

BANKING, FINANCE & ECONOMY Q&A: JANUARY 2019

1. **A 'bancassurance' pact was signed between which bank and SBI Life Insurance to sell the policies of the insurer in over 3,200 branches of the bank, on 31st December 2018?**

Answer – Allahabad Bank Explanation: On 31st December 2018, a 'bancassurance' pact was signed between State-owned Allahabad Bank and SBI Life Insurance to sell the policies of the insurer in over 3,200 branches of the Allahabad Bank. The agreement is considered as one of the largest Bancassurance partnerships in the country. The agreement was signed in the presence of Allahabad Bank Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Mallikarjuna Rao and SBI Life MD & CEO Sanjeev Nautiyal.

2. **Prime Minister Narendra Modi released a commemorative postal stamp, 75 rupees coin, and dedicated a 150 feet Flag Mast to mark the 75th anniversary of hoisting of Tricolour flag on Indian soil by Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose and formation of Azad Hind government, on 30th December 2018, in _____?**

Answer – Port Blair, Andaman & Nicobar Islands Explanation: On December 30, 2018, Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi embarked on a day long visit to the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. At Port Blair, he addressed a public event to mark the 75th anniversary of the hoisting of Tricolour on Indian soil by Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose and formation of the Azad Hind government in 1943. Here he released a commemorative postal stamp, 75 rupees coin, and First Day Cover. Mr Modi also dedicated the 150 feet high Flag Mast at South Point in Port Blair to commemorate the first unfurling of the Tricolor on Indian soil by Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose in Port Blair on Dec 30, 1943. He also announced setting up of a deemed university after Netaji Bose.

3. **India will remain the fastest growing major economy with GDP growth estimated to be _____% in FY19, as per Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)'s report titled 'Growth Outlook for 2019'?**

Answer – 7.5 % Explanation: On December 31, 2018, in its report titled 'Growth Outlook for 2019', Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) stated that India will remain the fastest growing major economy with GDP growth estimated to be 7.5% in FY19. The reasons cited for the growth are: Better demand conditions, settled GST implementation, capacity expansion resulting from growing investments in infrastructure and better credit inflow especially in the service sector (that is of 24%).

4. **Which Union Ministry has established an Export Promotion Cell with an aim to create a sustainable ecosystem for the entire MSME (Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises) development?**

Answer – Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME) Explanation: On 31st December 2018, Giriraj Singh, Minister of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) informed the parliament that the MSME ministry has

established an Export Promotion Cell with an aim to create a sustainable ecosystem for entire MSME development. Benefits of Export Promotion Cell to the MSMEs:

- Evaluation of readiness of MSMEs to export their products and services.
- Recognition of areas where improvements are required in order to be able to export effectively and efficiently.
- Integration of MSME into global value chain.

5. **Reserve Bank of India has granted permission to which payments bank to add new customers, after it had initially barred the bank from opening bank accounts in June 2018?**

Answer – Paytm Payments Bank Explanation: On January 1, 2019, Reserve Bank of India granted permission to Paytm Payments Bank to add new customers after it initially barred Paytm from opening bank accounts in June 2018. This was due to non-compliance of the KYC norms and because Paytm Payments Bank had failed to maintain Rs 100 crore net worth limit. Post the audit, Paytm Payments Bank had removed Renu Satti from the chief executive's role and replaced her with veteran banker and ex-NPCI senior executive Satish Gupta.

6. **Government of India has infused _____ rupees of capital into UCO bank through preferential allotment, as on 31st December 2018?**

Answer – Rs 3074 crore Explanation: On 31st December 2018, State-run lender UCO bank, formerly United Commercial Bank, announced that Government of India has infused Rs 3074 crore of capital into it by the way of preferential allotment. The UCO Bank has posted a net loss of Rs. 1136.44 Crore in the second quarter of FY19 against a net loss of Rs. 622.56 crore for the same period of previous fiscal. Gross NPA (Non-performing assets) of UCO bank fell marginally from Rs. 29786.41 crore to Rs. 29581.49 crore during the September Quarter of FY19. Gross NPA of the Bank as a percentage of total loans decreased during September quarter by 0.34 basis points to 25.37 per cent from 25.71 per cent during the June quarter. Government of India holds 90.8 per cent stake in UCO bank as on 30th September 2018.

7. **Gross Non-Performing Assets (GNPA) ratio of Scheduled Commercial Banks declined from 11.5 % in March 2018 to what per cent in September 2018, as per the 18th Fiscal Stability Report of India released by Reserve Bank of India (RBI)?**

Answer – 10.8 % Explanation: On December 31, 2018, the central bank of India, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) released 18th Fiscal Stability Report of India. This report has been prepared by the Sub-Committee of the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) on the risks to financial stability, the strength of the financial system and the development and regulation of the financial sector. This is the first such report that has been published after Mr. Shaktikanta Das became governor in December following Urjit Patel's departure. The following states the findings of the report: India's financial

system remains stable, banking sector shows signs of improvement, with the gross non-performing assets (GNPA) ratio of Scheduled Commercial Banks declining from 11.5 per cent in March 2018 to 10.8 per cent in September 2018.

8. Which country introduced a new “GAFA tax” named after Google, Apple, Facebook and Amazon to ensure that the companies pay a fair share of taxes in Europe, on 1st January 2019?

Answer – France Explanation: From 1st January 2019, France introduced a new “GAFA tax” named after the large internet and technology companies Google, Apple, Facebook and Amazon to ensure the global giants pay a fair share of taxes on their massive businesses in Europe. According to France’s finance Minister Bruno Le Maire, the new tax would raise 500 million euros (570 million dollars) in 2019. The unilateral move from France came after the deal for EU wide tax which required the support of all 28 EU states, crumbled earlier this month, with opposition from countries including Ireland, home to the European headquarters of Google and Apple. While other EU member states such as Britain, Spain and Italy are working on national versions of a digital tax, Asian countries such as Singapore and India are also planning their own schemes.

9. Government has introduced Minimum Support Price for how many items of Minor Forest Produce (MFP), based on recommendations of the MFP Pricing Cell constituted by Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Ltd. (TRIFED)?

Answer – 17 Explanation: On December 27, 2018, the Government introduced the Minimum Support Price of 17 items of Minor Forest Produce (MFP) items after revising 23 items. These changes have been done under the recommendations of the MFP Pricing Cell constituted by the Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Ltd. (TRIFED). Among the items revised, 10 MFP items have been under the scheme from 2013-14 and 13 new items were included w.e.f. 31.10.2016. Further, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs decided to announce the inclusion of seventeen (17) more MFP items in the scheme along with their MSP.

10. Who took charge as the MD and CEO of Axis bank on 1st January 2019, following the retirement of Shikha Sharma?

Answer – Amitabh Chaudhry Explanation: On 31st December 2018, private sector lender Axis Bank Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Shikha Sharma retired from the services of the bank and Amitabh Chaudhry will be the new MD and CEO of the Axis bank from 1st January 2019. In April 2018, Shikha Sharma requested the bank board to reduce her new term which was started from June 2018 to 7 months from a three-year tenure without citing any reasons. 54 years old, an Indian Institute of Management -Ahmedabad alumnus, Amitabh Chaudhry who is the former MD and CEO of HDFC Standard Life Insurance Company was appointed the MD & CEO of Axis Bank for the period of 3 years.

11. The number of complaints registered at banking ombudsman offices has increased to what percent, as per Reserve Bank of India (RBI) report on Trend and Progress of Banking in India?

Answer – 25 % Explanation: On December 31, 2018, according to the RBI Report on Trend and Progress of Banking in India, number of complaints registered at banking ombudsman offices has increased to 25% owing to increased

awareness and poor internal redressal mechanisms of banks. More than 57% of the total complaints came from the banking ombudsman offices in tier-1 cities like New Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Bengaluru and Hyderabad. Of all the complaints received at the ombudsman’s offices, 97% of them were resolved in 2017-18, up from 92% in 2017. The topic of complaints were related to non-observance of the fair practices code followed by those related to ATM, credit and debit cards, and for failure to meet commitments and mobile banking. Bank-wise distribution shows that most complaints received against public sector banks were pension-related while most complaints received against private banks were for credit cards discrepancies.

12. Reserve Bank of India has allowed a one-time restructuring of existing debt of up to ____ rupees to micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) by 31st March 2020?

Answer – Rs 25 crore Explanation: On January 2, 2019, Reserve Bank allowed a one-time restructuring of existing debt of up to 25 crore rupees to micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) which are facing cash crunch in the wake of demonetisation and GST implementation. The restructuring will be implemented by 31st of March 2020. The eligibility for the scheme entails that the aggregate exposure including non-fund based facilities of banks and NBFCs, to a borrower should not exceed 25 crore rupees as on January 1, 2019. The restructuring of existing loans was permitted to MSMEs that are in default but ‘standard’ as on 1st of January, 2019, without any downgrade in asset classification. This means the MSMEs which have defaulted on payment but the loans given to them have continued to be classified as standard assets are eligible for the scheme.

13. ____ was appointed the Acting Chairman of Life Insurance Corporation of India on 1st January 2019?

Answer – Hemant Bhargava Explanation: On January 1, 2019, the Department of Financial Services announced appointment of Hemant Bhargava, Managing Director, Life Insurance Corporation of India, as the Acting Chairman. This was done after VK Sharma retired from the position at LIC on December 31. While, he is a contender for the post of Full-Time Chairman at the state-owned life insurer, his retirement is due in July 2019. Therefore, the Banks Board Bureau has called eight candidates for interviews for the posts of Chairman and MD on January 4.

14. Who was appointed the Chief Operations Officer (COO) of private sector lender RBL Bank, on 2nd January 2019 ?

Answer – Pankaj Sharma Explanation: On January 2, 2019, Private sector lender RBL Bank appointed Pankaj Sharma as its chief operations officer (COO). Prior to this, Sharma was heading retail operations of Axis Bank. Under his leadership, the ATM channel, phone banking and branch automation and digital initiatives at Axis Bank took shape. He had previously worked with GE Countrywide, ICICI Bank and ICICI Prudential Life Insurance.

15. The Centre has released around ____ rupees since financial year 2015-2016 to bridge the gap between literacy levels of tribal girls and the general female population?

Answer – Rs 185 crore Explanation: On 02nd January 2019, the Centre has released around Rs 185 crore since

financial year 2015-2016 to bridge the gap between literacy levels of tribal girls and the general female population. The scheme, being implemented through voluntary and non-governmental organisations, aims at reducing the dropout rate at the elementary level by creating the required ambience for the education of tribal girls. Minister of State Tribal Affairs Jaswantsinh Bhabhor told the Lok Sabha that the government released Rs 53.29 crore in the 2015-16 fiscal under a scheme for education of tribal girls in 54 districts where the ST female literacy rate is less than 35 per cent. Rs 65.44 crore was released in financial year 2016-17 under the scheme titled 'Strengthening Education among ST Girls in Low Literacy Districts'. The government released Rs 46.28 crore in the 2017-18 fiscal and has so far released Rs 20.36 crore in 2018-19.

16. Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs allowed inclusion of merchant exporters under Interest Equalisation Scheme (IES) for Pre and Post Shipment Rupee Export Credit by providing them interest subsidy of what percent?

Answer – 3 % Explanation: On 2nd January 2019, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi chaired the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, which gave its approval to the proposal of the Department of Commerce to provide 3 % interest subsidy to merchant exporters, to enhance liquidity with a view to boost outbound shipments. The Department of Commerce had proposed to include merchant exporters under the Interest Equalisation Scheme (IES) for Pre and Post Shipment Rupee Export Credit by allowing them interest equalisation rate of 3% on all such credit for export of products which are covered under 416 tariff lines identified under the scheme.

17. Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved the scheme for merger of state-run Vijaya Bank, Dena Bank and ___ on 2nd January 2019, marking the first three-way merger in India's banking sector?

Answer – Bank of Baroda Explanation: On 2nd January 2019, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi approved the scheme for the merger of state-run Vijaya Bank, Bank of Baroda (BoB) and Dena Bank, marking the first-ever three-way merger in the country's banking sector. The merger which will come into force on April 1, 2019 will form the third largest bank in the country, after government-owned State Bank of India and private sector lender ICICI. In the merger process, Vijaya Bank and Dena Bank are transferor banks and BoB is the transferee bank. This means that all businesses, assets, rights, titles, claims, licences, approvals and other privileges and all property, all borrowings, liabilities and obligations of Vijaya Bank and Dena Bank will be transferred to Bank of Baroda. The merged bank will have a combined business of Rs 14.82 lakh crore. There will be no impact on the service conditions of the employees and there will be no retrenchment following the merger.

18. Reserve Bank of India has set up an expert committee under former SEBI chairman ___ to suggest long-term solutions for the economic and financial sustainability of the MSME sector?

Answer – U K Sinha Explanation: On 2nd January 2019, the Reserve Bank set up an expert committee under former SEBI chairman U K Sinha to suggest long-term solutions for the economic and financial sustainability of the MSME sector. The eight-member committee will also examine the factors affecting

the timely and adequate availability of finance to the sector. The RBI has announced the expert panel on MSMEs after it allowed a one-time restructuring of existing debt of up to 25 crore rupees for the companies which have defaulted on payment but the loans given to them have continued to be classified as standard assets. The restructuring has to be implemented by 31st of March 2020. The expert committee will submit its report by the end of June 2019. The panel will also review the current institutional framework in place to support the MSME sector and study the impact of the recent economic reforms on the sector and "identify the structural problems affecting its growth".

19. Bharti AXA Life Insurance started delivering policies and renewal premium receipt to customers through which instant messaging platform, on 2nd January 2019?

Answer – WhatsApp Explanation: On 02nd January 2019, private sector insurer Bharti AXA Life Insurance started delivering policies and renewal premium receipt to customers via instant messaging platform WhatsApp as a part of its alternative service option to the policy holders. Bharti AXA Life Insurance, a joint venture between Bharti Enterprises and French Insurance major AXA is one of the first few insurers to provide the option of policy contract, renewal premium receipts and claim intimation through whatsapp. The Policy contract will be available for download shortly after its issuance.

20. SBI Life Insurance signed a bancassurance pact with ___ bank, aiming to offer a comprehensive financial planning solution to its customers, on 2nd January 2019?

Answer – Syndicate Bank Explanation: On January 2, 2019, Syndicate Bank and SBI Life Insurance signed a bancassurance pact aiming to offer a comprehensive financial planning solution to its customers. This was signed between: Syndicate Bank MD & CEO, Mrutyunjay Mahapatra and MD and CEO of SBI Life, Sanjeev Nautiyal. Through the pact, Syndicate Bank will provide penetration in the market with its 3,000 branches and SBI Life's diverse range of protection, wealth creation and savings insurance products will be brought to the table to the customers.

21. Name the asset management company (AMC) that has become India's largest AMC after a gap of over two years, as per the latest data of Association of Mutual funds in India (AMFI)?

Answer – HDFC Mutual Fund Explanation: On January 3, 2019, as per the latest data of Association of Mutual funds in India (AMFI), HDFC Mutual Fund has surpassed ICICI Prudential MF to become the country's largest asset management company (AMC) after a gap of over two years. As per the data, as of December 2018, HDFC MF managed assets worth Rs 3.35 lakh crore, while those of ICICI Prudential MF stood at Rs 3.08 lakh crore. And consequently, the assets under management (AUM) of HDFC MF have grown over 9 per cent in October-December quarter from the last quarter. Whereas, ICICI Prudential MF's AUM reduced by 0.6 per cent. Among other firms, SBI MF stood at the third slot with AUM of Rs 2.64 lakh crore, followed by Aditya Birla Sun Life MF (Rs 2.42 lakh crore) and Reliance MF (Rs 2.36 lakh crore). Overall, asset base of the country's mutual fund industry was at Rs 23.61 lakh crore at the end of December quarter.

22. India's defence sector received ___ rupees foreign direct investment during 2014-18, as announced by

Minister of State for Commerce and Industry C R Chaudhary?

Answer – Rs. 1.21 crore Explanation: On January 2, 2019, Minister of State for Commerce and Industry C R Chaudhary announced that India's defence sector received Rs 1.21 crore (Rs 12,146,180) foreign direct investment during 2014-18. The break-down of the FDI flows are as follows:

- In 2013-14: defence industries had received USD 0.82 million
- In 2014-15: USD 0.08 million, and
- In 2015-16: USD 0.10 million.
- In 2016-17, the industries had failed to attract any foreign direct investments.
- In 2017-18: USD 10,000 (about Rs 7 lakh) FDI was attracted by the sector.

23. Name the institute that signed a MoU with 7 public sector oil companies for setting up Centre of Excellence in Oil, Gas and Energy, on 2nd January 2019?

Answer – Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Bombay Explanation: On January 2, 2019, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Bombay and 7 public sector oil companies inked a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for setting up Centre of Excellence in Oil, Gas and Energy. The MoU was signed by heads of:

- Indian Oil Corp (IOC),
- Oil and Natural Gas Corp (ONGC),
- GAIL India Ltd,
- Bharat Petroleum Corp Ltd (BPCL),
- Hindustan Petroleum Corp Ltd (HPCL),
- Oil India Ltd and
- Engineers India Ltd.

24. Indian Oil Corp (IOC), announced commissioning of its first Rs 5,151-crore worth Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) import terminal in ____, on 2nd January 2019?

Answer – Ennore, Tamil Nadu Explanation: On January 2, 2018, Indian Oil Corp (IOC), the nation's biggest oil firm, announced commissioning of its first Rs 5,151-crore worth Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) import terminal in Ennore, Tamil Nadu. This is the first LNG import terminal IOC has built on its own and will become operational by the end of January 2019. IOC holds 95 per cent stake in the Ennore LNG import terminal. Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation (TIDCO) has 5 per cent. The firm is also working on laying a 1,385 km natural gas pipeline originating from the Ennore terminal to Nagapattinam in Tamil Nadu via Puducherry. Also, branch pipelines will be laid in Madurai, Tuticorin, and Bengaluru to meet the LNG demand.

25. The Government of India cut import duties on refined and crude palm oil from ASEAN (Association of South-East Asian Nations) to 40 and ____ percent respectively, with effect from 1st January 2019?

Answer – 45 % Explanation: On December 31, 2018, the ministry of finance announced that the government has cut import duties on refined, crude palm oil from ASEAN countries to 40 and 45 percent respectively. This move was taken under the India-ASEAN Free Trade Agreement and Malaysia under the India-Malaysia Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (IMCECA). The duty on crude palm oil from

Malaysia, Indonesia and other members of the Association of South East Asian Nations was cut to 40 per cent from 44 per cent. The tax on refined palm oil was cut to 45 per cent from 54 per cent if imported from Malaysia and to 50 per cent, if purchased from Indonesia or other member-nations of ASEAN. The duty cuts were made effective from January 1, 2019. India expects to import 15.5 million tonnes, with 60 per cent from Malaysia and Indonesia, followed by soyabean oil from Argentina and Brazil, sunflower oil from Ukraine and Russia and canola oil from Canada. The effective duty difference between crude and refined palm oil has narrowed to 5.5 percent from 11 percent. This move could hurt the domestic refining industry.

26. Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR) under Commerce Ministry suggested that India will not impose anti-dumping duty on coated paper from European Union, the US and ____, on 3rd January 2019?

Answer – China Explanation: On January 3, 2019, after the conclusion of its anti-dumping probe, the Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR), under Commerce Ministry suggested that India will not impose anti-dumping duty on coated paper from China, European Union and the US. The probe conducted by the DGTR has not found any impact on the domestic industry due to the alleged dumped imports. The probe was conducted as per the request of the Indian Paper Manufacturers Association on behalf of BILT Graphics Paper Products, subsidiary of Ballarpur Industries.

27. Which state topped among the Indian states in the latest ranking of Singapore's Asia Competitiveness Institute's (ACI), Ease of Doing Business (EDB) index 2018?

Answer – Andhra Pradesh Explanation: In the latest ranking of Singapore's Asia Competitiveness Institute's (ACI), Ease of Doing Business (EDB) index 2018, Andhra Pradesh emerged on top of the 21 states of India that were considered for the ranking, while Maharashtra and Delhi came in second and third place, respectively. Andhra Pradesh rose from the 5th rank in 2016 to the top spot in 2018. The ACI's EDB index is based upon three parameters called ABC -Attractiveness to Investors, Business Friendliness and Competitiveness Policies. The index captured the business environment at the sub-national level on the basis of 72 hard and soft indicators. The Ease of Doing Business (EDB) list is compiled by a team of researchers led by Tan Khee Giap, who is the co-director of Asia competitiveness institute (ACI), and associate professor at Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore. Suggestions regarding areas where improvement was needed in the state of Andhra Pradesh include bridging numerous institutional and infrastructural gaps in order to sustain its position in the future and improvement in sub environments such as facilitating business operations, infrastructure resilience and market potential.

28. Indian banking sector witnessed over what percent hike in cyber frauds in the financial year 2017-18, as per Reserve Bank of India's Report on Trend and Progress of Banking in India 2017-18?

Answer – 50 % Explanation: Indian banking sector witnessed over 50 percent hike in cyber frauds in the financial year 2017-18, as per Reserve Bank of India's Report on Trend and Progress of Banking in India 2017-18i. The volume of cyber fraud at banks has doubled in a year. A total of 2,059 cases of

cyber fraud were reported in 2017-18 amounting to Rs 109.6 crore. A total of 5,917 bank frauds were reported in 2017-18 and nearly one-third of these were cyber frauds. As a measure, the RBI plans to set up a compliance and tracking system portal to tackle the proliferation of cyber fraud and seeks to establish a better redressal mechanism for consumers. This would address cybersecurity complaints from all regulated entities including Prepaid Payment Instruments (PPIs) and mobile banking interfaces. The process of redressal mechanism will be directed under the Internal Ombudsman Scheme of 2018.

29. Which bank signed a MoU with Small Business FinCredit India Pvt. Ltd. (SBFC) to jointly provide credit worth up to Rs 1 crore to MSMEs for a tenure of 15 years, on 4th January 2019?

Answer – ICICI Bank Explanation: On January 4, 2019, ICICI Bank, in a first-of-its-kind programme, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Small Business FinCredit India Pvt. Ltd. (SBFC), a systemically important Non-Banking Finance Company for entrepreneurs, to jointly provide credit worth up to Rs 1 crore to MSMEs for a tenure of 15 years. This MOU was signed under RBI's circular dated September 21, 2018, that permits banks to engage with a non-banking financial company (NBFC) to co-originate loans for the creation of priority sector assets. Under this arrangement, ICICI Bank will co-originate loan against property with SBFC at a mutually agreed ratio.

30. Which entity allowed custodial services in the commodity derivatives market enabling participation of institutional investors, including mutual funds, in the segment, on 1st January 2019?

Answer – Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) Explanation: On 1st January 2019, Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), the market regulator has allowed custodial services in the commodity derivatives market enabling participation of institutional investors, including mutual funds, in the segment. The new framework will allow the existing custodians to add commodities as an asset class and provide physical delivery of both the securities and commodities. Currently, the regulation on custodian of securities allows safekeeping of securities, gold or gold related instruments, title deeds of real estate and services incidental but doesn't allow protection of goods, which are underlying assets of commodity derivatives. Under the new rules, the responsibility of custodians will not be limited to holding of securities but would also include holding of goods. The new regulations will enable participation of institutional investors such as mutual funds and portfolio managers in commodity derivatives market.

31. Name PayU India's CEO who joined as the head of financial technology partnerships and investments for Naspers' fintech business, on 4th January 2019?

Answer – Amrish Rau Explanation: On January 4, 2019, PayU India's CEO Amrish Rau joined as the head of financial technology partnerships and investments for Naspers' fintech business. Naspers is South African parent of PayU. Rau will continue to report to Laurent le Moal the chief executive of PayU, which is headquartered in the Netherlands. He joined PayU after Citrus Pay was acquired by PayU in 2016 for \$130 million in cash.

32. Three Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) namely Malwa Gramin Bank, Sutlej Gramin Bank and ____ have

been amalgamated into a single RRB by the Government, with effect from 1st January 2019?

Answer – Punjab Gramin Bank Explanation: With the effect from 1st January 2019, the three Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) – Punjab Gramin Bank, Malwa Gramin Bank and Sutlej Gramin Bank has been amalgamated into a single RRB by the Government. After consulting the sponsor banks of the three RRBs, the central government felt that in the interest of the banks and the areas served by them, they should be amalgamated into a single RRB. National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), the Government of Punjab, Punjab National Bank, State Bank of India and Punjab and Sind Bank are the sponsor banks of the said RRBs. The three banks were merged into one entity as part of the Centre's roll out of the third phase of amalgamation of RRBs, which has laid a roadmap to bring down their number across the country from 56 to 38. The move will enable RRBs cut overheads, improve their capital and use technology, besides helping them draw better scale-efficiency, higher productivity, improved financial inclusion and greater credit flow to rural areas.

33. Ministry of Finance has revised the interest rates on select Time Deposit Small Saving Scheme for the quarter ending on 31st March 2019, as per which interest rates on one-year time deposit is hiked from 6.9% to what percent?

Answer – 7 % Explanation: The Ministry of Finance, Government of India has revised the interest rates on select Time Deposit Small Saving Scheme for the quarter ending on 31st March 2019. The Interest rates on one-year time deposit is hiked from 6.9% to 7% whereas the interest rate on three-year time deposit has been changed from 7.2% to 7%. Interest on Small Saving Schemes is revised every quarter by Ministry of Finance, Government of India. Interest rates applicable to Public Provident Fund (PPF), Kisan Vikas Patra and Sukanya Samriddhi were remains unchanged at 8%, 7.7% and 8.5% respectively. Now, Investment in time deposits of one-year, two year and three year maturity periods will fetch interest at same rate 7%.

34. Srei Equipment Finance and which bank have entered into an agreement for financing the Micro, Small and Medium enterprises (MSME) and agriculture sector?

Answer – United Bank of India (UBI) Explanation: The United Bank of India (UBI) and Srei Equipment Finance have entered into an agreement for financing the Micro, Small and Medium enterprises (MSME) and agriculture sector. Under the agreement UBI plans to leverage the co-lending model to offer credit at blended interest rate of 11-12 per cent. The Bank will leverage low its low cost loans with Srei Equipment finance to enable purchase of equipment and vehicle in the seamless manner. The Bank is eyeing around 200 crore business over the period of three months by this agreement.

35. Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) slapped a penalty of ____ on United India Insurance Co for violating norms regarding settlement of motor claims, on 4th January 2019?

Answer – Rs 5 lakh Explanation: On January 4, 2019, the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) slapped a penalty of Rs 5 lakh on United India Insurance Co for violating norms regarding settlement of motor claims. The insurer also violated file and use guidelines issued by the Authority.

36. Who became the first person to be declared a 'fugitive economic offender' under Section 12 of the Fugitive Economic Offenders' Act, 2018 by a special Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) Court in Mumbai, on 4th January 2019?

Answer – Vijay Mallya Explanation: On January 4, 2019, Vijay Mallya became the first person to be declared a 'fugitive economic offender' under Section 12 of the Fugitive Economic Offenders' Act, 2018 by a special Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) Court in Mumbai. The Enforcement Directorate (ED) had filed an application before the court in November, 2018 and this declaration was made by Special judge MS Azmi. The ED had also sought immediate confiscation of about Rs 12,500 crore worth of assets. He is wanted in India for defaulting on Rs. 9,000 crore in loans to his failed Kingfisher Airlines from a consortium of 12 banks led by the State Bank of India.

37. SoftBank Ventures Korea, the early-stage investment vehicle of Japanese internet conglomerate SoftBank Group, renamed itself as _____, on 2nd January 2019?

Answer – SoftBank Ventures Asia Explanation: On 2nd January 2019, SoftBank Ventures Korea, the early-stage investment vehicle of Japanese internet conglomerate SoftBank Group, has renamed itself SoftBank Ventures Asia and will focus on finding artificial intelligence-related startups globally, with an emphasis on Asia. The firm is looking to expand its presence beyond Seoul, Beijing, San Francisco, and Tel Aviv by targeting to open offices and hire investment professionals in Singapore and Shanghai. The new name is effective immediately and SoftBank Ventures Asia is already actively investing in the US, China, EU, Israel, Southeast Asia, and Korea. With a war chest of US\$1.1 billion assets under management, SoftBank Ventures Asia has invested in over 250 companies across 10 countries, with a focus on AI, Internet of Things (IoT), and robotics startups. Softbank Ventures Asia is a wholly-owned subsidiary of SoftBank Group Corp. and was established as SoftBank Ventures Korea in 2000.

38. Finance ministry has exempted rupee payments to _____ that it gets from Indian refiners, from a withholding tax, with effect from November 5, 2018?

Answer – National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) Explanation: On January 2, 2019, the finance ministry in its notification exempted rupee payments to the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) that it gets from Indian refiners, from a withholding tax. The exemption, put in place December 28 but backdated to November 5, will allow Indian refiners to settle about \$1.5 billion of outstanding payments to NIOC. India and Iran on Nov. 2, 2018, signed a bilateral agreement to settle oil trades through an Indian government-owned bank, UCO Bank, in the Indian currency.

39. Name the person who resigned as independent director of Bandhan Bank on 5th January 2019, following his appointment as the chief economic advisor (CEA) to the government?

Answer – Krishnamurthy V Subramanian Explanation: On January 5, 2019, Bandhan Bank announced the resignation of independent director Krishnamurthy V Subramanian following his appointment as the chief economic advisor (CEA) to the government. On December 7, 2018, the government appointed him as the CEA for a period of three years. He

replaced Arvind Subramanian, who resigned from the post in June 2018.

40. Which state announced interest-free loans of up to Rs.3 lakh for 6 lakh women self-help groups (WSHGs) under 'Mission Shakti' scheme benefitting about 70 lakh women in the state, on 5th January 2019?

Answer – Odisha Explanation: On January 5, 2019, Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik announced interest-free loans of up to Rs.3 lakh for six lakh women self-help groups (WSHGs) benefitting about 70 lakh women in Odisha. This was announced at the 'Mission Shakti' convention attended by about 50,000 women. In the convention, the chief minister did the following:

- He distributed financial assistance of Rs. 3,000 each to six lakh WSHGs to digitally empower women.
- Launched a scheme to distribute Rs. 15,000 seed money per group to three lakh new self-help groups.
- He also handed over revolving fund of Rs. 25 lakh to 338 block federations.
- Also announced incentives of Rs. 500 per month for anganwadi workers and Rs.200 for helpers.

41. Centre has infused nearly how much rupees in public sector banks till December 2018, out of budgetary allocation of Rs 65,000 crore for 2018-19?

Answer – Rs 51,533 crore Explanation: Centre has infused more than Rs 51,000 crore in public sector banks till December 2018, the Parliament was informed on January 4, 2019. Finance Ministry said that close to Rs 51,533 crore have been injected in the PSBs till December 31, 2018 out of budgetary allocation of Rs 65,000 crore for 2018-19. The government had decided to provide capital support to the banks following their failing financial health on the back of mounting loans. Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) in the banking sector were close to Rs 10 lakh crore at the beginning of FY19. Of these, Rs 9.62 lakh crore were in the PSBs.

42. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has notified all authorised non-bank Prepaid Payment Instrument (PPI) Issuers in order to limit the liability of Customers in unauthorised electronic payment transactions in PPIs. According to this, if the fraud is reported between 3 and 7 days, customer liability will amount to the transaction value or _____, whichever is lower?

Answer – Rs 10,000 Explanation: On 4th January 2019, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issued a notification for all authorised non-bank Prepaid Payment Instrument (PPI) Issuers in order to limit the liability of Customers in unauthorised electronic payment transactions in Prepaid Payment Instruments (PPIs) comprising mobile wallets, prepaid payments cards, and paper vouchers such as Sodexo. The RBI said frauds due to third-party breach where neither the customer nor the PPI issuer is at fault, there cannot be any liability for the customer, in case the incident is reported within three days. If the fraud is reported between three and seven days, customer liability will amount to the transaction value or Rs.10,000, whichever is lower whereas for fraud reported over seven days, the liability of the customer will be according to the board-approved policy of the PPI issuer. The PPI issuer has to credit the amount involved in the unauthorised transaction to the customer's PPI within 10 days, after the customer reports

the fraud. Also the burden of proving customer liability in case of unauthorised electronic payment transactions shall lie on the PPI issuer.

43. Union Government has allocated ____ rupees for the development of 40 satellite launch vehicles in the next 4 years, as announced by Dr K Sivan, Chairman of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)?

Answer – Rs 10,900 crore Explanation: Dr K Sivan, Chairman, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) announced at a ceremony organized by St Joseph's College, Trichy, Tamilnadu which is celebrating its 175 anniversary that the Union Government has allocated 10,900 crore rupees for the development of 40 satellite launch vehicles in the next four years. He also informed that the Chandrayan-2 Mission will be launched within three months and It will land in one of those part of the Moon which is still unexplored. He also said that the human space flight Gaganyaan is planned to be launched by 2022, on the occasion of 75th anniversary of Independence. He also stated that the next year ISRO will be organising the Centenary year celebrations of ISRO founder Dr Vikram Sarabhai in which ISRO will rededicate itself to become a world class organization, capable of addressing the varied socio economic challenges of the nation. He said that Space Technology Incubation Centres will be set up in different parts of the country, including Trichy as a part of the celebrations.

44. Nepal Rastra Bank (NRB), Nepal's central monetary authority, wrote to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to legalize Indian currency notes of denominations higher than ____ in Nepal, on 6th January 2019?

Answer – Rs 100 Explanation: On January 6, 2019, the Nepal Rastra Bank (NRB), Nepal's central monetary authority, wrote to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to legalize Indian currency notes of denominations higher than Rs 100 in Nepal. The Indian bank bills Rs 200, Rs 500 and Rs 2,000 which are greater than the said amount has been asked to be made legal tender in Nepal, under the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA). The NRB said the country's banking system, including banks, financial institutions and NRB, hold Indian currency denominations of Rs 500 and Rs 1,000 worth Rs 48 million.

45. Group of States' Finance Ministers (GoFM) led by Deputy Chief Minister of Bihar, Sushil Kumar Modi approved levy of what percent of 'calamity cess' by Kerala for a period of 2 years to fund rehabilitation work, on 7th January 2019?

Answer – 1 % Explanation: On January 7, 2019, the Group of States' Finance Ministers (GoFM) led by Deputy Chief Minister of Bihar, Sushil Kumar Modi approved levy of 1%'calamity cess' by Kerala for a period of two years to fund rehabilitation work in the state of Kerala. It will recommend the same to the GST council meeting which will be held in January 10, 2019. The goods and services, which will attract the 1% cess, would be decided by Kerala and any other state considering to do the same would have to approach the council. It also suggested the GST council to allow additional borrowing over the permitted limit by states hit by natural calamity.

46. India's GDP would grow at what percent in 2018-19, as per the first advance estimates of National Income at Constant (2011-12) and Current Prices, for the financial year 2018-2019, released by Central Statistics Office (CSO)?

Answer – 7.2 % Explanation: On 7th January 2019, the Central Statistics Office (CSO) under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation has released the first advance estimates of National Income at Constant (2011-12) and Current Prices, for the financial year 2018-2019. India's GDP would grow at 7.2% in 2018-19, showing acceleration from 6.7% growth in 2017-18 because of push from agriculture and manufacturing sectors. It is likely to attain a level of Rs. 139.52 lakh crore. Real GVA (Gross Value Added) is anticipated to grow at 7% in the current fiscal as against 6.5% in 2017-18. It is anticipated to reach Rs.128.09 lakh crore in 2018-19.

47. The growth rate in Per Capita Income is estimated at ____ % during 2018-19, as per the first advance estimates of National Income at Constant (2011-12) and Current Prices, for the financial year 2018-2019, released by Central Statistics Office (CSO)?

Answer – 6.1 % Explanation: On 7th January 2019, the Central Statistics Office (CSO) under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation has released the first advance estimates of National Income at Constant (2011-12) and Current Prices, for the financial year 2018-2019. The growth rate in Per Capita Income is estimated at 6.1 percent during 2018-19, as against 5.4 per cent in the previous year. It is likely to attain a level of Rs.91,921 as compared to Rs.86,668 for the year 2017-18. The Ministry will release second advance estimates of national income for the year 2018-19 and quarterly GDP estimate for October-December quarter on February 28, 2019.

48. Consumer Price Index (CPI) has shown a rise of what percent during April-November 2018-19, as per the first advance estimates of National Income at Constant (2011-12) and Current Prices, for the financial year 2018-2019, released by Central Statistics Office (CSO)?

Answer – 3.9 % Explanation: On 7th January 2019, the Central Statistics Office (CSO) under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation has released the first advance estimates of National Income at Constant (2011-12) and Current Prices, for the financial year 2018-2019. The Wholesale Price Index (WPI), in respect of the groups – Food Articles, Manufactured Products, Electricity and all Commodities, has risen by (-)0.9 per cent, 4.1 per cent, 6.8 percent and 4.9 percent, respectively during April-November 2018-19. The Consumer Price Index (CPI) has shown a rise of 3.9 percent during April-November, 2018-19. The GDP at Current Prices in the year 2018-19 is likely to attain a level of Rs.188.41 lakh crore, as against Rs. 167.73 lakh crore in 2017-18 showing a growth rate of 12.3 percent. The nominal Net National Income (NNI), also known as National Income (at Current Prices) is likely to be Rs.167.03 lakh crore during 2018-19, as against Rs.148.49 lakh crore for the year 2017-18. It registered a growth rate of 12.5 percent in 2018-19 as against the previous year's growth rate of 10.1 per cent. Besides the Per Capita Net National Income during 2018-19 is estimated to be Rs.1,25,397 showing a rise of 11.1 per cent as compared to Rs.1,12,835 during 2017-18 with the growth rate of 8.6 percent.

49. Gross Fixed Capital Formation (GFCF), at current prices is estimated at ____ rupees in 2018-19, as per the first advance estimates of National Income at Constant (2011-12) and Current Prices, for the financial year 2018-2019, released by Central Statistics Office (CSO)?

Answer – Rs. 55.58 lakh crore Explanation: On 7th January 2019, the Central Statistics Office (CSO) under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation has released the first advance estimates of National Income at Constant (2011-12) and Current Prices, for the financial year 2018-2019. The barometer of investment, Gross Fixed Capital Formation (GFCF), at current prices is estimated at Rs.55.58 lakh crore in 2018-19 as against Rs.47.79 lakh crore in 2017-18. The GFCF at constant (2011-12) Prices is estimated at Rs.45.86 lakh crore in 2018-19 as against ?40.88 lakh crore in 2017-18. The discrepancies in the GDP estimates for current fiscal has been pegged at Rs.1,49,331 crore as against Rs.2,23,504 crore in 2017-18. The Government Final Consumption Expenditure (GFCE) at Current Prices is estimated at Rs.21.70 lakh crore in 2018-19 as against ?19.08 lakh crore in 2017-18. whereas at Constant (2011-12) Prices, the GFCE is estimated at Rs.15.28 lakh crore in 2018-19 as against ?14.0 lakh crore in 2017-18. The Gross Fixed Capital Formation (GFCF) at Current Prices is estimated at Rs.55.58 lakh crore in 2018-19 as against Rs.47.79 lakh crore in 2017-18. At Constant (2011-12) Prices, the GFCF is estimated at Rs.45.86 lakh crore in 2018-19 as against Rs.40.88 lakh crore in 2017-18.

50. Reserve Bank of India constituted a 5-member high-level committee under _____ to suggest measures to strengthen the safety and security of digital payments in India, on 8th January 2019?

Answer – Nandan Nilekani Explanation: On January 8, 2019, the Reserve Bank of India constituted a 5-member high-level committee under Aadhaar architect Nandan Nilekani to suggest measures to strengthen the safety and security of digital payments in the country. The panel members include:

- Infosys co-founder Nilekani,
- former RBI deputy governor H R Khan,
- former MD and CEO of Vijaya Bank Kishore Sansi and
- former secretary in ministries of IT and steel Aruna Sharma and
- chief innovation officer, Centre for Innovation, Incubation & Entrepreneurship (CIIE), IIM Ahmedabad, Sanjay Jain.

51. Which bank launched a new Current Account with Auto-Sweep facility on 8th January 2019, that will enable the bank's existing and potential new customers to auto sweep-in and sweep-out the idle funds in the current account to Sweep Fixed Deposit and earn high interest?

Answer – Jana Small Finance Bank Explanation: On 8th January 2019, the private sector Jana Small Finance Bank has launched a new Current Account with Auto-Sweep facility that will enable bank's existing and potential new customers to auto sweep-in and sweep-out the idle funds in the current account to Sweep Fixed Deposit and earn high interest. In the said facility the customers will be able to earn interest of 8.5 percent for a tenor of 365 days on sweep deposit. The new facility will enable current account holders to earn higher interest on the idle funds while providing the flexibility of using the funds when the need in business arises. The Jana Small Finance Bank is offering an interest rate of 9% on Regular Fixed Deposit and 9.6% on senior citizen Fixed Deposit. Besides, the bank is also offering 9.25% interest rate on Fixed Deposit with no premature withdrawal.

52. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has granted NBFC – P2P (Non-Banking Financial Company – Peer to Peer) Certificate to _____, enabling it to expand operations and target loan disbursements worth INR 100 Crore by the end of financial year 2018-19?

Answer – IndiaMoneyMart Explanation: Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has granted NBFC – P2P (Non-Banking Financial Company – Peer to Peer) Certificate to IndiaMoneyMart and this certification will enable IndiaMoneyMart to expand operations and target loan disbursements worth INR 100 Crore by the end of financial year 2018-19. The step will validate IndiaMoneyMart's strong framework to make lending and borrowing transparent, digital and convenient in confrontation to the regulatory requirement. IndiaMoneyMart is offering loans starting from Rs. 10 thousands to Rs 10 Lakhs for a tenure ranging between 3 months to 36 months. The Milestone will enable IndiaMoneyMart to gain traction among investors seeking for alternative asset class and boost their sentiments. The Recognition of Peer to Peer or P2P lending sector by RBI has revolutionized the way borrowers seek loans and lenders invest idle cash.

53. Which company signed MOUs with state-run Oil Marketing Companies (IOCL, BPC, and HPC) on 7th January 2019, to ensure availability of FASTags at petroleum outlets across India?

Answer – Indian Highways Management Company Ltd. (IHMCL) Explanation: On 7th January 2019, Indian Highways Management Company Ltd. (IHMCL), a company promoted by NHAI, has signed MOUs with state-run Oil Marketing Companies (IOCL, BPC, and HPC). It will ensure availability of FASTags at petroleum outlets across India. Indian highways management company ltd. (IHMCL) had launched the national electronic toll collection program (NETC) under the brand name "FASTag" in April 2016. This program has gain success and running at 450 toll plaza along with national highway and selected state toll plazas. The enhanced adoption of FASTag program will increase user convenience by offering seamless toll-fee payments at Plazas and thus help save time, money and fuel. IHMCL is also planning to launch two mobile applications named MYFASTag and IHMCLPOS, will enable customers to link the FASTags with their preferred bank account. FASTag can be recharged by using UPI (unified payment interface) platform. In the first phase, the tags will be available across 50 Fuel Station in Delhi NCR, which will subsequently be expanded to outlets across India.

54. Which body allowed tokenization of debit, credit and prepaid card transactions to enhance the safety of digital payments ecosystem in India, on 8th January 2019?

Answer – Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Explanation: On 8th January 2019, the Reserve Bank of India has allowed tokenization of debit, credit and prepaid card transactions to enhance the safety of the digital payments ecosystem in the country. The central bank has allowed card schemes like Visa, Mastercard and others to start issuing tokens for third party payment applications as well. "Tokenisation and de-tokenisation" shall be performed only by the authorized card network and recovery of original Permanent Account Number (PAN) should be feasible for the authorized card network only. Tokenisation acts as an additional layer of security as it masks sensitive card data such as the 16-digit Account Number, expiration date and security code.

55. National Housing Bank (NHB) gave fresh subsidy worth _____ rupees under Credit Linked Subsidy Scheme (CLSS) to Aadhar Housing finance, on 8th January 2019?

Answer – Rs 175.56 crore Explanation: On January 8, 2019, National Housing Bank (NHB) gave fresh subsidy worth Rs 175.56 crore under Credit Linked Subsidy Scheme (CLSS) to housing finance company, Aadhar Housing finance. The credit would be passed on to the loan accounts of 7,592 customers in the Economically Weaker Section (EWS) and Low Income Group (LIG) who were eligible under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY). This will reduce their monthly payable instalments.

56. Indian Army signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the Defence Salary Package with which bank on 8th January 2019?

Answer – Punjab National Bank (PNB) Explanation: On January 8, 2019, Indian Army and Punjab National Bank (PNB) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the Defence Salary Package. Salient features of the MOU are:

- free 'RAKSHAK PLUS' Scheme for serving pers and veterans,
- overdraft facility range from Rs 0.75 to 3.0 lakhs,
- multicurrency 'At Par' cheques,
- instant credit of outstation cheques,
- preferential allotment of lockers at concessional AMC and
- free SMS alerts.

57. Name the venture capital entity incorporated by NABARD (National Bank For Agriculture And Rural Development) under the Companies Act, which will launch its maiden early stage capital fund offer to agriculture and rural enterprises?

Answer – NABVENTURES Ltd Explanation: On January 8, 2019, NABVENTURES Ltd, the venture capital entity incorporated by NABARD under the Companies Act, will launch its maiden early stage capital fund offer to agriculture and rural enterprises. This would support the agriculture and rural enterprises and fill the gap of adequate institutional support to them. It would also promote various enterprises to create more sustainable employment.

58. Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) released a report on the "Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM)" on 8th January 2019. Who is the 13th CAG of India?

Answer – Rajiv Mehrishi Explanation: On 8th January 2019, The Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) released a report on the "Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM)" reveals that the government should frame a policy on off-budget financing and sources of such funding in view of its fiscal implication. CAG further said that the government should also consider disclosing the details of off-budget borrowings through disclosure statements in Budget as well as in accounts. The objective of the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act, 2003 was to provide for the responsibility of the central Government to ensure inter-generational equity in fiscal management and long-term macro-economic stability. CAG said that the off-budget financing was being used to deter fertilizer arrears, food subsidy bills and outstanding dues of Food Corporation of India (FCI) through borrowings. The report said "Such off Budget

arrangement, deters committed liability (subsidy arrears/bills) or create future liability and increases cost of subsidy due to interest payment. Incumbent and 13th CAG of India is Rajiv Mehrishi.

59. IRCTC (Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation) tied up with which insurance company to provide free travel insurance to air travelers, on 9th January 2019?

Answer – Bharti AXA General Insurance Company Explanation: On 9th January 2019, IRCTC tied up with Bharti AXA General insurance company to provide free travel insurance to the air travellers. This insurance is applicable to only those who book ticket in the official website of air ticketing irctc, IRCTC Air –air.irctc.co.in. Through this tie up, every passenger would be availed of insurance upto 50 lakhs in case of accidental death or life time disability. This facility is made available to everyone irrespective of class of travel. The premium of the insurance will be borne by Irctc itself and it is applicable to both one way and round way travels.

60. World Bank has projected India's Gross domestic product (GDP) to grow at what percent in the fiscal year 2018-19, and 7.5% in the following two years?

Answer – 7.3 % Explanation: On 9th January 2019, World Bank projected India's GDP to grow at 7.3% in the fiscal year 2018-19, and 7.5% in the following two years. The Bank said India will continue to be the fastest growing major economy in the world. In India, the growth has accelerated, driven by an upswing in consumption, and investment growth has firmed as the effects of temporary factors wane, the World Bank said in its latest report. Domestic demand has strengthened as the benefits of structural reforms such as Goods and services Tax (GST) harmonization and bank recapitalization take effect. In 2018, China's Projection is 6.5 and 6.2% each in 2019 and 2020 and 6% in 2021, according to the January 2019 Global Economic Prospects report released by the World Bank. Strong domestic demand is envisioned to widen the current account deficit to 2.6 per cent of GDP next year. The World Bank's estimate suggest that India's potential growth rate is around 7%, and is expected to remain around 7% .

61. India is set to become the world's _____ largest consumer market by 2030, as per the "Future of Consumption in Fast-Growth Consumer Market-India" report released by World Economic Forum?

Answer – Third Explanation: On 9th January 2019, a report by World Economic Forum today said that India is set to become the world's third largest consumer market behind only USA and China by 2030. The report titled "Future of Consumption in Fast-Growth Consumer Market-India" also noted growth of the middle class will lift nearly 25 million household out of poverty. The report said consumer spending in India is expected to grow from 1.5 trillion US dollar at present to 6 trillion US dollar by 2030. The report said that with the annual GDP growth rate of 7.5%, India is currently the world's 6th largest economy.

62. Ministry of Information and Broadcasting decided to increase the advertisement rates by what percent for the small and medium sized newspaper agencies on 8th January 2019, which will be valid upto 3 years?

Answer – 25 % Explanation: On 8th January 2019, Ministry of information and broadcasting 's decided to increase the advertisement rates by 25% to the small and

medium sized newspaper agencies. This new price is valid upto three years. This step is taken under the recommendation of the 8th rate structure committee meeting. According to the recent report, this decision would help the regional and vernacular newspapers which rely highly on advertisement for their revenue and it is considered to be the good step for the small and medium newspaper agencies. The last hike was done in the year 2013.

63. Standard Chartered released its long term forecast, which states that India will become the world's _____ largest economy by 2030?

Answer – Second Explanation: On 08th January 2019, Standard Chartered released its long term forecast which states that India will surpass the U.S to become the world's second largest economy by 2030 while China will be at First Position. China will become the largest economy by 2020, using purchasing power parity exchange rates and nominal GDP. India to accelerate to 7.8 percent by the 2020s while China will moderate to 5 percent by 2030 reflecting a natural slowdown given the economy's size. According to Standard Chartered Asia's share of global GDP which rose to 28 percent in 2018 from 20 percent in 2010 will likely reach 35 percent by 2030.

64. Reserve Bank of India has agreed to disburse Sri Lanka's loan amount of _____ to boost the nation's reserve?

Answer – USD 400 million Explanation: On January 9, 2019, the Reserve bank of India has agreed to disburse Sri Lanka's loan amount of USD 400 million to boost the nation's reserve. RBI has agreed to issue the fund under the SARRC SWAP facility system. It is also said that another request of currency swap USD 1 billion is under process. RBI's assistance is appreciated by the Sri Lanka government and it will help the nation to recover and build itself from the political and constitutional crisis that is prevailing in the nation. The RBI's very rapid and timely assistance will serve to boost investor confidence by supporting Sri Lanka to maintain adequate level of external reserves while accommodating outflow related to imports, debt servicing and if necessary support for the currency to avoid disorderly adjustment. Due to the political crisis, the nation's economic rating is downgraded by the leading credit rating agencies- Moody's, S&P rating, Fitch Rating. Sri Lanka is to move forward to IMF for further financial assistance. IMF has hold back its discussion about next loan for Sri Lanka because of the political crisis. After IMF's review, Sri Lanka is to receive sixth tranche of USD 250 million as a loan amount, total amount would be disbursed as the seventh tranche in the mid of 2019.

65. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved which country's Pasargad Bank to open branches in Mumbai for easing trade related transactions, on 8th January 2019?

Answer – Iran Explanation: On January 8, 2019, the Union Road Minister Nitin Gadkari, on successful meeting with Iran's Minister of Foreign Affairs Mohammad Javad Zarif, announced that Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved Iran's Pasargad Bank to open branches in Mumbai for easing trade related transactions. The bank branch would be made operational within 3 months. This move will help India to operationalise the strategic Chabahar port in the Sistan-Balochistan province of Iran. From the Indian side, UCO Bank and Pasargad Bank of Iran will facilitate transactions

relating to operation of berths at Chabahar port. India has placed USD 85 million machinery order for Chabahar.

66. Name the head of the Research advisory committee(RAC) formed by Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to help and analyse the new methods of policy making for the development of capital market, on 8th January 2019?

Answer – Sankar De Explanation: On January 8th 2019, Market regulator SEBI has set up a advisory Research advisory committee(RAC) that will help and analyse the new methods of policy making for the development of capital market. The committee formed will be headed by Sankar De. This committee is formed with an objective to define the objective of creating the policy for the development of the capital market and for as bridge between the analytical research to formation of the policy. For promotion and developing the researches that are relevant to the capital market. Exploring the research collaboration with external researchers from both domestic and international agencies. Another important factor for the formation of this committee is to maintain the database related to the capital market.

67. GST Council approved doubling of exemption threshold under Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime to Rs 40 lakh along with raising the turnover limit under composition scheme to _____ with effect from April 1, 2019?

Answer – Rs 1.5 crore Explanation: On 10th January, Finance Minister Arun Jaitley raised the annual turnover for availing composition scheme to Rs 1.5 crore from Rs 1 crore effective from April 1, 2019 to provide relief to small businesses under Goods and Services (GST) regime. It is said that "those who come under the composition scheme will pay tax quarterly, but the return will be filed once a year". The Goods and Services (GST) exemption limit has been doubled to Rs. 40 lakh annual turnover and Rs 20 lakh for northeastern states. It is also said that small companies would have the option to opt out of the GST tax net, adding that services and goods providers will get the benefit of composition tax.

68. Where was the 4th meeting of the Council for Trade Development and Promotion (CTDP), chaired by Union Minister for Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation, Suresh Prabhu, held on 10th January 2019?

Answer – New Delhi Explanation: On January 10, 2019, the 4th meeting of the Council for Trade Development and Promotion (CTDP), chaired by Union Minister for Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation, Suresh Prabhu, was held in New Delhi. Representatives of 10 states including Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Karnataka, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Punjab, Nagaland, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh attended this meeting.

69. Government of India has formulated an Agricultural Export Policy, for the first time, to boost India's agricultural exports to _____ by 2022?

Answer – USD 60 billion Explanation: On January 10, 2019, the 4th meeting of the Council for Trade Development and Promotion (CTDP), chaired by Union Minister for Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation, Suresh Prabhu, was held in New Delhi. Representatives of 10 states including Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Karnataka, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Punjab, Nagaland, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh attended this

meeting. Government of India formulated an Agricultural Export Policy, for the first time, to boost India's agricultural exports to USD 60 billion by 2022.

70. Which will be the first Indian state to roll out Universal Basic Income (UBI) and implement the scheme by 2022?

Answer – Sikkim Explanation: On January 11, 2019, Sikkim, though being a smallest state have set a initiative to introduce UBI in the entire nation. Sikkim's long lasting chief minister and head of sikkim's ruling party (sikkim democratic front) Pawan kumar chamling, quoted that if everything goes right then sikkim would be the first state to implement Universal Basic Income (UBI) system and execute it by 2022. This scheme is also regarded as an alternative to social welfare programmes with benefits towards reducing poverty.

71. Composition Scheme will be made available for Suppliers of Services (or Mixed Suppliers) with a Tax Rate of 6% (3% CGST +3% SGST) having an Annual Turnover in the preceding financial year up to ___ rupees, as announced in the GST Council's 32nd Meeting in New Delhi on 10th January 2019?

Answer – Rs 50 lakhs Explanation: On 10th January 2019, the GST Council's 32nd Meeting held under the Chairmanship of the Union Minister of Finance & Corporate Affairs, Shri Arun Jaitley in New Delhi, took the following major decisions to give relief to Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises MSME (including Small Traders). Major Decisions:

- Increase in Turnover Limit for the existing Composition Scheme: The limit of Annual Turnover in the preceding Financial Year for availing Composition Scheme for Goods shall be increased to Rs 1.5 crore.

- Compliance Simplification: The compliance under Composition Scheme shall be simplified as now they would need to file one Annual Return but Payment of Taxes would remain Quarterly.

- Higher Exemption Threshold Limit for Supplier of Goods: There would be two Threshold Limits for exemption from Registration and Payment of GST for the suppliers of Goods i.e. Rs 40 lakhs and Rs 20 lakhs. The Threshold for Registration for Service Providers would continue to be Rs 20 lakhs and in case of Special Category States at Rs 10 lakhs.

- Composition Scheme for Services: A Composition Scheme shall be made available for Suppliers of Services (or Mixed Suppliers) with a Tax Rate of 6% (3% CGST +3% SGST) having an Annual Turnover in the preceding Financial Year up to Rs 50 lakhs.

72. Union Cabinet approved the proposal for entering into ___ dollar worth Bilateral Swap Arrangement (BSA) between India and Japan, on 10th January 2019?

Answer – \$75 billion Explanation: The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi gave its nod to the proposal for entering into an agreement for \$75-billion Bilateral Swap Arrangement (BSA) between India and Japan.

- The agreement authorizes the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to sign the Bilateral Swap Arrangement between the RBI and the Bank of Japan for a maximum amount of USD 75 billion.

- It was concluded in October last year during summit level meeting at Yamanashi, Japan between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

- The arrangement is expected to greatly enhance the RBI's ability to manage exchange rate volatility and capital markets in India besides maintaining an appropriate level of balance of payments for meeting short-term deficiency in foreign exchange.

- The facility will enable the agreed amount of Capital being available to India on tap for use thus improving prospects of Indian companies in tapping foreign capital as there would be greater confidence in stability of country's exchange rate.

73. Which entity made changes in the Gold Monetisation Scheme (GMS) 2015 on 9th January 2019?

Answer – Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Explanation: On January 9, 2019, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) made a few changes in the Gold Monetisation Scheme (GMS) 2015. According to the changes, it included charitable institutions and the central government under the ambit of the scheme. Due to this, besides individual and joint depositors, the scheme could be availed by charitable institutions, the central government, the state government or any other entity owned by the central government or the state government. It also allowed joint deposits of two or more eligible depositors in which case the deposit in such cases shall be credited to the joint deposit account.

74. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposed a penalty of ___ rupees on Citibank India for non-compliance in criteria for directors of the bank, on 11th January 2019?

Answer – Rs 3 crore Explanation: On January 11, 2019, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), under the relevant provisions of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, imposed a penalty of Rs 3 crore on Citibank India for non-compliance in criteria for directors of the bank. Citibank has been accused of deficiencies in regulatory compliance and of directions regarding the 'fit-and-proper criteria' for directors of the bank. The US-based Citibank has been operating in India for over 115 years.

75. India's economy has been projected to grow anywhere between 7.3 percent and what per cent, as per "The India Manufacturing Barometer 2019" report by global consulting firm PwC and Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI)?

Answer – 7.7 % Explanation: The global consulting firm PwC and industry body Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) held a new survey of manufacturers and released a report titled "The India Manufacturing Barometer 2019". The report projected that India's economy is expected to grow anywhere between 7.3 – 7.7 per cent. The report concluded that about 74 per cent of manufacturers are hopeful of a faster growth rate in their respective sectors over the next 12 months while about 58% expect their sector to grow faster by at least 5% in the next 12 months. The sample for the survey includes companies of the sectors like automobiles, chemicals, electrical machinery, food processing, leather, pharmaceuticals and textiles that contribute approximately 12 per cent to the manufacturing Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of the country. The report pointed that the severe lack of working capital continues to be a pain point for micro, small and medium enterprises.

76. ___ was appointed as non-executive part-time chairman to the board of Yes Bank, on 11th January 2019?

Answer – Brahm Dutt Explanation: Yes Bank, India's fourth largest private sector bank, on January 11th 2019, said it has appointed Brahm Dutt as non-executive part-time chairman to the board. The Yes Bank board had on December 13, 2018 finalised the recommendation for the Chairman and submitted it to the RBI for approval after its earlier Chairman Ashok Chawla resigned. Yes bank in its report, told that RBI following the law of Banking regulation Act 1949 has approved Dutt's appointment as part-time chairman of Yes Bank's board up till July 4, 2020.

77. _____ resigned as chairman of National Stock Exchange (NSE) on 11th January 2019?

Answer – Ashok Chawla Explanation: A former finance secretary, Ashok Chawla took over as the chairman of the exchange on March 28, 2016. He had also served as civil aviation secretary and chairperson of the Competition Commission of India, and also chairman of yes bank. On January 11, 2019, Chawla resigned as the chairman of the country's largest bourse, the National Stock Exchange after CBI's order to conduct legal action against him in the Aircel-Maxis case. In Aircel Maxis controversy Mr Ashok Chawla was named, along with secretary (economic affairs) Ashok Jha, additional secretary Ashok Chawla, joint secretary in finance ministry Kumar Sanjay Krishna and director in the ministry Dipak Kumar Singh, and the then undersecretary in the ministry Ram Sharan, and former Finance Minister P Chidambaram, in the Aircel-Maxis bribery case being probed by the Central Bureau of Investigation or CBI. The CBI had filed its charge-sheet in last July 2018 but waited for government's permission for further proceedings. Ashok Chawla resignation happened after Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) told a special court in Delhi that it has obtained Government's approval to take action against the accused officials.

78. India and _____ signed a MoU for the establishment of the Joint Task Force on Blue Economy, in order to promote multi-sectoral cooperation in various aspects of Blue Economy, on 8th January 2019?

Answer – Norway Explanation: On 7th January 2019, Norway Prime Minister Erna Solberg arrived in New Delhi for a three-day state visit to India at the invitation of the Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi. This made her the first foreign leader and head of the government to visit New Delhi in 2019. On 8th January 2019, India and Norway signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the establishment of the Joint Task Force on Blue Economy, in order to promote multi-sectoral cooperation in various aspects of Blue Economy. The two sides recognised the importance of sustainable use of the oceans, including for food security, energy sources, mineral exploration and climate friendly maritime transport. The decision assumes significance in view of the fact that at least 15 per cent of Indian population resides in the coastal areas while 70 per cent of the Norwegian economy is dependent on the maritime industry of the country. The blue economy is an emerging concept which encourages better management of ocean or 'blue' resources.

79. Who will head the seven-member committee formed by the GST (Goods and Services Tax) Council to look into revenue shortfall being faced by the states after the GST roll-out, and suggest steps for augmenting collections?

Answer – Sushil Modi Explanation: On January 13, 2019, Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Modi is to head the

seven-member committee to look into revenue shortfall being faced by the states after the GST roll-out, and suggest steps for augmenting collections, a GST Council notification said. The GST Council, headed by Finance Minister Arun Jaitley and comprising state ministers, had on December 22, 2018, decided to set up a group of ministers (GoM) to analyse reasons for the shortfall in revenue collections by the states since July 2017.

80. Norway Government Pension Fund Global has made a portfolio investment of _____ dollars in India?

Answer – \$12 billion Explanation: On 7th January 2019, Norway Prime Minister Erna Solberg arrived in New Delhi for a three-day state visit to India at the invitation of the Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi. On 8th January 2019, India and Norway agreed to collaborate closely on the ocean economy and achieve the global Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), while also vowing to step up cooperation in combating terrorism. The two countries signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to conduct an India-Norway Ocean Dialogue which aims to give "new energy and direction" to bilateral relations. Leaders of both the country expressed desire to work together for realizing Sustainable Development Goals including poverty, health, education, women's empowerment, clean energy and sustainable use of ocean resources. The Norway PM pointed that the world will not be able to reach the sustainable goals unless "India is on board" and stressed for the reforms at the United Nations Security Council. It was also announced that the Norway Government Pension Fund Global has made a portfolio investment of \$12 billion in India. Besides India and Norway are also cooperating in the field of mother and child health under the Norway-India partnership Initiative and desired to expand its scope.

81. Private sector lender IDFC Bank changed its name to _____ with effect from 12th January 2019, owing to the merger of the bank with Non-Banking Finance Company (NBFC) Capital First?

Answer – IDFC First Bank Ltd Explanation: On January 13, 2019, private sector lender IDFC Bank changed its name to IDFC First Bank Ltd owing to the merge of the bank with Non-Banking Finance Company (NBFC) Capital First on December 2018. The change was effective from January 12, 2019 by virtue of 'Certificate of Incorporation pursuant to change of name' issued by the Registrar of Companies, Chennai. The board of IDFC Bank also approved the appointment of V Vaidyanathan, founder and chairman of Capital First Ltd, as managing director and chief executive officer of the merged entity.

82. Prime Minister Narendra Modi released a commemorative coin of _____ rupees on Guru Govind Singh ji in New Delhi on his 352nd birth anniversary, on 13th January 2019?

Answer – Rs 350 Explanation: On January 13, 2019, the 352nd birth anniversary of the 10th Sikh Guru, Guru Govind Singh ji, was celebrated as Prakash utsav at Patna Sahib, in Bihar, the birth place of Guruji. On January 13, 2019, Prime Minister Narendra Modi released a commemorative coin of 350 rupees on Guru Govind Singh ji in New Delhi on the eve of 352nd birth anniversary of the 10th Sikh Guru.

83. Government e Marketplace [GeM] under which union ministry launched "Womaniya on GeM" initiative to enable women entrepreneurs to sell handicrafts, handloom, accessories, etc. directly to

various Government ministries, departments and institutions?

Answer – Ministry of Commerce Explanation: On January 14, 2019, the Commerce Ministry announced that the Government e Marketplace [GeM] launched “Womaniya on GeM” initiative to enable women entrepreneurs and women self-help groups [WSHG] to sell handicrafts and handloom, accessories, etc. directly to various Government ministries, departments and institutions. A 3-minute video highlighting benefits of the Womaniya initiative was launched by

- CEO GeM, S Radha Chauhan, whereby she explained the following:

- nearly 80 percent women-owned establishments are self-financed,

- more than 60 percent of 8 million units are owned and/or led by women entrepreneurs from socially-challenged sections of the society,

- empowering the women entrepreneurs is a step in the direction of poverty alleviation.

84. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has raised a red-flag that bad loans under PMMY (Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana) launched in 2015, have risen to _____ rupees?

Answer – Rs 11,000 crore Explanation: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has raised a red-flag on the spike in non-performing assets (NPAs) under the government’s flagship scheme to support micro enterprises in the country — the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana. According to Finance Ministry sources, RBI has cautioned the ministry that the scheme might turn-out to be the next big source of NPAs, which have plagued the banking system. The central bank has flagged that bad loans under PMMY have risen to Rs 11,000 crore. As per the annual report of PMMY, 2017-18, total disbursements under the scheme stood at Rs 2.46 trillion in FY 18. Out of this, 40 per cent were disbursed to women entrepreneurs and 33 per cent to social categories. More than 4.81 crore micro borrowers have benefited through PMMY during the year FY2017-18. The PMMY was launched on April 8, 2015.

85. _____ took charge as Chief Credit Officer (CCO) of Axis Bank on 11th January 2019?

Answer – Deepak Maheshwari Explanation: On 11th January 2019, Deepak Maheshwari, the retired HDFC Bank executive and former Federal Bank board member took charge as chief credit officer (CCO) at Axis Bank as part of an ongoing reshuffle undertaken by new CEO Amitabh Chaudhry. The 64 years old Maheshwari will be given responsibility of corporate credit appraisal and disbursement at the Axis Bank. Maheshwari was also granted an exemption to take over as CCO by the board of Axis Bank as he is now 64 which is above the bank’s retirement age of 60. The appointment of Maheshwari is an attempt by the CEO Amitabh Chaudhry to tighten the Axis Bank’s credit appraisal process and follow HDFC Bank’s model in the Axis Bank.

86. Ministry of Finance announced that a new series of sovereign gold bonds will be available at _____ rupees per gram from 14th to 18th January 2019?

Answer – Rs 3,214 per gram Explanation: On 12th January 2019, ministry of finance announced that a new series of sovereign gold bonds will be available at Rs 3,214 per gram from 14th January to 18th January 2019. A discount of Rs 50 per

gram will be given to the Investors who apply online for the Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme 2018-19 – Series V.

Interest rate of 2.50 percent per annum will be offered to the investors which is payable semi-annually. The interest earned is taxable. The issue price of gold bond will be Rs 3,164 per gram of gold with the settlement date of January 22, 2019.

87. India’s headline inflation rate based on the consumer price index (combined) reduced to an 18-month low of what percent in December 2018, as per an official release by Central Statistics Office (CSO)?

Answer – 2.19 % Explanation: On January 14, 2019, according to an official release by Central Statistics Office (CSO), citing cooling food and fuel prices as the reasons, it stated that wholesale and retail inflation reduced to a multi month low with CPI falling to an 18-month low in December, 2018. India’s headline inflation rate based on the consumer price index (combined) reduced to an 18-month low of 2.19% in December, down from 2.33% in November, 2018. It was 5.21% in December 2017.

88. Wholesale inflation (measured by Wholesale Price Index) softened to an eight-month low of _____% in December 2018, as per an official release by Central Statistics Office (CSO)?

Answer – 3.8 % Explanation: On January 14, 2019, according to an official release by Central Statistics Office (CSO), citing cooling food and fuel prices as the reasons, it stated that wholesale and retail inflation reduced to a multi month low with CPI falling to an 18-month low in December, 2018. Wholesale inflation (measured by WPI) softened to an eight-month low of 3.8% in December from 4.64% in November, 2018.

89. Name the chief executive officer (CEO) of Myntra and Jabong who quit the company on 14th January 2019?

Answer – Ananth Narayanan Explanation: On 14th January 2019, Ananth Narayanan, the chief executive officer of Myntra and Jabong, a unit of Walmart-owned Flipkart, quit the company to pursue external opportunities. Ananth Narayanan is expected to join as the chief executive officer of video streaming service Hotstar.

90. Who was appointed the new chief executive officer (CEO) of Myntra and Jabong, on 14th January 2019?

Answer – Amar Nagaram Explanation: On 14th January 2019, Ananth Narayanan, the chief executive officer of Myntra and Jabong, a unit of Walmart-owned Flipkart, quit the company to pursue external opportunities. Ananth Narayanan is expected to join as the chief executive officer of video streaming service Hotstar. Flipkart executive Amar Nagaram who previously headed consumer shopping experience has been appointed as the new head of Myntra and Jabong and will report to Flipkart Group CEO Kalyan Krishnamurthy. Earlier in November Flipkart’s co-founder & group CEO, Binny Bansal, had also stepped down from the company following a probe into serious personal misconduct.

91. Name the former SBI Managing Director who was appointed by ICICI Bank on its board as independent director for 5 years, on 14th January 2019?

Answer – B Sriram Explanation: On January 14, 2019, private sector ICICI Bank appointed former SBI Managing

Director B Sriram on its board as independent director for 5 years. Prior to this, Sriram was the managing director of IDBI Bank and before which he was the same in SBI. Besides him, ICICI also appointed management consultant Rama Bijapurkar as independent director.

92. Who stepped down as Accenture's chief executive officer (CEO) on 11th January 2019 ?

Answer – Pierre Nanterme Explanation: On January 11, 2019, Accenture, a Dublin based consultant firm's CEO Pierre Nanterme steps down from his post due to his health issues. Though resigned as CEO of the company, Pierre Nanterme will continue at Accenture as advisor to the CEO. The lead independent director Marge Wagner was named non-executive chair.

83. Name the person who was named interim chief executive officer (CEO) of Accenture, on 11th January 2019?

Answer – David Rowland Explanation: On January 11, 2019, Accenture, a Dublin based consultant firm's CEO Pierre Nanterme steps down from his post due to his health issues. Financial Officer of the company David Rowland was named interim CEO. Though resigned as CEO of the company, Pierre Nanterme will continue at Accenture as advisor to the CEO. The lead independent director Marge Wagner was named non-executive chair.

84. Name the convener of the 7-member Group of Ministers (GoM) under the title 'GoM for boosting Real Estate Sector under the GST regime' announced by Finance Ministry on 15th January 2019?

Answer – Nitin Patel Explanation: On January 15, 2019, the Finance Ministry announced constitution of a 7-member Group of Ministers (GoM) under the title 'GoM for boosting Real Estate Sector under the GST regime'. This decision was taken under the suggestion of the 32nd Meeting of GST Council held on 10 January 2019 at New Delhi. Nitin Patel, Deputy Chief Minister, Government of Gujarat is convener of the GoM. 6 other members of the group include: 1. Sudhir Mungantiwar, Finance Minister, Government of Maharashtra, 2. Krishna Byre Gowda, Finance Minister, Government of Karnataka, 3. Dr. T.M. Thomas Isaac, Finance Minister, Government of Kerala, 4. Manpreet Singh Badal, Finance Minister, Government of Punjab, 5. Rajesh Agarwal, Finance Minister, Government of Uttar Pradesh and 6. Mauvin Godinho, Minister of Panchayat, Government of Goa. Manish Sinha, Joint Secretary (TRU-II), CBIC, was made the Secretary for the GoM for boosting the Real Estate Sector under GST regime.

85. The domestic aviation market in India has been growing at ____ % annually for the last 4 years and this growth has been the highest in the world, as announced in the Global Aviation Summit (GAS) 2019?

Answer – 20 % Explanation: On 15th January 2019, the Union Minister for Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation, Shri Suresh Prabhu inaugurated the 2 day Global Aviation Summit (GAS) 2019 with a theme: 'Flying for all-especially the next 6 Billion'. It is being organised by Ministry of Civil Aviation in association with Airport Authority of India (AAI) and Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) in Mumbai. The Summit Concluded on 16th January 2019. The domestic aviation market in India has been growing

at 20 percent annually for the last four years and this growth has been the highest in the world.

86. Vision 2040 document released at the Global Aviation Summit (GAS) 2019, aims to have ____ air passengers in 2040 from 187 million air passengers in 2018?

Answer – 1.12 billion Explanation: On 15th January 2019, Union Minister for Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation, Shri Suresh Prabhu unveiled the Vision 2040 document for aviation sector in the Global Aviation Summit (GAS) 2019, in Mumbai. The document is prepared by consultancy firm KPMG and industry body Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) in consultation with the government. The Vision 2040 document aims to have 1.12 billion air passengers in 2040 from 187 million air passengers in 2018. This comprises around 821 million domestic passengers and around 303 million international passengers (to and from India).

87. India is expected to become the ____ largest aviation market by 2022, as per Vision 2040 document released at the Global Aviation Summit (GAS) 2019?

Answer – Third Explanation: On 15th January 2019, Union Minister for Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation, Shri Suresh Prabhu unveiled the Vision 2040 document for aviation sector in the Global Aviation Summit (GAS) 2019, in Mumbai. The document is prepared by consultancy firm KPMG and industry body Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) in consultation with the government. The Vision 2040 document aims to have 1.12 billion air passengers in 2040 from 187 million air passengers in 2018. This comprises around 821 million domestic passengers and around 303 million international passengers (to and from India). It further states that India will need 200 airports and an investment of \$40-50 billion to handle at least 1.1 billion passengers flying to, from and within the country. India, which is currently the seventh-largest aviation market in 2017-18, is expected to become the third-largest by 2022, inching closer to the U.S., which is projected number two. Besides the Indian commercial air fleet is expected to be 2,359 by March 2040.

88. ____ emerged as the world's most dynamic city in the 6th City Momentum Index, released by property consultant JLL, on 15th January 2019?

Answer – Bengaluru Explanation: On January 15, 2019, according to the 6th City Momentum Index, released by property consultant JLL, Bengaluru has emerged as the world's most dynamic city with a robust technology and innovation ecosystem in place. The report is titled: 'JLL City Momentum: The World's Top 20 Most Dynamic Cities'. The 2019 edition of the survey was conducted on 131 cities over a period of 3 years. The key theme in this year's index was cities having a robust technology and innovation ecosystem. Among other Indian cities, Hyderabad ranked second with Delhi at fourth, Pune at fifth, Chennai at seventh and Kolkata at fifteenth position featuring in top 20 cities. 19 of the top 20 cities ranked were from Asia Pacific region. The other cities include Hanoi at the third position, Nairobi at 6th, Ho Chi Minh City at 8th Xi'an at 9th Guangzhou at 10th.

89. Finance Ministry asked the public sector banks to bring down the government's equity to at least what percent in the first phase, on 16th January 2019?

Answer – 52 % Explanation: On January 16, 2019, Finance Ministry asked the public sector banks to bring down the government's equity to at least 52 per cent in the first phase.

Dilution of government stake will help banks to meet 25 per cent public float norms of market regulator SEBI. This would also encourage the banks to follow the prudential lending norms. The country's largest lender State Bank of India (SBI) has already initiated step for Rs 20,000 crore share sale through qualified institutional placement (QIP). This would dilute the existing government stake of 58.53 per cent in the bank. Accordingly, other banks like Syndicate Bank, Union Bank of India, Punjab National Bank, and Oriental Bank of Commerce among others have already issued or in process of issuing Employee Share Purchase Scheme (ESPS).

90. India has decided to purchase ___ dollar worth of oil and gas from the United States per annum and \$18 billion worth of defence equipment?

Answer – \$5 billion Explanation: On 16th January 2019, India has decided to purchase \$5 billion worth of oil and gas from the US per annum and \$18 billion worth of defence equipment. India-US bilateral trade has increased from \$119 billion to \$140 billion in past two years. The US export to India has gone up by at least 30 per cent. Orders of 300 airplanes of \$40 billion have been placed by commercial Indian airlines. The United States is India's largest trading partner.

91. Name the head of the eight member Group of Ministers (GoM) formed by Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council to suggest whether a uniform tax rate should be imposed on lotteries or the current differential tax rate system be continued?

Answer – Sudhir Mungantiwar Explanation: On 16th January 2019, the GST council has constituted an eight member Group of Ministers (GoM) headed by Maharashtra State Finance Minister, Sudhir Mungantiwar to suggest whether a uniform tax rate should be imposed on lotteries or the current differential tax rate system be continued. The Complete list of Group of Ministers (GoM):

Name	Designation with State
Sudhir Mungantiwar	Maharashtra State Finance Minister
Thomas Isaac	Kerala Finance Minister
Amit Mitra	West Bengal Finance Minister
Assam Finance Minister	Himanta Biswa Sarma
Manpreet Singh Badal	Punjab Finance Minister
Mauvin Godinho	Goa Panchayat Minister
Krishna Byre Gowda	Karnataka Finance Minister
Jarkar Gamlin	Arunachal Tax and Excise Minister

92. Union Cabinet approved recapitalization of Export-Import Bank of India (EXIM Bank) to the tune of ___ rupees to expand its business, on 16th January 2019?

Answer – Rs 6,000 crore Explanation: On 16th January 2019, the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi approved recapitalization of Export-Import Bank of India (EXIM Bank) to the tune of 6,000 crore rupees to expand its business. The bank will be infused with Rs 4,500 crore before March 2019 and Rs 1,500 crore in the next fiscal by Issuance of Recapitalization Bonds by Government of India which will be in line with those issued to Public Sector Banks.

The cabinet has also approved to increase in the authorized capital of Exim Bank from 10,000 crore to 20,000 crore rupees. The infusion of capital into Exim Bank which is the principal export credit agency for India will enable it to augment capital adequacy and support Indian exports with enhanced ability. Besides it will also support Indian textile industries and give thrust to initiatives like changes in Concessional Finance Scheme (CFS) and likelihood of new letters of credit (LoCs) to be issued in future in view of India's active foreign policy and strategic intent.

93. Reserve Bank of India announced that it will inject ___ rupees into the system to increase liquidity through open market operations (OMOs), on 16th January 2019?

Answer – Rs 10,000 crore Explanation: On January 16, 2019, the Reserve Bank of India announced that it will inject 10,000 crore rupees into the system to increase liquidity through open market operations (OMOs). The offers have been instructed to be submitted in electronic format on the RBI Core Banking Solution (E-Kuber) system. It also plans to inject liquidity under OMOs for 50,000 crore rupees in January 2019. The central bank has so far injected Rs 20,000 through OMOs in January 2019.

94. What was the penalty imposed by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Bank of Maharashtra (BoM) for non-compliance of Know Your Customer (KYC) guidelines and fraud-classification norms, on 16th January 2019?

Answer – Rs 1 crore Explanation: On January 16, 2019, Reserve Bank of India (RBI), imposed a Rs 1-crore penalty on state-owned Bank of Maharashtra (BoM) for non-compliance of Know Your Customer (KYC) guidelines and fraud-classification norms. The penalty has been imposed on failure of the bank to follow the rules and regulation issued by the RBI. In the year 2018, the RBI had imposed a penalty of Rs 1 crore on BoM on account of delay on the part of the bank to detect and report fraud in accounts.

95. Reserve Bank of India rationalised the overseas borrowing norms allowing a uniform borrowing limit of ___ rupees a year across tenors in its New External Commercial Borrowings (ECB) Framework released on 16th January 2019?

Answer – Rs 750 million Explanation: On January 16, 2019, RBI announced the New External Commercial Borrowings (ECB) Framework. Its objective is to promote ease of doing business. According to the announcement, a few changes has been made. They are:

- RBI rationalised the overseas borrowing norms allowing a uniform borrowing limit of Rs 750 million a year across tenors.
- The list of eligible borrowers has been expanded to enable all entities eligible to receive foreign direct investment under the ECB framework.
- Any entity who is a resident of a country which is FATF or IOSCO compliant will be treated as a recognised lender. This in term increases the lending options for lenders.
- The minimum average maturity period (MAMP) has been kept at 3years for all ECBs, irrespective of the amount of borrowing, except the borrowers specifically permitted in the circular to borrow for a shorter period.
- A late submission fee for delay in prescribed reporting under the ECB framework have been introduced.

- Tracks I (medium term ECB of three to five years) and Track II (long term ECB of upto ten years) under the existing framework have been merged as “Foreign Currency denominated ECB” and Track III and Rupee Denominated Bonds framework are combined as “Rupee Denominated ECB” to replace the current four-tiered structure, making the framework instrument-neutral.

96. India ratings and research, a Fitch group company, has estimated that India’s GDP growth to be what percent in financial year 2019-20?

Answer – 7.5 % Explanation: On 17th January 2019, a Fitch group company India ratings and research estimated that India’s GDP growth to be a “tad higher” at 7.5% in financial year 2019-20. Earlier it was 7.2% during fiscal year 2018-19. The economy seen a growth rate of 7.2% in the current financial year against 6.7% in the previous year estimated by Central Statistics Office (CSO). According to India Ratings investments are slow but steady gaining traction with gross fixed capital formation growing 12.2% in FY19 and projected to grow at 10.3% in FY20. According to Fitch rating current fiscal has seen sharp recovery after demonetization and GST (Goods and Services Tax).

97. Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) issued drafts norm for commodity indices allowing trading in commodity-index-based futures, on 16th January 2019. It has proposed a maximum weightage of ___ % and minimum 1% for a constituent?

Answer – 20 % Explanation: On 16th January 2019, Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) issued drafts norm for commodity indices allowing trading in commodity-index-based futures. Earlier only individual commodity futures and options on it were allowed. Only contracts that are compliant with certain conditions would be allowed to be part of the indices. SEBI proposed a maximum weightage of 20% and minimum 1% for a constituent. As per the drafts norms, the contracts should have traded for at least 90% of trading days in last 12 months and they should have a minimum average daily turnover. The turnover should be at least Rs 75 crore for agricultural and agri-processed commodities, and Rs 500 crore for all other commodities. Future contracts concerned should have been trading in the particular exchange for at least 12 months before re-balancing an index. Initially tenor of the contracts can be of six months with a contract size of at least Rs 5 lakh. The draft norms are the recommendations made by the Commodity Derivatives Advisory Committee (CDAC) set by SEBI 3 years ago.

98. The total notional value of call options written by a scheme shall not exceed what percent of total market value of equity shares held in that scheme, as per norms for mutual fund investments in derivatives issued by SEBI?

Answer – 15 % Explanation: On January 16, 2019, Markets regulator SEBI allowed mutual fund schemes (except Index Funds and ETFs) to write call options only under a covered call strategy for constituent stocks of Nifty 50 and Sensex indices. The announcement includes the following:

- The total notional value of call options written by a scheme shall not exceed 15 per cent of the total market value of equity shares held in that scheme.

- The total number of shares underlying the call options written should not exceed 30 per cent of the shares of a particular company held in the scheme.

- No scheme shall write a call option without holding the underlying equity shares.

- the call option written should be marked to market daily and the respective gains or losses should be factored into the daily net asset value of the respective scheme until the position closes or expires.

- the risks and benefit of the same, must be disclosed in the Scheme Information Document.

99. Finance Ministry started ‘Know Your Budget’ series to educate people on which social media platform, about the importance of Union Budget and its making, on 18th January 2019?

Answer – Twitter Explanation: On January 18, 2019, Finance Ministry started ‘Know Your Budget’ series to educate people on Twitter about the importance of Union Budget and its making. The series contains definitions of various terms used in the budget. The series began with explaining the terms: Union Budget and Vote on Account. The government on February 1, 2019 would unveil the interim Budget for 2019-20.

100. Two Commemorative coins in the denomination of Rs 100 and ___ rupees were released to mark the 102nd Birth Anniversary of late Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.G. Ramachandran, on 17th January 2019?

Answer – Rs 5 Explanation: On 17th January 2019, Two Commemorative coins in the denomination of Rs 100 and Rs 5 were released to mark the 102nd Birth Anniversary of late Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.G. Ramachandran. Commemorative coins were released by Tamil Nadu Chief Minister K Palaniswami and Deputy Chief Minister O Panneerselvam. A 66 feet wide and 52 feet tall “Dr MGR Centenary Arch” which was constructed near Marina Beach was also unveiled.

101. HDFC Standard Life Insurance renamed itself to which of the following, on 16th January 2019?

Answer – HDFC Life Insurance Explanation: On January 16, 2019, HDFC Standard Life Insurance renamed itself to HDFC Life Insurance. The change in name has been made effective immediately.

102. Government of India and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) signed a Loan Agreement under Japan’s Official Development Assistance Loan Program on 18th January 2019, for Japan India Cooperative Actions towards Sustainable Development Goal in India for ___ rupees?

Answer – Rs. 950 Crore Explanation: On 18th January 2019, Dr. C.S. Mohapatra, Additional Secretary, Department of Economic affairs, Government of India and Mr. Katsuo Matsumoto, Chief Representative, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) signed the Loan Agreement under Japan’s Official Development Assistance Loan Program in New Delhi. Loan Agreement was signed for following projects:

- Development of Chennai Peripheral Ring Road (Phase 1) for JPY 40.074 billion (Rs. 2470 Crore)

- Program for Japan India Cooperative Actions towards Sustainable Development Goal in India for JPY 15 billion (Rs. 950 Crore)

103. Who will head an 11-member working group constituted by the Insolvency and Bankruptcy board of India (IBBI) to study the concept of 'Group Insolvency' and suggest a suitable framework?

Answer – U.K. Sinha Explanation: Former Chairman of Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), U.K. Sinha will head an 11-member working group constituted by the Insolvency and Bankruptcy board of India (IBBI) to study the concept of 'Group Insolvency' and suggest a suitable framework. The Working Group have to submit the report within two months recommending a regulatory framework to facilitate insolvency resolutions and liquidation of corporate debtors in a Group. It was noted that Corporate groups falls apart in insolvency and thereby thwart the chances of their restructuring. Group Insolvency will prevent this situation. Group Insolvency will be very beneficial in a situation where two or more applications are pending in the same court against debtors in the same group. Managing Director of State Bank of India, Anshula Kant and Executive Director and CFO of Tata Steel, Koushik Chatterjee are members this working group.

104. Government announced that Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) and which company are in dialogue to form a world class consortium to initially build the first lithium Ion battery plant in India, on 18th January 2019?

Answer – Libcoin Explanation: On 18th January 2019, Government announced that Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) and Libcoin are in dialogue to form a world class consortium to initially build the first lithium Ion battery plant in India. The Initial capacity of the plant will be 1GWh and it will be scaled up to 30 GWh in due course. This project will bring energy independence by replacing oil imports with abundant renewable energy sources. The aim of the project is to create integrated manufacturing ecosystem resulting in self-reliance and lower cost. This project will includes "Made by India, for India" with focus on core cost component manufactured domestically. The cutting edge digital technologies to replace high CAPEX and high OPEX processes will be the highlight of this project in India.

105. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) approved the appointment of ___ as MD and CEO of IDFC First Bank for a period of three years, on 17th January 2019?

Answer – V Vaidyanathan Explanation: On 17th January 2019, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) approved the appointment of V Vaidyanathan as MD and CEO of IDFC First Bank for a period of three years. The Tenure of V Vaidyanathan started from 19th December 2019. V Vaidyanathan is the founder and chairman of Capital First. IDFC Bank and non-banking financial company Capital First completed their merger in December 2018 and created a loan asset book of 1.03 Lakh crore for the merged entity IDFC First bank.

106. Centre advised the states on 18th January 2019, to increase the spending under District Mining Fund (DMF) because only 24 % of ___ rupees allocated for Pradhan Mantri Khanij Kshetra Kalyan Yojana (PMKKKY) is spent until now?

Answer – Rs. 23,606 crore Explanation: On 18th January 2019, Centre has advised States to increase the spending under District Mining Fund (DMF) because only 24 percent of the Rs. 23,606 crore allocated for Pradhan Mantri Khanij Kshetra Kalyan Yojana (PMKKKY) is spent until now. PMKKKY is

announced to provide welfare to those affected by mining operations. Under PMKKKY scheme, Government has to spend a portion of revenue for the development activities in the mining regions. Ministry of Mines directed to states to ensure that the rate of expenditure for development works improves while ensuring timely audit of the spending.

107. An agreement was signed between Export-Import Bank of India and the Government of Uzbekistan on a Line of Credit of ___ dollars, supported by the Indian Government for financing housing and social infrastructure projects in Uzbekistan, on 18th January 2019?

Answer – USD 200 million Explanation: On 18th January 2019, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and President of Uzbekistan Mr. Shavkat Mirziyoyev held a meeting while attending "Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit-2019" in Ahmadabad. President Shavkat Mirziyoyev mentioned that he is looking to attract investment from India in sector like IT, education, pharmaceuticals, healthcare, agri-business and tourism for Uzbekistan. The exchange of contracts between the Department of Atomic Energy of India and the Novoi Minerals and Metallurgical Company of the Republic of Uzbekistan for long-term supply of Uranium Ore Concentrate for India's energy requirements took place in presence of both the leaders. Agreement were signed between the Export-Import Bank of India and the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan on a Line of Credit of USD 200 million supported by the Government of India for financing housing and social infrastructure projects in Uzbekistan.

108. World Economic Forum has released "The Outbreak Readiness and Business impact white paper" in collaboration with the Harvard Global Health Institute. As per this, Pandemics will cause annual economic losses of what percent of global GDP?

Answer – 0.7 % Explanation: The World Economic Forum released "The Outbreak Readiness and Business impact white paper" in collaboration with the Harvard Global Health Institute. The report says that the business risk posed by a new era of epidemic cannot be considered exclusively and all the companies operating globally should take proper actions to mitigate threats posed by epidemics. Since 2011, World has witnessed 200 epidemic events per year and the number and kind of infectious disease outbreaks have increased significantly in last 30 years. The Report also warns that the threat due to epidemic is similar to that estimated for climate change in the coming decades. As per report, the Pandemics will cause annual economic losses of 0.7 per cent of global GDP.

109. SoftBank has decided to invest ___ dollars for over 40 % stake in BrainBees Solutions, which owns and operates omni-channel baby and mother care product retailer FirstCry?

Answer – \$ 400 million Explanation: The Tokyo Headquartered investment giant, SoftBank has decided to invest \$400 million for over 40 per cent stake in BrainBees Solutions, which owns and operates omni-channel baby and mother care product retailer FirstCry. SoftBank is valuing 8 years old Pune based venture, FirstCry at \$600-700 million and planning to pick over 40 per cent stake whereas FirstCry Founder, Supam Maheshwari and Amitava Saha will retain 12-14 per cent stake. As per SoftBank officials the money will come in tranches linked to financial and business performance

milestones. Morgan Stanley acted as the Financial advisor for this big deal.

110. _____ are the biggest supporters of international aid, as 95 % of them supported the international aid and expect their country to help other nations, as per World Economic Forum (WEF) global survey?

Answer – Indians Explanation: The World Economic Forum (WEF) released a survey ahead of its annual meeting which states that Indians are biggest supporters of international aid. 95 per cent of Indians supported the international aid and expect India to help other nations. World Economic Forum worked with Qualtrics to poll over 10000 from different parts of the world. South Asian Countries like India, Pakistan and Bangladesh exhibit widespread support for international aid leaving behind European countries. Pakistan and Indonesia are on the second position with 94 per cent of the people's affirmative replies. The Global Average was 70 per cent and developed countries like France, Argentina, Germany and England scored near 60 per cent.

111. Where was the Arab Economic and Social Development Summit held on 20th January 2019?

Answer – Beirut, Lebanon Explanation: On 20th January 2019, the Arab Economic and Social Development Summit took place in Lebanon's capital Beirut in which the Arab leaders have agreed a 29-item economic agenda in addition to encouraging the safe return of Syrian refugees to their homeland. About 20 countries took part in the summit and issued a joint statement called the Beirut Declaration which called for the establishment of an Arab free trade zone and the international community to support countries hosting refugees and displaced people. The summit also focussed on redevelopment plans in Somalia and Yemen. The summit also saw the launch of a \$200m technology investment fund across the region by Kuwait's foreign minister. The next Arab economic summit would be held in Mauritania's capital Nouakchott in 2023.

112. Nepal's central bank banned the use of Indian currency notes above which denomination, on 20th January 2019?

Answer – Rs 100 Explanation: The decision to ban notes has come up with Reserve Bank of India (RBI)'s decision that Indian denominations of Rs.200, 500 and 2,000 cannot be carried and used for trading. Till to date, only the notes with a denomination of has banned the Rs.100 and below are freOn January 20, 2019,Nepal's central bank notes of Rs 2,000, Rs 500 and Rs 200 denominations. i.e. use of Indian currency above the denomination Rs 100. This move could affect Indian tourists visiting ely exchangeable in Nepal. With the nation where Indian currency the Himalayan implementation of this new rule, Nepali citizens cannot carry these denominations to other countries except India and Nepali people are also not allowed to bring in such notes from other countries.

113. India surpassed the United Kingdom in the 2019 rankings of world's largest economies by increased rate _____% GDP growth?

Answer – 1.65 % Explanation: On January 20, 2019, India surpassed the UK in the 2019 rankings of world's largest economies by increased rate 1.65% GDP growth.India Is Poised To Become The World's Fifth Largest Economy. France also surpassed the UK in the world's largest economy rankings in 2019, knocking it from fifth to seventh place with increased rate of 1.7% GDP. Due to lower growth rate we may have a trade war in 2019,main focus of tension would be between US-China

trade. The US was the world's largest economy with a size of 19.39 trillion dollars, followed by China at 12.23 trillion dollars at the second place in 2017.

114. Flipkart has promoted its Fashion department head _____ to head Myntra – Jabong's Fashion and lifestyle categories as an additional responsibility?

Answer – Rishi Vasudev Explanation: Walmart backed E-Commerce giant Flipkart promoted its Fashion department head Rishi Vasudev to head Myntra – Jabong's Fashion and lifestyle categories as an additional responsibility. Rishi Vasudev will report to Flipkart CEO Kalyan Krishnamurthy after the formal announcement which is expected in next 10 days. Earlier Flipkart has appointed Amar Nagaram as the head of Myntra-Jabong after resignation of its CEO Ananth Narayanan.

115. The Committee to study the existing Special Economical Zone(SEZ) policy of India headed by _____ submitted its report, on 18th January 2019, which states that, the Government has to set a target of creating 100 million jobs and achieving 25% of GDP from manufacturing sector by 2022?

Answer – Baba Kalyani Explanation: On 18th January 2019,The Baba Kalyani led committee constituted by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry to study the existing Special Economical Zone(SEZ) policy of India submitted its report to Union Minister for Commerce and Industry and Civil Aviation Suresh Prabhu in New Delhi. The repors of the committee were made public on 22nd January and government is seeking suggestions or comments on the recommendations of the committee till 30th January 2019. Objectives of the Baba Kalyani led committee which was constituted in June 2018 were to evaluate the SEZ policy and make it World Trade Organization (WTO) compatible, suggest measures to maximize utilization of vacant land in SEZs. The report says that if India is going to become a USD 5 trillion economy by 2025 then the current environment of manufacturing competitiveness and services has to undergo a basic paradigm shift. It says that Government has to set a target of creating 100 million jobs and achieving 25% of GDP from the manufacturing sector by 2022 as part of its flagship ' Make in India' programme.

116. The Government decided to set up a Standing Committee on Affordable Medicines and Health Products (SCAMHP) to recommend price controls and monitor prices of specific drugs and health products, on 21st January 2019. The Committee will be headed by a member of _____?

Answer – NITI Aayog Explanation: On 21st January 2019, the government, acting through the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers, has decided to establish a committee under NITI Aayog, that will be tasked with recommending price controls and monitoring the prices of specific drugs and health products to ensure their affordability. The Standing Committee on Affordable Medicines and Health Products (SCAMHP) which will be headed by a NITI Aayog member (Health) will be the recommending body to National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA). The committee will also include the chief economic adviser, besides secretary, department of health research, director-general of health services, vice-chairperson, National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM) and joint secretary, department of industrial policy and promotion. The NPPA has a range of functions relating to the implementation of the Drugs Prices Control Order (DPCO)-1995 ranging from

setting prices, enforcement, use of powers in public interest, price approvals etc. for the drugs mentioned in the National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM).

117. Which company announced that it will create an independent Institute for Ethics in Artificial intelligence (AI) with an initial investment of \$7.5 million over a period of five years, on 20th January 2019?

Answer – Facebook Explanation: On 20th January 2019, Social media giant Facebook announced that it will create an independent Institute for Ethics in Artificial intelligence (AI) with an initial investment of \$7.5 million over a period of five years. Technical University of Munich (TUM) in Germany will collaborate with this project which aims to explore fundamental issues affecting the use and impact of AI. Initial funding will be provided by Facebook but the institute will look for other funding opportunities for additional partners and agencies in the coming years. The Institute will address issues that affecting the use and impact of AI such as Safety, Privacy, Fairness and transparency.

118. Where did Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India organise the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Awareness Programme on 19th January 2019?

Answer – Vadodara, Gujarat Explanation: On January 19, 2019, The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India organised an Insolvency and Bankruptcy Awareness Programme at Vadodara, Gujarat. It is organised in collaboration with three Insolvency Professional Agencies, namely, the Indian Institute of Insolvency Professionals of ICAI (lead partner), the ICSI Institute of Insolvency Professionals, and the Insolvency Professional Agency of Institute of Cost Accountants of India.

119. What is the rank of India in the 6th edition of Global Talent Competitive Index (GTCI) 2019, released by INSEAD business school in partnership with Tata Communications and Adecco Group?

Answer – 80 Explanation: On 21st January 2019, INSEAD business school in partnership with Tata Communications and Adecco Group released the 6th edition of Global Talent Competitive Index (GTCI) 2019 which stated that India has moved up one position to rank 80th on the Global Talent Competitive Index 2019 ranking. The report, suggested that India's biggest challenge is to improve its ability to attract and retain talent and there is a need to address its poor level of Internal Openness in particular with respect to weak gender equality and low tolerances towards minorities and immigrants and its disappointing showing in lifestyle indicators. The top 5 countries in the index included Switzerland followed by Singapore, the US, Norway and Denmark. At 45th position in overall ranking, China emerged as the best performer among the BRICS countries.

120. Omega Services signed a pact with which institute Healthcare Management for advanced use of latest technology in providing healthcare solutions, on 21st Omega Healthcare Services signed a pact with which institute January 2019? Management

Answer – IIIT Bangalore Explanation: for advanced use of latest technology in providing healthcare solutions. This MoU was signed to build industry-grade AI engines that can be embedded as Services part of Omega's business On January 21, 2019, Omega Healthcare Management solutions to solve healthcare business signed a pact with IIIT-Bangalore challenges. The pact also enhanced research programmes in

artificial intelligence (AI) and Data Science, aimed to focus on specific business-related processes.

121. India's fiscal deficit may go up to ___% in financial year 2020 due to populist schemes like farm loan waivers, as per a report released by India Rating?

Answer – 3.2 % Explanation: According to a report released by India Rating, India's fiscal deficit may go up to 3.2 per cent in Financial Year 2020 due to populist schemes like farm loan waivers and other financial support schemes which may be announced before the forthcoming general elections. Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Kerala are most susceptible to see an increase in debt in Financial Year 2020. States' revenue account may clock an aggregate deficit of 0.5 per cent of GDP (Gross Domestic Product) in FY20 due to higher growth in revenue spending than revenue receipt. Earlier a fiscal deficit of 2.8 per cent was forecasted by India Ratings in FY19 mid-year forecast. The Announcement of Farm loan waivers by Madhya Pradesh, Chhatisgarh, Assam & Rajasthan and Financial assistance schemes for marginal farmer by Odisha, Jharkhand and Telangana contributed significantly to the increased fiscal deficit forecast.

122. Where did Tamil Nadu government organise the 2nd edition of Global Investor summit on 23rd and 24th January 2019?

Answer – Chennai Explanation: On January 23, 2019, Tamil Nadu Government organised the 2nd edition of Global Investor summit in Chennai. This summit is to be concluded on January 24, 2019. The state government would soon unveil e-vehicle policy to give a boost to electric vehicles manufacturing in the state. In the opening ceremony Nirmala Sitharaman was the chief guest and the in the closing of the summit vice president Venkaiah Naidu would make his presence.

123. Union Cabinet approved amendments to the framework on currency swap arrangement for SAARC member countries by incorporating a stand-by facility of ___ dollars, on 23rd January 2019?

Answer – USD 400 million Explanation: On 23rd January 2019, the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi led Union Cabinet approved amendments to the framework on currency swap arrangement for SAARC member countries by incorporating a stand-by facility of USD 400 million. The 'Framework on Currency Swap Arrangement for SAARC Member Countries' is operated within the overall size of the Facility of USD 2 billion and is built in flexibility with respect to modalities of its operation, such as period of swap, roll over, etc. The new amendments would help India to fulfil current request from SAARC member countries for availing the swap amount exceeding the present limit prescribed under the SAARC Swap Framework. The facility will help the short term swap requirements of SAARC countries which could be higher than the agreed lines and aroused due to heightened financial risk and volatility in global economy. The operational details of the facility will be negotiated by the Reserve Bank of India with the central banks of the SAARC countries availing the Standby Swap. The Framework on Currency Swap Arrangement for SAARC Member Countries on was approved by the central government on March 1, 2012 with the intention to provide a line of funding for short term foreign exchange requirements or to meet balance of payments crises.

124. Union Cabinet approved the creation of National Bench of the Goods and Services Tax Appellate Tribunal (GSTAT) for better resolution of GST-related disputes, on 23rd January 2019. Who will preside over the National Bench?

Answer – President of India Explanation: On 23rd January 2019, the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi approved the creation of the National Bench of the Goods and Services Tax Appellate Tribunal (GSTAT) to ensure better resolution of GST-related disputes. The National Bench would be set up in New Delhi. The National Bench of the Appellate Tribunal will be presided over by the President and shall consist of one technical member (Centre) and one technical member (State). The main objective to create the bench is to fast-track the process of GST-related dispute resolution and hear appeals related to disputes between states, as well as disputes between the Centre and states. The creation of the National Bench of GSTAT is based on the recommended by the GST Council and would incur an amount of Rs 92.50 lakh as one-time expenditure, besides the recurring expenditure of Rs 6.86 crore per annum.

125. Reserve Bank of India has initiated two quarterly surveys named Services and Infrastructure Outlook Survey (SIOS) and ____ to examine the Indian Manufacturing, services and infrastructure sector and business situation for January-March 2019?

Answer – Industrial Outlook Survey (IOS) Explanation: On 21st January 2019, The Reserve Bank of India has initiated two quarterly surveys named as Industrial Outlook Survey (IOS) and Services and Infrastructure Outlook Survey (SIOS) to examine the Indian Manufacturing, services and infrastructure sector and business situation for the quarter January-March 2019. The 85th round of quarterly Industrial Outlook survey would be conducted by Hansa Research Group Pvt. Ltd and it will assesses business sentiments of the current quarter and expectations for the ensuing quarter (April-June 2019). The 20th round of Quarterly Services and Infrastructure Outlook Survey (SIOS) will be conducted by Spectrum Planning India Ltd. And it will assesses the business situation from selected companies in the services and Infrastructure sector in the current quarter and their outlook in the ensuing quarter (April-June 2019).

126. Name the founder of microfinance company Svamaan Financial Services that has received approval as RBI Registered Non-Banking Financial Company – Micro Finance Institution (NBFC – MFI)?

Answer – Anushree Jindal Explanation: Anushree Jindal, daughter-in-law of JSW Group Chairman Sajjan Jindal has launched her maiden business venture –Svamaan Financial Services, a microfinance company with Rs. 10 Crore “Personal Family Money” as seed capital. Reserve Bank of India approved the application of Svamaan Financial Services as an RBI Registered Non-Banking Financial Company – Micro Finance Institution (NBFC – MFI). Svamaan Financial Services aims to promote financial inclusion for rural woman and micro-enterprises. It will operate initially in Karnataka and Maharashtra and plans to enter eastern markets of Odisha and Chhatisgarh by 2020. The Microfinance company will offer financial services to un-banked and under-banked sections of population and aims to impact the life of over one lakh customer positively by 2021.

127. Which state has been ranked the Top State in terms of Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) with a growth rate of 11.3 % in financial year 2017-2018, as per a report published by CRISIL (Credit Rating Information Services of India Limited)?

Answer – Bihar Explanation: As per a report published by CRISIL (Credit Rating Information Services of India Limited), Bihar has been ranked the Top State in terms of Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) by clocking a growth rate of 11.3 per cent in financial year 2017-2018. Andhra Pradesh has been ranked at second spot with GSDP growth rate 11.2 per cent whereas Gujarat has been ranked at third spot with GSDP growth rate of 11.1 per cent. Bihar was ranked at 8th spot with GSDP growth rate of 9.9 per cent in 2017. Madhya Pradesh which was the top state in 2017 with GSDP growth rate of 14 per cent has lost its top spot with a growth rate of 7.3 per cent in 2018. 12 out of 17 non special states performed better in 2018 as compared to previous five years. Jharkhand, Kerala and Punjab performed poorly and ranked at the bottom.

128. India became the ____ most attractive investment market for global CEOs as per PwC Survey conducted with more than 1300 CEOs in 91 countries?

Answer – 4th Explanation: On 21st January 2019, India became 4th most attractive investment market for global CEO's as per PwC Survey conducted over more than 1300 CEOs in 91 countries. The report was released on the first day of the World Economic Forum (WEF) annual meeting held in Davos, Switzerland. India surpassed UK to become 4th most attractive destination where US remained on the top position with 27 per cent votes. India surpassed Japan last year. As per the survey, China's popularity is falling but managed to be the 2nd most attractive followed by Germany in 3rd position. 85% of CEO's believe that Artificial Intelligence would dramatically change their business over the next 5 years. 30 per cent of the global business leader believes that the global economic growth will decline in the next one year. India's popularity falls marginally from 9% to 8% but In terms of CEO's revenue confidence, India remains the most buoyant territory.

129. Union Cabinet approved amendment to Article ____ of the Constitution to increase financial and executive powers of the 10 Autonomous Councils in Sixth Schedule areas of North East, on 23rd January 2019?

Answer – 280 Explanation: On 23rd January 2019, the Union Cabinet approved the landmark amendment to Article 280 of the Constitution to increase the financial and executive powers of the 10 Autonomous Councils in Sixth Schedule areas of North East. About 1 crore tribal people living in Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram will benefit by the amendment. According to the approval, Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Tripura, Karbi Anglong Autonomous Territorial Council and Dima Hasao Autonomous Territorial Council are the places where State Finance Commissions will be set up. The autonomous councils which till now had to depend on grants from Central Ministries and the State governments for specific projects would get financial resources upon the recommendation of newly constituted Finance Commission. The elections of Autonomous Councils, village and municipal councils in the scheduled areas of Assam, Mizoram and Tripura would be conducted by State Election Commissions. This will facilitate elected village municipal councils ensuring democracy

at the grass-roots level. The village and municipal councils will have to reserve at least one third of the seats for women. Two nominated members in all the autonomous councils will be women.

130. Which bank recommended Unconditional Cash Transfer to farmers to alleviate the agrarian distress instead of Universal Basic Income (UBI) scheme in its Ecowrap report, on 22nd January 2019?

Answer – State Bank of India (SBI) Explanation: On 22nd January 2019, State Bank of India recommended Unconditional Cash Transfer to farmers to alleviate the agrarian distress instead of Universal Basic Income (UBI) scheme in its Ecowrap report. Initiating Rythu Bandhu Scheme on national level may not be feasible presently because land data in several states including Bihar, Jharkhand, Gujarat and Tamil Nadu is not yet digitized. The Report suggested that Government should consider Unconditional Cash Transfer scheme until the problems are ironed out in terms of proper tenancy laws because it will be more equitable (on per farmer basis) with meaning full impact. As per the report, The Government had estimated Agriculture Subsidy (Plus Support) at Rs 98,100 crore in the 2019-20 budget which includes 13,000 crore for Crop Insurance, 15,000 crore for Interest Subsidy and Rs. 70,100 crore for Fertilizer subsidy.

131. United Nations released the World Economic Situation and Prospects (WESP) report which projected India's gross domestic product (GDP) to grow at ___ % during 2018-19 and improve to 7.6 % in the next fiscal?

Answer – 7.4 % Explanation: On 23rd January 2019, the United Nations released the World Economic Situation and Prospects (WESP) report which projected India's gross domestic product (GDP) to grow at 7.4 per cent during 2018-19 and improve to 7.6 per cent in the next fiscal. Besides the report projected that the gross domestic product (GDP) of India in 2020-21 will grow at 7.4 per cent. The robust private consumption, a more expansionary fiscal stance and benefits from previous reforms are the major pulling forces for India's Economic growth. But according to the report a crucial challenge which needs to be addressed to uplift medium-term growth is a more robust and sustained recovery of private investment. The report also pointed out feeble job creation rates in the formal sector which has left many workers underemployed or in low-salary jobs, with the situation for youth particularly worrisome.

132. Which insurance company has overtaken Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) to the best track record in terms of claims settlement for individual deaths in FY18, as per IRDAI's Annual Report 2017-18?

Answer – Max Life Insurance Explanation: Private life insurer Max Life Insurance has overtaken Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) to the best track record in terms of claims settlement for individual deaths in FY18. According to IRDAI's Annual Report 2017-18, Max Life settled 98.26 percent of individual death claims while LIC settled 98.04 percent.

133. United Nations released the World Economic Situation and Prospects 2019 report which projected the Global growth to remain at ___ % in 2019 and 2020?

Answer – 3.0 % Explanation: On 21st January 2019, the United Nations released the World Economic Situation and Prospects 2019 report which projected the Global growth to remain at 3.0 per cent in 2019 and 2020. In 2018 the Global Economy grew with a flat rate of 3.1 %.The report stated that more than half the world's economies growth rate accelerated in 2017 and 2018. The report cautioned that the constant growth rate in the global economy hides an increase in downside risks that could potentially exacerbate development challenges in many parts of the world. The trade tensions which are accelerating are causing an impact on global trade and employment.

134. Who will replace Rana Kapoor as Yes bank's MD and CEO, on 1st March 2019?

Answer – Ranveet Gill Explanation: On January 24, 2019, Yes bank got its approval to appoint Deutsche Bank India head Ravneet Singh Gill as the successor to Rana Kapoor. His tenure will begin from March 1, 2019. Yes Bank's hunt for new CEO ended up in Ranveet Gill as RBI rejected Rana Kapoor's query extend to next three years. Though Kapoor's CEO position ends up on January 31, 2019, He will still hold 10 percent in the bank share and will be entitled as the 'Indian Partner'. Kapoor's term at the bank ends on Jan. 31, after which there will be a month-long gap before Gill takes over, so the board of directors have decided to appoint a interim head to hold the post for that period.

135. Competition Commission of India gave approval to which company for the acquisition of Den Networks and Hathway Cable and Datacom, on 22nd January 2019?

Answer – Reliance Industries Explanation: On January 22, 2019, The Competition Commission of India gave approval to Reliance Industries for the acquisition of Den Networks and Hathway Cable and Datacom. Reliance acquired 66% in DEN and 51.3% in Hathway for total cost of Rs 5,230 crore. Out of which, In DEN, RIL is making a primary investment of Rs 2,045 crore through a preferential issue and secondary purchase of Rs 245 crore from existing promoters. In Hathway, RIL is investing Rs 2,940 crore .

136. How many MoUs worth Rs 3.4 lakh crore to increase job opportunities, were signed at the 2nd edition of Tamil Nadu government's Global Investors Meet (GIM) 2019, held on 23rd and 24th January 2019?

Answer – 304 Explanation: On 23rd January 2019, the second edition of Tamil Nadu government's ambitious two-day Global Investors Meet (GIM) 2019 which aimed at showcasing the state's potential business opportunities and wooing investment was inaugurated at Chennai Trade Centre, Chennai, Tamil Nadu. The event was attended by over 250 companies from 10 countries. The Investors Meet Concluded on 24th January 2019. The event was inaugurated by Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Edapadi Palaniswami in the presence of Union Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Deputy Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu O. Pannerselvam and Industries Minister of Tamil Nadu M.C. Sampath. This year focus will be given on key 12 sectors including automobile, textiles, aerospace, agro and food processing, pharmaceutical and chemicals, tourism, housing and construction, Electronics and hardware, Skill Development, Heavy Engineering, MSMEs and Information and Technology. The objective of the event is to position Tamil Nadu as the investor's choice besides showcasing its potential business opportunities. Rs.75 crore had been allocated by the

state government to conduct the two-day event. The event had managed to exceed the target investment of Rs 2 lakh crore and has witnessed the signing of 304 Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) worth Rs 3.4 lakh crore with promise of job opportunities for about 10.5 lakh people in the state.

137. Public funding in India in the field of research and development for neglected diseases has increased significantly by ____ since 2009, as per a report released by G-Finder?

Answer – Rs 135 crore Explanation: Public funding in India in the field of research and development for neglected diseases has increased significantly by Rs 135 crore since 2009, as per a report conducted by G-Finder a project that tracks and reports on global investments into research and development (R&D) for neglected diseases which was released on 23rd January 2019. It suggested that funding from Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) increased by Rs 147 crore. In 2017, India was the fourth-largest funder by absolute funding and proportion of GDP and accounted for almost three-quarters (Rs 492 crore) of the public funding from low income and middle income countries. The report also suggested that ICMR is one of the four largest global TB R&D funders for the first time ever, with an increase of Rs 39 crore in investment

138. Which country will become the world's biggest retail market in 2019, as per the prediction of research firm eMarket?

Answer – China Explanation: On 24th January 2019, Research firm eMarket predicted that China will become world's biggest retail market in 2019. According to the report, the sale boom is a result of China's rising incomes and thriving e-commerce. The report says China will overtake US in 2019 and total retail sales will grow 7.5% to reach 5.636 trillion USD in 2019, while US will grow 3.3% to 5.529 trillion. One-fifth of the country's total sales in 2018 was from e-commerce which is a major driver of China's retail economy. As per predictions US share of the global e-commerce market is expected to drop to 15 percent by 2022. By the end of 2019, China will have 55.8 percent of all online retail sales globally which is also expected to exceed 63% by 2022.

139. Which PSU received the best Miniratna PSU in strategic performance financial category award at an award function held in New Delhi, on 25th January 2019?

Answer – Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL) Explanation: On 25th January 2019 Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL) received best Miniratna PSU in strategic performance financial category award at an award function held In New Delhi. Numaligarh Refinery Limited is a mini ratna company in Assam owned by Bharat Petroleum. It is a joint venture between Bharat Petroleum, Oil India and Government of Assam. The award was declared at the Sixth PSU awards held at New Delhi. The awards are given out in recognition to the effect of Public Sector Undertakings (PSU) who have played a key role in Country's growth. NRL received award in strategic performance under financial category. It is evaluated by a two phase rigorous process by data science agency MT6 Analytics. The performance are measured using Moody's methodology. The award presented to Managing Director of NRI by members of parliament (MP) Manoj Tiwari and veteran actress and social activist Poonam Dhillon.

140. India signed the phytosanitary protocol with which country on 21st January 2019, to facilitate the

export of Indian tobacco, to the country which is the largest consumer and producer of tobacco with over 350 million smokers?

Answer – China Explanation: On January 21, 2019 a protocol was signed between India's Commerce Secretary Anup Wadhawan and Zhang Jiwen, Vice Minister of General Administration of China Customs (GACC) accountable for examining market access and quarantine issues for India's agriculture and allied products. Mr. Wadhawan was on a two-day visit to Beijing, China where his efforts with Chinese officials facilitated for the tobacco export to China. The revival of the phyto-sanitary protocol with China will turn economically better for the farmers and also ameliorate Indian tobacco exports as China is the largest consumer and producer of tobacco with over 350 million smokers (world's highest).

141. Name the head of the panel set by Insurance Regulatory Development Authority of India (IRDAI) to identify domestically systematically important insurers (SIIs) and an augmented regulatory framework is logically established in this regard?

Answer – Praveen Kutumbe Explanation: A panel is all set by Insurance Regulatory Development Authority of India (IRDAI) headed by Praveen Kutumbe, to identify domestically systematically important insurers (SIIs) and an augmented regulatory framework is logically established in this regard. The rationale behind the idea for SIIs as explained by IRDAI states that any fiasco in the system will defy the essential services they provide to policy holders overall economic activity can start dampening. In this regard, a committee headed by Praveen Kutumbe, Member- Finance and Investment, IRDAI, has been asked to submit report in six months. It is also perceived that SIIs is pivotal for the smooth and incessant functioning of insurance services to the real economy.

142. Etihad Guest, the loyalty programme of Etihad Airways, along with which credit card issuer launched a specific visa credit card to confront the constraints of international travel for Indian travelers, on 24th January 2019?

Answer – SBI Card Explanation: On 24th January 2019, SBI Card, the country's second largest credit card issuer and Etihad Guest, the loyalty programme of Etihad Airways have weld their hand together for a specific visa credit card to come into play for members and Indian travellers. The card will prove handy in two forms:-

- Etihad Guest SBI Card
- Etihad Guest SBI Premier Card It has been launched in order to confront the constraints of international travel. It is a promise to backtrack the lifestyles of affluent and urban Indians to complement their travel experience. Besides that, it is anticipated that the Indians will boost their travelling frequency which in turn leads to global exposure substantially. It is an appealing programme through which its clients can start collecting reward points instantly.

143. Institute of Rural Management Anand (IRMA) and ____ signed a MoU to guide farmer producer organizations (FPOs) and allied institutions, on 24th January 2019?

Answer – National Commodity & Derivatives Exchange Ltd (NCDEX) Explanation: On January 24 2019, A MoU has been signed between The National Commodity & Derivatives Exchange Ltd (NCDEX) and Institute of Rural Management

Anand (IRMA) to guide farmer producer organizations (FPOs) and allied institutions. They provide their support through training sessions, handholding, and leadership development. IRMA's students able to learn about commodity markets and also could provide training to agro sourcing professionals, skill upgrades of government officials, supportive awareness programmes and research.

144. French company Be-Bound signed an agreement with which Indian company to become partners to provide data connectivity through SMS in areas where there is no Internet connectivity or signal breaks, on 24th January 2019?

Answer – BSNL Explanation: On January 24 2019, Indian state-owned telecommunications BSNL and French company Be-Bound had signed an agreement to become partners to provide data connectivity through SMS in areas where there is no Internet connectivity or signal breaks. BSNL Chairman and Managing Director Anupam Shrivastava informed that Be-Bound has been given patent and already developed this technology which will be embedded in mobile apps. This app used to send command to Be-Bound server if it does not get data connectivity for SMS-based connectivity. Be-Bound server will facilitate SMS connectivity after getting command from the app. The app will also send SMS from user's account because for connectivity. The limit of 100 SMS per day per subscriber which is sufficient for this service.

145. Saab aerospace and defence company of ___ signed a MoU with Airports Authority of India (AAI) to improve air traffic management (ATM) solutions in airports, on 23rd January 2019?

Answer – Sweden Explanation: On January 23, 2019, Swedish aerospace and defence company signed a memorandum of understanding with the Airports Authority of India (AAI) to improve air traffic management (ATM) solutions in airports. The MoU was signed by Vineet Gulati, Member (ANS) from AAI and Peter Engberg, Head of Traffic Management, Saab Business Area Industrial Products and Services. Saab and the AAI will jointly explore potential avenues for co-operation for automation system solutions in India. Saab has ability to create Advanced-Surface Movement Guidance & Control System (A-SMGCS) and Surface Movement Radar (SR- 3), to Remote Towers which can be fitted at all types of airports. Saab's ATM solutions are now deployed in Ahmedabad, Amritsar, Guwahati, Jaipur, Lucknow, Chennai, Kolkata, Mumbai, New Delhi, Cochin and Bhubaneswar.

146. Competition Commission of India (CCI) approved the merger deal between GlaxoSmithKline Consumer Healthcare (GSKCH India) and ___ via an all-equity deal, on 25th January 2019?

Answer – Hindustan Unilever Limited Explanation: On January 25, 2019 Competition Commission of India (CCI), fair trade regulator has approved the merger deal between GlaxoSmithKline Consumer Healthcare (GSKCH India) and Hindustan Unilever Limited (HUL) via an all-equity deal. CCI also approved the merging of schemes between the two companies and the total business has been valued at Rs 31,700 crore. The scheme remains subject to the receipt of other necessary statutory and regulatory approvals under applicable laws, including by the NSE, SSE, SEBI, NCLT and the respective shareholders and creditors of HUL and the company. GSK CH India is familiar in the health food drinks with popular brands such as Horlicks and Boost. Anglo-Dutch FMCG giant

Unilever had announced already in Dec 2018 about the acquirement brands Horlicks and Boost from GlaxoSmithKline in India.

147. Economic Advisory Council of Prime Minister (EAC-PM) headed by NITI Aayog Member Bibek Debroy stated in its report that India will continue to grow in the 7 to ___ % range in the next few years despite global and structural challenges?

Answer – 7.5 % Explanation: On 25th January 2019, Economic Advisory Council of Prime Minister (EAC-PM) headed by NITI Aayog Member Bibek Debroy said in a report that India will continue to grow in the 7 to 7.5 percent range in the next few years despite global and structural challenges. The Growth rate of India may further improve by at least 1 per cent by the reforms designed to address the structural problems of the economy. As per the Economic Advisory Council, the macro-economic fundamentals of the economy are sound due to which India will remain one of the fastest growing economy despite global slowdown.

148. What was India's rank in the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) readiness index as per CISCO's 2019 Data Privacy Benchmark Study?

Answer – 6 Explanation: On 25th January 2019, the report released by CISCO on 2019 Data Privacy Benchmark Study ranked India in 6th position in General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) readiness index. As per the report 65% of Indian organization are better prepared for GDPR making India the 6th best prepared nation to deal with the new data privacy regulation which all organizations operating within the European Union and European Economic Area are mandated to comply with. As per the report 59% of organizations across the world reported meeting all requirements or most of the requirements, 29% expect to do so within a year while 9% will take more than a year. It also stated that organizations that invested to meet GDPR norms experienced shorter delays in selling to existing customers.

149. Where did Southern Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Association organize the South India MSME Summit-2019 on 29th January 2019?

Answer – Bengaluru Explanation: On January 29, 2019, southern Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Association organized the South India MSME Summit-2019 at Bengaluru. Basavaraj S Javali chaired the event. The summit is held with a motive to find solution for their major problems like absence of good infrastructure, technology issues, marketing, procurement issues, regulatory issues, red tape, harassment and victimization.

150. Where was the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting-2019 themed "Globalization 4.0: Shaping a Global Architecture in the Age of the Fourth Industrial Revolution" held from 22nd to 25th January 2019?

Answer – Davos-Klosters, Switzerland Explanation: From 22nd January 2019, the flagship event of World Economic Forum, The World Economic Forum Annual Meeting-2019 was held in Davos-Klosters, Switzerland. The theme of the event was "Globalization 4.0: Shaping a Global Architecture in the Age of the Fourth Industrial Revolution". The event concluded on 25th January 2019. The annual meeting brings together the heads and members of more than 100 governments, top executives of the 1,000 best global companies, leaders of

international organizations and relevant non-governmental organizations.

151. India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is poised to grow by ___% in the 2019-20 fiscal and 7.7% in 2020-2021, as per the World Economic Outlook Update, released by International Monetary Fund (IMF)?

Answer – 7.5 % Explanation: On 21st January 2019, Gita Gopinath the chief economist of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) released its World Economic Outlook Update in Davos, Switzerland. The report stated that India's gross domestic product (GDP) is poised to grow by 7.5% in the 2019-20 fiscal and 7.7% in 2020-2021. The report reaffirmed that India will continue to be the world's fastest growing major economy. The report stated that India's economic growth will benefit from lower oil prices which will ease the inflation pressures and result in slower pace of monetary tightening than previously expected. The global growth according to the report is projected at 3.5 per cent in 2019, a downgrade of 0.2 per cent from the October report, and 3.6 per cent in 2020, a reduction of 0.1 per cent due to weakness in Europe and some emerging markets. China's growth is expected to slip from 6.6 per cent last year to 6.2 per cent this year.

152. How many richest billionaires own as many assets as the 3.8 billion people who make up for the poorest half of the planet's population, as per Oxfam's Annual Wealth Check report 2019?

Answer – 26 Explanation: On 21st January 2019, the British charity group, Oxfam released its Annual Wealth Check report 2019 at the gathering of the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland. The report stated that Twenty six richest billionaires own as many assets as the 3.8 billion people who make up for the poorest half of the planet's population. The report also claimed that 2,200 billionaires worldwide saw their wealth grow by 12 percent, whereas the poorest half saw its wealth fall by 11 percent. A new billionaire was created every two days between 2017 and 2018 and the number of billionaires has doubled since the 2008 financial crisis. Oxfam proposed a 1% wealth tax which it believes would raise an estimated US\$418 billion a year which is enough to educate every child not in school and provide healthcare that would prevent three million deaths. In some countries, such as Brazil, the poorest 10 percent of society are now paying a higher proportion of their incomes in tax than the richest 10 percent. Jeff Bezos, the owner of Amazon and the world's richest man, saw his fortune increase to \$112 billion.

153. India has become the ___ most attractive investment destination by surpassing the United Kingdom, as per the survey report released by Price Waterhouse Coopers (PwC) on 21st January 2019?

Answer – 4th Explanation: On 21st January 2019, Price Waterhouse Coopers (PwC) released a survey report on the first day of the World Economic Forum (WEF) annual meeting and stated that India has become fourth most attractive investment destination by surpassing the United Kingdom. The report stated that the United States remained top investment destination with 27 per cent votes China stood second with 24 per cent votes and Germany remained third at 13 per cent votes. The survey was conducted among more than 1,300 CEOs and in 91 countries. India's popularity fell marginally from 9 per cent to 8 per cent. The survey reported that 85% of CEOs believe Artificial Intelligence would dramatically change their business

over next five years. Among the global CEOs, 30% believe that global economic growth would decline in next 12 months.

154. Name the Indian company that was accredited as the fastest growing brand in the IT Services sector over the past decade by Brand Finance, the world's leading brand valuation firm?

Answer – Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) Explanation: On 23rd January 2019, the leading global IT services, consulting and business solutions organization, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) was accredited as the fastest growing brand in the IT Services sector over the past decade by Brand Finance, the world's leading brand valuation firm. The report by Brand Finance was released at the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting in Davos, Switzerland. TCS which continues to be among the top 3 global IT Services brands saw its brand value increase by 23 percent over the previous year. Its brand rating was upgraded from AA+ to AAA-. The brand value of TCS increased by 447 per cent, from USD 2.34 Billion in 2010 to USD 12.8 Billion in 2019. Besides Rajesh Gopinathan, TCS' Chief Executive Officer was named as one of the top 100 global CEOs in a new Brand Guardianship Index by Brand Finance.

155. Life insurance firm IndiaFirst bought ___ % stake in CSC e-Governance services India Limited, on 28th January 2019?

Answer – 9 % Explanation: On 28th January 2019 Life insurance firm IndiaFirst buys 9% stake in CSC e-Governance services India Limited. This stake purchase demonstrates bringing personal risk protection to all sections of the society in the four year association with Common Services Centre (CSC). IndiaFirst life insurance is a joint venture between Bank of Baroda, Andhra Bank and Legal and General (UK). CSC is an integral part of Digital India initiative of the government under ministry of Electronics and information Technology. CSC e-Governance services India Limited is a special purpose vehicle (CSCSPV) incorporated under the companies Act, 1956 to monitor the implementation of common services centers scheme (CSCs). The financial inclusion journey will bring the 2 entities to work towards enabling village level entrepreneurs for reaching out to the last rule customers with tailored solutions.

156. Union Minister for Minority Affairs Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi announced that GST on Haj has been reduced to what percent, which in turn will reduce the airfare spend on Haj pilgrims' by Rs.113 crore in 2019?

Answer – 5 % Explanation: On January 29, 2019, Union Minister for Minority Affairs Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi announced that GST on Haj has been reduced from 18% to 5% and this will reduce the airfare spend on Haj pilgrims' by Rs.113 crore in 2019. This is also first time since the independence 2,340 women from India will go on 2019 Haj without Mehram.

157. India became the ___ largest steel producing country according to world steel association report, released on 28th January 2019?

Answer – 2nd Explanation: On 28th January 2019, India became second largest steel producing country according to world steel association report. India has replaced Japan to attain the 2nd largest country. China is the largest producer of crude steel. More than 51% of crude steel production is made by China. China produced 928.3 million tonnes in 2018 from 870.9 million tonnes in 2017 which is 6.6% growth. China's overall share increased to 51.3 % in 2018 from 50.3% in 2017. India's

crude steel production was 106.5 million tonnes in 2018 from 101.5 million tonnes in 2017. India shows 4.9% growth in production. World Steel Association is the international trade body for iron and steel industry with a purpose to promote steel and the steel industry to customers, the industry, media and the general public.

158. Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) has increased what per cent to Rs. 28.25 lakh crore, as per the “Census on Foreign Liabilities and Assets of Indian Direct Investment Companies, 2017-18” released by Reserve Bank of India?

Answer – 18 % Explanation: On 28th January 2019, Reserve Bank of India released a data on “Census on Foreign Liabilities and Assets of Indian Direct Investment Companies, 2017-18” which shows that the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) has been increased 18 per cent to Rs. 28.25 lakh crore. There is an increment of Rs 4,33,300 crore during 2017-18 which includes revaluation of past investments making the total FDI Rs. 28.25 lakh crore. Overseas Direct Investment (ODI) by Indian companies has also increased by 5% and reached Rs. 5.28 crore. Mauritius is the largest source of FDI in India (19.7%) followed by United States of America, United Kingdom, Singapore and Japan. Singapore was the top destination followed by Netherlands, Mauritius and United states of America in case of Overseas investment by Indian companies.

159. What was the rank of India in the Global Corruption Index 2018 released by Transparency International?

Answer - 78 Explanation: On January 30, 2019, Transparency International released the Global Corruption Index 2018. According to report, India ranked 78 out of 180 countries with a score of 41. While China ranked 87 and Pakistan ranked 117. While Denmark is the least corrupt country and Syria, South Sudan, Somalia is the most corrupt country.

160. Name the common digital currency launched by the central banks of United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia, on 29th January 2019?

Answer - ABER Explanation: On 29th January 2019, Central banks of UAE and Saudi Arabia launched common digital currency called ‘ABER’. UAE central bank will establish an additional means for the central financial transfer systems of

the two countries and enable bankers to directly deal with each other. ABER will be used in financial settlement between the two countries through Block chains and distributed Ledger technologies. Both Saudi Arabian Monetary Authority (SAMA) and the United Arab Emirates Central Bank (UAEIB) are studying the impact on the improvement and reduction of remittance costs and the assessment of risks through ABER. The use of digital currency will be restricted to a limited number of banks in each state. If the first phase is successful then economic and legal requirements for future uses will be considered.

161. Indian Government imposed anti-dumping duty on chemical imports from which country to ensure fair trading practices, on 27th January 2019?

Answer - China Explanation: On January 27, 2019, the Government imposed an anti-dumping duty on a chemical imports from China. The duty is entrusted to ensure fair trading practices and to create field for domestic producers to interact with foreign producers and exporters. This is second time anti-dumping duty has been imposed on the import of the chemical from China as the first one is to expire in March 2019.

162. Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) proposed a new set of framework for REITs and InvITs (Infrastructure Investments Trusts). What does “E” represent in “REIT”?

Answer - Estate Explanation: REIT - Real Estate Investment Trusts The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) proposed a new set of framework for REITs (Real Estate Investment Trusts) and InvITs (Infrastructure Investments Trusts) in order to provide flexibility to issuers in terms of fund raising and increasing the access of these investment vehicles to investors because despite of various relaxations given by SEBI, these investment vehicles have failed to attract investors. SEBI had allowed the setting up and listing of REITs under REITs Regulations which was notified by SEBI in 2014. SEBI had sought comments from Public till 18th February 2019 on the fresh Consultation paper released to amend regulations pertaining to both REITs and InvITs. The minimum allotment and trading lot for publicly issued REITs and InvITs is planned to be reduced under the new set of Framework. Leverage limit for InvITs is proposed to increase from existing 49% to 70%.