



ACE

Engineering Academy

Head Office : Sree Sindhi Guru Sangat Sabha Association, # 4-1-1236/1/A, King Koti, Abids, Hyderabad – 500001

Hyderabad | Delhi | Bhopal | Pune | Bhubaneswar | Lucknow | Patna | Bengaluru | Chennai | Vijayawada | Vizag | Tirupati | Kukatpally | Kolkata | Ahmedabad

30 in 30 days for August / 19 - Detailed solutions

01. Ans: (B)

Exp:

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

1. Appointments Committee of the Cabinet.

Composition

Prime Minister.

Shri Amit Shah, Minister of Home Affairs

2. Cabinet Committee on Accommodation.

Composition

Shri Amit Shah, Minister of Home Affairs

Shri Nitin Jairam Gadkari, Minister of Road Transport and Highways; Minister of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises.

Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, Minister of Finance; Minister of Corporate Affairs

Shri Piyush Goyal, Minister of Railways, Minister of Commerce & Industry.

Special Invitees

Shri Jitendra Singh, Minister of State(I/C) of the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region; Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office, Minister of State in the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, Minister of State in the Department of Atomic Energy; and Minister of State in the Department of Space

Shri Hardeep Singh Puri, Minister of State(I/C) of the Ministry of Housing &Urban Affairs;
Minister of State(I/C) of the Ministry of Civil Aviation; and Minister of State in the Ministry of
Commerce and Industry

3. Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs.

Composition

Prime Minister

Shri Rajnath Singh, Minister of Defence

Shri Amit Shah, Minister of Home Affairs

Shri Nitin Jairam Gadkari, Minister of Road Transport and Highways; Minister of Micro, Small &
Medium Enterprises

Shri D.V.Sadananda Gowda, Minister of Chemicals & Fertilizers

Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, Minister of Finance; Minister of Corporate Affairs

Shri Narendra Singh Tomar, Minister of Agriculture &Farmer Welfare, Minister of Rural
Development: and Minister of Panchayati Raj.

Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad, Minister of Communications and Information Technology; and Minister
of Law and Justice.

Smt. Harsimrat Kaur Badal, Minister of Food Processing Industries.

Dr. Subrahmanyan Jaishankar, Minister of External Affairs

Shri Piyush Goyal, Minister of Railways, Minister of Commerce &Industry

Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Petroleum
and Natural Gas and Minister of Steel.

4. Cabinet Committee on Parliamentary Affairs.

Composition

Shri Raj Nath Singh, Minister of Defence.

Shri Amit Shah, Minister of Home Affairs.

Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, Minister of Finance; Minister of Corporate Affairs

Shri Ramvilas Paswan, Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.

Shri Narendra Singh Tomar, Minister of Agriculture &Farmer Welfare, Minister of Rural
Development: and Minister of Panchayati Raj.

Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad, Minister of Communications and Information Technology; and Minister
of Law and Justice

Shri Thawar Chand Gehlot, Minister of Social Justice & Empowerment

Shri Prakash Javadekar, Minister of Environment, Forest & Climate Change; Minister of Information and Broadcasting

Shri Prahlad Joshi, Minister of Parliamentary Affairs; Minister of Coal and Mines.

Special Invitees

Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal, Minister of State Parliamentary Affairs; Minister of State in the Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises.

Shri V Muraleedharan, Minister of State Parliamentary Affairs;
Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs

5. Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs.

Composition

Prime Minister.

Shri Raj Nath Singh, Minister of Defence.

Shri Amit Shah, Minister of Home Affairs.

Shri Nitin Jairam Gadkari, Minister of Road Transport and Highways; Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.

Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, Minister of Finance; Minister of Corporate Affairs

Shri Ramvilas Paswan, Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.

Shri Narendra Singh Tomar, Minister of Agriculture & Farmer Welfare, Minister of Rural Development: and Minister of Panchayati Raj.

Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad, Minister of Communications and Minister of Electronics and Information Technology; and Minister of Law and Justice

Smt. Harsimrat Kaur Badal, Minister of Food Processing Industries.

Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Minister of Health & Family Welfare; Minister of Science & Technology; and Minister of Earth Sciences.

Shri Piyush Goyal, Minister of Railways, Minister of Commerce & Industry

Shri Prahlad Joshi, Minister of Parliamentary Affairs; Minister of Coal; and Minister of Mines.

Shri Arvind Ganpat Sawant, Minister of Heavy Industries & Public Enterprises

6. Cabinet Committee on Security.

Composition

Prime Minister.

Shri Rajnath Singh, Minister of Defence

Shri Amit Shah, Minister of Home Affairs

Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, Minister of Finance & Corporate Affairs.

Dr. Subrahmanyan Jaishankar, Minister of External Affairs.

7. Cabinet Committee on Investment and Growth.

Composition

Prime Minister.

Shri Rajnath Singh, Minister of Defence

Shri Amit Shah, Minister of Home Affairs.

Shri Nitin Jairam Gadkari, Minister of Road Transport & Highways, Minister of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises

Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, Minister of Finance & Corporate Affairs.

Shri Piyush Goyal, Minister of Railways & Minister of Commerce & Industry.

8. Cabinet Committee on Employment & Skill Development.

Composition

Prime Minister.

Shri Rajnath Singh, Minister of Defence

Shri Amit Shah, Minister of Home Affairs.

Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, Minister of Finance & Corporate Affairs

Shri Narendra Singh Tomar, Minister of Agriculture & Farmer Welfare, Minister of Rural Development: and Minister of Panchayati Raj.

Shri Piyush Goyal, Minister of Railways & Minister of Commerce & Industry

Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank', Minister of Human Resource Development

Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas: and Minister of Steel

Dr. Mahendra Nath Pandey, Minister of Skill development & Entrepreneurship

Shri Santosh Kumar Gangwar, MOS(I/C) Labour & Employment

Shri Hardeep Singh Puri, Minister of State(I/C) of the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs;

Minister of State(I/C) of the Ministry of Civil Aviation; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

Special Invitees

Shri Nitin Jairam Gadkari, Minister of Road Transport and Highways; Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.

Smt. Harsimrat Kaur Badal, Minister of Food Processing Industries.

Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani, Minister of Women & Child Development and Textiles

Shri Prahlad Singh Patel, Minister of State (I/C) Culture, MOS (I/C) Tourism.

02. Ans: (C)

Exp:

ECB is basically a loan availed by an Indian entity from a nonresident lender. Most of these loans are provided by foreign commercial banks and other institutions. It is a loan availed of from non-resident lenders with a minimum average maturity of 3 years. The significance of ECBs their size in India's balance of payment account. In the post reform period, ECBs have emerged a major form of foreign capital like FDI and FII.

During several years, contribution of ECBs was between 20 to 35 percent of the total capital flows into the country. Large number of Indian corporate and PSUs has used the ECBs as sources of investment.

Bulk of the overseas loans or ECBs into the country is obtained by private sector corporates. For the corporate, ECB is a dependable and easy to obtain fund and helps them to make business/investment expansion.

External Commercial Borrowings (ECBs) includes commercial bank loans, buyers' credit, suppliers' credit, securitized instruments such as Floating Rate Notes and Fixed Rate Bonds etc., credit from official export credit agencies and commercial borrowings from Multilateral Financial Institutions. ECBs are being permitted by the Government as a source of finance for Indian Corporate for expansion of existing capacity as well as for fresh investment. Following are the advantages of ECBs.

Advantages of ECBs

- ECBs provide opportunity to borrow large volume of funds
- The funds are available for relatively long term

- Interest rate are also lower compared to domestic funds
- ECBs are in the form of foreign currencies. Hence, they enable the corporate to have foreign currency to meet the import of machineries etc.
- Corporate can raise ECBs from internationally recognised sources such as banks, export credit agencies, international capital markets etc.

03. Ans: (C)

Exp:

Article 124: Establishment and Constitution of Supreme Court

(1) There shall be a Supreme Court of India consisting of a Chief Justice of India and, until Parliament by law prescribes a larger number, of not more than seven other Judges.

(2) Every Judge of the Supreme Court shall be appointed by the President by warrant under his hand and seal after consultation with such of the Judges of the Supreme Court and of the High Courts in the States as the President may deem necessary for the purpose and shall hold office until he attains the age of sixty-five years:

Provided that in the case of appointment of a Judge other than the Chief Justice, the Chief Justice of India shall always be consulted:

Provided further that –

- (a) a Judge may, by writing under his hand addressed to the President, resign his office;
- (b) a judge may be removed from his office in the manner provide in clause (4).
- (2A) the age of a Judge of the Supreme Court shall be determined by such authority and in such manner as Parliament may by law provide.

(3) A person shall not be qualified for appointment as a Judge of the Supreme Court unless he is a citizen of India and –

- (a) has been for at least five years a Judge of a High Court or of two or more such Courts in succession; or
- (b) has been for at least ten years an advocate of a High Court or of two or more such Courts in succession; or
- (c) is, in the opinion of the President, a distinguished jurist.

Explanation I: In this clause “High Court” means a High Court which exercises or which at any time before the commencement of this Constitution exercised, jurisdiction in any part of the territory of India.

Explanation II: In computing for the purpose of this clause the period during which a person has been an advocate, any period during which a person has held judicial office not inferior to that of a district judge after he became an advocate shall be included.

(4) A Judge of the Supreme Court shall not be removed from his office except by an order of the President passed after an address by each House of Parliament supported by a majority of the total membership of that House and by a majority of not less than two-thirds of the members of that House present and voting has been presented to the President in the same session for such removal on the ground of proved misbehaviour or incapacity.

(5) Parliament may by law regulate the procedure for the presentation of an address and for the investigation and proof of the misbehaviour or incapacity of a Judge under clause (4).

(6) Every person appointed to be a Judge of the Supreme Court shall, before he enters upon his office, make and subscribe before the President, or some person appointed in that behalf by him, an oath or affirmation according to the form set out for the purpose in the Third Schedule.

(7) No person who has held office as a Judge of the Supreme Court shall plead or act in any court of before any authority within the territory of India.

04. Ans: (D)

Exp:

PRAGATI is Information and Communication Technology based multi-purpose and multi-modal platform for Pro-active Governance and Timely Implementation, launched in the year 2015. It is an integrated and interactive platform which aims to address the grievances of a common man while simultaneously monitoring the significant programmes and projects of the Government of India and the state governments. It was designed by the Prime Minister’s Office with the assistance of the National Informatics Centre.

- Project Implementation
- Project Monitoring
- Grievance Redressal

Details on Pro Active Governance and Timely Implementation:

- It is a three tier system comprising of the Prime Minister's Office, Secretaries of the Central Government and Chief Secretaries of the State.
- PRAGATI upholds cooperative federalism as it is a unique platform that brings together, the Secretaries of Government of India and the Chief Secretaries of the states onto one single platform.
- The conference is scheduled on every fourth Wednesdays, called PRAGATI day. The matters to be discussed will be picked up from the available database and will be uploaded seven days prior to the PRAGATI day.
- It is in line with the governments agenda of "Minimum Government and Maximum Governance" and is an innovative project promoting e-governance & good-governance. PRAGATI would make governance more effective, efficient and responsive.
- The platform is a combination of three latest technologies namely geo- spatial technology, video-conferencing and digital data management.
- The system makes use of data from Centralized Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS), Project Monitoring Groups (PMG) and Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation for effective public grievance redressal.
- The status of a project is monitored and reviewed at regular intervals to check the progress, as it is important for the Central government to facilitate the projects of the states for the holistic development of the country.
- The programme will ensure the timely completion and speedy implementation of the government projects.

05. Ans: (C)

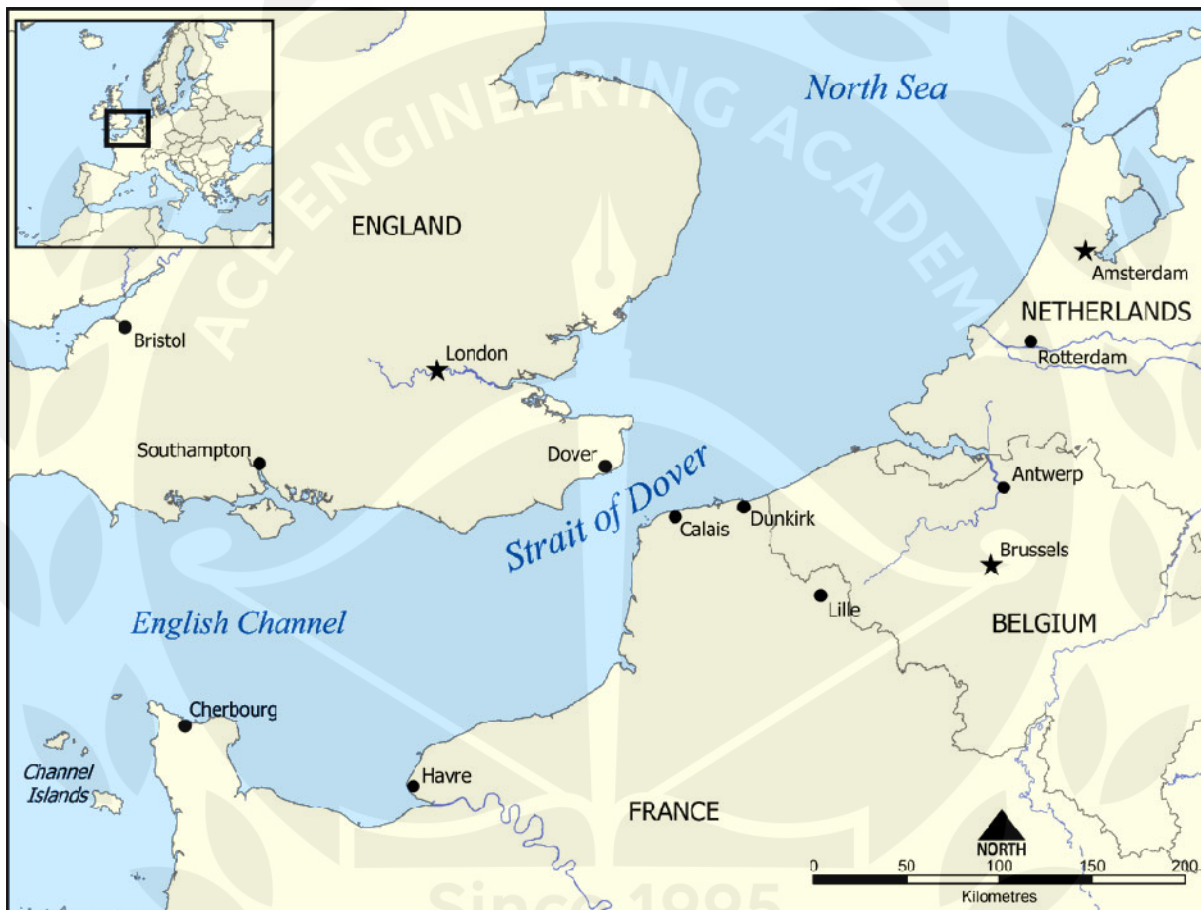
Exp:

- Quick Reaction Surface-to-Air Missile is a missile developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation in association with Bharat Electronics Limited and Bharat Dynamics Limited for the Indian Army.
- The air defence system, QRSAM, was test-fired at 11.05 am from a mobile truck-based launch unit at complex 3 of the Integrated Test Range (ITR) at Chandipur near here, DRDO sources said.

- The all-weather and all-terrain missile, which can be mounted on a truck and stored in a canister, is equipped with electronic counter measures against jamming by aircraft radars, they said.
- QRSAM uses solid-fuel propellant and has a range of 25-30 km

06. Ans: (B)

Exp:



07. Ans: (B)

Exp:



08. Ans: (C)

Exp:

The 5th National Handloom Day will be celebrated tomorrow across the country. Union Minister of Textiles and Women and Child Development, Smriti Zubin Irani, will preside over a function at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi to mark the occasion.

Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas, Dharmendra Pradhan, and Minister of State for Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries and Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises, Pratap Chandra Sarangi, will also be present on this occasion.

The main event will be held in Bhubaneswar, Odisha. Bhubaneswar has been chosen as the venue for the main event due to its rich tradition of Handlooms. More than fifty percent of total weaver's population of India resides in Eastern and North Eastern Regions and most of them are women. The prime objective of holding the National Handloom Day in Bhubaneswar is to empower women and girls.

The following activities will be undertaken all across the country

- Distribution of Penchant Cards and Yarn Passbooks
- Distribution of MUDRA loan
- Distribution of lighting units and certificates for construction of work sheds.
- National Handloom Day to be observed at Weavers' Service Centres in different States.

The National Handloom Day is observed annually on 7th August to honour the handloom weavers in the country and also highlight India's handloom industry. National Handloom Day seeks to focus on the contribution of handloom to the socio economic development of the country and also increase the income of weavers.

The Union Government had declared 7th of August as the National Handloom Day in July 2015 with the objective of generating awareness about the importance of the handloom industry to the socio economic development of the country. August 7 was chosen as the National Handloom Day to commemorate the Swadesi Movement which was launched on this day in 1905 in Calcutta Town Hall to protest against the partition of Bengal by the British Government. The movement had aimed at reviving domestic products and production processes.

09. Ans: (B)

Exp:

Adjournment sine die means terminating a sitting of Parliament for an indefinite period. In other words, when the House is adjourned without naming a day for reassembly, it is called adjournment sine die. The power of adjournment sine die lies with the presiding officer of the House.

10. Ans: (B)

Exp:

Papua New Guinea has the highest number of living indigenous languages in the world with 840. India stands fourth with 453. UN observes the year 2019 as its International Year of Indigenous Languages. UN's Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues reported that nearly 40% of the estimated 6,700 languages spoken around the world were in danger of disappearing and endangered.

Totally 7,111 living languages worldwide has been listed so far. The most widely spoken languages worldwide are Chinese, Spanish, English, Hindi and Arabic. These 5 languages cover around 40% of the total worldwide languages.

Papua New Guinea is linguistically the world's most diverse country with more than 700 native tongues. Around 80% of the country's people are not exposed to modern life. The people live within a non-monetarised economy dependent on subsistence agriculture

11. Ans: (B)

Exp:

The Union Cabinet has approved the signing of the United Nations Convention on International Settlement Agreements (UNISA) by India. United Nations Convention on International Settlement Agreements is scheduled to be signed at Singapore on 7th August, 2019, or at the United Nations.

Until the adoption of the convention, the often-cited challenge to the use of mediation was the lack of an efficient and harmonized framework for cross-border enforcement of settlement agreements resulting from mediation.

12. Ans: (D)

Exp:

➤ Recently government conferred Bharat Ratna to three

1. Bhupen Hazarika
2. Nanaji Deshmukh
3. Pranab Mukerjee

S. No.	NAME	AWARDED IN	S. No.	NAME	AWARDED IN
1.	Shri Chakravarti Rajagopalachari (1878-1972)	1954	23.	Dr. Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela (1918-2013)	1990
2.	Dr. Sarvapali Radhakrishnan (1888-1975)	1954	24.	Shri Rajiv Gandhi (Posthumous) (1944-1991)	1991
3.	Dr. Chandrasekhara Venkata Raman (1888-1970)	1954	25.	Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel (Posthumous) (1875-1950)	1991
4.	Dr. Bhagwan Das (1869-1958)	1955	26.	Shri Morarji Ranchhodji Desai (1896-1995)	1991
5.	Dr. Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya (1861-1962)	1955	27.	Maulana Abul Kalam Azad (Posthumous) (1888-1958)	1992
6.	Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru (1889 -1964)	1955	28.	Shri Jehangir Ratanji Dadabhai Tata (1904-1993)	1992
7.	Pt. Govind Ballabh Pant (1887-1961)	1957	29.	Shri Satyajit Ray (1922-1992)	1992
8.	Dr. Dhondo Keshave Karve (1858-1962)	1958	30.	Shri Gulzarilal Nanda (1898-1998)	1997
9.	Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy (1882-1962)	1961	31.	Smt. Aruna Asaf Ali (Posthumous) (1909-1996)	1997
10.	Shri Purushottam Das Tandon (1882-1962)	1961	32.	Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam (b-1931)	1997
11.	Dr. Rajendra Prasad (1884-1963)	1962	33.	Smt. Madurai Sanmukhavadi Subbulakshmi (1916-2005)	1998
12.	Dr. Zakir Hussain (1897-1969)	1963	34.	Shri Chidambaram Subramniam (1910-2000)	1998
13.	Dr. Pandurang Vaman Kane (1880-1972)	1963	35.	Loknayak Jayaprakash Narayan (Posthumous) (1902-1979)	1999
14.	Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri (Posthumous) (1904-1966)	1966	36.	Professor Amartya Sen (b-1933)	1999
15.	Smt. Indira Gandhi (1917-1984)	1971	37.	Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi (Posthumous) (1890-1950)	1999
16.	Shri Varahagiri Venkata Giri (1894-1980)	1975	38.	Pandit Ravi Shankar (1920-2012)	1999
17.	Shri Kumaraswami Kamraj (Posthumous) (1903-1975)	1976	39.	Sushri Lata Dinanath Mangeshkar (b-1929)	2001
18.	Mother Mary Teresa Bojaxhiu (Mother Teresa) (1910-1997)	1980	40.	Ustad Bismillah Khan (1916-2006)	2001
19.	Shri Acharya Vinobha Bhave (Posthumous) (1895-1982)	1983	41.	Pandit Bhimsen Gururaj Joshi (1922-2011)	2009
20.	Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan (1890-1988)	1987	42.	Prof. C.N.R. Rao	2014
21.	Shri Marudu Gopalan Ramachandran (Posthumous) (1917-1987)	1988	43.	Shri Sachin Tendulkar	2014
22.	Dr. Bhim Rao Ramji Ambedkar (Posthumous) (1891-1956)	1990			

13. Ans: (C)

Exp:

The Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances (DARPG), in association with Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India and the State Government of Meghalaya organized the 22nd National Conference on e-Governance (NCeG) 2019 on 8-9th August, 2019 at Shillong, Meghalaya. The theme of this Conference was “Digital India: Success to Excellence”. At the valedictory session today, ‘Shillong Declaration’ on e-Governance was adopted after intensive deliberations during the sessions held over two days.

NCeG 2019 provided a platform for the delegates, including senior government officers from across the country, industry stalwarts and researchers, to share best practices, latest technology developments and leveraging them for achieving effective governance and public service delivery. The focus of all the sessions was on learning with each other’s experiences to ensure effective e-governance for citizen satisfaction and achieve Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi’s vision of ‘Minimum Government, Maximum Governance’.

14. Ans: (A)

Exp:

In a bid to implement ‘One Nation, One Ration Card’ across the country by June 1, 2020, the Centre on Friday kick-started inter-state portability of ration cards between Telangana-Andhra Pradesh as well as Maharashtra-Gujarat.

This means beneficiaries living in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh can buy their quota of ration from the Public Distribution System (PDS), also called ration shops, in either of the two States. Similar would be the case in Maharashtra and Gujarat.

15. Ans: (B)

Exp:

The Army has launched "Mission Reach Out" in Jammu to ensure basic necessities and essential services are available in the region post the abrogation of the provisions of Article 370 and reorganisation of Jammu and Kashmir.

16. Ans: (A)

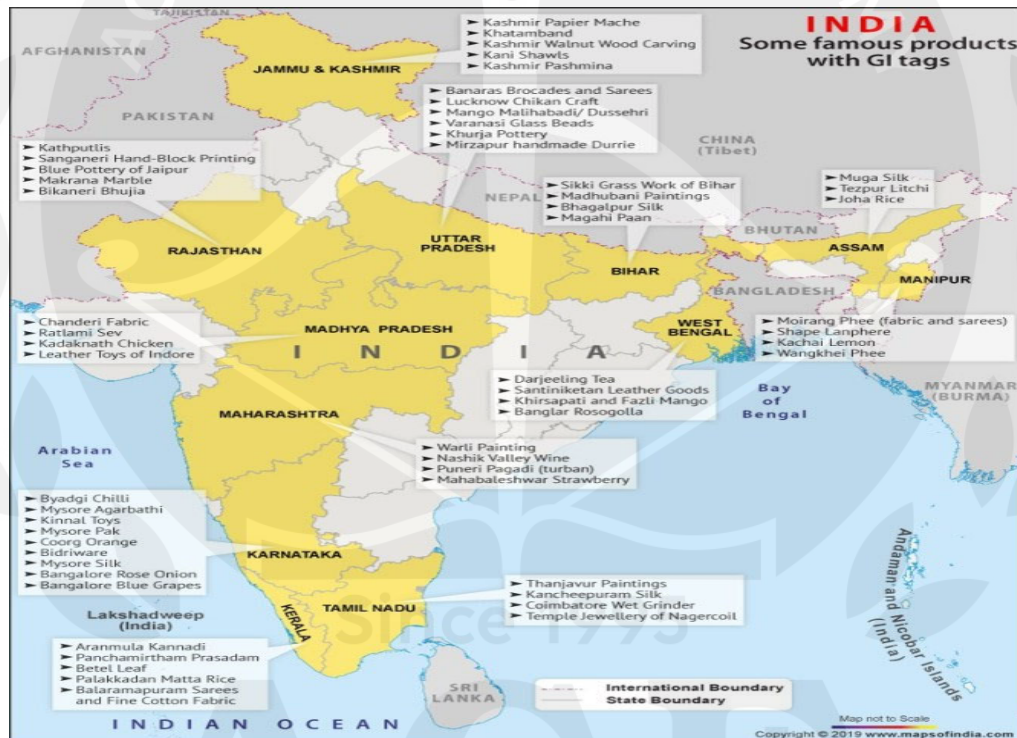
Exp:

Newly discovered Kajin Sara lake in Manang district of Nepal is all set to become the world's highest lake replacing Tilicho lake (also in Manang), which currently holds the title. The lake is situated at a height of 5,200 metres at Singarkharka in Chame Rural Municipality of Manang.

As per the measurement of the lake by the team, it is located at an altitude of 5,200 metres, which is yet to be officially verified. The lake called Singar locally, which is said to have formed out of the water melted from the Himalayas, can be reached after 18 hours' trek from Manang district headquarters, Chame. It's 24 km from Chame

17. Ans: (B)

Exp:



18. Ans: (C)

Exp:

The BASIC group was formed as the result of an agreement signed by the four countries on November 28, 2009. They are a bloc of four large newly industrialized countries – Brazil, South Africa, India and China.

The signatory nations have a broadly common position on reducing greenhouse gas emissions and raising the massive funds that are needed to fight climate change.

The BASIC countries constituted one of the parties in the Copenhagen Accord reached with the US-led grouping; the Accord, was, however, not legally binding.

The BASIC group wields considerable heft purely because of the size of the economies and populations of the member countries.

Brazil, South Africa, India and China put together has one-third of the world's geographical area and nearly 40% of the world's population, and when they unitedly speak in one voice this shows their determination.

BASIC is one of several groups of nations working together to fight climate change and carry out negotiations within the UNFCCC.

19. Ans: (B)

Exp:

The Cabinet Secretariat is responsible for the administration of the Government of India (Transaction of Business) Rules, 1961 and the Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules 1961, facilitating smooth transaction of business in Ministries/ Departments of the Government. This Secretariat provides Secretarial assistance to the Cabinet and its Committees, and also assists in decision-making in Government by ensuring Inter-Ministerial coordination, ironing out differences amongst Ministries/ Departments and evolving consensus through the instrumentality of the standing/ adhoc Committees of Secretaries. Through this mechanism new policy initiatives are also promoted.

The Cabinet Secretariat ensures that the President, the Vice President and Ministers are kept informed of the major activities of all Ministries/Departments by means of monthly summary of their activities. Management of major crisis situations in the country and coordinating activities of various Ministries in such a situation is also one of the functions of the Cabinet Secretariat.

20. Ans: (C)

Exp:

- Mahatma Gandhi was born on 2nd October 1969 at porbandar, Gujarat. This year marks 150 years of birth anniversary.



21. Ans: (D)

Exp:

The idea of creation of Zonal Councils was mooted by the first Prime Minister of India, Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru in 1956 when during the course of debate on the report of the States Re-organisation Commission, he suggested that the States proposed to be reorganised may be grouped into four or five zones having an Advisory Council 'to develop the habit of cooperative working' among these States. This suggestion was made by Pandit Nehru at a time when linguistic hostilities and bitterness as a result of re-organisation of the States on linguistic pattern were threatening the very fabric of our nation. As an antidote to this situation, it was suggested that a high level advisory forum should be set up to minimise the impact of these hostilities and to create healthy inter-State and Centre-State environment with a view to solving inter-State problems and fostering balanced socio economic development of the respective zones.

In the light of the vision of Pandit Nehru, five Zonal Councils were set up vide Part-III of the States Re-organisation Act, 1956. The present composition of each of these Zonal Councils is as under:

The Northern Zonal Council, comprising the States of Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab, Rajasthan, National Capital Territory of Delhi and Union Territory of Chandigarh;

The Central Zonal Council, comprising the States of Chhattisgarh, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh;

The Eastern Zonal Council, comprising the States of Bihar, Jharkhand, Orissa, Sikkim and West Bengal;

The Western Zonal Council, comprising the States of Goa, Gujarat, Maharashtra and the Union Territories of Daman & Diu and Dadra & Nagar Haveli;

The Southern Zonal Council, comprising the States of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and the Union Territory of Puducherry.

The North Eastern States i.e. (i) Assam (ii) Arunachal Pradesh (iii) Manipur (iv) Tripura (v) Mizoram (vi) Meghalaya and (vii) Nagaland are not included in the Zonal Councils and their special problems are looked after by the North Eastern Council, set up under the North Eastern Council Act, 1972. The State of Sikkim has also been included in the North Eastern Council vide North Eastern Council (Amendment) Act, 2002 notified on 23rd December 2002. Consequently, action for exclusion of Sikkim as member of Eastern Zonal Council has been initiated by Ministry of Home Affairs.

The Zonal Councils provide an excellent forum where irritants between Centre and States and amongst States can be resolved through free and frank discussions and consultations. Being advisory bodies, there is full scope for free and frank exchange of views in their meetings. Though there are a large number of other fora like the National Development Council, Inter State Council, Governor's/Chief Minister's Conferences and other periodical high level conferences held under the auspices of the Union Government, the Zonal Councils are different, both in content and character. They are regional fora of cooperative endeavour for States linked with each other economically, politically and culturally. Being compact high level bodies, specially meant for looking after the interests of respective zones, they are capable of focusing attention on specific issues taking into account regional factors, while keeping the national perspective in view.

The main objectives of setting up of Zonal Councils are as under :

- Bringing out national integration;
- Arresting the growth of acute State consciousness, regionalism, linguism and particularistic tendencies;
- Enabling the Centre and the States to co-operate and exchange ideas and experiences;
- Establishing a climate of co-operation amongst the States for successful and speedy execution of development projects

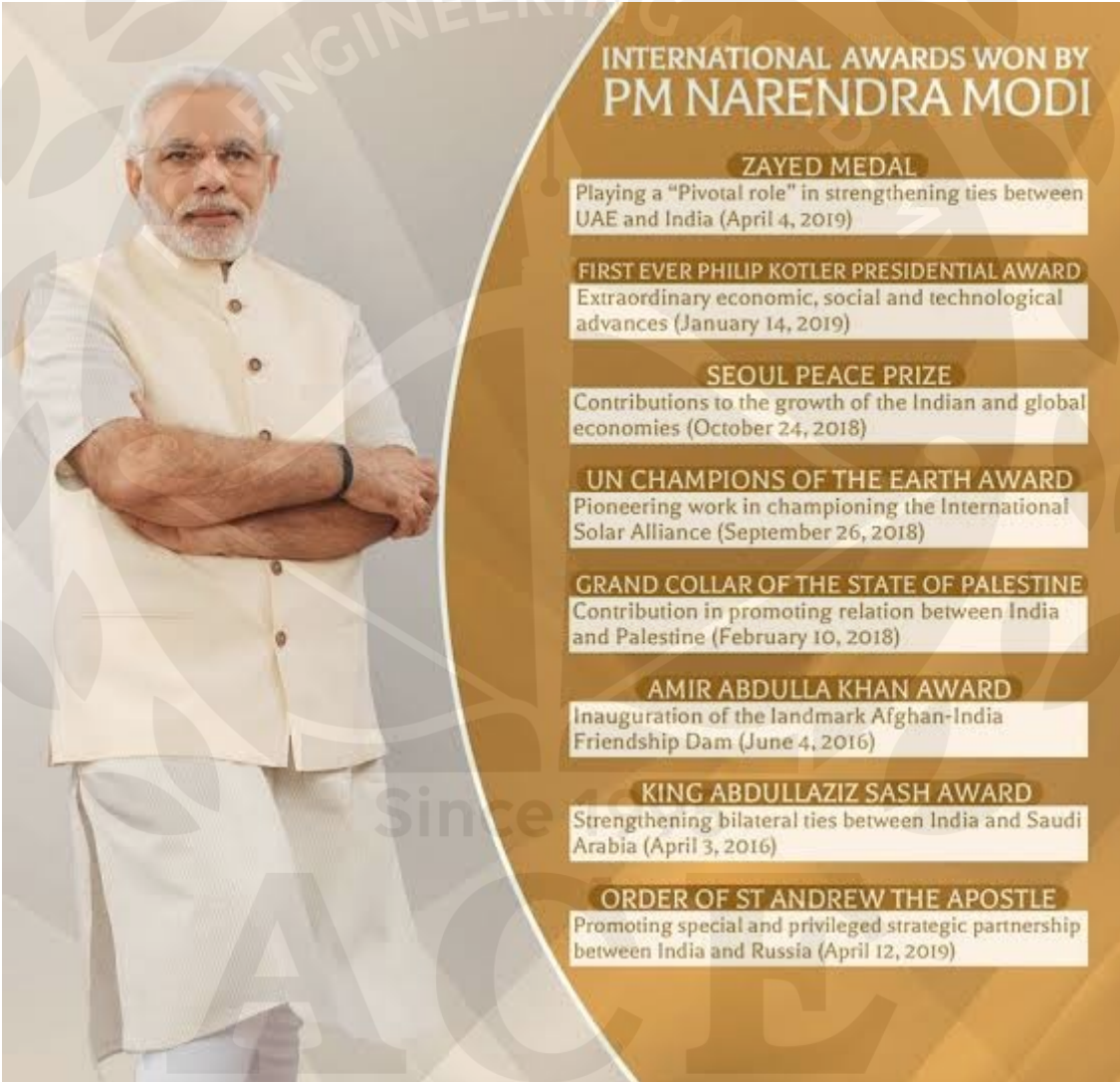
22. Ans: (B)

Exp:

Russia has launched a humanoid robot into space on a rocket bound for the International Space Station (ISS). The space robot Fedor (Final Experimental Demonstration Object Research) was the only passenger onboard the Soyuz rocket, which launched from Russia's Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan. The robot will spend 10 days aboard the ISS practising other skills, such as using tools to fix issues that might arise on the space station.

23. Ans: (A)

Exp:



INTERNATIONAL AWARDS WON BY PM NARENDRA MODI

- ZAYED MEDAL**
Playing a "Pivotal role" in strengthening ties between UAE and India (April 4, 2019)
- FIRST EVER PHILIP KOTLER PRESIDENTIAL AWARD**
Extraordinary economic, social and technological advances (January 14, 2019)
- SEOUL PEACE PRIZE**
Contributions to the growth of the Indian and global economies (October 24, 2018)
- UN CHAMPIONS OF THE EARTH AWARD**
Pioneering work in championing the International Solar Alliance (September 26, 2018)
- GRAND COLLAR OF THE STATE OF PALESTINE**
Contribution in promoting relation between India and Palestine (February 10, 2018)
- AMIR ABDULLA KHAN AWARD**
Inauguration of the landmark Afghan-India Friendship Dam (June 4, 2016)
- KING ABDULLAZIZ SASH AWARD**
Strengthening bilateral ties between India and Saudi Arabia (April 3, 2016)
- ORDER OF ST ANDREW THE APOSTLE**
Promoting special and privileged strategic partnership between India and Russia (April 12, 2019)

24. Ans: (C)

Exp:

Established in 1994, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) is the sole legally binding international agreement linking environment and development to sustainable land management. The Convention addresses specifically the arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas, known as the dry lands, where some of the most vulnerable ecosystems and peoples can be found.

The new UNCCD 2018-2030 Strategic Framework is the most comprehensive global commitment to achieve Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) in order to restore the productivity of vast expanses of degraded land, improve the livelihoods of more than 1.3 billion people, and reduce the impacts of drought on vulnerable populations to build a future that avoids, minimizes, and reverses desertification/land degradation and mitigates the effects of drought in affected areas at all levels ... to achieve a land degradation-neutral world consistent with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

The Convention's 197 parties work together to improve the living conditions for people in dry lands, to maintain and restore land and soil productivity, and to mitigate the effects of drought. The UNCCD is particularly committed to a bottom-up approach, encouraging the participation of local people in combating desertification and land degradation. The UNCCD secretariat facilitates cooperation between developed and developing countries, particularly around knowledge and technology transfer for sustainable land management.

As the dynamics of land, climate and biodiversity are intimately connected, the UNCCD collaborates closely with the other two Rio Conventions; the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), to meet these complex challenges with an integrated approach and the best possible use of natural resources.

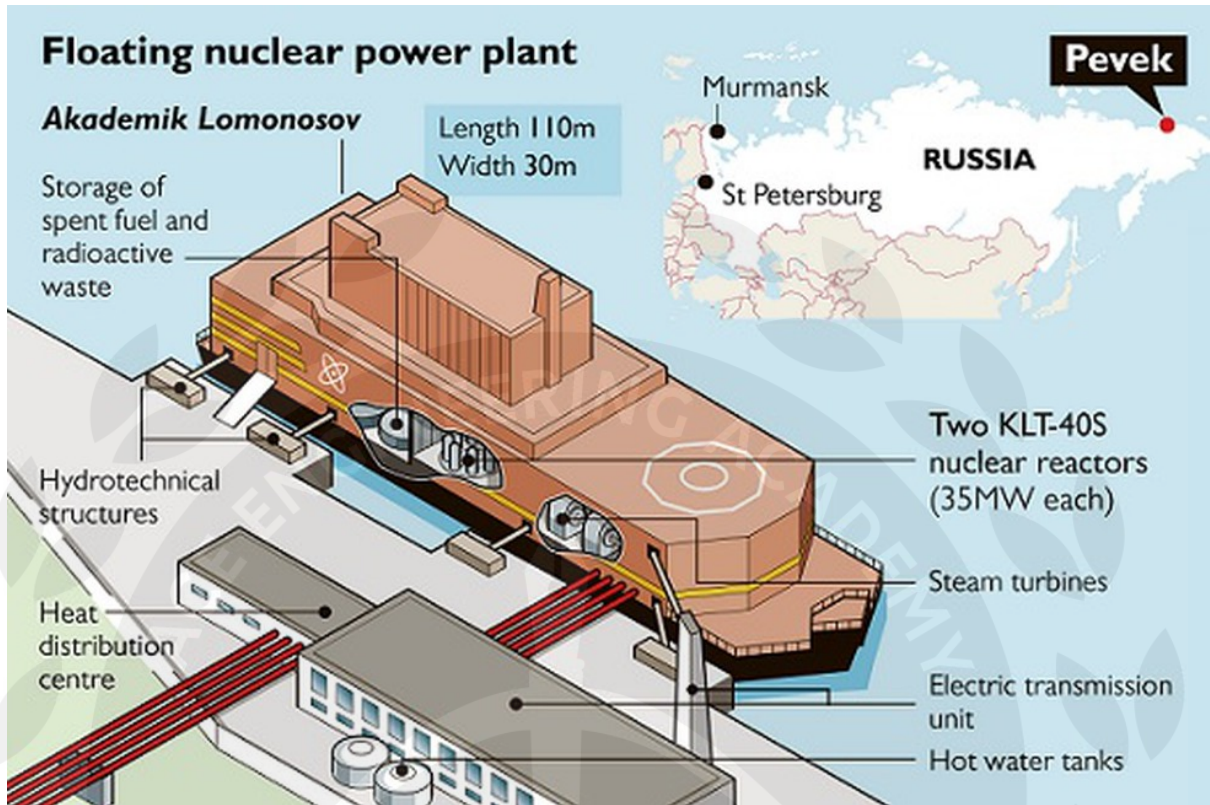
25. Ans: (A)

Exp:

The eighth annual joint exercise of Pakistan and Chinese Air forces, 'Shaheen-VIII', has started at northwest China. The joint training aims to improve training standards of the two air forces through mutual learning. It will also help enhance close relations between the two countries in general and develop a mechanism for interoperability of both air forces in particular.

26. Ans: (C)

Exp:



27. Ans: (B)

Exp:

Mission Possible

Oct 2: Target date by when Centre proposes to collect and dispose of **10,000 t** of single-use plastic items

Govt depts & organisations under them to launch countrywide campaign from Sept 11

Each ministry to start initiatives to generate awareness

Plan includes:

End to single-use plastic water bottles

Alternatives for milk packets

Replacing plastic bags with jute, crepe bags across stores

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The infographic features a woman with glasses and a yellow top holding several shopping bags. It outlines a government initiative to reduce plastic waste by October 2, involving a nationwide campaign starting on September 11. The plan includes ending single-use plastic water bottles and replacing plastic bags with jute or crepe bags. It also mentions alternatives for milk packets.

28. Ans: (C)

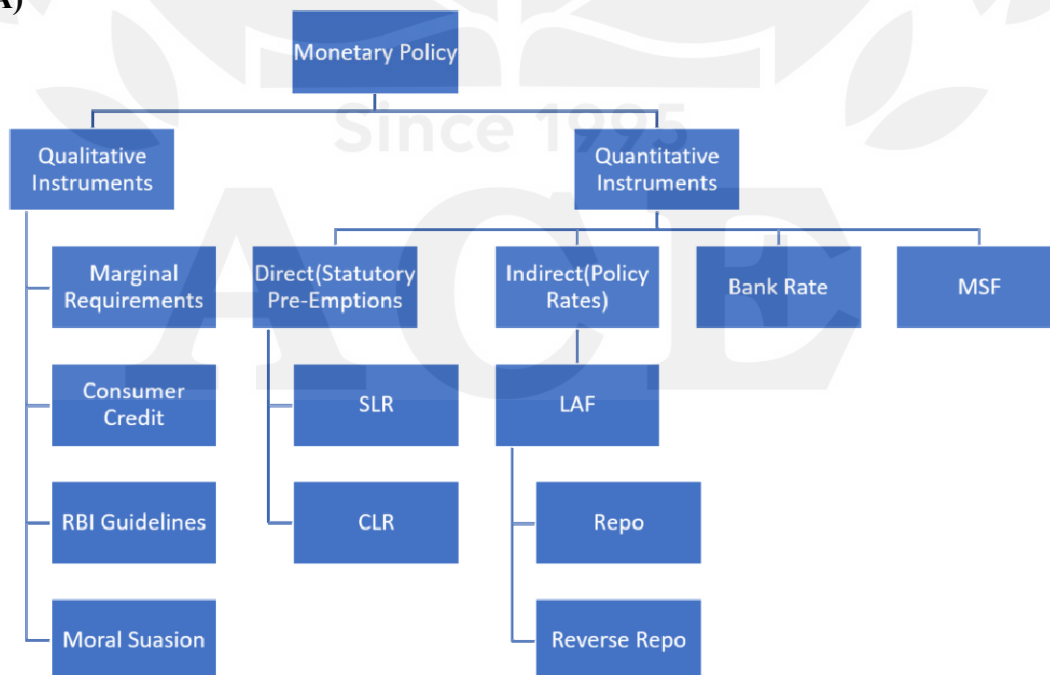
Exp:

Article 116: Votes on account, votes of credit and exceptional grants

- (1) Notwithstanding anything in the foregoing provisions of this Chapter, the House of the People shall have power
 - (a) To make any grant in advance in respect of the estimated expenditure for a part of any financial year pending the completion of the procedure prescribed in article 113 for the voting of such grant and the passing of the law in accordance with the provisions of article 114 in relation to that expenditure;
 - (b) To make a grant for meeting an unexpected demand upon their sources of India when on account of the magnitude or the indefinite character of the service the demand cannot be stand with the details ordinarily given in an annual financial statement;
 - (c) To make an exceptional grant which forms no part of the current service of any financial year; and Parliament shall have power to authorise by law the withdrawal of moneys from the Consolidated Fund of India for the purposes for which they said grants are made
- (2) The provisions of articles 113 and 114 shall have effect in relation to the making of any grant under clause (1) and to any law to be made under that clause as they have effect in relation to the making of a grant with regard to any expenditure mentioned in the annual financial statement and the law to be made for the authorisation of appropriation of moneys out of the Consolidated Fund of India to meet such expenditure

29. Ans: (A)

Exp:



30. Ans: (C)

Exp:

DD NEWS

PSLV AND GSLV

PSLV POLAR SATELLITE LAUNCH VEHICLE

Height: 44 m
Diameter: 2.8 m
Number of stages: 4
Lift Off Mass: 320 tonnes (XL)
First Flight: September 20, 1993

- PSLV delivers 'earth-observation' or 'remote-sensing' satellites of up to 1,750 kg of payload to Sun-Synchronous Polar Orbits of 600-900 km altitude
- The remote sensing satellites orbit the earth from pole-to-pole
- PSLV is a 4-staged launch vehicle with 1st & 3rd stage using solid rocket motors and 2nd & 4th stages using liquid rocket engines

GSLV GEOSYNCHRONOUS SATELLITE LAUNCH VEHICLE

Height: 49.13 m
Diameter: 2.8 m
Number of stages: 3
Lift Off Mass: 414.75 tonnes
First Flight: April 18, 2001

- GSLV delivers the communication satellites to the highly elliptical (typically 250 x 36000 Km) Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO)
- The satellites in these orbits appear to remain permanently fixed in same position in the sky
- GSLV is a 3-staged vehicle with 1st stage using solid rocket motor, 2nd stage using Liquid fuel and the 3rd stage using cryogenic engine

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