

1. **Ans: c**

For India’s development and diplomatic engagement under the ‘Neighbourhood First’ policy, the Budget has allocated Rs. 5545 crore.

Bhutan is traditionally the largest recipient of Ministry’s allocation. It has maintained the same position even as the allocation increased by Rs. 71 crore to touch Rs. 2,650 crore. More for Myanmar.

At Rs. 280 crore, Myanmar’s allocation too has improved from Rs. 220 crore of last year. Nepal gets the highest. However, the giant leap in allocation was for Nepal, which received Rs. 650 crore from the Ministry. This year’s allocation is the third consecutive and the largest increase. In 2016-17, Nepal received Rs. 332.72 crore, which was increased to Rs. 375 crore last year.

2. **Ans: b**

The government has decided to offer a minimum support price (MSP) of at least 1.5 times the expenses borne by farmers for all crops.

Education cess has been raised from the 3%. Now a 4% education and healthcare cess will apply.

Hiking of custom duties: The government hiked Customs duties on a range of products, including mobile phones, wearable devices, television display panels, furniture, diamonds, footwear, cosmetics and dental floss. Why?: The idea is to push global producers to start making these goods in India but till that happens, consumers will need to bear higher **costs**.

3. **Ans: c**

A much-anticipated rationalisation of the high Excise duties on petrol and diesel was carried out with an eight rupee reduction in these duties, but consumers would get no relief as a new road and infrastructure cess of ₹8 a litre has been levied to fund infrastructure projects.

Two major initiatives in health sector announced as part of Ayushman Bharat programme. Making path breaking interventions to address health holistically, in primary, secondary and tertiary care systems, covering both prevention and health promotion. National Health Protection Scheme. Health and wellness centres. These two health sector initiatives under Ayushman Bharat Programme will build a New India 2022 and ensure enhanced productivity, wellbeing and avert wage loss and impoverishment. These Schemes will also generate lakhs of jobs, particularly for women.

4. **Ans: c**

Informative and self-explanatory

5. **Ans: b**

Bharatmala Pariyojana has been approved for providing seamless connectivity of interior and backward areas and borders of the country to develop about 35000 kms in Phase-I. To raise equity from the market for its mature road assets, NHAI will consider organizing its road assets into Special Purpose Vehicles and use innovative monetizing structures like Toll, Operate and Transfer (TOT) and Infrastructure Investment Funds (InvITs).

The AMRUT programme focuses on providing water supply to all households in 500 cities. State level plans for 500 cities have been approved. Water supply contracts for 494 projects worth and sewerage work contract for 272 projects has been awarded.

6. **Ans: c**

Fiscal consolidation refers to the policies undertaken by Governments (national and sub-national levels) to reduce their deficits and accumulation of debt stock. It is a reduction in the underlying fiscal deficit. It is not aimed at eliminating fiscal debt.

A fiscal deficit occurs when a government's expenditures are more than the revenue generated. This occurrence is typically limited to time frames, such as a quarterly fiscal deficit or a yearly fiscal deficit. Fiscal debt is all the debt regardless of time frame.

Fiscal deficit data

Year	Target	Actual
2017-18	3.2%	3.5%
2018-19	3.3%	
2020-21	3%	

7. **Ans: c**

On the positive side, the ratio of gross tax revenues to GDP, which had been stagnating at around 10% since 2008, has risen to 11.6% in 2017-18 and is projected to rise further to 12.1% in 2018-19, 12.4% in 2019-20 and 12.7% in 2020-21.

What this means? This shows that demonetisation and **GST are beginning to pay off by widening the tax base and increasing the buoyancy of tax revenues**. There is reason to be optimistic, therefore, about the medium-term outlook for government finances whatever the problems in the next year or two.

8. **Ans: d**

Just look at the no. 100 lakh crore. Is it not little high? Budgeted receipt is ₹24.4 lakh crore. Government’s **estimated budgetary and extra budgetary expenditure on infrastructure for 2018-19 is being increased to `5.97 lakh crore** against estimated expenditure of `4.94 lakh crore in 2017-18.

9. **Ans: c**

- Senior citizens have benefited, Exemption of interest income on deposits with banks and post offices to be increased from `10,000/- to `50,000/- and TDS shall not be required to be deducted on such income, under section 194A. This benefit shall be available also for interest from all fixed deposits schemes and recurring deposit schemes.
- A 10% long-term capital gains tax on profits (exceeding Rs. 1 lakh) from shares and equity mutual funds is imposed.
- The estimated fiscal deficit for 2018-19 is 3.3%.

- **Education Cess and Secondary and Higher Education Cess on imported goods is abolished** and in its place imposed a Social Welfare Surcharge, at the rate of 10% of the aggregate duties of Customs, on imported goods, to provide for social welfare schemes of the Government

10. **Ans: c**

The government said the **fiscal deficit target for next financial year would be 3.3%** and 3.1% for the year after and then 3% for 2020-21.

Indian economy is now 2.5 trillion dollar economy – seventh largest in the world. India is expected to become the fifth largest economy very soon. On Purchasing Power Parity (PPP) basis, we are already the third largest economy.

11. **Ans: c**

The Economic Survey 2018 started with the pressing issue of **gender equality** in the country. In a first, the survey document was in a pink cover in order to show the **government's commitment and solidarity to women empowerment and equal rights.**

12. **Ans: a**

Panchayati Raj Institutions in India **rely much more on devolved resources and much less on their own tax resources**, and they collect less direct taxes. And the reason does not seem to be so much that they don't have enough taxation power. Rather, **the bigger problem is that they are not fully utilizing the taxation powers they already possess.**

13. **Ans: d**

Informative and self-explanatory.

14. **Ans: c**

In India the primary school enrollment, which is now nearly universal for both boys and girls at elementary level. Yet, both cross-country evidence and evidence from India suggests that educational outcomes are incommensurate with years of schooling: learning lags attending.

The survey estimated learning poverty headcount (LPC) as well as a learning poverty gap (LPG). The LPC simply measures the number of children who do not meet the basic learning benchmark, whereas the LPG additionally takes into account how far each student is from the benchmark. In other words, the LPG measures the gap between the the basic learning benchmark and the average scores of those students who did not meet the benchmark.

On math and reading, India's absolute LPC is between 40 and 50 percent: in other words, roughly 40-50 percent of children in rural India in grades 3 to 8 cannot meet the fairly basic learning standard. Discouragingly, this poverty count score rises over time, substantially in the case of math. There is some consolation that since 2014 has the trend started to show some improvement; and also consolation that at least **there are no significant differences in the LPC for boys and girls.**

15. **Ans: a**

Successful development requires two kinds of structural transformations

1. a shift of resources from low productivity to high productivity sectors and
2. a larger share of resources devoted to sectors that have the potential for rapid productivity growth.

In many cases, however, resources do not shift in this way. They shift instead from informal, low productivity sectors to ones that are marginally less informal/more productive. These are cases of "thwarted structural transformation".

16. **Ans: d**

The Gross Capital Formation in agriculture and allied sectors as a proportion to the total GCF showed a decline from 8.3 per cent in 2014- 2015 to 7.8 per cent in 2015-16. **This decline can be attributed to reduction in private investment.**

The production of food grains increased. **The production of rice, wheat, pulses, oilseeds and cotton increased.** This increase in production of food grains and other crops is mainly **on account of very good rainfall during monsoon 2016-17 and various policy initiatives taken up by the Government.**

17. **Ans: b**

The share of livestock in GVA in agriculture has been rising gradually, the share of the crop sector in GVA has been on the decline from 65 per cent in 2011-12 to 60 per cent in 2015-16. In 2002-03 the share of livestock in total farm incomes was just 4 per cent which increased to 13 per cent by 2012-13.

Women play a significant and crucial role in agricultural development and allied fields including in the main crop production, livestock production, horticulture, post-harvest operations, agro/social forestry, fisheries, etc. is a fact long taken for granted. For sustainable development of the agriculture and rural economy, the contribution of women to agriculture and food production cannot be ignored. **As per Census 2011, out of total female main workers, 55 per cent were agricultural labourers and 24 per cent were cultivators.**

With 9.6 per cent of the global net cropland area, India has tremendous potential for crop diversification and to make farming a sustainable and profitable economic activity. The Index of Crop Diversification has been computed for major States and All India to examine whether there has been major changes in the cropping patterns across States. The index value ranges between 0 and 1 and higher the value, greater the diversification.

There is declining behaviour in crop diversification for the States like Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh. Among these States, the decline in the index has been sharp for Odisha.

Two of the States **Himachal Pradesh and Jharkhand have shown increasing values in crop diversification.** The crop diversification scenario for India as a whole appears to be almost stable throughout the periods.

18. **Ans: a**

The following measures have been taken to ensure mainstreaming of women in agriculture sector:

1. Earmarking at least **30 per cent** of the budget allocation **for women beneficiaries** in all ongoing schemes/ programmes and development activities.

2. Initiating women centric activities to ensure benefits of various beneficiary-oriented programs/schemes reach them.
3. Focusing on women self-help group (SHG) to connect them to micro-credit through capacity building activities and to provide information and ensuring their representation in different decision-making bodies.
4. Recognising the critical role of women in agriculture, the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare has declared **15th October of every year as Women Farmer's Day.**

19. **Ans: d**

The Government of India has introduced Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) system for fertilizer subsidy on Pilot Basis with effect from October, 2016. Under the proposed fertilizer DBT system, 100 per cent subsidy on various fertilizer grades shall be released to the fertilizer companies on the basis of actual sales made by the retailers to the beneficiaries. **The Sale of all subsidized fertilizers to farmers/buyers will be made through Point of Sale (PoS) devices** installed at each retailer shop and the beneficiaries will be identified through Aadhar Card, KCC, Voter Identity Card etc.

The implementation of the DBT Scheme requires development of PoS devices at every retailer shop, training of retailers for using PoS device, Stock initialization in the PoS device after verifying the physical stock at retail point, before making sales transactions. Presently, the DBT scheme is under implementation in 17 pilot districts. Based on the deployment of PoS device in different States, preparedness of State Government, Lead fertilizer Suppliers/Fertilizer companies, the Department has drawn up a detailed action plan to extend the DBT Scheme to other States in a phased manner. As on 22nd December, 2017, 14 States/UTs have been brought under DBT Framework.

The benefits of the DBT Scheme are:

- a) The proposed DBT framework is a beneficiary driven subsidy payment mechanism being initiated at national level.
- b) It creates Aadhaar seeded data base of beneficiaries and provides transaction visibility at the level of buyers.
- c) By linking the actual sales to subsidy payments, it facilitates a more transparent and faster tracking of funds along the value chain i.e. from manufacturers to beneficiaries.
- d) Diversion of fertilizers is expected to be minimized.

20. **Ans: b**

CSA aims to tackle three main objectives:

1. Sustainably increasing agricultural productivity and incomes
2. Adapting and building resilience to climate change; and
3. Reducing and/or removing greenhouse gas emissions wherever possible.

Mainstreaming CSA and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) policies in India are still at its nascent stage. In order to address the risk associated with Climate variability and climate change, climate resilient technologies are being demonstrated in 153 model villages under KVK covering 23 states under "National Innovations on Climate Resilient Agriculture" (NICRA).

21. **Ans: d**

Rakhine Hills running north -south.

The **Arakan Mountains** (Arakan Range, Rakhine Range, Rakhine Yoma, Arakan Yoma, Rakhine Roma, Arakan Roma) is a mountain range in western Burma (Myanmar).It is the most prominent of a series of parallel ridges that arc through Assam, Nagaland, Mizoram and Burma.

The principal tributaries of Brahmaputra in India are the Subansiri, Jia Bhareli, Dhansiri, Puthimari, Pagladiya and the Manas.

22. **Ans: c**

A few rivers in Rajasthan do not drain into the sea. They drain into salt lakes and get lost in sand with no outlet to sea. Besides these, there are the desert rivers which flow for some distance and are lost in the desert. These are Luni, Machhu, Rupen, Saraswati, Banas, Ghaggar and others.

23. **Ans: d**

The ratio of length to breadth (height) of the national flag shall be 3: 2.

The song Jana-gana-mana, composed originally in Bangla by Rabindranath Tagore, first sung on December 27, 1911 at the Calcutta Session of the Indian National Congress. The complete song consists of five stanzas. The first stanza contains the full version of the National Anthem:

The National Calendar based on the Saka Era, with Chaitra as its first month and a normal year of 365 days was adopted from March 22, 1957

24. **Ans: d**

The Cabinet Secretariat functions directly under the Prime Minister. The administrative head of the Secretariat is the Cabinet Secretary who is also the ex-officio Chairman of the Civil Services Board.

Ministry of Home Affairs

- I. Department of Internal Security
- II. Department of States
- III. Department of Official Language
- IV. Department of Home
- V. Department of Jammu and Kashmir Affairs
- VI. Department of Border Management (**not under defence**)

INDEPENDENT DEPARTMENTS

- Department of Atomic Energy (Parmanu Oorja Vibhag)
- Department of Space (Antariksh Vibhag)

25. **Ans: c**

The Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) is an arms control treaty that outlaws the production, stockpiling, and use of chemical weapons and their precursors. The full name of the treaty is the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction and it is administered by the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), an intergovernmental organization based in The Hague, The Netherlands. The treaty entered into force in 1997.

Three other UN member states (Egypt, North Korea and South Sudan) have neither signed nor acceded to the treaty.

26. **Ans: b**

Bodies owned, controlled or substantially financed by the central government or a state government and non-government organizations substantially financed by the central government or a state government also fall within the definition of public authority. The right includes inspection of work, documents and records, taking notes, extracts or certified copies of documents or records, taking certified samples of material held by the public authority or held under the control of the public authority. It also includes information relating to any private body which can be accessed by the public authority under any law for the time being in force. There are some categories of information which each public authority is required to publish suo moto.

The request can be sent either by post or submitted in person in **Hindi, English or in the official language of the area and canal so be sent through e-mail.** or in the official language of the area and can also be sent through e-mail.

27. **Ans: c**

Presently India is the second largest fish producing and second largest aquaculture nation in the world. India is also a major producer of fish through aquaculture and ranks second in the world after China. The total fish production during 2015-16 (provisional) stood at 10.79 million metric tonne (MMT) with a contribution of 7.21 MMT from inland sector and 3.58 MMT from marine sector.

Within inland fisheries there is a shift from capture fisheries to aquaculture during the last two and a half decade. Fresh water aquaculture with ash are of 34 percent in inland fisheries in mid-1980s has increased to about 80 percent in recent years. It has emerged as a major fish producing system.

28. **Ans: a**

The Centre for Cultural Resources and Training (CCRT) is one of the premier institutions working in the field of linking education with culture.

The Central University of Tibetan Studies, Sarnath, Varanasi was established in 1967 with a view to educating the youths of Tibet and Indian students of Himalayan border areas. The Institute was declared as a "Deemed to be University" in 1988.

Note that The Central Institute of Buddhist Studies (CIBS), Leh Ladakh formerly known as School of Buddhist Philosophy was established at the behest of late Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru in 1959. The Institute has obtained the Status of Deemed University in January, 2016.

Services Exports from India Scheme (SEIS)

SEIS, an incentive scheme for eligible service exports, was introduced in the Foreign Trade Policy (2015-20) replacing the Served from India Scheme (SFIS). SEIS offers reward 3 or 5 per cent of net foreign exchange earned. Only Mode 1 and Mode 2 services are eligible. Covers 'Service Providers located in India' instead of 'Indian Service Providers', which was the case in the earlier policy.

Under the new scheme, the incentive scripts issued are transferable. Increasing trend for online shopping has tremendous business opportunities for payment services, order processing and fulfillment services, etc. In order to cater to these business opportunities and to provide a fast, safe and economical solution of collection of amount of goods at the time of its delivery and its remittance to sender, Cash on Delivery facility was introduced in 2013 and is available to the contractual customers of Express Parcel, Business Parcel and Speed Post.

29. **Ans: d**

Ministry of Tourism (Paryatan Mantralaya)

"Swachh Paryatan Mobile App" operated by the Ministry of Tourism for 25 Adarsh Smarak Monuments has been also made available for Windows Phones and iPhone. Earlier it was available for Android Phones only. This mobile app is being monitored by the Project Monitoring Unit of Swachh Bharat Mission in Ministry of Tourism.

30. **Ans: d**

The International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) is a regional intergovernmental learning and knowledge sharing centre serving the eight regional member countries of the Hindu Kush Himalayas [2]. ICIMOD serves eight regional member countries (RMCs) of the Hindu Kush Himalayan region – Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Myanmar, Nepal, and Pakistan – and the global mountain community. Founded in 1983, ICIMOD is based in Lalitpur, Nepal, and brings together a partnership of its regional member countries, partner institutions, and donors with a commitment for development action to secure a better future for the people and environment of the extended Himalayan region.

The International Tropical Timber Agreement (ITTA) was negotiated under United Nation Conference for Trade and Development (UNCTAD's) auspices to provide an effective framework for cooperation and consultation among countries producing and consuming tropical timber promote the expansion and diversification of international trade in tropical timber and the improvement of structural conditions in the tropical timber market; promote and support research and development to improve forest management and wood utilization. The ITTA, 1983 established the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), head quartered at Yokohama, Japan.

The International Network for Bamboo and Rattan (INBAR) is an intergovernmental organization established in 1997. INBAR is dedicated to improving the social, economic, and environmental benefits of bamboo and rattan. As a member of INBAR, India has to pay annual contribution to INBAR which is made every year.

31. **Ans: d**

Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016

The Ministry revised the rules for management of solid waste in the municipal areas after 16 years.

The new rules are now applicable beyond municipal areas and extend to urban agglomerations, census towns, notified industrial town ships, areas under the control of Indian Railways, airports, airbase, port and harbour, defence establishments, special economic zones, state and central government organizations, places of pilgrimage, religious and historical importance.

Responsibilities of generators have been fixed for segregation of waste in to three streams, wet (biodegradable), dry (plastic, paper, metal, wood, etc.) and domestic hazardous wastes (diapers, napkins, empty containers of cleaning agents, mosquito repellents, etc.)

The Rules provide ways for integration of waste pickers/ rag pickers.

32. **Ans: a**

The Basel Convention on the Control of Trans boundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal was adopted in 1989 in Basel, Switzerland. The overarching objective of the Basel Convention is to protect human health and the environment against the adverse effects of hazardous wastes. Its scope of application covers a wide range of wastes defined as “hazardous wastes” based on their origin and/or composition and their characteristics, as well as two types of wastes defined as “other wastes” (household waste and incinerator ash).

The Rotterdam Convention on the prior informed consent procedure for certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade came into force in 2004. India acceded to the convention a year later. The Designated National authorities (DNAs) for India are in Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperation. The Official Contact Points (OCPs) are designated in Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. There are 47 chemicals listed in Annex III to this Convention, which include 33 pesticides and 14 industrial chemicals that have been banned or severely restricted for health or environmental reasons by two or more parties and which the Conference of the Parties (COPs) has decided to subject to the Prior Informed Consent (PIC) procedure.

The Stockholm Convention on persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) is a global treaty to protect human health and the environment from POPs. The Convention sought initially 12 chemicals, for restriction or elimination of the production and release. Now, the Convention covers 23 chemicals.

The Convention came into force in 2004. India ratified the Convention in 2006.

33. **Ans: d**

The Global Learning and Observations to Benefit the Environment (GLOBE) Program is an international science and education program that provides students and the public worldwide with the opportunity to participate in data collection and the scientific process, and contribute meaningfully to our understanding of the Earth system and global environment. Announced by the U.S. Government on Earth Day in 1994, GLOBE launched its worldwide implementation in 1995.

Vision: A worldwide community of students, teachers, scientists, and citizens working together to better understand, sustain, and improve Earth's environment at local, regional, and global scales.

Mission: To promote the teaching and learning of science, enhance environmental literacy and stewardship, and promote scientific discovery.

MoEFCC and US Government signed an agreement in 2000 to implement the Globe programme in India.

Indian Environmental Society, Delhi is an implementing agency for Globe in India.

34. **Ans: b**

Prime Minister laid foundation stone of the country's first Indian Institute of Skills (IIS) in Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh to make India the Skill Capital of the World;

The India International Exchange (INX) is India's first international stock exchange, opened in 2017. It is located at the International Financial Services Centre (IFSC), GIFT City in Gujarat. It is a wholly owned subsidiary of the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE)

35. **Ans: d**

SEVA is a part of 'Digital India' initiative, which is aimed at increasing the consumer connect as well as the transparency and accountability in coal dispatch.

The SEVA Dashboard provides summary of quantity of coal dispatched along with grades for the given day, month, and the latest yearly updates as well. It also provides information on rake movement including latest status of indents of rake, allotment and loading. This would help consumers making advance logistics planning.

Furthering the agenda for cooperative federalism, **NITI Aayog** has launched SATH, a program providing 'Sustainable Action for Transforming Human capital' with the State Governments. The vision of the program is to initiate transformation in the education and health sectors. The program addresses the need expressed by many states for technical support from NITI Aayog.

Jigyasa, a student- scientist connect programme was officially launched in the national capital today. Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), has joined hands with Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS) to implement this programme. The focus is on connecting school students and scientists so as to extend student's classroom learning with that of a very well planned research laboratory based learning. Jigyasa programme was inspired by Prime Minister's vision of a new India and "Scientific Social Responsibility (SSR)" of scientific community and institutions.

The Union Cabinet has given its ex-post facto approval for the promulgation of the Central Goods and Services Tax (Extension to Jammu & Kashmir) Ordinance, 2017 and replacement of the Ordinance by the Central Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2017.

36. **Ans: a**

INS Kiltan (P30), third Anti -Submarine Warfare (ASW) stealth corvettes built under Project 28 (Kamorta Class). The Kamorta-class corvettes or Project 28 are a class of anti-submarine warfare corvettes currently in service with the Indian Navy. Built at Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata, they are the first anti-submarine warfare stealth corvettes to be built in India. Project 28 was approved in 2003, with construction of the lead ship, INS Kamorta commencing on 12 August 2005. Three of the four corvettes, INS Kamorta and INS Kadmatt and INS Kiltan were commissioned in 2014, 2016 and 2017 respectively. INS Kavaratti is under construction and slated to be completed by end of 2017.

The platform and major internal systems of this class of corvettes are indigenously designed and built. The corvettes are named after the islands in the Lakshadweep archipelago.

37. **Ans: a**

The table, with respect to the rank and precedence of the persons named therein as approved by the President, is given as under:

1. President
2. Vice-President
3. Prime Minister
4. Governors of States with in their respective States
5. Former Presidents
5A Deputy Prime Minister
6. Chief Justice of India
Speaker of Lok Sabha
7. Cabinet Ministers of the Union
Chief Ministers of States within their respective States
Deputy Chairman, NITI Aayog
Former Prime Ministers
Leaders of Opposition in Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has achieved yet another feat with the successful test flight of 'NIRBHAY' - India's first indigenously designed and developed Long Range Sub-Sonic Cruise Missile which can be deployed from multiple platforms.

Padma awards are amongst the highest civilian awards of the country. There are three categories of Padma Awards- 'Padma Vibhushan', 'Padma Bhushan' and 'Padma Shri'. These are given for distinguished service in any field including art, literature and education, science, engineering, sports, medicine, etc.

Bharat Ratna is the highest civilian award. It is given in recognition of exceptional service/performance of the highest order in any field of human endeavor.

38. **Ans: b**

Ministries of Power and Textiles have joined hands under a new initiative SAATHI (Sustainable and Accelerated Adoption of efficient Textile technologies to Help small Industries). Under this initiative, Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL), a public sector entity under the administrative control of Ministry of Power, would procure energy efficient Power looms, motors and Rapiet kits in bulk and provide them to the small and medium Power loom units at no upfront cost.

The use of these efficient equipment would result in energy savings and cost savings to the unit owner and he would repay in installments to EESL over a 4 to 5 year period.

39. **Ans: c**

The Heart of Asia-Istanbul Process was jointly launched by the Afghanistan and Turkey in 2011 to encourage the Afghanistan's neighbouring countries to play a constructive role in establishing peace and stability in Afghanistan; and thereby achieving regional stability. There were three main elements behind establishment of Istanbul Process.

The withdrawal of foreign troops from Afghanistan, followed by reduced international engagement and aid after 2014 had put a question mark on future of Afghanistan. This has necessitated the integration of Afghanistan in the regional economy and improving its relations with neighbours and extended neighbours.

Afghan problems are not just product of its own and they affect not just Afghanistan but also the other nations in the region.

The conference on Istanbul Process was first held in Istanbul, Turkey in 2011.

Participating Countries

Istanbul Process has 14 member countries viz. Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, China, India, Iran, Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Pakistan, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan and the UAE. Further, there are more than 20 supporting countries and few supporting organizations such as UN, SAARC, NATO, SCO and OIC.

40. **Ans: c**

Kaolin, also called china clay, soft white clay that is an essential ingredient in the manufacture of china ware and porcelain and is widely used in the making of paper, rubber, paint, and many other products. Kaolin is named after the hill in China (Kaoling) from which it was mined for centuries. Samples of Kaolin were first sent to Europe by a French Jesuit missionary around 1700 as examples of the materials used by the Chinese in the manufacture of porcelain.

The primary constituent in kaolin is the mineral kaolinite, a hydrous aluminum silicate formed by the decomposition of minerals such as feldspar.

41. **Ans: c**

Son Meta Preference

- It is a subtler way of son preference which means that parents may choose to keep having children until they get the desired number of sons.
- It does not lead to sex selective abortion but it may be detrimental to female children because it may lead to fewer resources devoted to them.
- This form of sex selection alone will not skew the sex ratio. However, this kind of fertility stopping rule will lead to skewed sex ratios but in different directions i.e. skewed in favor of males if it is the last child, but in favor of females if it is not.

42. **Ans: a**

Concept of Missing Women

- It is the number of women who go missing across age groups every year either due to sex selective abortion, disease, neglect or inadequate nutrition.
- There are around 100 million missing women around the world, 40 million of which are in India alone.

43. **Ans: b**

Reasons for such a son preference include

- Patrilocality (women having to move to husbands' houses after marriage),
- Patrilineality (property passing on to sons rather than daughters),
- Dowry (which leads to extra costs of having girls),
- Old age support from sons and rituals performed by sons.
- Patricide is (i) the act of killing one's father or (ii) a person who killed his father.

44. **Ans: d**

Statement 1-leads to demand pull inflation

- International Solar Alliance (ISA) entered into force on 6th December, 2017.
- ISA, is a coalition of countries lying fully or partially between the Tropic of Cancer and Tropic of Capricorn.
- It has become the first International intergovernmental treaty-based organization headquartered in India (Gurugram, Haryana).
- The United Nations including its organs are ISA's strategic partners.

45. **Ans: c**

The VNR report is based on an analysis of progress under various programmes and initiatives in the country. The VNR report focused on 7 SDGs:

1. 1: No Poverty;
2. 2: Zero Hunger;
3. 3: Good Health and Well-Being;
4. 5: Gender Equality;
5. 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure,
6. 14: Life below Water and
7. 17: Partnerships for the Goals.

India has volunteered to take part in the Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) at the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) 2017. India presented its 1st VNR on implementation of SDGs in July, 2017 in the HLPF at United Nations, New York.

- "Ujjwala Plus" to address the cooking needs of deprived people who are not covered under the Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC) 2011.

46. **Ans: c**

Major initiative of International Solar Alliance (ISA) includes development of "Common Risk Mitigating Mechanism" (CRMM) for derisking & reducing the financial cost of solar projects and establishment of Digital Infopedia which serves as a platform to interact, connect, communicate and collaborate with one another.

47. **Ans: d**

Air Pollution in Delhi

In recent years, the National Capital Delhi and adjoining areas have experienced poor air quality starting winter. It is imperative to address the proximate 4 top reasons for Delhi's worsening air quality:

- Crop residue, biomass burning
- Vehicular emissions and redistributed road dust
- Massive construction, power plants, industry, other.
- Winter temperature inversion, humidity and (absence of) wind.

48. **Ans: a**

ZED Scheme aims to rate and handhold all MSMEs to deliver top quality products using clean technology. It will have sector-specific parameters for each industry. MSME sector is crucial for the economic progress of India and this scheme will help to match global quality control standards.

The slogan "Zero Effect, Zero Defect" was given by the Prime Minister and it signifies two things:

- Production process which has zero adverse environmental and ecological effects
- Production mechanisms wherein products have no defects

49. **Ans: c**

- The top five countries with which India has negative bilateral trade balance are China, Switzerland, Saudi Arabia, Iraq and South Korea while
- The top five countries with which it has surplus trade balance are USA, UAE, Bangladesh, Nepal and UK.
- India has the highest trade deficit with China. Its share in India's total trade deficit increased from 20.3 per cent in 2012-13 to 43.2 per cent in 2017-18 (April-September).
- In the case of Switzerland, the trade deficit is mainly due to import of gold. This deficit has fallen in the last two years. Moreover, a part of it is used in exports.
- In the case of Saudi Arabia and Iraq, the deficit is due to crude oil imports, while for South Korea it is due to import of electrical machinery & equipments and iron and steel.

50. **Ans: b**

Sector wise share of Exports				
Rank		Share (per cent)		
		2015-16	2016-17	2017-18 (Apr-Nov) (P)
1	Engineering goods	20.1	24.4	23.9
2	Gems and Jewellery	15.0	15.7	14.4
3	Chemicals and related products **	14.7	14.2	14.5
	<i>of which</i>			
	Drug & pharmaceutical	6.2	5.8	5.4
4	Textiles & allied products	13.7	13.0	11.8
	<i>of which</i>			
	Textiles	5.6	5.2	4.9
	Clothing	8.1	7.8	6.9
5	Petroleum crude & products	11.7	11.4	11.8
6	Agriculture and allied products *	9.9	9.5	9.7

51. **Ans: d**

Nirbhay is a long range, all-weather, subsonic cruise missile designed and developed in India by the Defence Research and Development Organisation. The missile can be launched from multiple platforms and is capable of carrying conventional and nuclear warheads. It is currently under development and is undergoing flight trials.

It is India's first indigenously designed and developed Long Range Sub-Sonic Cruise Missile. It has blended missile and aeronautical technologies which allows it to take off vertically like missile and cruise horizontally like an aircraft. It can be launched from various kinds of platforms.

52. **Ans: b**

The Foundation for Environmental Education is a non – governmental, non- profit organization promoting sustainable development through environmental education. FEE is active through five programmes;

1. Blue Flag
2. Eco-Schools
3. Young Reporters for the Environment (YRE)
4. Learning about Forests (LEAF) and
5. Green Key

The Blue Flag is a trademark owned by FEE. Its criteria include standards for water quality, safety, environmental education and information, the provision of services and general environmental management criteria. The Blue Flag is sought for beaches, marinas and sustainable boating tourism operators as an indication of their high environmental and quality standards.

Eco-Schools is an international programme that aims to empower students to be the change our sustainable world needs by engaging them in fun, action-orientated and socially responsible learning. Each school follows a seven step change process and empowers their young people to lead processes and actions wherever they can.

Over time and through commitment to the Eco-Schools Seven Step process, improvements will be seen in both the learning outcomes, attitude and behaviour of students and the local community, and ultimately the local environment. Evidence of success in these areas will eventually lead to a school being awarded with the International Green Flag.

Young Reporters for the Environment is a programme is an international network of youth in more than 25 countries, it promotes solutions to today's environmental issues through investigative journalism. At the national level, participants choose local environmental issues to investigate, with the goal of communicating relevant information and solutions to the general public. The students carry out real journalistic enquiries and report their findings in the form of an article, photograph/photographic essay or video. An international competition is also held annually

LEAF aims to encourage school classes and teachers to use forests for educational activities. The vision is to see an increased level of awareness and knowledge the key role the forest plays on our planet. The program's mission is to spread environmental education concerning forests and all their values among school children all around the world

Green Key is an international voluntary eco-label for tourism facilities that promotes sustainable tourism. It aims to contribute to the prevention of climate change by awarding and advocating facilities with positive environmental initiatives. The programme is recognised and supported by the World Tourism Organization, WTO and United Nations Environmental Programme, UNEP

53. **Ans: a**

Humpback Whales are sexually dimorphic, with females tending to be slightly longer than males. Their flippers are extremely long, about one-third of their total body length. Humpback whale flukes have a variable colour and have a serrated or toothed edge. They have bumps on their heads and lower jaws that have small stiff hairs. It is listed as least concerned.

54. **Ans: c**

The Price Stabilisation Fund (PSF) as a Central Sector Scheme, with a corpus of Rs.500 crores, to support market interventions for price control of perishable agri-horticultural commodities was setup in 2014-15 under the Department of Agriculture, cooperation & Farmers Welfare. Initially the fund was proposed to be used for onion and potatoes only and pulses were also added subsequently. The PSF scheme was transferred from DAC&FW to the Department of Consumer Affairs.

55. **Ans: d**

The Nilgiri pipit is a distinctive species of pipit that is endemic to the high altitude hills of Southern India. Richer brown in colour than other pipits in the region, it is distinctive in having streaking on the breast continuing along the flanks. It is a non-migratory and has tendency to fly into low trees when disturbed and is closely related to three pipits.



56. **Ans: d**

Kumarasambhavam is an epic poem by Kālidāsa.

57. **Ans: d**

Denotified Tribes (DNTs), also known as Vimukta Jati, are the tribes that were originally listed under the Criminal Tribes Act of 1871, as "Criminal Tribes" and "addicted to the systematic commission of non-bailable offences".

58. **Ans: d**

The New Agenda Coalition, composed of **Brazil, Egypt, Ireland, Mexico, New Zealand** and **South Africa** is a geographically dispersed group of middle power countries seeking to build an international consensus to make progress on nuclear disarmament, as legally called for in the nuclear NPT. The group was formed in response to the North-South divide that stymied talks on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation within the framework of the NPT. Non-nuclear weapon states believed that not enough progress was being made on disarmament to have warranted the Indefinite Extension of the treaty in 1995, and that the nuclear weapons states were not fulfilling their legal responsibilities towards disarmament, as outlined by Article VI of the NPT

59. **Ans: d**

Union government has launched a new initiative "Project Sunrise" to tackle the increasing HIV prevalence in the North-Eastern states. The AIDS prevention special project aims to diagnose 90 per cent of such drug addicts with HIV and put them under treatment by 2020. Project Sunrise aims at bringing the people living with HIV/AIDS into the national mainstream and create more awareness about the disease in these N-E states.. It will be implemented in the North East in addition to the existing projects of the National AIDS Control Organization (NACO). The project has been sponsored by US based Centre for Disease Control and would be implemented by Family Health International 360. It will cover one lakh people living with HIV/AIDS by giving them treatment and care facilities free of cost. Other initiatives to be covered it include enhancing capacity of state-level institutions in high burden areas, community mobilization, intervention among females injecting drugs. The project is a five-year programme (2015-2020) aimed at complementing the ongoing National AIDS Control Programme (NACP).

60. **Ans: d**

The Great Indian Bustard or Indian bustard is a bustard found in India and the adjoining regions of Pakistan. A large bird with a horizontal body and long bare legs, giving it an ostrich like appearance. Their population is on decline due to hunting, poaching, collisions with high tension electric wires, fast moving vehicles and free-ranging dogs in villages, and loss of its habitat, which consists of large expanses of dry grassland and scrub. They also face decline due to alteration as a result of widespread agricultural expansion and mechanized farming, infrastructural development such as irrigation, roads, electric poles, as well as mining and industrialization. They are Listed in Schedule I of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, in the CMS Convention and in Appendix I of CITES, as Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List and the National Wildlife Action Plan (2002-2016). It has also been identified as one of the species for the recovery programme under the Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats of the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India. These birds are often found associated in the same habitat as blackbuck. The bird is found in Rajasthan, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat states of India. Desert National Park, near Jaisalmer and coastal grasslands of the Abdasa and Mandvi talukas of Kutch District of Gujarat support some populations. In a bid to develop a conservation plan for the critically endangered Great Indian Bustard, non-governmental organisations and the Rajasthan government have come together to undertake a dog census in the Thar region. In order to protect the endangered Great Indian Bustard, locally known as "Godawan", the Desert National Park authorities have developed a mobile application to monitor the movements of the avian.

61. **Ans: c**

Patagonia is a sparsely populated region located at the southern end of the South America, shared by Argentina and Chile. The region comprises the southern section of the Andes Mountains as well as the deserts, pampas and grasslands east of this

southern portion of the Andes. Patagonia has two coasts: Western facing the Pacific Ocean and eastern facing the Atlantic Ocean.

62. **Ans: a**

With the intention of addressing the problem of fast depleting groundwater resources, the government of India has planned to introduce the Atal Bhujal Yojana (ABY). The programme is expected to lay emphasis on the recharge of groundwater resources and a better exploitation of the groundwater resources, with the involvement of people at the local level.

- 6000 crores will be set aside for the scheme.
- The scheme will be implemented and looked over by the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation.
- The half of the cost of the scheme will be borne by the Government, while the other half will be funded by the World Bank in the form of a loan.
- It is proposed to be launched in Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Haryana, Maharashtra, Gujarat across 78 districts, 193 blocks and about 8300 gram panchayats.
- To encourage community participation, it has been planned by the government to give 50% of the money to gram panchayats and states as incentives for achieving the groundwater management targets.
- Post the data from Central Ground Water Board report regarding groundwater depleting at an alarming rate in 30% of the assessed blocks from the assessment of groundwater in the country, the Government has fast-tracked its ambitious Atal Bhujal Yojana.

About 80% of the rural and urban domestic water supplies in the country are dependent upon the groundwater. According to a World Bank Report, India accounts for about 25% of the total groundwater abstraction, globally. The growing number of dark zones (those areas where the groundwater is overexploited, i.e annual groundwater consumption exceeds the annual groundwater recharge) in the country makes it imperative for this programme to be implemented. The programme is expected to receive an approval by the 31st of March 2018.

Atal Bhujal Yojana will focus on demand side management. The emphasis of the scheme will be on recharge of ground water sources and efficient use of water by involving people at the local level. The centre does not have any control over groundwater. The only law that deals with groundwater – the Indian Easements Act – dates back to 1882. This law states that water below the surface belongs to the land owner.

63. **Ans: a**

It is a joint search and rescue exercise between India and Japan to increase mutual understanding in Anti-Piracy operations. During the exercise, helicopters of the Japan and Indian Coast Guard performed cross landing operations to improve compatibility between the two forces. This year, it was held in Chennai.

64. **Ans: d**

Justice Malimath Committee or The Committee on Reforms of the Criminal Justice System was constituted by the Home Ministry in 2000. Committee submitted a report with 158 recommendations on crime investigation and punishment in 2003. The Committee felt that the existing system “weighed in favour of the accused and did not adequately focus on justice to the victims of crime.”. Government is now considering to revisit the report and its recommendations
Here is a look at 20 key reforms suggested by the six-member panel.

1. **Borrowing from inquisitorial system**

The panel was in favour of borrowing features from the inquisitorial system of investigation practised in countries such as Germany and France, where a judicial magistrate supervises the investigation. The committee recommended that courts be bestowed with powers to summon any person – whether or not listed as a witness – for examination, if it felt necessary.

2. **Right to silence**

The panel recommended a modification to Article 20 (3) of the Constitution that protects the accused from being compelled to be a witness against himself/herself. The Committee suggested that the court be given freedom to question the accused to elicit information and draw an adverse inference against the accused in case the latter refuses to answer. The Committee also felt that the accused should be required to file a statement to the prosecution disclosing his/her stand.

3. **Rights of the accused**

The Committee suggested that a Schedule to the Code be brought out in all regional languages so that the accused knows his/her rights, as well as how to enforce them and whom to approach when there is a denial of those rights.

4. **Presumption of innocence**

The courts follow “proof beyond reasonable doubt” as the basis to convict an accused in criminal cases. This, the committee felt, gives “very unreasonable burden” on the prosecution and hence suggested that a fact be considered as proven “if the court is convinced that it is true” after evaluating the matters before it.

5. **Justice to victims of crime**

The Committee made a series of recommendations to ensure justice to the victims.

The victim should be allowed to participate in cases involving serious crimes and also be given adequate compensation.

If the victim is dead, the legal representative shall have the right to implead himself or herself as a party, in case of serious offences.

The State should provide an advocate of victim’s choice to plead on his/her behalf and the cost has to be borne by the State if the victim can’t afford it.

Victim compensation is a State obligation in all serious crimes, whether the offender is apprehended or not, convicted or acquitted. This is to be organised in a separate legislation.

A Victim Compensation Fund can be created under the victim compensation law and the assets confiscated in organised crimes can be made part of the fund.

6. Police investigation

The Committee suggested hiving off the investigation wing from Law and Order. It also recommended setting up of a National Security Commission and State Security Commissions. To improve the quality of investigations, it suggested a slew of measures, including the appointment of an Addl. SP in each district to maintain crime data, organisation of specialised squads to deal with organised crime, and a team of officers to probe inter-State or transnational crimes, and setting up of a Police Establishment Board to deal with posting, transfers, and so on.

Police custody is now limited to 15 days. The Committee suggested this be extended to 30 days and an additional time of 90 days be granted for the filing of charge sheet in case of serious crimes.

7. Dying declaration

The committee favoured dying declarations, confessions, and audio/video recorded statements of witnesses be authorised by law. It also sought amendments to the law to allow thumb impression only if the witness is illiterate.

8. Public prosecution

It suggested that a new post, Director of Prosecution, be created in every State to facilitate effective coordination between the investigating and prosecuting officers under the guidance of the Advocate General. The appointment of Assistant Public Prosecutors and Prosecutors, it was recommended, should be made through competitive examination. There was also a rider that they were not to be posted in their home district and the places where they were already practising.

9. Courts and judges

The report submitted in 2003 pointed out the judge-population ratio in India is 10.5 per million population as against 50 judges per million population in many parts of the world. The ratio is 19.66 per million people as of 2017.

The National Judicial Commission must have clear guidelines on precise qualifications, experience, qualities and attributes that are needed in a good judge and also the prescription of objective criteria to apply to the overall background of the candidate. The higher courts, including the Supreme Court, should have a separate criminal division consisting of judges who have specialised in criminal law. The committee suggested every court keep a record of the timestamps such as date of conclusion of arguments, date of pronouncement of judgment, and so on, which may be prominently displayed.

10. Trial procedures

The Committee felt that all cases in which punishment is three years and below should be tried summarily and punishment that can be awarded in summary trials be increased to three years.

11. Witness protection

Noting that taking action against perjury is a cumbersome process and genuine witnesses are treated shabbily, the Committee batted for a strong witness protection mechanism – it said the judge should be ready to step in if the witness is harassed during cross-examination.

It also recommended the following: that witnesses get their allowances on the same day; they be provided with proper seating and resting facilities and be treated with dignity. It also suggested that a separate witness protection law be enacted akin to the one in the United States.

12. Perjury

If during the trial, the witness is found to have given a false evidence with an intention to affect the case, he/she must be summarily tried and be liable to fine up to ₹500 or up to three-month prison or both.

13. Vacations for the courts

The committee recommended reducing the period of vacation by 21 days, keeping in mind the long pendency of cases. If implemented, the Supreme Court will work for 206 days and High Courts will function 231 days per year.

14. Arrears Eradication Scheme

The Committee proposed an 'Arrears Eradication Scheme' to tackle cases that are pending for more than two years. Under the scheme, such cases will be settled through Lok Adalats on a priority basis. These cases will be heard on a day-to-day basis and no adjournment shall be permitted.

15. Sentencing

The Committee is in favour of a permanent Statutory Committee to prescribe sentencing guidelines. Pregnant women and women with child below seven years can be kept under house arrest instead of being lodged in prison, keeping in mind the future life of the child, it said.

In cases where the interest of society is not involved, law should favour settlement without trial as recommended by the Law Commission. The fine amount may be increased by fifty times. In cases where the convict is unable to pay fine or has defaulted, community service may be prescribed.

The Committee also favoured substituting death sentence with imprisonment for life without commutation or remission.

The Indian Penal Code has to be reviewed to enhance, reduce or apply alternative modes of punishments keeping in mind new and emerging crimes.

16. Reclassification of offences

Offences are currently classified as cognisable and non-cognisable. Instead, the Committee recommended classifying offences as social welfare code, correctional code, criminal code, and economic and other offences code.

17. Offences against women

Here is a gist of the Committee's recommendations:

- **Bigamy:** Evidence regarding a man and woman living together for a reasonably long period should be considered as marriage, even if he is already married and he is liable to provide maintenance to both women.
- **Adultery:** When a man can be punished for having sexual relations with another man's wife, the woman should also be liable for punishment.
- **Domestic abuse:** The Committee favoured making Section 498A as a bailable and compoundable offence. This Section is largely used in case of dowry harassment.
- **Rape:** Non-penal penetration and any forcible penetration should also be considered as rape and must be carry a heavier punishment. The trial of rape cases should be done with most expeditiously, within four months, and with a high degree of sensitivity.

18. Organised crime and terrorism

Though crime is a State subject, a central law must be enacted to deal with organised crime, federal crimes, and terrorism. A Department of Criminal Justice must be established to appraise procedural and criminal laws and to periodically amend them, the Committee said.

One of its suggestions was that the possession of prohibited automatic or semi-automatic weapons and lethal explosives be made punishable with up to 10 years jail.

19. Economic crimes

The Committee suggested that sentences in economic offences not run concurrently, but consecutively. A law has to be enacted to protect informers, it said.

20. Periodic review

The Committee has recommended providing for a Presidential Commission for a periodical review of the functioning of the Criminal Justice System.

65. Ans: c

The Investment Dispute Settlement Navigator, compiled by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, is a database on investor-State dispute settlement (ISDS) cases. It will be useful for country officials, policymakers, and representatives from the private sector, civil society, law firms, arbitrators, academia, journalists and others with an interest in investment dispute settlement. UNCTAD reviews the number of investor-state disputes arising of investments treaties twice a year.

66. Ans: c

The decision to devalue a currency is made by the government issuing the currency and, unlike depreciation, it is not the result of non-governmental activities. One reason a country may devalue its currency is to combat a trade imbalance. Devaluation reduces the cost of a country's exports rendering them more competitive in the global market. This in turn, increases the cost of imports so that domestic consumers are less likely to purchase them, further strengthening domestic business.

67. Ans: b

TRAFFIC, the Wildlife Trade Monitoring Network, is the leading **non-governmental organization** working globally on the trade of wild animals and plants in the context of both biodiversity and sustainable development.

It was founded in 1976 as a strategic alliance of the **World Wide Fund for Nature** and the **international union for the conservation of nature**. TRAFFIC specializes in investigating and analysing wildlife trade trends, impacts and drivers informing and supporting action by governments to enforce effective policies and laws, providing advice to the private sector on effective approaches to sustainable sourcing of wildlife; and through developing insight into consumer attitudes to guide the design of communication interventions to dissuade purchasing of illicit wildlife goods.

68. Ans: a

Sammakara Saralamma Jatara or Medaram Jatara is a **tribal Hindu Festival** of honouring the goddesses celebrated in the state of **Telangana**, India. This Jatara is known for largest people gathering in the world. The Jatara begins at Medaram in Tadvai mandal Jayashankar Bhupally districts. Medaram is a remote place in the Eturnagaram Wildlife Sanctuary, a part of Dandakaranya, the largest surviving forest belt in the Deccan. Jatara is celebrated during the time the goddesses of the tribals are believed to visit them. It is believed that after Kumbha Mela, the Medaram jatara attracts the largest number of devotees in the country.

69. Ans: c

The BioCarbon Fund **Initiative for Sustainable Forest Landscapes (ISFL)** is a multilateral fund, supported by donor governments and managed by the **World Bank**.

It seeks to promote reduced greenhouse gas emissions from the land sector, from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries, and from sustainable agriculture, as well as smarter land-use planning, policies and practices.

It was launched at the UNFCCC COP19 in Warsaw, Poland.

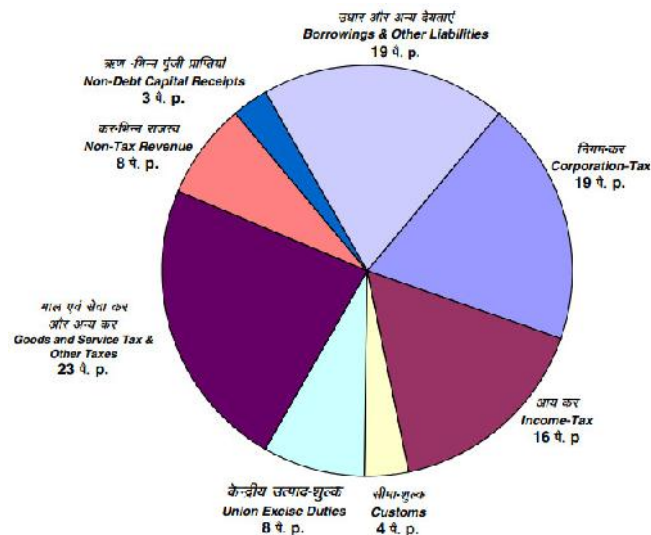
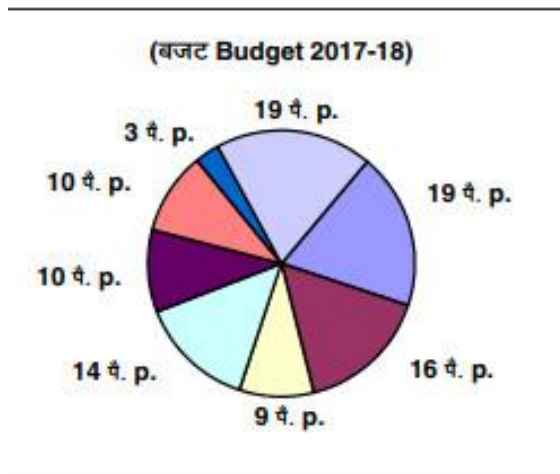
70. Ans: a

Canada also has the longest total coastline among all of the countries of the world. The country's 125,567 mile long coastline fronts on the Pacific Ocean to the west, the Atlantic Ocean to the east, and the Arctic Ocean to the north.

71. Ans: a

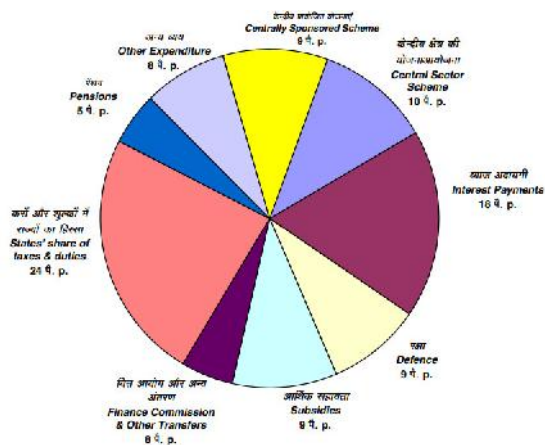
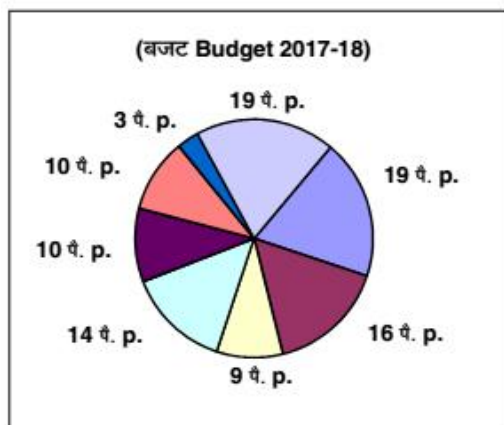
Indirect tax collection is increasing, which is a regressive trend.

Budget 2018-2019



72. Ans: c

Budget 2018-2019



73. Ans: b

Keeping in mind the spirit of cooperative federalism that has underpinned the creation of National Institution for Transforming India (NITI), the Government has accepted the recommendation of the FFC to keep the States' share of Union Tax proceeds (net) at 42%. In recommending horizontal distribution, the FFC has used broad parameters of **population (1971) and changes of population since, income distance, forest cover and area.**

74. Ans: d

Article 267 of the Constitution authorises the existence of a Contingency Fund of India which is an imprest (money maintained for a specific purpose) placed at the disposal of the President of India to facilitate meeting of urgent unforeseen expenditure by the Government pending authorization from the Parliament. Parliamentary approval for such unforeseen expenditure is obtained, ex- post-facto, and an equivalent amount is drawn from the Consolidated Fund to recoup the Contingency Fund after such ex-post-facto approval. **It is operated by Finance secretary.**

The word budget is not mentioned anywhere in Indian constitution, It is said as annual financial statement.

ERD is a term coined by P Chidambaram in FRBM amendment act, not in any constitutional amendments.

75. Ans: c

Similarly, there has been huge increase in the number of returns filed by taxpayers. Government had liberalized the presumptive income scheme for small traders and entrepreneurs with annual turnover of less than '2 crores' and introduced a similar scheme for professionals with annual turnover of less than '50 lakhs' with the hope that there would be significant increase in compliance.

76. Ans: b

To address the problems associated with perennial irrigation water crisis in rural India, Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation has signed an agreement with NABARD to operationalise the Long Term Irrigation Fund (LTIF). **LTIF has instituted in NABARD as a part of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY).**

77. Ans: c

With the roll out of GST, Minister propose to change the name of Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC) to **Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC).** The necessary changes in law for this are proposed in the Finance Bill.

78. **Ans: a**

Education Cess and Secondary and Higher Education Cess on imported goods will be replaced by a **Social Welfare Surcharge**. At present there is a three per cent cess on personal income tax and corporation tax consisting of two per cent cess for primary education and one per cent cess for secondary and higher education. In order to take care of the needs of education and health of BPL and rural families, government have announced programs in Part A of budget. To fund this, I propose to increase the cess by one per cent. **The existing three per cent education cess will be replaced by a four per cent "Health and Education Cess" to be levied on the tax payable.**

79. **Ans: b**

Process of acquisition of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation by the ONGC has been successfully completed.

Three public sector general insurance companies **National Insurance Company Ltd., United India Assurance Company Limited and Oriental India Insurance Company Limited will be merged into a single insurance entity and will be subsequently listed.**

In Strategic disinvestment, significant proportion of a Public Sector Unit's (PSU) share and the management control goes to a private sector which is as strategic partner. **It is different from the ordinary disinvestment in which management of PSU is retained with Government.**

DIPAM - Department of Investment and Public Asset Management, deals with disinvestment.

80. **Ans: d**

Public debt to GDP ratio should be considered as a medium-term anchor for fiscal policy in India. **The combined debt-to-GDP ratio of the centre and states should be brought down to 60 per cent by 2023** (comprising of 40 per cent for the Centre and 20% for states) as against the existing 49.4 per cent, and 21per cent respectively.

Fiscal deficit as the operating target: The Committee advocated fiscal deficit as the operating target to bring down public debt. For fiscal consolidation, **the centre should reduce its fiscal deficit from the current 3.5% (2017) to 2.5% by 2023.**

The Committee also recommends that the central government should reduce its revenue deficit steadily by 0.25 percentage (of GDP) points each year, to reach 0.8% by 2023, from a projected value of 2.3% in 2017.

The Committee advised government to follow the **golden rule here ie., not to finance government's day to day expenditure through borrowings. Revenue deficit implies financing of government's day today activities from borrowings.**

81. **Ans: d**

Each state's share in the GST base is almost perfectly correlated (coefficient of 0.95) with its share in overall GSDP. **So the biggest tax bases still seem to be in the biggest producing states.**

GST is a **destination based tax** and levied at a single point at the time of consumption of goods or services by the ultimate consumer.

It is true that the share of Maharashtra's and Gujarat's tax base under the GST is lower than their share of manufacturing. But because these two states also have a significant presence in services, their tax base share remains in line with their share of GSDP.

82. **Ans: b**

In long term, it is expected that GST will improve direct tax collection too, through higher formalization of economy. Traders and small business men will not be able to evade tax by hiding profit. **Thus, direct tax collection will improve.**

Last year Survey had estimated that **India's inter-state trade in goods was between 30 and 50 percent of GDP, a relatively high number compared to other countries.** GST data suggests that India's internal trade in goods and services (excludes non-GST goods and services) is actually even higher: about 60 percent of GDP.

Composition Scheme is a simple and easy scheme under GST for taxpayers. Small taxpayers can get rid of tedious GST formalities and pay GST at a fixed rate of turnover. This scheme can be opted by any taxpayer whose turnover is less than Rs. 1.5 crore.

83. **Ans: c**

Two interesting questions arise. First, are the states that export the most also the ones that import the most? Relatedly, are the states that trade the most the ones that are the most competitive and run the largest trade surpluses? Answers are: yes and yes.

84. **Ans: c**

East Asian crisis saw a **steep reduction** in investments. **But Indian slowdown is gradual.**

Until recently, India has not experienced either type of slowdown (as per the definitions used): not during the 'lost decade', not during the East Asian crisis, not even after India's own balance-of payments crisis in 1991.

As a result, **the current slowdown – in which both investment and saving have slumped – is the first in India's history.** Even then, the slowdown is detected most fully only in the 2 percent threshold, largely because the slide has been gradual, unlike (for example) the sharp adjustments that occurred in East Asia after the 1997 crisis.

85. **Ans: c**

India's investment slowdown is unusual in that it is so far relatively moderate in magnitude, long in duration, and started from a relatively high peak rate of 36 percent of GDP. Furthermore, it has a specific nature, in that it is a balance sheet related slowdown. In other words, **many companies have had to curtail their investments because their finances are stressed**, as the investments they undertook during the boom have not generated enough revenues to allow them to service the debts that they have incurred.

Investment declines flowing from balance sheet problems are much more difficult to reverse. In these cases, investment remains highly depressed, even 17 years after the peak, whereas in case of non-balance-sheet slowdowns the shortfall is smaller and tends to reverse.

86. **Ans: b**

- **Bower Manuscript:** It is one of the oldest known manuscripts of India, dated to Gupta Era. **It is a Sanskrit language manuscript written in Brahmi script and has some Prakrit.** It is written on Birch bark
- **Bakhshali Manuscript:** It is a mathematical text written in birch bark, found in 1881 in Bakhshali of Pakistan. It contains the earliest known Indian use of zero. It is carbon dated to AD 200-400 (Economic Survey: Page 120, Volume 1)
- **Kritisampada:** It is the National Database of Manuscripts, made under NAMAMI mission, which has a fourfold objective-survey, conserve, document and digitise Indian Manuscripts. NAMAMI which is India's National Mission for Manuscripts was set up in 2003 by Ministry of Culture and Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts
- **Aryabhatiya:** It is a Sanskrit astronomical text of 5th Cent Indian Mathematician Aryabhata.

87. **Ans: d**

Public expenditure is dominant over private expenditure in R&D with its **share decreasing from three fourth of all expenditure to about three fifth.**

Rest of the statements are informatory

88. **Ans: b**

India's patent applications and grants have grown rapidly in foreign jurisdictions, the same is not true at home. Residential applications have increased substantially since India joined the international patent regime in 2005, but the number of patents granted fell. Indian residents were granted over 5000 patents in foreign offices in 2015, the number for resident filings in India was little over 800.

89. **Ans: b**

SERB is responsible for the sanction of R&D projects to individual scientists and not to institutions.

The Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB) is a **statutory body** established through an Act of Parliament. Supporting basic research in emerging areas of Science & Engineering are the primary and distinctive mandate of the Board. The Board structure, with both financial and administrative powers vested in the Board, would enable quicker decisions on research issues, greatly improving thereby our responsiveness to the genuine needs of the research scientists and the S&T system.

SERB supports research in frontier areas of Science and Engineering. A regular faculty/ researcher in an academic / research institution can seek research support to carry out his/her research. Board also gives special attention to young scientists below the age of 35 years (relaxable by 5 years in the case of SC/ST/OBC, woman and physically handicapped category) to undertake independent research in newly emerging and frontier areas of science and engineering. High priority areas are supported in through the "Intensification of Research in High Priority Area "(IRHPA) Program. The Board offers JC Bose National Fellowship to scientists and engineers for their outstanding performance and contributions and RAMANUJAN Fellowship for brilliant scientists and engineers from all over the world to take up scientific research positions in India, especially those scientists who want to return to India from abroad. Board also provides financial assistance for presenting research paper in international scientific event (conference/ seminar/ symposium/ workshop etc.) held abroad. SERB extends partial financial support, on selective basis, for organising scientific events (National as well as International) in the country.

90. **Ans: d**

The term **Cyber Physical System (CPS) refers to machine based communication, analysis, inference, decision, action, and control in the context of a natural world ("Physical" aspect).** This is hugely multidisciplinary area including deep mathematics used in Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, Big data Analytics, Block Chains, Expert Systems, Contextual Learning going to integration of all of these with intelligent materials and machines, control systems, sensors and actuators, robotics and smart manufacturing. **Together these are the building blocks of future industry that will throw up both new challenges and opportunities.**

91. **Ans: c**

The National Judicial Data Grid is a **part of the on-going e-Courts Integrated Mission Mode Project.** NJDG will work as a **monitoring tool to identify, manage & reduce pendency of cases.** It will also help to provide timely inputs for making policy decisions to reduce delay and arrears in the system, facilitate better monitoring of court performance and systemic bottlenecks, and, thus, facilitate better resource management. **The NJDG will cover all categories of cases, including those relating to juvenile justice system.**

This system will computerize, record the judicial information and monitor the progress of cases from the time the case is registered till it is disposed of with judgment. It will also group similar law points, court rules, similar cases and related acts.

92. **Ans: a**

HCs in India have permissively and expansively interpreted this provision over a period of time, which has resulted in the substantial increase in the number of cases in Article 226. **Unlike SC, which handles writ petitions only for Fundamental Rights, the writ petitions in HC pertain to administrative law, service law, taxation law and orders of tribunals.**

The Supreme Court in 1958 limited this jurisdiction to seeing that courts and tribunals "do not exercise their powers in excess of their statutory jurisdiction, but correctly administer the law within the ambit of the statute creating them or entrusting those functions to them". The Supreme Court warned against exercising appellate powers under writ jurisdiction, and held that "so long as those Authorities function within the letter and spirit of the law, the High Court has no concern with the manner in which those powers have been exercised"

93. **Ans: b**

According to Article 136, Supreme Court may, in its discretion, grant special leave to appeal from any judgment, decree, determination, sentence or order in any cause or matter passed or **made by any court or tribunal in the territory of India, except a court or tribunal constituted by or under any law relating to the Armed Forces.**

The conditions for acceptance is not defined in the constitution but, in 1950, the Court observed that it would “not grant special leave, unless it is shown that exceptional and special circumstances exist, that substantial and grave injustice has been done and that the case in question presents features of sufficient gravity to warrant a review of the decision appealed against”. This high standard has been relaxed over decades, leading the Court to observe in 2004 that “in spite of the clear constitutional overtones that the jurisdiction is intended to settle the law so as to enable the High Courts and the courts subordinate to follow the principles of law propounded and settled by this Court and that this Court was not meant for redeeming injustice in individual cases, experience shows that such self-imposed restrictions placed as fetters on its own discretionary power under Article 136 have not hindered the Court from leaping into resolution of individual controversies”.

94. **Ans: c**
Informative and self-explanatory.
95. **Ans: d**
Informative and self-explanatory.
Higher Judiciary Capacity is largely underutilised @ 63.6%.
Out of 1079 total vacancies of HC and SC, only 63.6% is filled and is utilised.
96. **Ans: d**
Internal trade is about 60 percent of GDP, even greater than estimated in last year’s Survey and comparing very favorably with other large countries.
97. **Ans: a**
Small businesses need to pay a small tax (1 percent, 2 percent or 5 percent) on their turnover and are not eligible for input tax credits. This set up minimizes their administrative burden.
<https://www.profitbooks.net/gst-composition-scheme/>
98. **Ans: d**
Smaller firms seem to be equally involved in selling to consumers (B2C) and selling to other firms (B2B) while medium and large firms are more into selling to other firms (B2B) than selling to consumers (B2C).
99. **Ans: c**
Small B2C firms want to be part of the GST because they buy from large enterprises. In fact, 68 percent of their purchases (1.7/2.5, from the first column) are from medium or large registered enterprises, giving them a powerful incentive to register, so **they could secure input tax credits on these purchases.**
The composition scheme set up minimizes their administrative burden, but also makes it difficult for them to sell to larger firms, which would not be able to secure input tax credits on such purchases. For this reason, about 1.9 million (24 percent of total regular filers) of the registrants sized between the GST threshold of Rs 20 lakhs and the composition limit who could have opted for the composition scheme chose not to do so and instead decided to file under the regular GST.
100. **Ans: a**
Informative and self-explanatory.
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