

10 PM Current Affairs Quiz Compilation

MARCH, 2020

*THIS IS A MONTHLY DOCUMENT CONTAINING ALL MCQS ASKED IN 10 PM
CURRENT AFFAIRS QUIZ BY FORUMIAS.*

10 PM Compilation for the Month of March, 2020

Q.1) Consider the following statements with respect to **Pradhan Mantri Kisan Maandhan Yojana**:

1. Scheme meant for old age protection and social security of Small and Marginal Farmers (SMF)
2. Entry age for farmers between 18 to 40 years
3. Cultivable land up to 5 hectares as per land records of the concerned State/UT

Which of the following codes below given is/are **NOT** correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 only
- c) 3 only
- d) 2 and 3 only

Q.2) “*Synechococcus* sp. PCC 7002” is recently in news related to which of the following?

- a) Cyno-bacterium
- b) Virus
- c) Fungus
- d) Lichens

Q.3) “**Aichi Targets**” is recently in news related to which of the following?

- a) Bio-fuels
- b) Ocean acidification
- c) Biodiversity
- d) Waste Management

Q.4) Consider the following statements with respect to Prime Minister’s Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP):

1. It is providing direct employment opportunities
2. Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) is nodal agency to implement the scheme

Which of the following above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q.5) Consider the following statements with respect to 11th National Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Conference:

1. It is organized by Council for Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR)
2. The main aim of the conference is to highlight technology-led farming and youth entrepreneurship through agriculture

Which of the following codes below given is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q.6) Consider the following statements about **The Land Port Authority of India**:

1. The Land Port Authority of India is a statutory body.
2. It functions under Ministry of Shipping.
3. The Land Port Authority of India is responsible for managing border infrastructure.

Which of the above given statement is/are correct?

10 PM Compilation for the Month of March, 2020

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

Q.7) Consider the following statements about **World Wildlife Day**:

1. It is proclaimed on March 3rd, the day on which Bern Convention was signed.
2. World Wildlife Day will be celebrated in 2020 under the theme "Sustaining all life on Earth".

Which of the above given statement is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q.8) 'RalDer-X', recently seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) Explosive Detection device
- b) Tri-service Exercise for Space war exercise
- c) Super computer developed by China
- d) Mission by NASA to detect exo-planets.

Q.9) In which of the following region, the phenomenon of 'Red Snow' has recently been in news?

- a) Himalayas
- b) Antarctica
- c) Arctic Region
- d) Sweden

Q.10) Consider the following statements about **Urja Dakshata Information Tool (UDIT)**:

1. It is an initiative taken by BEE with World Resources Institute (WRI).
2. It is an online platform that explains the energy efficiency platform in India.

Which of the above given statement is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q.11) Consider the following statements with respect to **World Wildlife Day**:

1. In 2013, the general assembly of UN proclaimed 3 March as World Wildlife Day to celebrate and raise awareness of the world's wild fauna and flora
2. The date marks the day that the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) was adopted in 1973 to play an important role in ensuring that international trade does not threaten the species' survival

Which of the following above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

10 PM Compilation for the Month of March, 2020

Q.12) Consider the following statements with respect to **National Chambal Sanctuary**:

1. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has declared the National Chambal Sanctuary as an eco-sensitive zone (ESZ)
 2. It is home to Gharial, Gangetic river dolphin and Asiatic lion
- Which of the following codes below given is/are **NOT** correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q.13) The Government of India has submitted the **nomination dossier** for which of the following Ancient town, inclusion in the **World Heritage List** for the year 2020?

- a) Dholavira
- b) Harappa
- c) Lothal
- d) Kalibangan

Q.14) The Government of India launched “**Shilpgram and Octave**” related to which of the following?

- a) Environmental Conservation
- b) Defense Radars
- c) Artificial Intelligence
- d) Cultural Promotion

Q.15) Consider the following statements with respect to **Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalaya Yojana (DDU-GKY)**:

1. Scheme launched by Ministry of Skill Development in 2014
2. Scheme aim is to transform rural poor youth into an economically independent and globally relevant workforce

Which of the following above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q.16) Consider the following statements with respect to **Pradhan Mantri Laghu Vyapari Maan-dhan Yojana**:

1. It is a compulsory and contributory pension scheme
2. Ministry of finance is the nodal ministry to implement the scheme

Which of the following codes below given is/are **NOT** correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q.17) Consider the following statements with respect to **Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP)**:

1. PMBJP campaign launched by Ministry of Health to provide quality medicines at affordable prices to the masses
2. Bureau of Pharma PSUs of India (BPPI) is the implementation agency for PMBJP

Which of the following above statements is/are correct?

10 PM Compilation for the Month of March, 2020

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q.18) Consider the following statements with respect to **Urja Dakshata Information Tool (UDIT)**:

1. UDIT is a user-friendly platform that explains the energy efficiency landscape of India across industry, appliances, building, transport, municipal and agriculture sectors
2. UDIT developed by NITI Aayog with the help of Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE)

Which of the following codes below given is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q.19) Which of the following institution launched the **Global Coalition for Biodiversity**?

- a) UNEP
- b) UNFCCC
- c) European Commission
- d) World Bank

Q.20) Consider the following statements with respect to **Setu Bharatam Scheme**:

1. Scheme envisaged replacement of all the level crossings on National Highways by Road Over Bridges or Road under Bridges
2. The programme is being implemented to ensure safe and smooth flow of traffic and reduced road fatalities by 50 percent by 2020

Which of the following codes below given is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q.21) Consider the following statements with respect to **National Security Council (NSC)**:

1. It is a three-tiered organization that oversees political, economic, energy and security issues of strategic concern
2. The Prime Minister presides over NSC

Which of the following codes below given is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q.22) Consider the following statements with respect to **Virtual Currencies**:

1. Virtual currency is a digitally tradable form of value, and used as a medium of exchange or acts as a store of value or a unit of account
2. Cryptocurrency is a specific type of virtual currency, which is centralized and protected by cryptographic encryption techniques

Which of the following codes below given is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only

10 PM Compilation for the Month of March, 2020

- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q.23) Consider the following statements with respect to Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP):

1. It is launched by ministry of health with the assistance of World Bank
2. Its objective is to strengthen/maintain decentralized laboratory based IT enabled disease surveillance systems for epidemic prone diseases

Which of the following above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q.24) Which of the following are parameters of **QS World University rankings**?

1. Academic reputation
2. Employer reputation
3. Citation per faculty
4. Expenditure on Research & Development

Choose the correct code from given below options:

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 1, 2 and 4 only
- c) 1, 2, 3 and 4 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3 only

Q.25) Which of the following country recently announced to make all forms of public transport free starting March 2020?

- a) France
- b) Iceland
- c) Luxembourg
- d) Switzerland

Q.26) Recently Reserve Bank of India imposed one month **moratorium on withdrawals** of which of the following bank?

- a) ING Vysya Bank
- b) Mahindra Kotak Bank
- c) Yes Bank
- d) Axis Bank

Q.27) Consider the following statements with respect to **Black Carbon**:

1. Black carbon results from the incomplete combustion of fossil fuels and biomass
2. It is long-lived and remains in the atmosphere for years

Which of the following codes below given is/are **NOT** correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q.28) **“Island of Lesbos”** is recently in news related to which of the following country?

- a) Netherlands
- b) Britain

10 PM Compilation for the Month of March, 2020

- c) Greece
- d) Madagascar

Q.29) “Freedom in the World” report released by which of the following institution?

- a) WEF
- b) Transparency International
- c) Economic Intelligence Unit
- d) Freedom House

Q.30) Consider the following statements with respect to **National Payments Corporation India (NPCI)**:

1. NPCI, is an umbrella organization for operating retail payments and settlement systems in India
2. NPCI is a Not-for-Profit company
3. It is an initiative of Finance Ministry

Which of the following codes below given is/are **NOT** correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 3 only

Q.31) Consider the following statements with respect to **CRISPR–Cas9**:

1. It is a gene editing technology using a special protein called Cas9 in bacteria to fight virus attacks
2. The technology behaves like a cut-and-paste mechanism on DNA strands

Which of the following above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q.32) Recently which of the following city organised **International Conference on NanoScience and NanoTechnology (ICONSAT) 2020**?

- a) Hyderabad
- b) Kolkata
- c) Bangalore
- d) Mumbai

Q.33) “BHOG certificate” issued by Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) related to which of the following?

- a) Organic foods
- b) Fish products
- c) Food offerings to god
- d) Fortified food

Q.34) “Chapchar Kut” festival celebrated in which of the following state?

- a) Nagaland
- b) Telangana
- c) Haryana
- d) Mizoram

10 PM Compilation for the Month of March, 2020

Q.35) Consider the following statements with respect to **Women Transforming India Awards (WTI) 2019**:

1. It is organized by Ministry of Women and Children Development
2. Awards aim is to recognize women entrepreneurs who are challenging the status quo and breaking stereotypes through businesses and enterprises

Which of the following codes below given is/are NOT correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q.36) “**Valmiki tiger reserve**” is recently in news located in which of the following state?

- a) Uttar Pradesh
- b) Bihar
- c) West Bengal
- d) Assam

Q.37) Consider the following statements with respect to **India Data Portal (IDP)**:

1. It is developed by Indian School of Business (ISB)
2. It serves as a one stop open-access portal to interact and visualize information, data and knowledge related to agriculture and financial services for students, researchers and policy makers

Which of the following codes below given is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q.38) Consider the following statements with respect to **The Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010**:

1. Act regulate the receipt and usage of foreign contribution by non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in India
2. Act implemented by Ministry of Finance

Which of the following codes below given is/are **NOT** correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q.39) Consider the following statements with respect to **United Nations Commission on the Status of Women**:

1. Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) established in 1946 as a functional commission of the UNESCO
2. It is an intergovernmental body exclusively dedicated to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women

Which of the following codes below given is/are **NOT** correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

10 PM Compilation for the Month of March, 2020

Q.40) Consider the following statements with respect to **Indian Ocean Commission (IOC)**:

1. It is only regional organization in Africa composed exclusively of islands
2. India joined IOC in 2018 as observer member

Which of the following codes below given is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q.41) Consider the following statements with respect to **National Supercomputer Mission (NSM)**:

1. National Supercomputer Mission (NSM) launched in 2015
 2. Its objective is to make India one of the world leaders in Supercomputing
 3. It is implemented through National Informatics Centre
- Which of the following codes below given is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

Q.42) Consider the following statements with respect to **Epidemic Diseases Act**:

1. The Act passed in post-independence period
2. Act Introduced to tackle epidemic of bubonic plague

Which of the following codes below given is/are **NOT** correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q.43) Consider the following statements with respect to **Additional tier-1 bonds (AT-1 Bonds)**:

1. AT-1 Bonds are secured and perpetuated bonds issued by banks to meet BASEL-III norms
2. It is regulated by Basel committee on banking supervision

Which of the following codes below given is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q.44) **“Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana(PMUY)”** is related to which of the following?

- a) LED bulbs
- b) Cooking gas
- c) SHG's finance
- d) None of the above

Q.45) **“World Climate and Security report”** is released by which of the following institution?

- a) UNFCCC
- b) WEF
- c) UNEP

10 PM Compilation for the Month of March, 2020

d) The International Military Council on Climate and Security (IMCCS)

Q.46) “Global Animal Protection Index” is released by which of the following institute?

- a) World Economic Forum
- b) FAO
- c) World Animal Protection
- d) World Bank

Q.47) Consider the following statements with respect to **methanotrophic bacteria**:

- 1. methanotrophic bacteria capable of reducing methane emissions from rice plants
- 2. methanotrophs can also be used in methane valorization

Which of the following codes below given is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q.48) Which of the following is/are components of **“Silk Samagra Scheme”**?

- 1. Research and Development
- 2. Seed Organizations
- 3. Coordination and Market Development
- 4. Sustainable silk development

Choose the correct code from given below options:

- a) 1, 2 and 3 only
- b) 1, 3 and 4 only
- c) 2, 3 and 4 only
- d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Q.49) “SAREX-2020” exercise conducted by which of the following defense agency?

- a) Indian Army
- b) Indian Air-force
- c) Indian Navy
- d) Indian Coast Guard

Q.50) “A New era for girls: Taking stock on 25 years of progress” report released by which of the following institute?

- a) UNICEF
- b) UNESCO
- c) WEF
- d) World Bank

Q.51) “ExoMars mission” is recently in news launched by which of the following space agency?

- a) European Space Agency
- b) NASA
- c) JAXA
- d) ISRO

Q.52) Consider the following statements with respect to **Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Rules, 2020**:

10 PM Compilation for the Month of March, 2020

1. Any person who has received any pornographic material involving a child shall report the contents to the Special Juvenile Police Unit (SJPU) only
2. It empowers the Special Court to pass an order for interim compensation to meet the needs of the child for relief or rehabilitation

Which of the following above statements is/are **NOT** correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q.53) Consider the following statements with respect to **“Udyam Sakhi”** portal:

1. It is launched by Ministry of Labour & Employment
2. Its objective is to promote Female entrepreneurs

Which of the following codes below given is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q.54) Consider the following statements with respect to **National Biopharma Mission (NBM)**:

1. Innovate in India (i3) is launched under NBM
2. Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) is co-funding the NBM
3. It promotes Indigenous product development

Which of the following codes below given is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

Q.55) Recently which country passed the Period Products (Free Provision) Bill to end **‘period poverty’**?

- a) Ireland
- b) Scotland
- c) Norway
- d) Netherlands

Q.56) Consider the following statements with respect to **State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF)**:

1. SDRF constituted under Disaster Management Act 2005
2. Central government contributes 100% towards the SDRF allocation

Which of the following above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q.57) **“Chaitra Jatra festival”** is recently in news celebrated in which of the following state?

- a) Andhra Pradesh
- b) Haryana

10 PM Compilation for the Month of March, 2020

- c) Tamil Nadu
- d) Odisha

Q.58) Recently Ministry of shipping started “**ROPAX Service**” in which of the following state?

- a) Tamil Nadu
- b) Karnataka
- c) Kerala
- d) Maharashtra

Q.59) Consider the following statements with respect to **Renewable Energy Certificate (REC)**:

1. The National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) had notified the Regulation on Renewable Energy Certificate (REC) in 2010
2. It is a market based instrument to promote renewable energy and facilitate compliance of renewable purchase obligations (RPO)

Which of the following codes below given is/are **NOT** correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q.60) Consider the following statements with respect to **Government e-Market place (GeM)**:

1. Government e Marketplace is an online marketplace for procurement of commonly used goods and services by government ministries, departments and CPSEs
2. It functions under Directorate General of Supplies and Disposals (DGS&D), Ministry of Commerce

Which of the following codes below given is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q.61) Consider the following statements with respect to **National Career service (NCS) Scheme**:

1. National Career Service (NCS) is a one-stop solution that provides a wide array of employment and career related services to the citizens of India
2. The scheme is being implemented by the Directorate General of Employment, Ministry of Labour & Employment

Which of the following above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q.62) Which of the following African Nation is building the **GERD Dam**?

- a) Ethiopia
- b) Sudan
- c) Egypt
- d) Morocco

10 PM Compilation for the Month of March, 2020

Q.63) Consider the following statements with respect to **The Krishna Raja Sagar Dam**:

1. The Krishna Raja Sagar Dam was built across Tunga-Bhadra River
2. It is located in Tamil Nadu state

Which of the following codes below given is/are **NOT** correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q.64) "Project Baseline" launched to bridge the gap between research and care by which of the following?

- a) Microsoft
- b) Google
- c) Facebook
- d) Amazon

Q.65) Recovery of Damages to Public and Private Property Ordinance, 2020 passed by which of the following state?

- a) Haryana
- b) Rajasthan
- c) Bihar
- d) Uttar Pradesh

Q.66) Consider the following statements with respect to **Appropriation Bill**:

1. Appropriation Bill is a money bill that allows the government to withdraw funds from the Consolidated Fund of India to meet its expenses
2. The defeat of an Appropriation Bill do not necessitate resignation of a government or a general election

Which of the following codes below given is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q.67) "Danube-Oder-Elbe Canal project" is recently in news located in which of the following continent?

- a) Africa
- b) Asia
- c) Europe
- d) Australia

Q.68) Consider the following statements with respect to **Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX)**:

1. It primarily aims at creation of an ecosystem to foster innovation and technology development in Defence and Aerospace by engaging Industries including MSMEs and start-ups
2. It is funded by DRDO

Which of the following codes below given is/are **NOT** correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2

10 PM Compilation for the Month of March, 2020

d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q.69) “Wasp-76b” is recently in news related to which of the following?

- a) CoVID-19
- b) Exo-planet
- c) Jupiter Moon
- d) Microbial

Q.70) Consider the following statements with respect to **Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP)**:

1. It is a set of stratified actions that are taken once the pollution level reaches a certain specified limit
2. The GRAP is implemented by the Environment Pollution Control Authority (EPCA)
3. GRAP primarily focuses on Carbon Dioxide

Which of the following codes below given is/are **NOT** correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 1 and 2 only
- c) 3 only
- d) 2 and 3 only

Q.71) ‘Innovate for Accessible India’ campaign launched by which of the following institutions?

- a) NITI Aayog & Microsoft
- b) Microsoft India & NASSCOM Foundation
- c) NITI Aayog & NASSCOM Foundation
- d) NASSCOM Foundation & Melinda Gates Foundation

Q.72) “Safe Hands Challenge” campaign launched by which of the following Institution?

- a) WEF
- b) WHO
- c) UNICEF
- d) RED CROSS INTERNATIONAL

Q.73) Consider the following statements with respect to **GreenCo Rating system**:

1. It is developed by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)
2. It aims to facilitate companies to make a substantial improvement in their environmental performance thereby saving both natural and financial resources

Which of the following codes below given is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q.74) Consider the following statements about **‘Samudrayaan Project’**:

1. It would be undertaken by National Institute of Ocean Technology.
2. It is under Ministry of Science and technology.
3. It aims for deep ocean mining of rare minerals.

Which of the following above statement is/are **NOT** correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 only
- c) 3 only

10 PM Compilation for the Month of March, 2020

d) 2 and 3 only

Q.75) Consider the following statements with respect to **Defense Acquisition Council (DAC)**:

1. DAC is headed by Defense Minister
2. The objective of the DAC is to ensure expeditious procurement of the approved requirements of the Armed Forces

Which of the following codes below given is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q.76) Consider the following statements with respect to **National Commission for Indian System of Medicine Bill 2019**:

1. It seeks to repeal the Indian Medicine Central Council Act, 1970
2. According to bill there will be a uniform National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test for admission to under-graduate education

Which of the following codes below given is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q.77) Which of the following below given is/are **regulatory bodies** of civil aviation?

1. Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA)
2. Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS)
3. Aircraft Accidents Investigation Bureau (AAIB)

Choose the correct code from below given options:

- a) 1 only
- b) 1 and 2 only
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

Q.78) **Negev light machine guns (LMG)** is recently in news, has been agreed by India to be procured from which of the following country?

- a) Israel
- b) Japan
- c) USA
- d) France

Q.79) **“Windrush Scandal”** is recently in news related to which of the following?

- a) USA
- b) Spain
- c) Italy
- d) United Kingdom

Q.80) Consider the following statements with respect to **Project NETRA**:

1. It was initiated by ISRO
2. It is an early warning system in space to detect space debris and to safeguard India's functional satellites in low-earth orbits

10 PM Compilation for the Month of March, 2020

Which of the following codes below given is/are **NOT** correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q.81) Consider the following statements with respect to **“Tech for Tribal”**:

1. It aims at capacity building and imparting entrepreneurship skills to tribal forest produce gatherers enrolled under the Pradhan Mantri VanDhan Yojana (PMVDY)
2. It is launched by Khadi & Village Industries Commission (KVIC)

Which of the following codes below given is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q.82) **“Brazzaville Declaration”** is recently in news related to which of the following?

- a) Mangroves
- b) Coral Reefs
- c) Peat lands
- d) None of the above

Q.83) **“World Happiness Report”** released by which of the following institution?

- a) WEF
- b) UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network
- c) UNDP
- d) UNEP

Q.84) Consider the following statements with respect to **Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS)**:

1. It is a tax planning strategies that exploit mismatches and gaps that exist between the tax rules of different jurisdictions
2. It is an initiative of World Economic Forum

Which of the following codes below given is/are **NOT** Correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q.85) Consider the following statements with respect to **“Navroz festival”**:

1. It is celebrated mostly by Buddhist community
2. In India, the Navroz festival is celebrated twice a year

Which of the following above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q.86) Consider the following statements with respect to **Global Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure** (CDRI):

10 PM Compilation for the Month of March, 2020

1. CDRI envisions enabling measurable reduction in infrastructure losses from disasters and extreme climate events.

2. It has been launched by Government of India.

Which of the following codes below given is/are **NOT** correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q.87) Consider the following statements with respect to **SAARC Disaster Management Centre**:

1. SAARC Disaster Management Centre is located in Kathmandu.

2. It facilitates exchange of information and expertise for effective and efficient management of disaster risk.

Which of the following above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q.88) Consider the following statements with respect to **lion-tailed macaque (Macaca silenus)**:

1. The lion-tailed macaque is endemic to both Western Ghats and Eastern Ghats of India.

2. IUCN status of lion-tailed macaque is threatened.

Which of the following codes below given is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q.89) “**Reunion Island**” is recently in news located on which of the following Ocean?

- a) Pacific Ocean
- b) Atlantic Ocean
- c) Indian Ocean
- d) Arctic Ocean

Q.90) “**World Cities Summit**” is organized by which of the following country?

- a) Switzerland
- b) Austria
- c) Singapore
- d) Japan

Q.91) Which of the following IIT is organizing India’s first **Global Hyperloop Pod Competition** to increase awareness and enthusiasm about Hyperloop in India?

- a) IIT-Madras
- b) IIT-Kanpur
- c) IIT-Kharagpur
- d) IIT-Hyderabad

Q.92) Consider the following statements with respect to **World Water Day**:

1. World Water Day is an initiative of World Economic Forum.

10 PM Compilation for the Month of March, 2020

2. World Water Day 2020 theme is Water and Climate Change.

Which of the following codes below given is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q.93) Consider the following statements with respect to **“Invest India”**:

- 1. It is a national investment promotion and facilitation agency and promotes sector specific investments.
- 2. It was set up in 2009 as a non-profit venture under the Ministry of Finance.

Which of the following codes below given is/are **NOT** correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q.94) Consider the following statements with respect to **National Highway Authority of India (NHAI)**:

- 1. NHAI was set up by an act of Parliament.

It was entrusted with National Highways Development Projects.

Which of the following codes below given is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q.95) Consider the following statements with respect to **Project Elephant**:

- 1. It is a central sector scheme.
- 2. Aim of the project is to provide financial and technical support to major elephant bearing States in the country for protection of elephants, their habitats and corridors.

Which of the following codes below given is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q.96) Consider the following statements with respect to **“National Security Act”**:

- 1. NSA was enacted before independence.
- 2. NSA empowers the Centre or a State government to detain a person to prevent him from acting in any manner prejudicial to national security.

Which of the following codes below given is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q.97) “SOLIDARITY” programme is recently in news related to which of the following?

- a) Global Recession
- b) CoVID-19
- c) WTO Reforms

10 PM Compilation for the Month of March, 2020

d) Refugee Crisis

Q.98) Consider the following statements with respect to **MPLADS Scheme**:

1. It is a central sector scheme.
2. Its aim is to provide funds to MPs to execute certain developmental projects to meet the urgent needs of their constituents.
3. Ministry of Rural Development is the nodal ministry to implement the scheme.

Which of the following codes below given is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 1 and 2 only
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

Q.99) “Kali Tiger Reserve” is recently in news located in which of the following state?

- a) Andhra Pradesh
- b) Tamil Nadu
- c) Kerala
- d) Karnataka

Q.100) “Kuril Island” is recently in news located in which of the following Ocean?

- a) Pacific Ocean
- b) Atlantic Ocean
- c) Arctic Ocean
- d) Indian Ocean

Q.101) “World Water Development Report 2020” released by which of the following institution?

- a) World Economic Forum
- b) UNEP
- c) UNESCO
- d) None

Q.102) “MACS 4028” is recently in news related to which of the following?

- a) Exo-Planet
- b) Fortified Rice
- c) Fortified Wheat
- d) Fortified Maize

Q.103) Which state Government has decided to set up a “**Centre for Internet of Ethical Things**”?

- a) Telangana
- b) Maharashtra
- c) Andhra Pradesh
- d) Karnataka

Q.104) “StayHomeIndiaWithBooks” initiative launched by which of the following?

- a) NITI Aayog
- b) NCERT
- c) UGC
- d) National Book Trust (NBT)

10 PM Compilation for the Month of March, 2020

Q.105) Consider the following statements with respect to **Atal Bhujal Yojana**:

1. It aims to recharge groundwater sources and ensure the efficient use of water by involving people at the local level.
2. It is a centrally sponsored scheme.
3. It is funded by Asian Development Bank.

Which of the following codes below given is/are **NOT** correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 1 and 2 only
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

Q.106) Under which of the following Act, the **Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI)** established?

- a) The Indian Forest Act, 1927
- b) The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960
- c) The Wildlife Protection Act, 1972
- d) The Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980

Q.107) Consider the following statements with respect to **Malabar Civet**:

1. It is endemic to Western Ghats
 2. According to IUCN it is critically endangered animal
- Which of the following codes below given is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q.108) “**Global Humanitarian Response Plan**” launched by which of the following institution?

- a) United Nations
- b) World Economic Forum
- c) World Bank
- d) UNHCR

Q.109) Consider the following statements with respect to “**G20 Summit 2020**”:

1. Saudi Arabia is the first Arab nation to hold the G20 presidency.
2. It is a formal group of 19 countries and the European Union.

Which of the following codes below given is/are **NOT** correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q.110) “**Project Isaac**” is recently in news launched by which of the following?

- a) IIT-Hyderabad
- b) IIT-Madras
- c) IIT-Kanpur
- d) IIT-Gandhinagar

Q.111) “**Fight Corona IDEathon initiative**” launched by which of the following institution?

10 PM Compilation for the Month of March, 2020

- a) AICTE
- b) UGC
- c) NCERT
- d) AIIMS

Q.112) Consider the following statements with respect to measures taken by **RBI monetary policy committee to tackle CoVID-19**:

1. RBI reduced repo and reverse repo rate.
2. Moratorium on Repayments of Loans.
3. Increased the Cash reserve ratio (CRR).

Which of the following codes below given is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 1 and 2 only
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

Q.113) “**Keqiang index**” is recently in news related to which of the following country?

- a) China
- b) Japan
- c) Thailand
- d) North Korea

Q.114) “Waste that has been collected and kept for years at some barren land or a place dedicated for Landfill” is called as?

- a) Municipal Waste
- b) E-Waste
- c) Legacy Waste
- d) Medical Waste

Q.115) Consider the following statements with respect to **International Astronomical Union (IAU)**:

1. It was founded after World War-II.
2. Its mission is to promote and safeguard the science of astronomy in all its aspects, including research, communication, education and development, through international cooperation.

Which of the following codes below given is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q.116) Consider the following statements with respect to **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)**:

1. ICMR is the apex body in India for the formulation, coordination and promotion of biomedical research
2. The Governing Body of the Council is presided over by the Prime Minister

Which of the following codes below given is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

10 PM Compilation for the Month of March, 2020

Q.117) Consider the following statements with respect to the **Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (PMNRF)**:

1. It was established by Indira Gandhi in 1971
2. The fund is recognized as a Trust under the Societies Registration Act of 1860

Which of the following codes below given is/are **NOT** correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q.118) Consider the following statements with respect to the **Drugs and Cosmetics Act**:

1. Act was passed in before Independence
2. It regulates the import, manufacture and distribution of drugs in India

Which of the following codes below given is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q.119) "**Galo tribe**" is recently in news located in which of the following state?

- a) Assam
- b) Telangana
- c) Manipur
- d) Arunachal Pradesh

Q.120) Consider the following statements with respect to **International Monetary Fund (IMF)**:

1. The IMF's primary purpose is to ensure the stability of the international monetary system.
2. IMF raises its resource only through member countries.

Which of the following codes below given is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q.121) Consider the following statements about Earth Hour:

1. It is an initiative by UNEP.
2. It is observed on 28th March every year.

Which of the above given statement is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q.122) Consider the following statements about Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC):

1. It is the first multilateral disarmament treaty banning the production of an entire category of weapons.
2. India is not a signatory to the convention.

Which of the above given statement is/are correct?

10 PM Compilation for the Month of March, 2020

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q.123) The Three Seas Initiative (3SI) is a forum that brings together European member states between which of the following three seas?

- 1. Adriatic Sea
- 2. North Sea
- 3. Black Sea
- 4. Baltic Sea
- 5. Mediterranean Sea

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- a) 2, 3 and 5
- b) 1, 3 and 4
- c) 1, 2 and 4
- d) 2, 4 and 5

Q.124) Daporijo Bridge, recently being reconstructed by Border Roads Organization (BRO) on which of the following rivers?

- a) Brahmaputra
- b) Subansiri
- c) Lohit
- d) Manas

Q.125) Consider the following statements about Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research (INSPIRE) Programme:

- 1. It is an innovation scheme proposed by NITI Aayog.
- 2. It attracts students to study science at higher studies only.

Which of the above given statement is/are **not** correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

10 PM Compilation for the Month of March, 2020

ANSWER KEY

Que	Ans	Que	Ans	Que	Ans	Que	Ans	Que	Ans	Que	Ans	Que	Ans
1.	C	21.	A	41.	A	61.	C	81.	A	101.	C	121.	D
2.	A	22.	A	42.	A	62.	A	82.	C	102.	C	122.	A
3.	C	23.	C	43.	D	63.	C	83.	B	103.	D	123.	B
4.	B	24.	D	44.	B	64.	B	84.	B	104.	D	124.	B
5.	B	25.	C	45.	D	65.	D	85.	B	105.	C	125.	C
6.	C	26.	C	46.	C	66.	A	86.	D	106.	B		
7.	B	27.	B	47.	C	67.	C	87.	B	107.	C		
8.	A	28.	C	48.	A	68.	B	88.	D	108.	A		
9.	B	29.	D	49.	D	69.	B	89.	C	109.	B		
10.	C	30.	D	50.	A	70.	C	90.	C	110.	D		
11.	A	31.	C	51.	A	71.	B	91.	A	111.	A		
12.	B	32.	B	52.	A	72.	B	92.	B	112.	B		
13.	A	33.	C	53.	B	73.	C	93.	B	113.	A		
14.	D	34.	D	54.	C	74.	B	94.	C	114.	C		
15.	B	35.	A	55.	B	75.	C	95.	B	115.	B		
16.	C	36.	B	56.	A	76.	C	96.	B	116.	A		
17.	B	37.	C	57.	D	77.	D	97.	B	117.	C		
18.	A	38.	B	58.	D	78.	A	98.	B	118.	C		
19.	C	39.	D	59.	A	79.	D	99.	D	119.	D		
20.	C	40.	A	60.	C	80.	D	100.	A	120.	A		

EXPLANATION

1. Explanation: Pradhan Mantri Kisan Maandhan Yojana is a government scheme meant for old age protection and social security of Small and Marginal Farmers (SMF). All Small and Marginal Farmers having cultivable landholding up to 2 hectares falling in the age group of 18 to 40 years, whose names appear in the land records of States/UTs as on 01.08.2019 are eligible to get benefit under the Scheme. Under this scheme, the farmers would receive a minimum assured pension of Rs 3000/- per month after attaining the age of 60 years and if the farmer dies, the spouse of the farmer shall be entitled to receive 50% of the pension as family pension. Family pension is applicable only to spouse.

- On the maturity of the scheme, an individual will be entitled to obtain a monthly pension of Rs. 3000/-. The pension amount helps pension holders to aid their financial requirements.
- The applicants between the age group of 18 to 40 years will have to make monthly contributions ranging between Rs 55 to Rs 200 per month till they attain the age of 60.
- Once the applicant attains the age of 60, he/ she can claim the pension amount. Every month a fixed pension amount gets deposited in the pension account of the respective individual.

2. Explanation: International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB) is developing a method to improve the growth rate and sugar content of a marine cyanobacterium called *Synechococcus* sp. PCC 7002. *Synechococcus* sp. strain PCC 7002 is a unicellular, euryhaline cyanobacterium. It is a model organism for studies of cyanobacterial metabolism and has great potential for biotechnological applications. It exhibits an exceptional tolerance of high-light irradiation and shows very rapid growth. The habitats from which this and closely related strains were isolated are subject to changes in

10 PM Compilation for the Month of March, 2020

several environmental factors, including light, nutrient supply, temperature, and salinity. In this study global transcriptome profiling via RNAseq has been used to perform a comparative and integrated study of global changes in cells grown at different temperatures, at different salinities, and under mixotrophic conditions, when a metabolizable organic carbon source was present.

3. Explanation: Aichi biodiversity targets were included in the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity for the 2011-2020 period adopted by the 10th meeting of the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity. There are 20 Aichi Targets classified under 5 Strategic Goals. The targets were to be achieved by 2020.

- Strategic Goal A: Address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society
- Strategic Goal B: Reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use
- Strategic Goal C: To improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity
- Strategic Goal D: Enhance the benefits to all from biodiversity and ecosystem services
- Strategic Goal E: Enhance implementation through participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity building

4. Explanation: Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme(PMEGP) is a credit-linked subsidy scheme launched in 2008-09 by the Ministry of MSME. PMEGP aim is to promote self-employment through setting up of micro-enterprises where subsidy up to 35% is provided by the Government through Ministry of MSME for loans up to ₹25 lakhs in manufacturing and ₹10 lakhs in the service sector. Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) is the nodal agency at national level. At the State level, the Scheme is implemented through State Khadi and Village Industries Commission Directorates among others.

5. Explanation: Union Agriculture minister has inaugurated the 11th National Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Conference. It has been organized by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR). The main aim of the conference is to highlight technology-led farming and youth entrepreneurship through agriculture. Krsihi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) is agricultural extension centres created by ICAR (Indian Council for Agricultural Research) and its affiliated institutions at district level. The mandate of KVK is technology assessment, refinement and demonstration by providing critical inputs to the farmers which enable them to sustain their productivity.

6. Explanation: The Land Port Authority of India is a statutory body. It was established under Land Ports Authority of India Act, 2010. Under the act, it has powers to undertake joint ventures to discharge its functions. It functions under Ministry of Home Affairs. The Land Port Authority of India is responsible for managing border infrastructure. It creates, upgrades and maintains the integrated check posts and also border infrastructure. The Authority works to provide secure and efficient systems of cargo and passenger movements across international borders. It also works to reduce the dwell time and trade transaction time and costs. It promotes people-to-people contact. The Inland Custom Ports and Kartarpur Sahib Corridor were also constructed by Land Port Authority of India.

10 PM Compilation for the Month of March, 2020

7. Explanation: World Wildlife Day: The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) proclaimed 3 March – the day of signature of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) in 1973 – as UN World Wildlife Day to celebrate and raise awareness of the world's wild animals and plants.

The UNGA resolution also designated the CITES Secretariat as the facilitator for the global observance of this special day for wildlife on the UN calendar. World Wildlife Day has now become the most important global annual event dedicated to wildlife.

World Wildlife Day will be celebrated in 2020 under the theme "Sustaining all life on Earth", encompassing all wild animal and plant species as key components of the world's biodiversity. This aligns with UN Sustainable Development Goals 1, 12, 14 and 15, and their wide-ranging commitments on alleviating poverty, ensuring sustainable use of resources, and on conserving life both on land and below water to halt biodiversity loss.

Bern Convention: The Bern Convention is a binding international legal instrument in the field of nature conservation, which covers the whole of the natural heritage of the European continent and extends to some States of Africa. Its aims are to conserve wild flora and fauna and their natural habitats and to promote European co-operation in that field. The UK is a signatory to the Convention which was established at Bern, Switzerland in 1979.

8. Explanation: Recently, at the National Workshop on Explosive Detection, a new Explosive Detection device called RalDer-X was launched. RalDer-X has the capacity to detect explosives that are in the pure form and also those that are added with contaminants. It is also capable of detecting explosives at a distance. The device is capable of detecting various applications such as narcotics and also other elements that are non-explosive in nature.

Explosive Detection is highly important to inspect whether a container contains explosives especially at ports, airports and at borders. There are two main categories of Explosive detection namely Bulk Detection and Trace Detection. Colorimetrics is the popular principle used in detecting both types of explosives.

9. Explanation: Recently, snow around Ukraine's Vernadsky Research Base, located off the coast of Antarctica's northernmost peninsula, has started to take on a red tinge. The red tint in the snow is caused by the microscopic *Chlamydomonas nivalis* algae which produce the tinted sunscreen to keep themselves warm.

Concern: As the snow becomes darker from the tinge from the algae, it absorbs more heat, as a result of which it melts faster. Further, these algae change the snow's albedo (the amount of light or radiation the snow surface is able to reflect back).

10. Explanation: Urja Dakshata Information Tool (UDIT) (www.udit.beeindia.gov.in), a first ever initiative taken by BEE with World Resources Institute (WRI), to facilitate a database on energy efficiency was launched. UDIT is a user-friendly platform that explains the energy efficiency landscape of India across industry, appliances, building, transport, municipal and agriculture sectors. UDIT will also showcase the capacity building and new initiatives taken up by the Government across the sectors in the increase energy efficiency domain.

11. Explanation: The theme of World Wildlife Day 2020, "Sustaining all life on Earth", encompasses all wild animal and plant species as a component of biodiversity. It also shines a light on the livelihoods of people, especially those who live closest to nature. Known as "biodiversity super year," several major global events spotlighting biodiversity will be convened as a unique opportunity to deliver transformative progress for the conservation and sustainable use of wild plants and animals. Back in December 2013, the General Assembly decided to proclaim 3 March as World Wildlife Day to celebrate and raise

10 PM Compilation for the Month of March, 2020

awareness of the world's wild fauna and flora. The date marks the day that the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) was adopted in 1973 and continues to play an important role in ensuring that international trade does not threaten the species' survival.

12. Explanation: The Centre on Monday declared the National Chambal Sanctuary in Madhya Pradesh, home to gangetic dolphins and 75 per cent population of critically endangered species gharial, as eco-sensitive zone (ESZ). The ministry has also directed the Madhya Pradesh government to prepare a Zonal Master Plan, which shall provide for restoration of denuded areas, conservation of existing water bodies, management of catchment areas, watershed management, groundwater management, soil and moisture conservation, needs of local community and such other aspects of the ecology and environment that need attention. Spread over 435 square kilometres, the National Chambal Sanctuary lies across Sheopur, Morena and Bhind districts of Madhya Pradesh with a length of more than 400 kilometers. It is home to naturally living population of 75 per cent of gharial. The sanctuary also harbours national aquatic animal the fresh water gangetic dolphins, nine species of fresh water turtles and more the 180 species of migratory birds.

13. Explanation: Government of India has submitted two nomination dossiers namely 'Dholavira: A Harappan City' and 'Monuments and Forts of Deccan Sultanate' for inclusion in the World Heritage List for the year 2020. Govt. of Madhya Pradesh has submitted the proposal of 'Group of Monuments at Mandu' in the year 2019. The dossier was further forwarded to World Heritage Centre (WHC) for completeness check. Inputs received from WHC have been conveyed to the State Government for further incorporation. A consultation workshop was organized by the Wild Life Institute of India and State Govt. of Madhya Pradesh to inventorize and prioritize the potential World Heritage Sites of M.P. The workshop has proposed Bhedaghat (Narmada Valley) as one of the recommended potential site subject to criteria set by UNESCO World Heritage Centre.

14. Explanation: To preserve & promote various forms of folk art and culture of the tribals throughout the country including West Bengal, the Government of India has set up seven Zonal Cultural Centres (ZCCs) with headquarters at Patiala, Nagpur, Udaipur, Prayagraj, Kolkata, Dimapur and Thanjavur. These ZCCs organize various cultural activities and programmes all over the country on regular basis. These ZCCs under Ministry of Culture are also implementing a number of schemes for promoting the folk/tribal art and culture, details of which are as below:

- **Theatre Rejuvenation:** To promote theatre activities including stage shows and Production oriented workshops, etc. Honorarium Up to Rs. 30,000/- per show excluding TA & DA is paid. The groups finalized on the basis their credentials as well as the merit of project submitted by them.
- **Research & Documentation:** To preserve promote and propagate vanishing visual and performing art forms including folk, tribal and classical in the field of music, dance, theatre, literature, fine arts etc. in print/ audio – visual media. The art form is finalized in consultation with state Cultural Department.
- **Shilpgram:** To promote folk and tribal art and crafts of the zone by organizing seminar, workshops, exhibitions, craft fairs, design development and marketing support to the artisans living in the rural areas.

10 PM Compilation for the Month of March, 2020

- Octave: To promote and propagate the rich cultural heritage of North East region comprising of eight States namely Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Sikkim, Nagaland, Manipur and Tripura to the rest of India.

15. Explanation: The Government has informed that around 4.39 lakh candidates have been trained during 2018-19 and 2019-20 under Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalaya Yojana (DDU-GKY). It was launched in 2014 by the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) as a part of the National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM). Scheme aim is to transform rural poor youth into an economically independent and globally relevant workforce.

16. Explanation: National Pension Scheme for Traders, Shopkeepers and Self-Employed Persons (originally proposed name was, Pradhan Mantri Laghu Vyapari Maan-dhan Scheme) has been launched on 12.09.2019. It is a voluntary and contributory pension scheme. The traders in the age group of 18-40 years with an annual turnover, not exceeding Rs.1.5 crore and who is not a member of EPFO/ESIC/NPS/PM-SYM or an income tax payer, can join the scheme. Under the scheme, 50% monthly contribution is payable by the beneficiary and equal matching contribution is paid by the Central Government. Subscribers, after attaining the age of 60 years, are eligible for a monthly minimum assured pension of Rs.3,000/-. As the Scheme has been launched on 12th September, 2019. It envisages a coverage of about 50 lakh enrolments under the Scheme for 2019-20. In order to achieve this, various measures including celebration of Pension Week/ Pension Saptah have been taken. All State/UT Governments were requested for popularizing and bringing more awareness about the Scheme. The progress of the Scheme is being reviewed regularly in the Ministry at senior level with State/UT Governments, for taking initiatives under Mission Mode. Ministry of Labour & Employment is the nodal ministry to implement the scheme.

17. Explanation: Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP) is a campaign launched by the Department of Pharmaceuticals to provide quality medicines at affordable prices to the masses. PMBJP stores have been set up to provide generic drugs, which are available at lesser prices but are equivalent in quality and efficacy as expensive branded drugs. It was launched by the Department of Pharmaceuticals in November 2008 under the name Jan Aushadi Campaign. Bureau of Pharma PSUs of India (BPPI) is the implementation agency for PMBJP

18. Explanation: The Star Labeling Programme has been formulated by Bureau of Energy Efficiency, as part of its mandate, under the Energy Conservation Act, 2001. Under this Programme, BEE has covered 24 appliances till date wherein 10 appliances are under mandatory regime. On the occasion of 19th foundation day, BEE has expanded the coverage by including Energy Efficient “Deep Freezers” and “Light Commercial Air Conditioners (LCAC)”. Through launch of these two new appliances under voluntary regime, 26 appliances would now be covered under this programme. During the event, Urja Dakshata Information Tool (UDIT) (www.udit.beeindia.gov.in), a first ever initiative taken by BEE with World Resources Institute (WRI), to facilitate a database on energy efficiency was launched. UDIT is a user-friendly platform that explains the energy efficiency landscape of India across industry, appliances, building, transport, municipal and agriculture sectors. UDIT will also showcase the capacity building and new initiatives taken up by the Government across the sectors in the increase energy efficiency domain.

10 PM Compilation for the Month of March, 2020

19. Explanation: The European Commission (EC) launched the 'United for Biodiversity' coalition made up of zoos, aquariums, botanical gardens, national parks, and natural history and science museums from around the world, on World Wildlife Day 2020, according to a statement by it. The coalition offered the opportunity for all such institutions to "join forces and boost public awareness about the nature crisis, ahead of the crucial COP-15 of the Convention on Biological Diversity in Kunming, China in October 2020," when nations will adopt a new global framework to protect and restore nature, the statement added.

20. Explanation: Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Setu Bharatam scheme on 4th March in 2016 for building rail over-bridges or underpasses for safe and seamless travel on National Highways. The Prime Minister had said that a good infrastructure network is vital for the growth and development of a nation. He also stressed on the necessity to bring in a comprehensive, integrated approach in developing infrastructure in the country. Government has envisaged replacement of all the level crossings on National Highways by Road Over Bridges or Road Under Bridges under the Setu Bharatam scheme. The programme is being implemented by Road Transport and Highways Ministry to ensure safe and smooth flow of traffic and reduced road fatalities by 50 percent by 2020.

21. Explanation: National Security Council (NSC) is a three-tiered organization that oversees political, economic, energy and security issues of strategic concern. It comprises the Strategic Policy Group, the National Security Advisory Board (NSAB) and a secretariat from the Joint Intelligence Committee. Members of NSAB are usually senior retired officials, civilian as well as military, academics and distinguished members of civil society drawn from and having expertise in Internal and External Security, Foreign Affairs, Defence, Science & Technology and Economic Affairs. NSC operates within the executive office of the Prime Minister of India. The National Security Advisor presides over the NSC.

22. Explanation: Virtual currency is a digitally tradable form of value, which can be used as a medium of exchange or acts as a store of value or a unit of account. Cryptocurrency is a specific type of virtual currency, which is decentralised and protected by cryptographic encryption techniques. Example: Bitcoins, Ethereum, Ripple, Petro (by Venezuela govt) and Alber (By UAE and Saudi Arabia).

23. Explanation: Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP) is launched in 2004 by the Ministry of Health and Family Affairs with the assistance of the World Bank. Its objective is to strengthen/maintain decentralized laboratory based IT enabled disease surveillance systems for epidemic prone diseases to monitor disease trends and to detect and respond to outbreaks in early rising phase through trained Rapid Response Team(RRTs).

24. Explanation: QS University Ranking is an annual publication by Quacquarelli Symonds (QS). The universities were ranked based on the parameters such as Academic reputation, Employer reputation, Citation per faculty Faculty-Student ratio and International students. Massachusetts Institute of Technology is the World's best performing Institution followed by Harvard University and University of Oxford. The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) in Delhi and in Bombay ranked among the top 50 engineering colleges in the QS World University Rankings by Subject 2020, the first time for any Indian institute.

10 PM Compilation for the Month of March, 2020

25. Explanation: Luxembourg has announced to make all forms of public transport free starting March 2020. The decision was taken to reduce the traffic congestion and in turn reduce Emissions. Under this, all forms of Public transport will be free which will be funded by the taxpayers. This will help low earners save money and burden is shouldered by the better off population.

26. Explanation: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) superseded the board of Yes Bank and imposed a month-long moratorium, it said in an announcement late on Thursday. It expects to arrive at a credible restructuring plan in the next few days. Depositors will be restricted to a maximum withdrawal of Rs 50,000 even if they have multiple accounts, a government gazette notification said. RBI will relax the withdrawal limit in the event of medical emergencies, higher education fees or marriage expenses — up to a cap of Rs 5 lakh.

27. Explanation: Black carbon results from the incomplete combustion of fossil fuels and biomass. The fine particles absorb light and about a million times more energy than carbon dioxide. It is said to be the second largest contributor to climate change after CO₂. But unlike CO₂, which can stay in the atmosphere for years together, black carbon is short-lived and remains in the atmosphere only for days to weeks before it descends as rain or snow.

28. Explanation: Greece has reinforced its sea and land borders to stop migrant are crossing over from Turkey to reach Greek Island of Lesbos. Lesbos is a Greek island located in the northeastern Aegean Sea. It is the third largest island in Greece. It is separated from Turkey by the narrow Mytilini Strait. The island is largely volcanic in the west.

29. Explanation: Freedom in the World is Freedom House's flagship annual report, assessing the condition of political rights and civil liberties around the world. It is composed of numerical ratings and supporting descriptive texts for 195 countries and 15 territories. Freedom in the World has been published since 1973, allowing Freedom House to track global trends in freedom over more than 40 years. It has become the most widely read and cited report of its kind, used on a regular basis by policymakers, journalists, academics, activists, and many others.

30. Explanation: National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), an umbrella organisation for operating retail payments and settlement systems in India, is an initiative of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and Indian Banks' Association (IBA) under the provisions of the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007, for creating a robust Payment & Settlement Infrastructure in India. Considering the utility nature of the objects of NPCI, it has been incorporated as a "Not for Profit" Company under the provisions of Section 25 of Companies Act 1956 (now Section 8 of Companies Act 2013), with an intention to provide infrastructure to the entire Banking system in India for physical as well as electronic payment and settlement systems.

31. Explanation: CRISPR-Cas9 stands for Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats. It is a gene editing technology, which replicates natural defence mechanisms in bacteria to fight virus attacks, using a special protein called Cas9. The technology behaves like a cut-and-paste mechanism on DNA strands that contain genetic information. The specific location of the genetic codes that need to be changed, or "edited", is identified on the DNA strand and then using the Cas9 protein, which acts like a pair of

10 PM Compilation for the Month of March, 2020

scissors, that location is cut off from the strand. A DNA strand, when broken, has a natural tendency to repair itself.

32. Explanation: The International Conference on Nano Science and Nano Technology (ICONSAT) under the aegis of Nano Mission, Department of Science and Technology (DST), started at Biswa Bangla Conventional Centre, Kolkata focusing on the recent advances in this frontier research field. ICONSAT 2020 is being organized during 5 -7 March at the Biswa Bangla Convention Centre by the S. N. Bose National Centre for Basic Sciences, Kolkata. The three day event deliberates on several thematic topics in the field, bringing out cutting-edge developments in the domain of physical, chemical, materials as well as biological sciences. In addition to existing research on nano-materials, several emerging areas such as quantum materials, energy materials and nanotechnology for agriculture have been included in cognizance of the identified thrust areas of DST Nano mission.

33. Explanation: Blissful Hygienic Offering to God (BHOG) was launched in 2018 by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI). BHOG aim is to encourage all places of worship to adopt and maintain food safety and hygiene in preparation, serving and sale of food along with training of food handlers for basic food safety and hygiene. Under the initiative, places of worship where food is cooked/handled are identified, audit is conducted and basic training of food handlers is done.

34. Explanation: In Mizoram, the biggest and most joyful festival of Mizos, Chapchar Kut is being celebrated across the state today. The Chapchar Kut is also regarded as the most popular spring festival to the people of the state. The gaiety and fervour of Chapchar Kut shines through with plenty of dancing and music to keep everyone in good spirits. This festival is a public holiday in the state.

35. Explanation: NITI Aayog's Women Entrepreneurship Platform is organising the Fourth Edition of the Women Transforming India Awards (WTI) on International Women's Day, Sunday, 8 March 2020. The Women Transforming India Awards, instituted four years ago, is NITI Aayog's Endeavour to recognise and celebrate stories of exceptional women change makers from across India. Since 2018, the Women Transforming India Awards have been hosted under the aegis of the Women Entrepreneurship Platform on the theme of 'Women and Entrepreneurship'. The Women Entrepreneurship Platform seeks to transform the entrepreneurial ecosystem for women by bringing together stakeholders to offer information and services that will resolve the existing information asymmetry. It was formulated on three pillars: Iccha Shakti, Gyan Shakti and Karma Shakti. It is an aggregator platform for established as well as aspiring entrepreneurs and provides incubator support, mentorship, funding avenues, compliance and taxation support and peer learning.

36. Explanation: Valmiki Tiger Reserve forms the eastern most limit of the Himalayan Terai forests in India, and is the only tiger reserve of Bihar. Situated in the Gangetic Plains biogeographic zone of the country, the forest has combination of bhabar and terai tracts. Valmiki Tiger Reserve lies in the north-westernmost West Champaran district of Bihar. Name of the district has been derived from two words Champa and Aranya meaning Forest of Champa trees.

37. Explanation: Indian School of Business (ISB) has developed a portal called India Data Portal (IDP). The project was funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF). The Portal was launched in 2018. It serves as a one stop open-access portal for journalists,

10 PM Compilation for the Month of March, 2020

researchers, students, policy makers among others to access interact and visualize information, data and knowledge related to agriculture and financial services.

38. Explanation: The Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010 and rules framed under the Act in 2011 regulate the receipt and usage of foreign contribution by non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in India. The act aims to prevent use of foreign contribution or foreign hospitality for any activity detrimental to the national interest. It is implemented by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India.

39. Explanation: The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) is the principal global intergovernmental body exclusively dedicated to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women. A functional commission of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), it was established by ECOSOC resolution 11(II) of 21 June 1946. The CSW is instrumental in promoting women's rights, documenting the reality of women's lives throughout the world, and shaping global standards on gender equality and the empowerment of women.

40. Explanation: The Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) is an intergovernmental organization which brings together five member states : the Union of the Comoros, France in respect of La Réunion, Madagascar, Mauritius and the Seychelles. Created by the Port-Louis Declaration in 1982, the IOC was institutionalized in Seychelles in 1984 by the General Cooperation Agreement, better known as the "Victoria Agreement". The only regional organization in Africa composed exclusively of islands; it defends the specificities of its member states on the continental and international scenes. Benefiting from the active support of a dozen international partners, the IOC embodies regional solidarity through cooperation projects covering a wide range of sectors: preservation of ecosystems, sustainable management of natural resources, maritime security, entrepreneurship, public health, renewable energies or culture. India has joined in March 2020 as an observer of the Indian Ocean Commission — the inter-governmental organisation that coordinates maritime governance in the south-western Indian Ocean — a move that will bolster Delhi's Indo-Pacific vision.

41. Explanation: National Supercomputing Mission, under the leadership of Shri Narendra Modi, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India is an important initiative by Government of India launched in 2015 to boost indigenous efforts to be in the forefront of supercomputing capability for socio-economic development of the nation. The mission jointly steered by Ministry of Electronics and IT and Department of Science & Technology, is being implemented through two leading organizations – Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) and the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore with an objective to meet the increasing computing demands of the scientific and research community. Experts from various organisations including NITI Aayog, IIT, JNU, DRDO and BARC have made substantial contributions towards implementing this mission. This initiative supports the government's vision of "Digital India" and "Make in India" and will place India at the forefront of global supercomputing map.

42. Explanation: Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897 aims to provide for the better prevention of the spread of dangerous epidemic diseases. The Act was introduced by the British in 1897 to tackle the epidemic of bubonic plague that broke out in the then state of Bombay.

43. Explanation: Additional tier-1 bonds also called AT1 are a type of unsecured, perpetual bonds that banks issue to shore up their core capital base to meet the Basel-III norms. The

10 PM Compilation for the Month of March, 2020

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is the regulator of AT-1 bonds. Bonds are perpetual and carry no maturity date. Instead, they carry call options that allow banks to redeem them after five or 10 years. However, banks are not obliged to use this call option and can opt to pay only interest on these bonds for eternity.

44. Explanation: Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) Launched in 2016 by the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas. Its aim is to replace unclean cooking fuels used in the most underprivileged households with clean and more efficient LPG (Liquefied Petroleum Gas).

45. Explanation: The impact of climate change on water will increase the risk to global security in the next decade, according to a group of international security and military professionals. The International Military Council on Climate and Security (IMCCS) administered a survey in December 2019 to assess the perceptions of climate security risks among 56 security and military experts and practitioners from across the globe. The perception analysis was published in a World Climate and Security report, which claimed to be first of its kind. According to the report, 93 per cent military experts perceived climate change effects on water security would present significant or higher risks to global security by 2030. About 91 per cent perceived those risks would turn severe or catastrophic by 2040.

46. Explanation: India is one of the better-performing countries in the global Animal Protection Index 2020, created by international animal welfare charity, World Animal Protection. The Animal Protection Index (API) aims to showcase where countries are doing well, and where they fall short on animal welfare policy and legislation, so they can take steps to improve. The index ranks countries from A (being the highest score) to G (being the weakest score) according to their policy and legislation. India has attained a C ranking in the index, along with countries like New Zealand, Mexico, France, and Spain.

47. Explanation: Scientists at Agharkar Research Institute (ARI), Pune, an autonomous institute under the Department of Science & Technology, have isolated 45 different strains of methanotrophic bacteria which have been found to be capable of reducing methane emissions from rice plants. Methanotrophs metabolise and convert methane into carbon-dioxide. They can effectively reduce the emission of methane, which is the second most important greenhouse gas (GHG) and 26 times more potent as compared to carbon-dioxide. In rice fields, methanotrophs are active near the roots or soil-water interfaces. Rice fields are human-made wetlands and are waterlogged for a considerable period. Anaerobic degradation of organic matter results in the generation of methane. Rice fields contribute to nearly 10% of global methane emissions. Very few studies in the world have focused on methanotrophs from tropical wetlands or tropical rice fields. Before scientists at ARI started their studies, practically no cultures of indigenously isolated methanotrophs from India were available. Native and relevant methanotrophs isolated from rice fields can be excellent models to understand the effect of various factors on methane mitigation. Ammonium fertilizers, increasing temperatures (due to global warming) are some of the important factors which the team plans to study in the future. Besides methane mitigation studies, methanotrophs can also be used in methane value addition (valorization) studies. Bio-methane generated from waste can be used by the methanotrophs and can be converted to value-added products such as single-cell proteins, carotenoids, biodiesel, and so on. The team is further working on methane valorization studies from the isolated methanotrophs. Such studies help reduce GHG emissions, especially anthropogenic or man-made emissions, which is a pressing need in the age of global warming.

10 PM Compilation for the Month of March, 2020

48. Explanation: Under the Central Sector Scheme Silk Samagra an Integrated Scheme for Development of Silk Industry (ISDSI) implemented by Government of India through Central Silk Board (CSB) with a total outlay of Rs. 2161.68 crore for three years (2017-18 to 2019-20) for the overall development of silk industry in the Country with an objective to scale up production by improving the quality and productivity. The scheme comprises four major components viz. (i) Research & Development, Training, Transfer of Technology and Information Technology Initiatives, (ii) Seed Organizations, (iii) Coordination and Market Development and (iv) Quality Certification Systems (QCS) / Export Brand Promotion and Technology Up-gradation.

49. Explanation: Recently, the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) has conducted the National level Search and Rescue Exercise (SAREX-2020) in Goa. The exercise has been conducted biennially since 2003 by Indian Coast Guard under the aegis of National Maritime Search and Rescue Board (NMSARB). Further, the exercise witnessed the participation of around 24 overseas observers from 19 countries.

50. Explanation: UNICEF along with Plan International and United Nations Women has released a report titled "A New era for girls: Taking stock on 25 years of progress". The report is issued in the context of the Generation Equality campaign and to mark the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. According to the report the number of out-of-school girls worldwide dropped by 79 million between 1998 and 2018. The number of female youth aged 15-24 years who are illiterate declined from 100 million to 56 million between 1995 and 2018, but 1 in 10 female youth remain illiterate today. Since 1995, the proportion of young women who were married as children has declined globally from 1 in 4 to approximately 1 in 5. Over the past 25 years, the adolescent birth rate has declined from 60 births per 1,000 girls aged 15-19 years to 44 births worldwide.

51. Explanation: The ExoMars Rosalind Franklin rover mission by European Space Agency will not launch in 2020 due to a lack of time to test and qualify problematic parachutes and electronics vital to the spacecraft. The Rosalind Franklin rover is a second ExoMars mission to search for signs of life at depths up to two meters below the martian surface. It consists of a Russian-led surface platform and the European-led rover, to be launched on a Russian Proton rocket from Baikonur. The ExoMars rover mission was initially scheduled to launch in 2018, but was delayed to 2020 due to delays in European and Russian industrial activities. When the Rosalind Franklin rover arrives at Mars it will join the ExoMars Trace Gas Orbiter, which has been in orbit around the Red Planet since October 2016. TGO will act as a relay station for the mission while continuing its own science mission. NASA pulled out of the mission in 2012 due to budget cuts, having committed to the mission with ESA in 2009.

52. Explanation: The Centre has notified the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Rules, 2020 which enables implementation of recent amendments to the Act under which provisions of punishment for child abuse has been made more stringent. Some of the significant additions in the new rules include provision of mandatory police verification of staff in schools and care homes, procedures to report sexual abuse material (pornography), imparting age-appropriate child rights education among others. For crackdown on child pornography, the rules state that any person who has received any pornographic material involving a child or any information regarding such pornographic material being stored, possessed, distributed, circulated, transmitted, facilitated, propagated or displayed, or is likely to be distributed, facilitated or transmitted in any manner shall report the contents to the Special Juvenile Police Unit (SJPU) or police, or the cybercrime portal. Under the rules,

10 PM Compilation for the Month of March, 2020

the State Governments have been asked to formulate a child protection policy based on the principle of zero-tolerance to violence against children, which shall be adopted by all institutions, organizations, or any other agency working with, or coming in contact with children. It empowers the Special Court to pass an order for interim compensation to meet the needs of the child for relief or rehabilitation at any stage after registration of the First Information Report.

53. Explanation: Recently, it has been observed that India is witnessing a phenomenal rise in women entrepreneurship. The successful presence of women in almost every field has a great impact on women entrepreneurship. More and more women at different levels of education, social background and age group are thinking of self-employment because of government policies. The new policies are quite friendly to pursue entrepreneurship as one of the lucrative career options among the ambitious women. Udyam Sakhi is the project which is designed to give such women to feel comfortable by getting the right information to go for self-employment on one single portal. It is an initiative of the Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME).

54. Explanation: The National Biopharma Mission (NBM) is an industry-Academia Collaborative Mission for accelerating biopharmaceutical development in the country. Under this Mission the Government has launched Innovate in India (i3) programme to create an enabling ecosystem to promote entrepreneurship and indigenous manufacturing in the sector. The mission will be implemented by Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC). The mission was approved in 2017 at a total cost of Rs 1500 crore and is 50% co-funded by World Bank loan. It is managed through a dedicated Program Management Unit (PMU) at BIRAC. Together with National and International experts, the most promising projects are selected in response to open Request for Applications issued by the PMU. The oversight to the mission activities is provided by the inter-ministerial Steering Committee chaired by the Secretary-DBT. The program is promoting entrepreneurship by supporting small and medium enterprises for indigenous product development (Novel Cell lines, indigenously developed Biologics, devices and Raw materials for Biologics manufacturing) and through establishment of shared facilities and Technology Transfer Offices.

55. Explanation: Scotland may become the first country in the world to end 'period poverty'. The Scottish Parliament passed the Period Products (Free Provision) (Scotland) Bill that aims to make sanitary products free for women of all age groups. The Bill has only passed the first hurdle to become a law. It still needs to be considered by a parliamentary committee, following which it will require approval from the parliament. It will finally need the Royal Assent of the Queen. 'Period poverty Scotland' website mentions some circumstances that make menstruation a "difficult experience" for women. These include homelessness, coercive, controlling and violent relationships and health conditions such as endometriosis. "Some trans people may also experience difficulties in accessing sanitary products," it says. As of now, in Scotland, the provision of free sanitary products is already available in schools, universities and colleges.

56. Explanation: The State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) has been constituted under the Disaster Management Act, 2005 and is the primary fund available with state governments for responses to notified disasters. The Central government contributes 75% towards the SDRF allocation for general category states and UTs, and over 90% for special category states/UTs which includes northeastern states, Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh and

10 PM Compilation for the Month of March, 2020

Uttarakhand. The disasters covered under the SDRF include cyclones, droughts, tsunamis, hailstorms, landslides, avalanches and pest attacks among others.

57. Explanation: Chaitra Jatra is celebrated at Tara Tarini hill shrine in the Hindu month of Chaitra. Tara Tarini hill shrine is located at Kumari hill on banks of the Rushikulya River. It is a major centre of Shakti worship in Odisha. The annual Chaitra Jatra festival scheduled to be held in Odisha's Tara Tarini hill shrine was cancelled as a precautionary measure against COVID-19 infection.

58. Explanation: The Minister of State for Shipping (I/C) visited ROPAX service at Bhaucha Dhakka in Maharashtra. The ministry also visited ROPAX terminal and inspected the facilities created for the passengers as the ROPAX Service from Bhaucha Dhakka to Mandwa. ROPAX service is a 'Water Transport Service Project', under Eastern Waterfront Development. The benefits of this service include reduction in the travel time, vehicular emission and traffic on the road. The road distance from Mumbai to Mandwa is about 110 kilometres, and gruelling road journey takes three to four hours, whereas by waterway it is about 18 kilometre and journey of just an hour.

59. Explanation: Renewable Energy Certificate (REC) mechanism is a market based instrument to promote renewable energy and facilitate compliance of renewable purchase obligations (RPO). It is aimed at addressing the mismatch between availability of RE resources in state and the requirement of the obligated entities to meet the renewable purchase obligation (RPO). The Electricity Act, 2003 and the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) provide for a roadmap for increasing the share of renewable in the country. Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) had notified the Regulation on Renewable Energy Certificate (REC) in 2010.

60. Explanation: Government e Marketplace is an online marketplace setup in 2016 for procurement of commonly used goods and services by government ministries, departments and CPSEs. It aims to enhance transparency, efficiency and speed in public procurement. It is a National Procurement Portal of India. It functions under Directorate General of Supplies and Disposals (DGS&D), Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

61. Explanation: National Career Service is a Five Year Mission Mode Project launched by the Hon'ble Prime Minister on 20th July, 2015. The project is being implemented by the Directorate General of Employment, Ministry of Labour & Employment. National Career Service (NCS) is a one-stop solution that provides a wide array of employment and career related services to the citizens of India. It works towards bridging the gap between jobseekers and employers, candidates seeking training and career guidance, agencies providing training and career counselling. The NCS project reaches out to the people of this country through its three essential pillars i.e. a well designed ICT based portal which is NCS portal, Country wide set up of Model Career Centers and Inter-linkage with all the states through employment exchanges. The digital centralized portal provides a wide range of career related services including job search, job matching, rich career content, career counselling, information on Job Fairs, services of local service providers like drivers, plumbers, etc. for households and various other services. This portal facilitates registration of Job Seekers, Employers, Skill Providers, Career Counsellors, Local Service Providers (LSP's), Career Centers, Placement Organisations, Households (for availing the services of the LSP's) and Government Departments.

10 PM Compilation for the Month of March, 2020

62. Explanation: Ethiopia is building one of the largest dams in the world named Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD). The Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) which was formerly known as the Millennium Dam is located in Ethiopia, on the Blue Nile River about 40km east of Sudan. The dam will be the largest hydroelectric power plant in Africa when completed as well as the seventh largest in the world.

63. Explanation: The Krishna Raja Sagar Dam was built across river Cauvery in 1932. It is named for the then ruler of the Mysore Kingdom, Krishnaraja Wodeyar IV. The dam is the main source of drinking water for the Mysore city and almost the whole of Bangalore. Further, the water is also used as an important source of water in the state of Tamil Nadu. Recently the water level in the Krishna Raja Sagar (KRS) Dam in Karnataka is coming down due to increase in the evaporation rate and the decrease in the inflows as a result of summer.

64. Explanation: Project Baseline was launched by Google Subsidiary Verily in 2017. It aims to bridge the gap between research and care. Project Baseline is an initiative to make it easy and engaging for people like you to contribute to the map of human health and participate in clinical research. Together with researchers, clinicians, engineers, designers, advocates, and volunteers, we're collaborating to build the next generation of healthcare tools and services.

65. Explanation: An 'Uttar Pradesh Recovery of Damages to Public and Private Property Ordinance, 2020' has been passed by the Uttar Pradesh governor on Sunday even as a recovery exercise to collect damages to public property during anti-CAA riots is underway in the state. The ordinance will aim at dealing with violent acts at public places, controlling its persistence and escalation and providing for recovery of damage to public or private property during hartal, bandhs, riots, public commotion, and protests. It will also seek to create "claims tribunals" to investigate the damages, according to an official document shared by the government.

66. Explanation: Appropriation Bill is a money bill that allows the government to withdraw funds from the Consolidated Fund of India to meet its expenses during the course of a financial year. As per article 114 of the Constitution, the government can withdraw money from the Consolidated Fund only after receiving approval from Parliament. The government usually introduces the Appropriation Bill in the Lok Sabha after discussions on Budget proposals and Voting on Demand for Grants. The defeat of an Appropriation Bill would necessitate resignation of a government or a general election. However, this has never happened in India till date.

67. Explanation: Environmental organisations from across central and Eastern Europe have criticised a major project intending to link three rivers and provide seamless navigation between three of Europe's peripheral seas. The Danube-Oder-Elbe Canal intends to connect the Danube, Oder and Elbe rivers and thus provide another navigable link from the Black Sea to the North and Baltic Seas.

68. Explanation: Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) was launched by the Government of India in 2018. It is funded and managed by the Defence Innovation Organization (DIO). It primarily aims at creation of an ecosystem to foster innovation and technology development in Defence and Aerospace by engaging Industries including MSMEs, start-ups among others. It also provides grants/funding to carry out R&D which has good potential for future adoption for Indian defence and aerospace needs.

10 PM Compilation for the Month of March, 2020

69. Explanation: Recently, Astronomers have observed an exoplanet (planet which orbits a star outside the solar system) named Wasp-76b where they suspect it rains iron instead of water. Wasp-76b is an exoplanet that is twice the width of our Jupiter. Its name comes from the UK-led Wasp telescope system that detected it four years ago. It is 640 light-years from the Earth and is so close to its star that it takes just 43 hours to complete one revolution. According to researchers, the iron rain happens because the exoplanet always presents the same face to the star which is called as tidally locked. Earth's Moon also does exactly the same thing as we only ever see one side.

70. Explanation: Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) is a set of stratified actions that are taken once the pollution level reaches a certain specified limit. It works only as an emergency measure. Under GRAP, there are 4 stages of pollution – Moderate to Poor, Very Poor, Severe and Severe+ or Emergency and action are listed that need to be undertaken as the levels are breached. The categories have been made on the basis of PM 2.5 and PM 10 in the atmosphere. The GRAP is implemented by the Environment Pollution Control Authority (EPCA).

71. ANS: Microsoft India and NASSCOM Foundation announced the launch of the Innovate for Accessible India campaign in partnership with the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD), Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Department of Science & Technology (DST), Ministry of Science and Technology and ERNET (National Research and Education Network under MeitY). Innovate for Accessible India is a nation-wide innovation challenge aimed at empowering people with disabilities with the technology and tools required for better integration into society and access to equal opportunities. The campaign will be an aggregator of workable technology solutions developed using Microsoft Cloud, Artificial Intelligence and other technologies that address gaps faced by people with disabilities, especially in acquiring services and support in education, skill building, employment, mobility, rehabilitation and other government services.

72. Explanation: Cricket legend Sachin Tendulkar joined WHO's #SafeHandsChallenge to promote the importance of washing hands amid the coronavirus outbreak. In a video shared by the Master Blaster, Tendulkar is seen washing his hands thoroughly and also talking about the importance of washing hands with soap. In an attempt to spread the importance of hygiene amid the coronavirus pandemic, star Indian athlete Hima Das also took up the #SafeHands challenge and urged the likes of Tendulkar, M.C. Mary Kom, Sania Mirza and Rani Rampal to take it forward. Earlier, ace Indian shuttler P.V. Sindhu had also taken up the challenge and had posted a video on Twitter in which she was seen washing her hands with soap for almost 30 seconds. The World Health Organisation, which has declared coronavirus outbreak a pandemic, has been continuously asking people to wash their hands with soap regularly to avoid infection.

73. Explanation: GreenCo Rating has been developed by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII). Its aim is to facilitate companies to make a substantial improvement in their environmental performance thereby saving both natural and financial resources. Under this, companies are evaluated on major environmental areas including- energy efficiency, renewable energy, water conservation, waste management, resource conservation, green supply chain and life cycle assessment. Recently GreenCo Rating has been acknowledged in India's Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC) document submitted to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 2015.

10 PM Compilation for the Month of March, 2020

74. Explanation: The 'Samudrayaan' project undertaken by the NIOT, Chennai, is in line with the ISRO's ambitious 'Gaganyaan' mission of sending an astronaut to space by 2022. The 'Samudrayaan' is a part of the Ministry of Earth Sciences' pilot project for deep ocean mining for rare minerals. The indigenously developed vehicle is capable of crawling on the sea bed at a depth of six kilometre for 72 hours. The success of the 'Samudrayaan' will help India to join the league of developed nations in exploration of minerals from oceans.

75. Explanation: The Defense Acquisition Council (DAC), chaired by Defense Minister. The objective of the Defense Acquisition Council is to ensure expeditious procurement of the approved requirements of the Armed Forces in terms of capabilities sought, and time frame prescribed, by optimally utilizing the allocated budgetary resources.

- in-principle approval of 15 Year Long-Term Integrated Perspective Plan for Defence Forces,
- accord of Acceptance of Necessity to acquisition proposals,
- categorization of the acquisition proposals relating to 'Buy', 'Buy & Make' and 'Make',
- issues relating to Single vendor clearance,
- Decision regarding 'offset' provisions in respect of acquisition proposals above Rs. 300 crores.

76. Explanation: The National Commission for Indian System of Medicine Bill, 2019 was introduced in Rajya Sabha by the Minister of State for AYUSH. The Bill seeks to repeal the Indian Medicine Central Council Act, 1970 and provide for a medical education system which ensures: (i) availability of adequate and high quality medical professionals of Indian System of Medicine, (ii) adoption of the latest medical research by medical professionals of Indian System of Medicine, (iii) periodic assessment of medical institutions, and (iv) an effective grievance redressal mechanism. There will be a uniform National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test for admission to under-graduate education in each of the disciplines of the Indian System of Medicine in all medical institutions regulated by the Bill. The NCISM will specify the manner of conducting common counseling for admission in all such medical institutions. The Bill proposes a common final year National Exit Test for the students graduating from medical institutions to obtain the license for practice. Further, there will be a uniform post-graduate National Entrance Test which will be conducted separately for admission into post-graduate courses in each of the disciplines of the Indian System of Medicine in all medical institutions.

77. Explanation: Lok Sabha has passed the Aircraft (Amendment) Bill, 2020. It seeks to amend the Aircraft Act, 1934 which regulates the manufacture, possession, use, operation, sale, import and export of civil aircrafts, and licensing of aerodromes. The Bill converts three existing bodies under the Ministry of Civil Aviation into statutory bodies under the Act. These three authorities are: (i) the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), (ii) the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS), and (iii) the Aircraft Accidents Investigation Bureau (AAIB). Each of these bodies will be headed by a Director General who will be appointed by the centre.

78. ANS: India has signed an agreement with Israel for procurement of Negev light machine guns (LMG). Negev is a light machine gun (LMG) with powerful target acquisition. It was adopted by the Israeli Defense Forces in 1997. It has semi-automatic mode to provide accurate, controlled fire in close quarter battle.

10 PM Compilation for the Month of March, 2020

79. Explanation: The UK Government has apologised for the Windrush Scandal which involved Windrush generation being wrongly detained or deported for being illegal immigrants. The Windrush generation refers to the immigrants who came to the UK between 1948 and 1971 from Caribbean countries. The immigrants came at the invitation of the British government which was facing a labour shortage due to the destruction caused by World War II. They are referred to as Windrush Generation which relates to a ship named 'Windrush', which brought them to the UK shores in 1948.

80. Explanation: The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has initiated the Project NETRA. NETRA stands for Network for Space Object Tracking and Analysis. It is an early warning system in space to detect space debris and to safeguard India's functional satellites in low-earth orbits. Under NETRA, ISRO plans to put up many observational facilities such as (a) connected radars (b) telescopes (c) data processing units and (d) Space Situational Awareness Control Centre. These facilities can spot, track and catalogue objects as small as 10 cm, up to a range of 3,400 km and equal to a space orbit of around 2,000 km.

81. Explanation: A game changing and unique project aimed to transform 5 crore Tribal Entrepreneurs under the name "Tech for Tribal" has been launched by TRIFED. It was launched by TRIFED and IIT-Kanpur along with IIT-Roorkee, IIM Indore, Kalinga Institute of Social Science, Bhubaneswar and SRIJAN, Jaipur in the first phase of organising tribal entrepreneurship and skill development program. Tech for Tribals, an initiative of TRIFED supported by Ministry of MSME, aims at capacity building and imparting entrepreneurship skills to tribal forest produce gatherers enrolled under the Pradhan Mantri VanDhan Yojana (PMVDY). The trainees will undergo a 30 days program over six weeks comprising 120 sessions.

82. Explanation: The Brazzaville Declaration aims to implement coordination and cooperation between different government sectors to protect the benefits provided by peatland ecosystems. In an unprecedented move to protect the Cuvette Centrale region in the Congo Basin, the world's largest tropical peatlands, from unregulated land use and prevent its drainage and degradation, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), the Republic of Congo and Indonesia jointly signed the Brazzaville declaration that promotes better management and conservation of this globally important carbon store. There is a lot at stake in the protection of these peatlands: the equivalent of three years of global greenhouse gas emissions are stored in the Congo Basin, emissions that could be released if the peatlands are degraded or the natural wetlands drained.

83. Explanation: The World Happiness Report is an annual report originally launched in 2012. It is released by the Sustainable Development Solutions Network for the United Nations on March 20, the UN's annual International Day of Happiness. The report ranks 156 countries on the state of global happiness using the Gallup World Poll and six factors namely levels of GDP, life expectancy, generosity, social support, freedom and corruption income.

84. Explanation: BEPS is a term used to describe tax planning strategies that exploit mismatches and gaps that exist between the tax rules of different jurisdictions. It is an OECD initiative approved by the G20 to identify ways of providing more standardized tax rules globally.

85. Explanation: Navroz is a Persian New Year festival celebrated by Parsis, followers of Zoroastrianism and various other communities. In India, the Navroz festival is celebrated

10 PM Compilation for the Month of March, 2020

twice a year. The first according to the Iranian calendar and the second according to the Shahen Shahi calendar which is followed by people in India and Pakistan. The festival is celebrated for health, wealth, prosperity and productivity. The central feature of the festival is to visit the Fire Temple and offer prayers to the deities.

86. Explanation: The Prime Minister of India launched the Coalition for Disaster-Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) at the UN Secretary-General's Climate Action Summit in New York, US. The fledgling partnership has a secretariat in Delhi, supported by the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), to enable knowledge exchange, technical support and capacity building. CDRI's mission is to rapidly expand the development of resilient infrastructure and retrofit existing infrastructure for resilience, and to enable a measurable reduction in infrastructure losses. Its mission statement notes that, in recent weather and climate-related disasters, up to 66% of public sector losses were related to infrastructure damage. The partnership will be working in the areas of governance and policy, emerging technology, risk identification and estimation, recovery and reconstruction, resilience standards and certification, finance, and capacity development.

87. Explanation: South Asian Association of Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Disaster Management Centre (SDMC-IU) has been set up at Gujarat Institute of Disaster Management (GIDM) Campus, Gujarat in 2017. Its aim is to provide policy advice, technical support on system development, capacity building services and training for holistic management of disaster risk in the SAARC region. It also facilitates exchange of information and expertise for effective and efficient management of disaster risk.

88. Explanation: The Lion-tailed Macaque is one of 16 Macaques species, which have an extensive home range stretching from Gibraltar to Japan. However, this particular primate is confined to tiny, isolated pockets of evergreen tropical forest in the **Western Ghats** Mountains in India. The Lion-tailed Macaque is considered to be omnivorous, eating mainly fruit, insects, eggs as well as small animals on occasion. It even uses special cheek pouches to store food while foraging. The Macaque lives in groups of between ten and 20 individuals with one dominant male taking responsibility for leading the entire troop. Young males leave at the onset of maturity and join bachelor groups, while young females form strong bonds with their mother and usually remain within their natal group. Females give birth every 3-4 years and the species can live up to 20 years of age in the wild and about 30 years in captivity. With less than 2,500 individuals remaining in the wild and about 400 more in zoos, the Lion-tailed Macaque is one of the most **endangered** species in the world today. Also hunted for its meat and fur, only 1% of their original habitat remains - because of timber harvesting and agriculture - and as their population numbers continue to decrease, Europe's captive population now makes up 14% of the entire group left on the planet.

89. Explanation: Reunion Island is a remote Indian Ocean island located between Madagascar and Mauritius. It is an overseas region of France. The island's capital is Saint-Denis which is home to one-fifth of the population. The Island is home to one of the world's most active volcanoes, the Piton de la Fourrier which is also a World Heritage site. Recently India and France have conducted joint patrols from the Reunion Island for the first time.

90. Explanation: World Cities Summit is a biennial summit jointly organized by Singapore's Centre for Liveable Cities and the Urban Redevelopment Authority since 2008. Aim of the summit is to provide an exclusive platform for government leaders and industry

10 PM Compilation for the Month of March, 2020

experts to address livable and sustainable city challenges, share integrated urban solutions and forge new partnerships.

91. Explanation: Indian Institute of Technology Madras is organizing India's first Global Hyperloop Pod Competition to increase awareness and enthusiasm about Hyperloop in India. The competition is open globally and the final round will take place in the IIT Madras campus in July 2020. Called the 'Indian Hyperloop Pod Competition' the objective is to encourage student teams in India and abroad to develop a Hyperloop Pod and compete to build the fastest, most innovative and efficient design and prototype of the relevant technologies in the field. This competition is open to all the engineering colleges across the world, to ideate, design and implement their ideas for the Hyperloop Pods. Hyperloop is the 5th mode of transportation, a high-speed train that travels in a near-vacuum tube. The reduced air resistance allows the capsule inside the tube to reach speeds of more than 1000 km/h, conveying people or objects at high speed while being very efficient, thereby drastically reducing travel times over medium-range distances.

92. Explanation: World Water Day, held on 22 March every year since 1993, focuses on the importance of freshwater. World Water Day celebrates water and raises awareness of the 2.2 billion people living without access to safe water. It is about taking action to tackle the global water crisis. A core focus of World Water Day is to support the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 6: water and sanitation for all by 2030. World Water Day 2020 is about water and climate change – and how the two are inextricably linked. The campaign shows how our use of water will help reduce floods, droughts, scarcity and pollution, and will help fight climate change itself. By adapting to the water effects of climate change, we will protect health and save lives. And, by using water more efficiently, we will reduce greenhouse gases.

93. Explanation: Invest India is the national investment promotion and facilitation agency, Invest India focuses on sector-specific investor targeting and development of new partnerships to enable sustainable investments in India. In addition to a core team that focuses on sustainable investments, Invest India also partners with substantial investment promotion agencies and multilateral organizations. Invest India also actively works with several Indian states to build capacity as well as bring in global best practices in investment targeting, promotion and facilitation areas. Invest India, set up in 2009, is a non-profit venture under the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India.

94. Explanation: National Highways Authority of India was set up by an act of the Parliament, NHAI Act, 1988 "An Act to provide for the constitution of an Authority for the development, maintenance and management of national highways and for matter connected therewith or incidental thereto". It has been entrusted with National Highways Development Project, which along with other minor projects, has vested in it 50329 kms of National Highways for development, maintenance and management. Our objective is to ensure that all contract awards and procurements conform to the best industry practices with regard to transparency of process, adoption of bid criteria to ensure healthy competition in award of contracts, implementation of projects conform to best quality requirements and the highway system is maintained to ensure best user comfort and convenience.

95. Explanation: Project Elephant (PE), a centrally sponsored scheme, was launched in February 1992 to provide financial and technical support to major elephant bearing States in the country for protection of elephants, their habitats and corridors. It also seeks to

10 PM Compilation for the Month of March, 2020

address the issues of human-elephant conflict and welfare of domesticated elephants. The Project is being implemented in 13 States / UTs, viz. Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Orissa, Tamil Nadu, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. Based on the proposals received in the form of Annual Plan of Operations, Government of India provides financial and technical assistance to State/UT Governments for wildlife protection under the various Centrally Sponsored Schemes – Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries, Project Tiger and Project Elephant.

96. Explanation: The Congress-led government in Madhya Pradesh invoked the National Security Act (NSA) 1980 against three men accused of killing a cow near Kharkhali village. This and a spate of recent cases, in which different State governments have invoked the stringent provisions of the NSA to detain citizens for questionable offences, have brought the focus back on the potential abuse of the controversial law. Put simply, the NSA empowers the Centre or a State government to detain a person to prevent him from acting in any manner prejudicial to national security. The maximum period for which one may be detained is 12 months. But the term can be extended if the government finds fresh evidence. Post-independence India got its first preventive detention rule when the government of Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru enacted the Preventive Detention Act of 1950. The NSA is a close iteration of the 1950 Act. After the Preventive Detention Act expired on December 31, 1969, the then Prime Minister, Indira Gandhi, brought in the controversial Maintenance of Internal Security Act (MISA) in 1971 giving similar powers to the government. Though the MISA was repealed in 1977 after the Janata Party came to power, the successive government, led by Mrs. Gandhi, brought in the NSA.

97. Explanation: The World Health Organization (WHO) announced a large global trial, called SOLIDARITY, to find out whether any can treat infections with the new coronavirus for the dangerous respiratory disease. It's an unprecedented effort—an all-out, coordinated push to collect robust scientific data rapidly during a pandemic. The study, which could include many thousands of patients in dozens of countries, has been designed to be as simple as possible so that even hospitals overwhelmed by an onslaught of COVID-19 patients can participate.

98. Explanation: MPLADS is a central sector scheme. Its aim is to provide funds to MPs to execute certain developmental projects to meet the urgent needs of their constituents. Ex-drinking water facilities, education, etc. An MP is entitled to Rs. 5 crore per annum to identify and fund developmental projects. The Fund is non-lapsable. The role of the MP is only recommendatory in nature. The implementation of the project is done by local authorities. Elected Members of Rajya Sabha can recommend works in the state from where they have been elected. Nominated Members of both the Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha can recommend works anywhere in the country. Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation is the nodal ministry to implement the scheme.

99. Explanation: Earlier, the region was separately called as Anshi National Park and Dandeli Wildlife Sanctuary. Later, both of them together were included under Project Tiger. Hence, it became Kali Tiger Reserve. Reason behind the Name Kali River, which forms the major source of water for Uttara Kannada (Karnataka), flows through the tiger reserve. Since these regions come under the Kali River Basin, it was named as Kali Tiger Reserve. Nature at Kali Tiger Reserve Kali Tiger Reserve comprises of tropical rainforests. Hence, it supports numerous animals' species. This belt of Uttara Kannada district is a part of the Western Ghats. Apart from the concentration of Tigers, it is one of the places where you can

10 PM Compilation for the Month of March, 2020

spot Black Panther. Yes, Kali Tiger Reserve is known for housing many tigers, black panthers and elephants. Since the reserve is spread across a region, it is hard to spot these exotic animals. However, elephants are a common sight here.

100. Explanation: Recently, US authorities have put out tsunami warnings after an earthquake has struck Russia's Kuril Islands. It is a volcanic archipelago which separates the Sea of Okhotsk from the North Pacific Ocean. It forms part of the 'Pacific Ring of Fire'. The Islands are currently under Russian administration. However, they are also claimed by Japan.

101. Explanation: Due to the coronavirus epidemic, the launch event in Geneva on March 23, 2020 has been postponed to a later date. The report will be available online March 22, 2020. Celebration of World Water Day and launch of the United Nations World Water Development Report 2020 "Water and climate change" The United Nations World Water Development Report (WWDR), published annually, is the flagship United Nations water report. WWDR is an official study that provides a comprehensive picture of the state of the world's freshwater resources. Its production is coordinated by UNESCO WWP and aims to provide decision-makers with the tools to formulate and implement sustainable water policies. The 2020 World Water Development Report focuses on "water and climate change". It will be presented by the World Water Assessment Program (UNESCO-WWAP).

102. Explanation: Scientists from Agharkar Research Institute (ARI), Pune, an autonomous institute under the Department of Science & Technology, Government of India, have developed a biofortified durum wheat variety MACS 4028, which shows high protein content. The wheat variety developed by the ARI scientists group on Wheat improvement, shown high protein content of about 14.7%, better nutritional quality having zinc 40.3 ppm, and iron content of 40.3ppm and 46.1ppm respectively, good milling quality and overall acceptability. MACS 4028, the development of which was published in the Indian Journal of Genetics and Plant Breeding, is a semi-dwarf variety, which matures in 102 days and has shown the superior and stable yielding ability of 19.3 quintals per hectare. It is resistant to stem rust, leaf rust, foliar aphids, root aphids, and brown wheat mite. The MACS 4028 variety is also included by the Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) programme for United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to alleviate malnutrition in a sustainable way and can boost the Vision 2022 "Kuposhan Mukht Bharat", the National Nutrition Strategy. An endeavor to tackle the hidden hunger in the rural areas of India is being continued using traditional plant breeding approach to achieve "Kuposhan Mukht Bharat."

103. Explanation: Karnataka Government has decided to set up a Centre for Internet of Ethical Things in Bengaluru. It is collaboration with the World Economic Forum (WEF). It aims to bring together aspects of Artificial Intelligence (AI), Internet of Things (IoT) and Ethics on a single platform.

104. Explanation: In the wake of Preventive Measures of the Government of India to contain the spread of Covid-19, and to encourage people to #StayIn and #StayHome, the National Book Trust of HRD Ministry, in its efforts to encourage people to read books while at home, is providing its select and best-selling titles for FREE Download as part of its initiative of #StayHomeIndiaWithBooks! The 100+ books, in PDF format, can be downloaded from the NBT's website <https://nbtindia.gov.in>. Available in Hindi, English, Asamiya, Bangla, Gujarati, Malayalam, Odia, Marathi, Kokborok, Mizo, Bodo, Nepali, Tamil, Punjabi, Telugu, Kannada, Urdu and Sanskrit, the book's cover all genres of fiction,

10 PM Compilation for the Month of March, 2020

biography, popular science, teacher's handbook, and majorly books for children and young adults. In addition, there are books by Tagore, by Premchand, and books on Mahatma Gandhi -- all in all there are books for everyone in the family to read and enjoy. More titles will be added to the list.

105. Explanation: Atal Bhujal Yojana is a central sector scheme under the ministry of Jal Shakti. The scheme was announced in the 2016-17, Union Budget. It aims to recharge groundwater sources and ensure the efficient use of water by involving people at the local level. The funding pattern of the scheme is 50:50 between the Government of India and the World Bank.

106. Explanation: The Animal Welfare Board of India is a statutory advisory body on Animal Welfare Laws and promotes animal welfare in the country. Established in 1962 under Section 4 of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960 (No. 59 of 1960), the Animal Welfare Board of India was started under the stewardship of Late Smt. Rukmini Devi Arundale, well known humanitarian. From ensuring that animal welfare laws in the country are diligently followed, to provide grants to Animal Welfare Organizations and advising the Government of India on animal welfare issues, the Board has been the face of the animal welfare movement in the country for the last 50 years. The Board consists of 28 Members. The term of office of Members is for a period of 3 years.

107. Explanation: The Malabar large spotted civet is one of the world's rarest mammals. According to IUCN red list it is critically endangered animal. The Malabar large spotted civet's original habitat was found in the evergreen rain forest belt in the Western Ghats of southwest India, where it lived in wooded plains and adjoining hill slopes. Natural forests have almost completely disappeared in the entire stretch of the coastal Western Ghats due to human activities. The present vegetation consists mostly of plantations. The cashew plantations are the least disturbed. They are not weeded and have a dense understory of shrubs and grasses. For a terrestrial species such as the Malabar large spotted civet, these thickets can provide important cover. However, it is likely that the cashew plantations are a 'refuge' rather than a preferred habitat. Furthermore, most captures of this species in the last 30 years have been in valleys, around riparian areas. This suggests possible dependence on shallow waterways where the civet forages at night.

108. Explanation: The United Nations has launched a \$2 billion Global Humanitarian Response Plan to fight against COVID-19. The Global Humanitarian Response Plan will be implemented in the world's most vulnerable countries by UN agencies along with international non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Its aim is to deliver essential laboratory equipment to test for the virus, medical supplies to treat people, install hand washing stations and launch public information campaigns on prevention.

109. Explanation: A virtual G20 Summit was held under the presidency of Saudi Arabia. Saudi Arabia is the first Arab nation to hold the G20 presidency. G20 is an informal group of 19 countries and the European Union with representatives of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. It was initially founded in 1999 after the Asian financial crisis. However after the 2008 Financial Crisis, the meeting has been held annually since 2010.

110. Explanation: Indian Institute of Technology, Gandhinagar (IITGN) has launched Project Isaac to engage its students in creative projects to enhance their critical skills while they are confined to their homes because of Corona virus. The official release said, the project is inspired by Sir Isaac Newton, who was similarly sent home by Trinity College,

10 PM Compilation for the Month of March, 2020

Cambridge, because of the Great Plague of London in 1665. During this year, Newton, then a 22-year-old college student developed some of his most profound discoveries, including early calculus, as well as his theories of optics and gravity. As part of the project, four different competitions are being organized by IIT, Gandhinagar to cultivate new skills among students regarding writing, painting, coding, music, creative expression, and so on. Students can take part in competitions online. Nearly 40 per cent of IITGN students are already participating in various activities, which are entirely voluntary.

111. Explanation: The "Fight Corona IDEathon" launched by AICTE and MHRD Innovation Cell has started. A total of 5,379 students, innovators, educators, hackers, researchers, startups and professionals have registered to participate in the two day event. The purpose of the IDEathon is to generate and transform innovative ideas into viable solutions that can support the community in managing the uncertainties arising out of the pandemic. "The program shall be hosted completely virtual on the internet during which several ideas to fight the COVID-19 pandemic shall be evaluated, mentored, documented, and selected for the next stages of incubation support".

112. Explanation: Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reduced the Repo Rate by 75 basis points to 4.4% and Reverse Repo Rate by 90 basis points to 4%. This has been declared by RBI Governor Shri Shaktikanta Das in a press conference, here today (March 27, 2020). He further stated that CRR of all banks is to be reduced by 100 basis points to 3% with effect from 28 March for one year. These measures will inject liquidity of Rs 3.74 lakh crore to the system. Explaining the rationale behind this decision, Shri Das said, "The decisions to lower repo rate and reverse repo rate have been warranted by the disruptive force of COVID-19. It is to mitigate impact of coronavirus, revive growth and preserve financial stability". In another major announcement, the Governor said, all commercial banks (including regional rural banks, small finance banks and local area banks), co-operative banks, all-India Financial Institutions, and NBFCs (including housing finance companies and micro-finance institutions), that is, lending institutions, are being permitted to allow a moratorium of three months on payment of installments in respect of all term loans outstanding as on March 1, 2020.

113. Explanation: Li Keqiang, the current Premier of the People's Republic of China, has said that the Keqiang index is a better economic indicator for China than official numbers of GDP. It is based on three indicators namely a) railway cargo volume b) electricity consumption and c) loans disbursed by banks.

114. Explanation: Clearing these mounds of years-old waste, called legacy waste, is the easiest and fastest way to reduce our national emissions, and save surrounding villages from polluted water sources, smoke, flies and stench. Some years, generation of Zero waste, especially plastic waste and packaging, has increased at a tremendous rate. Legacy wastes – waste that has been collected and kept for years at some barren land or a place dedicated for Landfill (an area already to dump the country waste), this waste can be roughly grouped into four categories: contained and/or stored waste, buried waste, contaminated soil and groundwater, and contaminated building materials and structures. Examples of contained or stored waste are wastes in tanks, canisters, and stainless steel bins. For example, large quantities of high-level radioactive wastes are stored at Department of Energy (legacy sites in tanks. Buried wastes include radioactive and chemically contaminated wastes disposed of in near-surface pits and trenches.

10 PM Compilation for the Month of March, 2020

115. Explanation: The International Astronomical Union (IAU) was founded in 1919. Its mission is to promote and safeguard the science of astronomy in all its aspects, including research, communication, education and development, through international cooperation. Its individual Members — structured into Divisions, Commissions, and Working Groups — are professional astronomers from all over the world, at the Ph.D. level and beyond, who are active in professional research, education and outreach in astronomy. The IAU also has Junior Members. The IAU has 13054 members. The Individual and Junior Members Directory contains 10567 names in 107 countries worldwide (these Individual Members are labeled as "active" in the IAU database: they have a valid, public email, and are affiliated to at least one Division.). Out of those countries, 82 are National Members. In addition, the IAU collaborates with various scientific organizations all over the world.

116. Explanation: The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), New Delhi, the apex body in India for the formulation, coordination and promotion of biomedical research, is one of the oldest medical research bodies in the world. The Council's research priorities coincide with the National health priorities such as control and management of communicable diseases, fertility control, maternal and child health, control of nutritional disorders, developing alternative strategies for health care delivery, containment within safety limits of environmental and occupational health problems; research on major non-communicable diseases like cancer, cardiovascular diseases, blindness, diabetes and other metabolic and haematological disorders; mental health research and drug research (including traditional remedies). All these efforts are undertaken with a view to reduce the total burden of disease and to promote health and well-being of the population. The Governing Body of the Council is presided over by the Union Health Minister. It is assisted in scientific and technical matters by a Scientific Advisory Board comprising eminent experts in different biomedical disciplines.

117. Explanation: In pursuance of an appeal by the then Prime Minister, Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru in January, 1948, the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (PMNRF) was established with public contributions to assist displaced persons from Pakistan. The resources of the PMNRF are now utilized primarily to render immediate relief to families of those killed in natural calamities like floods, cyclones and earthquakes, etc. and to the victims of the major accidents and riots. Assistance from PMNRF is also rendered, to partially defray the expenses for medical treatment like heart surgeries, kidney transplantation, cancer treatment and acid attack etc. The fund consists entirely of public contributions and does not get any budgetary support. The corpus of the fund is invested in various forms with scheduled commercial banks and other agencies. Disbursements are made with the approval of the Prime Minister. PMNRF has not been constituted by the Parliament. The fund is recognized as a Trust under the Income Tax Act and the same is managed by Prime Minister or multiple delegates for national causes.

118. Explanation: The Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 is an Act of the Parliament of India which regulates the import, manufacture and distribution of drugs in India. The primary objective of the act is to ensure that the drugs and cosmetics sold in India are safe, effective and conform to state quality standards. The related Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945 contains provisions for classification of drugs under given schedules and there are guidelines for the storage, sale, display and prescription of each schedule.

119. Explanation: The diversity of India gives it a unique identity. It is so well absorbed in every aspect that we can feel it developing on the surface of our souls. One such exotic

10 PM Compilation for the Month of March, 2020

aspect of Indian diversity is the Galo Tribe from Arunachal Pradesh that exudes a variety of colors in different shades and textures. A large chunk of tribes in the majestic Arunachal Pradesh is occupied by Galo Tribe. In some areas of the state, they are also known as Duba, Doba, Dobah Abors, Galloing Abors, and Galong. Galo tribe has been listed in the Indian constitution as a separate tribe or scheduled tribe by the name of Galong. The efforts are being made to change the name to Galo by the community.

120. Explanation: The International Monetary Fund (IMF) is an organization of 189 countries, working to foster global monetary cooperation, secure financial stability, facilitate international trade, promote high employment and sustainable economic growth, and reduce poverty around the world. Created in 1945, the IMF is governed by and accountable to the 189 countries that make up its near-global membership. The IMF's primary purpose is to ensure the stability of the international monetary system—the system of exchange rates and international payments that enables countries (and their citizens) to transact with each other. The Fund's mandate was updated in 2012 to include all macroeconomic and financial sector issues that bear on global stability. Most resources for IMF loans are provided by member countries, primarily through their payment of quotas. While quota subscriptions of member countries are the IMF's main source of financing, the Fund can supplement its quota resources through borrowing if it believes that they might fall short of members' needs.

121. Explanation: Earth Hour:

Earth Hour was started in 2007 by the World Wildlife fund for Nature (WWF). It aims to call attention towards global warming, loss of biodiversity and climate change. Earth Hour is observed on the last Saturday of March every year. Under this initiative, people switch off their lights for one hour. The theme for year 2020 was “Climate Change and sustainable development”.

122. Explanation: The Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC) opened for signature in 1972 and entered into force in 1975. It is the first multilateral disarmament treaty banning the production of an entire category of weapons.

Obligations: The treaty bans the development or acquire or transfer of

- a) biological agents or toxins that have no justification for peaceful uses and
- b) weapons or equipment designed to use such agents or toxins for hostile purposes.

Members: It currently has 183 states. India signed the convention in 1973.

123. Explanation: Three Seas Initiative:

- The Three Seas Initiative (3SI) is a forum that brings together Twelve European Union member states between the Adriatic Sea, the Baltic Sea and the Black Sea.
- **Members:** Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia.
- **Aim:** To promote economic growth, security and a stronger and more cohesive Europe.

124. Explanation: Project Arunank has reconstructed the Daporijo Bridge across Subansiri river in Arunachal Pradesh. It is being implemented by Border Roads Organization (BRO), an important arm of the Ministry of Defence in Arunachal Pradesh. It aims to link remote regions of the borders with well developed strategic roads. Project Arunank is named after the state of Arunachal Pradesh.

125. Explanation: Innovation of Science Pursuit for Inspire Research (INSPIRE) is one such innovative scheme proposed by the Department of Science & Technology for attraction of talent to science. The basic objective of INSPIRE would be to communicate to the youth population of the country the excitements of creative pursuit of science and attract talent to the study of science at an early stage and build the required critical human resource pool for strengthening and expanding the Science & Technology system and R&D base.

INSPIRE Scheme has included three programs and five components. They are

1. Scheme for Early Attraction of Talents for Science (SEATS),
2. Scholarship for Higher Education (SHE) and
3. Assured Opportunity for Research Careers (AORC).

The schematic diagram of the programme is shown below:

