to help farmers dispose of their surplus stock in an economic manner and reduce India's oil-import dependence.
- Policy allows use of surplus food grains for production of ethanol for blending with petrol with the approval of National Biofuel Coordination Committee.

55. RUCO initiative

- The Indian Institute of Petroleum has successfully finished a pilot test to convert used cooking oil into bio-aviation turbine fuel (Bio-ATF), which can be blended with conventional ATF and used as aircraft fuel.
- The test assumes importance as the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has launched the Repurpose Cooking Oil (RUCO) initiative to collect and convert used cooking oil into bio-fuel.
- -The FSSAI launched RUCO – Repurpose Used Cooking Oil on Biofuel Day 2018. RUCO is an ecosystem that will enable the collection and conversion of used cooking oil to biodiesel
- India is one of the largest consumers of vegetable oil and so has the potential to recover almost 220 crore litre of Used Cooking Oil (UCO) for the production of biodiesel by the year 2022.

56. Blue and Orange sticker for vehicle

- The Supreme Court accepted the Centre's proposal to use hologram-based coloured stickers on vehicles, plying in the Delhi-National Capital Region (NCR), to indicate the nature of the fuel used.
- The Hologram-based sticker of light blue colour will be used for petrol and CNG-run vehicles while similar sticker of orange colour will be used for diesel-driven vehicles.
- green number plates for electric and hybrid vehicles.

57. Champion of the earth award

- The United Nations honoured PM Narendra Modi with the Champions of the Earth Award.
- He feels that this award is not for an individual. Instead, it is recognition of the Indian culture and values, which have always placed emphasis on living in harmony with Mother Nature.
- It was a proud moment for every Indian to see India's proactive role in mitigating climate change being acknowledged and appreciated by the United Nations.

58. Pollution forecast system

- SAFAR stands for System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting And Research
- It is a research program to build Air-Pollution mitigation strategies in consonance with nation's economic development
- The ultimate objective of the project is to increase awareness among general public regarding the air quality in their city well in advance so that appropriate mitigation measures and systematic action can be taken up for betterment of air quality and related health issues.

59. GIR (Gujrat)

- The magnificent Asiatic lion is under threat. Twenty-three lions have died in as many days in the eastern part of Gujarat's Gir sanctuary.
- Gir is considered as only abode of Asiatic lions in the world.
- Gir is home to India's entire population of around 500 wild Asiatic lions.
- Reason – Infighting and infections in liver and kidney are the main causes for the recent death of lions.

60. Amur Falcon

- Amur falcon is a small raptor of the falcon family.
- It breeds in south-eastern Siberia and Northern China before migrating in large flocks across India and over the Arabian Sea to winter in Southern Africa.
- The raptor (bird of prey) — the size of a pigeon — makes its home in Nagaland, flying a staggering 22,000 km from there to South Africa, then onto Mongolia and back to Nagaland. The bird has one of the longest and most fascinating migratory paths in the avian world.
- The falcon breeds in south-eastern Siberia and north-eastern China, where the Amur River divides the Russian Far East and China.

61. Niti Aayog on springs

- Nearly 50 per cent of the springs in the Indian Himalayan Region (IHR) are drying up, according to a report released by NITI Aayog
- the water crisis in Shimla and other hill towns in India are a direct result of drying up of springs, the report observes.
- There are 5 million springs across India, of which nearly 3 million are in the IHR alone. Over 200 million people in India depend on springs, out of which 50 million people are in the 12 states of the region.

62. Eco impact check agency

Third-party verification for Environmental Clearance

1. The MoEFCC proposes to allow research organisations and accredited agencies to monitor if companies are complying with environmental conditions.
2. It proposes to introduce the concept of randomized third-party compliance monitoring of the environment clearance conditions.
3. This will be carried out through national-level reputed and competent government institutions to be empanelled by the MoEFCC.

63. SAHI : - India's future mobility (Global mobility summit, Delhi)

- SAHI – Safe, Adequate, Holistic Infrastructure
- Public transport must be the cornerstone of India's mobility initiatives.
- '7Cs' for the future of mobility — common, connected, convenient, congestion-free, charged, clean and cutting-edge.
- Absence of good public transport system led to rapid rise in private vehicle ownership.

(6) Polity and governance

1. Lateral entry

- The government recently appointed nine private sector specialists as joint secretaries in various departments through lateral hiring.
- Lateral entry means the appointment of specialists from the private sector in government organisations.
- the joint secretary-rank posts through lateral entry mode in revenue, financial services, economic affairs, agriculture and farmers welfare, road transport and highways, shipping, environment, forest and climate change, new and renewable energy, civil aviation and commerce departments.

2. Aadhaar as identity proof

- Cabinet approved the promulgation of an Ordinance to allow voluntary submission of Aadhaar as identity proof for use by private entities such as banks, telcos and fintech firms.
- The Ordinance also gives a child an option to exit from Aadhaar on attaining 18 years of age.
- The amendment also provides for civil penalties for violations of the Aadhaar Act and provisions by entities in the Aadhaar ecosystem.
- It permits the entities to perform authentication only when they are compliant with the standards of privacy and security specified by the authority.

3. Official Secrets Act (OSA)

- Official Secrets Act (OSA) has its roots in the British colonial era.
- The original version was The Indian Official Secrets Act (Act XIV), 1889. This was brought in with the main objective of muzzling the voice of a large number of newspapers that had come up in several languages, and were opposing the Raj's policies, building political consciousness and facing police crackdowns and prison terms.
- It was amended and made more stringent in the form of The Indian Official Secrets Act, 1904, during Lord Curzon's tenure as Viceroy of India. In 1923, a newer version was notified. The Indian Official Secrets Act (Act No XIX of 1923) was extended to all matters of secrecy and confidentiality in governance in the country.
- OSA broadly deals with two aspects — spying or espionage, • Secret information can be any official code, password, sketch, plan, model, article, note, document or information.

4. 17TH Lok sabha election

17th Lok Sabha will be conducted in seven phases across the country from April 11 to May 19. The counting will be on May 23.

- The Model Code of Conduct (MCC) came into effect immediately on the announcement of the schedule.

- The MCC contains eight provisions dealing with general conduct, meetings, processions, polling day, polling booths, observers, the party in power, and election manifestos.

MCC has no statutory backing.

- The ECI can issue a notice to a politician or a party for alleged breach of the MCC either on its own or on the basis of a complaint by another party or individual. Once a notice is issued, the person or party must reply in writing — either accepting fault and tendering an unconditional apology or rebutting the allegation.

5. Verify at least 50% VVPATs

- Supreme Court directed the Election Commission to respond to a petition filed by 21 Opposition parties demanding the random verification of at least 50% electronic voting machines (EVMs) using Voter Verified Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) in every Assembly segment or constituency.
- Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) machines are used during election process to verify that the vote polled by a voter goes to the correct candidate.
- VVPATs are a second line of verification particularly and are particularly useful in the time when allegations around Electronic Voting Machines' tampering crop up.
- The machines give the chance for the voter to verify their vote. The machine is placed in a glass case in a way that only the voter can see it.
- The slip is displayed to the voter for seven seconds after which the VVPAT machine cuts it and drops in into the storage box with a beep.

6. India's First Lokpal

- Pinaki Chandra Ghose is set to be India's first Lokpal. (or first anti-corruption ombudsman)
- Pinaki is a former Supreme Court judge and current member of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)
- Recommended by High-level selection committee chaired by Prime Minister

Appointment system: two-stage process

- A **search committee** has to be formed, which will recommend a panel of names to the high-power selection committee.
- **High-power selection committee** comprises the Prime Minister, the Speaker of the Lok Sabha, the Leader of the Opposition, the Chief Justice of India (or his nominee) and an eminent jurist.
- The selection panel has to choose from a short-list consisting of names for the posts of Lokpal chairperson, and judicial and non-judicial members.

6. Code of Ethics BY Election commission

- new media platforms such as Twitter, Facebook and WhatsApp, have become political battlegrounds, so EC urges them to maintain a level of sophistication.
- the Representation of People Act (RPA), 1951, does not cover social media.

8. Restructuring of the north eastern Council

1. The Union Cabinet chaired by the PM has approved the proposal of Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER).
2. It held the nomination of **Union Home Minister as ex-officio Chairman of North Eastern Council (NEC)** – a statutory body with Governors and Chief Ministers of all the eight North Eastern States as its Member.

This change would provide a forum for discussing inter-state matters more comprehensively and also consider common approaches to be taken in future.

NEC can now also perform the tasks undertaken by the various Zonal Councils to discuss such inter-State issues as drug trafficking, smuggling of arms and ammunition, boundary disputes etc.

9. National testing agency

- an autonomous and self-sustained premier testing organization to conduct entrance examinations for Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in the country.
- NTA will be chaired by an eminent educationist appointed by MHRD.
- The CEO will be the Director General to be appointed by the Government.
- There will be a Board of Governors comprising members from user institutions.
- The Director General will be assisted by 9 verticals headed by academicians/ experts.

10. Centre Delhi/ Puducherry power tussle

- The five-judge Bench had ruled that the L-G has to either act on the 'aid and advice' of the Council of Ministers, or refer to the President for a decision any matter on which there is a difference with the Ministry, but has no independent decision-making powers.
- The High Court also says the Administrator is bound by the 'aid and advice' clause in matters over which the Assembly is competent to enact laws.
- The L-G's power to refer any matter to the President to resolve differences should not mean "every matter", the court has cautioned.

11. Bhima Koregaon issue

- Bhima Koregaon is a village with historical significance in Pune district of Maharashtra. It became the rallying point for Dalit activists on January 1 this year, when violence broke out here during a commemorative event.
- A battle was fought here between the forces of the Peshwa and the British on January 1, 1818. The British army comprised primarily of Dalit soldiers. Peshwa army had an upper caste domination.
- The Dalit-dominated British troops defeated the Peshwa army. In recent decades, Bhima Koregaon has become a symbol in Maharashtra for celebrating Dalit pride. This year marked the 200th anniversary of the victory of the Dalits over the upper caste people, as it is viewed now.

12. Special status to Nagaland 371 A

- Jammu & Kashmir is not the only state for which special provisions have been laid down in the Indian Constitution — a wide range of safeguards are available to as many as 11 other states, listed in Articles 371, 371A to 371H, and 371J.
- One important difference between Articles 370 and 371 compared to Articles 371A-H and 371J, is that while the latter set of provisions were incorporated into the Constitution by Parliament through amendments under Art 368 (which lays down the “power of Parliament to amend the Constitution and procedure therefor”), Articles 370 and 371 have been part of the Constitution from the time of its commencement on January 26, 1950.

13. Public affairs index

- The index is released since in 2016 by Bengaluru base Public Affairs Centre (PAC), a not for profit think tank which aims to improve governance in India.
- -It covers wide range of themes such as support to human development, social protection, essential infrastructure, women and children, crime, law and order, delivery of justice, transparency and accountability, environment, fiscal management and economic freedom.
- In PAI 2018, Kerala tops the list as best-governed state in the country followed by Tamil Nadu.

14. NOTA and Rajya Sabha election

- Supreme Court scrapped the use of NOTA (none of the above) option for Rajya Sabha polls.
- In crux – the court held that NOTA in an indirect election would not only run counter to the discipline expected from an elector under the Tenth Schedule but also be “counterproductive to the basic grammar of the law of disqualification... on the ground of defection.”

15. 103/ 123 rd amendment

- 103rd constitutional amendment – relates to special provisions for the advancement of economically weaker sections (10% reservation in education and government jobs to EWS)
- -On March 1, 2019, the 77th and 103rd constitutional amendments were extended to Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) by a presidential order, with the concurrence of the J&K Governor.

16. Simultaneous elections

- Four states have faced place simultaneously with the Lok Sabha elections.
- -The Elections Commission also announced the schedule for the assembly elections in Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim along with the Lok Sabha elections.

17. Aadhar and Supreme Court

The Supreme Court recently upheld the constitutionality of the Aadhaar in its majority verdict (4 out of 5 judges).

AADHAAR IS...

NOW NOT NEEDED FOR

- Employee pension
- Admission to school
- Taking CBSE, NEET, JEE, UGC exams
- Re-verification of mobile number
- Bank accounts
- Mutual fund investments
- Insurance policies
- Credit cards
- New/existing post office schemes
- New/existing NSC accounts
- New/existing PPF accounts
- New/existing Kisan Vikas Patra accounts

STILL NEEDED FOR

- PAN card
- National Child Labour Project (NCLP)
- Scholarships for school students, such as National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship Scheme, National Scheme of Incentive to Girls for Secondary Education, Inclusive Education of the Disabled at Secondary Stage

- Mid-day Meal for children
- Assistance/scholarship given by Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities
- Supplementary Nutrition Programme under ICDS Scheme
- Payment of honorarium to AWWs & AWHs under ICDS Scheme
- ICDS Training Programme
- Supplementary Nutrition for children offered at creche centres
- Honorarium to creche workers and creche helpers
- Maternity Benefit Programme
- Scheme for Adolescent Girls
- National Mission for Empowerment of Women
- Ujjwala Scheme
- Swadhar Scheme
- Integrated Child Protection Scheme
- STEP programme
- Rashtriya Mahila Kosh
- Pradhan Mantri Matru Vanana Yojana
- Painting, essay contests under IEC component of human resource development and capacity building

18. MPLAD fund and information commission

- Noting that ₹ 12,000 crore of the Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) funds remains unspent, the Central Information Commission (CIC) has asked the Lok Sabha Speaker and the Rajya Sabha Chairman to come out with a legal framework to ensure its transparency and hold parliamentarians and political parties accountable for their obligations under the scheme.
- The MPLADS allots ₹ 5 crore per year to each Member of Parliament (MP) to be spent on projects of their choice in their constituency.
- -The scheme is funded and administered through the Union Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI).
- -Projects are to be recommended to and implemented by the district-level administration.

19. GAY rights and Supreme Court

- Supreme Court declared Section 377 unconstitutional to the extent that it criminalises consensual sexual activity between adults in private.
- However, Section 377 – together with the social prejudices that silently accompany it – continues to live an afterlife.
- Recently there have been debates that the partial strike-down of Section 377 isn't enough. Deep-rooted prejudices still haunt the LGBT community.

20. 124 a sedition

- Sec 124-A deals with sedition, and was introduced by the British colonial government in 1870.
- It says that the act of Sedition is to bring hatred or contempt towards the Government established by law in India.
- In this case, the punishment may be of imprisonment for life and fine, or imprisonment for 3 years and fine.
- It was actually brought to suppress the freedom struggle prevalent then

21. UCC and Law Commission

- Article 44 of the Directive Principles in the Constitution says the "State shall endeavour to provide for its citizens a uniform civil code (UCC) throughout the territory of India.
- A uniform civil code "is neither necessary nor desirable at this stage" in the country, the Law Commission of India said
- Commission suggests certain measures in marriage and divorce that should be uniformly accepted in the personal laws of all religions.
- "Efforts have to be made to reconcile our diversity with universal and indisputable arguments on human rights," the Commission said.

22. Sabarimala issue

- Recently the Supreme Court delivered a 4:1 verdict, in Indian Young Lawyers Association v. State of Kerala, opening the doors of the Sabarimala temple to women of all ages.
- First, the temple, they argued, enjoyed denominational status under Article 26 of the Constitution, which allowed it to determine the manner in which it managed its religious affairs.
- Second, prohibiting women of menstruating age is supported by the temple's long-honoured custom for the deity's celibacy concern.
- Further ban was supported by Rule 3(b) of the Kerala Hindu Places of Public Worship (Authorisation of Entry) Rules, 1965.
- **Read the basics of article 25 & 26.**

23. Section 377 and 497 of IPC

- Section 497 of the Indian Penal Code defines the offense of Adultery. This section penalizes sexual intercourse of a man with a married woman without the consent of her husband.
- Voicing the adultery law archaic and saying that it violates Article 21 (Right to life and personal liberty) and Article 14 (Right to equality), Supreme Court in its decision unanimously struck down Section 497 of the Indian Penal Code that makes adultery a punishable offense for men.

24. Association of Democratic reforms and criminals in Parliament issue

- A nationwide survey involving more than 2.7 lakh people revealed that for 41.34% respondents, distribution of liquor, cash and freebies was an important factor behind voting for a particular candidate in an election, according to the ADR.
- The ADR is a non-partisan, non-governmental organization which works in the area of electoral and political reforms.

25. Silver jubilee of NHRC

- THE watchdog of democracy has completed 25 years.
- The commission was established on October 12, 1993 under the Protection of the Human Rights (PHR) Act, 1993
- NHRC organized a 'Human Rights Mela' and 'Human Rights Street Theatre Festival' at the amphitheatre arena of Central Park in Connaught Place, and 'Human Rights Walk' to generate awareness about various aspects of human rights.

26. CBI versus CVC

CBI-

- The CBI was established as the Special Police Establishment in 1941, to enquire into cases of corruption in the procurement during the Second World War.
- With time the Santhanam Committee on Prevention of Corruption recommends the establishment of CBI.
- -The CBI is the premier investigating agency of the Central Government. It is not a statutory body; it derives its powers from the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946.

CVC-

- The Supreme Court ordered Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) to complete its ongoing inquiry against exiled CBI Director Alok Verma so that the CBI's reputation is not at stake.

27. Shortage of judges due to appointment procedure

- Article 124 (2): Every Judge of the Supreme Court shall be appointed by the President by warrant under his/her hand and seal after consultation with such of the Judges of the Supreme Court and of the High Court in the States as President may deem necessary for the purpose and shall hold office until he attains the age of 65 years. Supreme Court held that the consultation with Chief Justice is not binding on the President. But the Court held that consultation should be effective.
- The Constitution alludes to the procedure of appointment of judges to the SC and HCs in Article 124 and Article 217 respectively.

28. Constitutionality of death penalty

- In 1980 verdict (Bachhan Singh v State of Punjab) – the Supreme Court said that death penalty is constitutional but should be given only in the rarest of rare cases.

- In 1996 verdict (Ravji v. State of Rajasthan) – the Supreme Court had ruled that while determining whether to award the death penalty “it is the nature and gravity of the crime” alone that demand consideration.
- In 2009 verdict, the Supreme Court, however, declared its earlier ruling in Ravji incorrect. The court held that even in those cases where the crime is brutal and heinous the criminal’s antecedents, including his economic and social background, must have a bearing on the award of the death sentence.
- While in the third the court not only found the accused guilty of murder, but also deserving of capital punishment.

29. Witness protection scheme

- The Supreme Court on December 5, approved the Witness Protection Scheme 2018 which aimed at enabling a witness to depose fearlessly and truthfully.
- While the scheme is pending in the Parliament, the Supreme Court has ordered to imply the scheme immediately in all the states and the scheme would be the law of the land.
- -SC held that the **Right of witnesses** to testify freely in courts is part of **Article 21 (Right to Life)**.
- The court said that the scheme will be the law under **Article 141/142** of the Constitution of India.
- The bench has also asked all States and UTs to set up **vulnerable witness deposition complexes**, these rooms will be equipped with facilities to prevent the accused and witness coming face to face.

30. Citizenship Amendment Bill 2016 AND Assam Accord

- The Bill amends the Citizenship Act, 1955 to make illegal migrants who belong to certain religious minorities (Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians) from Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan, eligible for citizenship.
- The Bill seeks to reduce the requirement of 11 years of continuous stay in the country to six years to obtain citizenship by naturalization for these communities belonging to these 3 nations.
- The Bill provide that the registration of overseas citizen of India (OCI) cardholder may be cancelled if they violate any law.
- The bill undermines the Assam Accord which was signed to deport all the illegal migrants majority being from Bangladesh, who entered Assam after 1971.

With Courtesy:The Hindu, Indian express, The mint, The Economist, PIB, Websites of Govt. of INDIA, India 2019, Civils daily, Investopedia, Quora, Forum ias, IasBaba, Ias parliament, Drishti ias, Insightonindiaias and such other online knowledge platforms.

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Anil Kumar Singhal
Overall Rank- 1

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Santra Devi Rank OBC WE-19	Krishna Pratap Singh Rank SC-30	Ashish Yadav Rank OBC WE-38	Anshul Singh Rank : 38	Vidya Choudhary Rank OBC WE-58	Karishma Kavia Rank WE-67	Pooja Diggi Rank WE-72	Harish Sharma Rank 95
Gaurav Soni Rank OBC-104	Mahendra Simar Rank : 158	Vimlesh Kumar Rank : 363	Shiv Charan Sharma Rank : 363	Shailendra Singh Rank : 451	Vikas Sharma Rank : 517	Anup Sharma Rank : 565	Mamta Gaur Rank Ge. WE 90