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NATIONAL ISSUES

Chief Justice of India R.M. Lodha made a frontal attack on the Centre

- Chief Justice of India R.M. Lodha made a frontal attack on the Centre for unilaterally segregating senior advocate Gopal Subramaniam's name for elevation as a Supreme Court judge without his knowledge and concurrence.
- Speaking at a farewell function for Justice B.S. Chauhan on his superannuation, the CJI said "the segregation of Mr. Gopal Subramaniam's name was done unilaterally by the Executive without my knowledge and concurrence which was not proper."
- Referring to the appointment controversy, the CJI said: "This is one subject which is non-negotiable. At no cost the independence of the judiciary will be allowed to be compromised. I will not hold my office if I feel that the independence of the institution of the judiciary has been compromised. I failed to understand that the appointment to a high constitutional position has been dealt with in a casual manner.

Central govt. extends validity of industrial licences

- The Modi Government, announced its first step towards greater ease of doing business by addressing the industry's demand on the simplification of the process for the extensions of industrial licences.
- In a new Press Note, the government extended the period of validity of industrial licences from two years to three years and relaxed the requirement for companies to have to go back to the Licensing Committee for the extensions. The extensions will now be done with the approval of the Joint Secretary concerned of the administrative ministry.
- The new guidelines will apply to those cases where even three years after the issue of the industrial licence, the licence holder has not commenced production. The renewals would be allowed for a period of two years.
- The Press Note also clarified the preconditions for the extensions. These include: Land should have been acquired, either under ownership or on lease for a minimum period of 30 years and the orders for plant and machinery for the project should have been placed. Certificates from an appropriate local body such as the Municipal Corporation stating construction on the project has commenced will also be required.

J&K visit: Development, security to top Modi's agenda

- Development and security will top Prime Minister Narendra Modi's agenda on his visit to Jammu and Kashmir, which comes just a month after he was sworn-in.

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- The Prime Minister is making a short one-day visit, but touching both Jammu and the Kashmir Valley, with stops in Jammu, Katra, Srinagar and Uri, inaugurating a railway line, a power project, addressing a gathering in Katra and addressing the troops in Srinagar. However, there will be no political outreach as in the past. There are no official meetings with the Chief Minister, his cabinet, or any public gatherings in the Valley.
- The Prime Minister's agenda isn't the only departure from the past. He will be stopping in Srinagar for a couple of hours only, to address a 'Sainik Sammelan', speaking to a group of soldiers posted at various places in the State. He will also hold a security review meeting with corp commanders.

Modi is the third most followed on Twitter

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi, an avid user of social media, is the third most followed world leader on micro blogging website Twitter, next only to U.S. President Barack Obama and the Pope.
- Mr. Modi, who overtook Indonesian President S.B. Yudhoyono on Thursday, has 5.09 million followers. Mr. Obama has 43.9 million followers, while the Pope has over 14 million and Yudhoyono has 5.08 million.
- This shows how Mr. Modi has been actively using Twitter to connect with the masses reinforcing the tool of digital diplomacy in a larger context making the social media platform a powerful channel for communicating and engaging with all Indians across the country.

Government favours Aadhaar

- In a bid to clear confusion and duplication between the National Population Register (NPR) and Aadhaar cards, the NDA government has decided to explore the possibility of a synergy between the two ambitious projects of the previous UPA government.
- The issue was discussed at a high-level meeting, convened by Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh and attended by Law and Justice and Telecom Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad and Minister of State for Planning Rao Inderjit Singh. The meeting discussed how the two could be made "complementary.
- The issue will now be discussed by officials of all Ministries concerned and a way will be found soon.
- The Home Ministry has already suggested that the NPR and Aadhaar schemes be merged under the Registrar General of India (RGI) or division of work between the two should be in such a way that enrolment is done entirely by NPR while the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), which runs Aadhaar, carries out reduplication ahead of generating the unique number.
- The UIDAI was set up by the UPA government in 2009 under the chairmanship of Nandan Nilekani. It comes under the Planning Commission.

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Centre to sort out GST compensation

- Finance Minister Arun Jaitley said the Centre would sort out compensation issues with States to ensure early roll-out of Goods and Service Tax (GST), a new indirect tax regime that will subsume various levies.
- After meeting State finance ministers, he said there was a broad consensus on implementing the GST regime, and efforts would be made to sort out the pending issues, especially with regard to compensation for loss of revenue.

ED books Tyagi

- The Enforcement Directorate has registered a money laundering case against retired Air Chief Marshal S.P. Tyagi and others in connection with the alleged payment of over ₹1.4 million by AgustaWestland to IDS Infotech India and its erstwhile Tunisia subsidiary.
- Transferred in seven instalments between 2007 and 2011, the money was allegedly meant to pay kickbacks for the ₹3,700 crore VVIP chopper deal. While IDS Infotech allegedly received a total of ₹1.4 million, the rest went to IDS Tunisia.

Supreme Court stays order Quashing VC's Appointment

- The Supreme Court stayed an order of the Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court, quashing the appointment of Kalyani Mathivanan as Vice-Chancellor of Madurai Kamaraj University.
- After hearing senior counsel K.K. Venugopal, who appeared for Ms. Kalyani, a Bench of Justices S.J. Mukhopadhaya and Ranjan Gogoi issued notice to the respondents, including the petitioner who got the appointment quashed.
- Since 1965, Madurai Kamaraj University, like every other university in Tamil Nadu, had prescribed no qualification for appointment as Vice-Chancellor, going instead by the wisdom of the Chancellor and the experience of the search committee. The UGC Regulations, introduced in 2010, upset the existing mechanism, affecting the federal structure of the Constitution.

Goa Governor also Quits

- Goa Governor Bharat Vir Wanchoo, who was quizzed by a team of the Central Bureau of Investigation as a “witness” in AgustaWestland Chopper deal scam, submitted his resignation in the evening.
- He forwarded his resignation to the President of India. The Governor, a former chief of the elite Special Protection Group, recorded his statement as a “witness” in the VVIP helicopter case under Section 161 CrPC. Continuing its probe into allegations of over ₹360 crore bribe paid in the purchase of VVIP helicopters, a team of CBI comprising officials from Mumbai and Delhi recorded Mr. Wanchoo's statement.

- His questioning comes a week after former West Bengal Governor M.K. Narayanan was quizzed by the CBI; Mr. Narayanan resigned thereafter.

Maharashtra had the highest number of police suicides

- Maharashtra has had the highest number of recorded suicides by police personnel in the past year, according to latest data released by the National Crime Records Bureau.
- The State recorded 40 cases of suicides by men in uniform in 2013, edging out Tamil Nadu (31) and West Bengal (29) to top the charts. Overall, 222 police suicides were reported from all States last year. In 2012, the State ranked second with 28 police suicides.
- Between 2006 and 2013, the State reported 267 police suicides, the highest among all States including Uttar Pradesh, which has the largest police force in terms of sanctioned strength. During the same time period, Tamil Nadu stood second with 216, while West Bengal was a distant third with 96.
- Maharashtra has consistently been among the two worst performers for the past decade. Distant third with 96. Maharashtra has consistently been among the two worst performers for the past decade.

Gujarat Governor Kamla Beniwal transferred

- Gujarat Governor Kamla Beniwal transferred to Mizoram for the remainder of her term.
- Vakkom Purushothaman, Governor of Mizoram, was shifted and appointed as Governor of Nagaland for the rest of his term. However, Mr. Purushothaman will continue to hold the additional charge of the office of the Governor of Tripura.
- According to the communiqué, Rajasthan Governor Margaret Alva will discharge the functions of the Governor of Gujarat, in addition to her own duties, until regular arrangements are made. Her tenure finishes in August.
- Among the names doing the rounds for appointment as Governors are BJP leaders Kesri Nath Tripathi, Lalji Tandon from U.P., Kailash Joshi from Madhya Pradesh, V.K. Malhotra from Delhi, O. Rajagopal from Kerala and Balramji Dass Tandon from Punjab. Eminent jurist Soli Sorabjee, who served as the Attorney-General during NDA rule, was also said to have been shortlisted.

Government extends NDA's senior citizen pension scheme for one more year

- Varishtha Pension Bima Yojana, first introduced by the previous NDA government has been revived again for the period of one year.
- Govt. also proposed setting up a committee to examine unclaimed amounts lying as deposits in accounts of PPF, Post Office and other saving schemes and recommend how this amount can be used to protect and further financial interests of the senior citizens.

Budget 2014 Highlights-Aim: a second green revolution

- Government announced in its Budget a technology-driven second green revolution with emphasis on higher productivity and a “protein revolution.”
- A Kisan TV channel will be launched for providing real-time information on new techniques, water conservation and organic farming.
- The agri-tech fund will be used to make farming competitive and profitable, develop agro-technology and modernise existing agri-business infrastructure.
- Two more institutions on the lines of the Indian Agriculture Research Institute, Pusa, will be set up in Assam and Jharkhand.

Housing for all by 2022 and Rs. 7,060 crore for 100 smart cities

- Finance Minister offered a tax sop for homeowners by extending the additional tax incentive on home loans.
- A sum of Rs. 4,000 crore has been earmarked for National Housing Bank with a view to increase the flow of cheaper credit for affordable housing to the urban poor.
- Slum development has been added to the list of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activities.
- Government announced 100 smart cities, which will be enabled with the latest technology like wi-fi connectivity and infrastructure and will have concepts such as sustainability, walking spaces and specialised domains.

Seven New

Dwarf Galaxies Discovered

- Astronomers have used a new type of telescope made by stitching together telephoto lenses to discover seven new dwarf galaxies.
- Their Dragonfly Telephoto Array uses eight telephoto lenses with special coatings that suppress internally scattered light, This makes the telescope uniquely adept at detecting the very diffuse, low surface brightness.
- The previously unseen galaxies may yield important insights into dark matter and galaxy evolution
- These are the same kind of lenses that are used in sporting events like the World Cup.

President Pranab Mukherjee asks CPWD to become more dynamic

- President Pranab Mukherjee urged the Central Public Works Department (CPWD) under the Ministry of Urban Development to focus on areas where innovation and modernisation in the infrastructure sector.
- Speaking at a ceremony to mark the 160 years of CPWD's service, Mr. Mukherjee urged the organisation to evolve into "a smarter, more dynamic and highly professional organisation".
- He asked the Department to aim at providing last mile connectivity of rural roads, health and educational infrastructure, water supply and sanitation and referring to sustainable habitats as the need of the hour and energy-efficient building.
- He also completed the CPWD for undertaking and complementing challenging assignments in the Rann of Kutch, Thar Desert, in high altitude areas of the Himalayas, North-Eastern Region and also in Afghanistan.

Pay revised wages for MGNREGA, says SC

- The Supreme Court on Friday directed all States to pay workers under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Act (MGNREGA) revised wages as per the notification issued by the Centre in February this year.
- It further asked the government to find a way out to end the disparity between the wages paid under the MGNREGA and State-mandated rates under the Minimum Wages Act.
- As per the February 13, 2014 notification issued by the Ministry of Rural Development, the wages per day to be paid by the States and Union Territories range from Rs. 156 in Uttarakhand to Rs. 236 in Haryana.

INS Kamorta handed over to Navy and Navy gets its largest destroyer

- INS Kamorta, the first in series of anti-submarine corvettes indigenously built by Kolkata based Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Ltd. (GRSE), was handed over to Indian Navy.
- It is first Indian Naval warship ever built in the country with almost 90 per cent of indigenous content.
- The Indian Navy has got its largest-ever destroyer after the addition of the 163 metre-long vessel Kolkata (D63).
- Kolkata (D63) is India's first domestically built guided missile destroyer to feature a Western-style air search radar and stealth technology.

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- Kolkata has an all-round capability against enemy submarines, surface warships, anti-ship missiles and fighter aircraft.
- It incorporates modern weapons and sensors having advanced information warfare suite, an auxiliary control system with sophisticated power distribution architecture and modular crew quarters.

Ram Naik is new UP Governor, O.P. Kohli for Gujarat

- New governors have been appointed in Uttar Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, West Bengal, Gujarat and Nagaland.
- Former Union Minister Ram Naik appointed as Governor of Uttar Pradesh and veteran Delhi leader O.P. Kohli will move to Gujarat as Governor.
- 80-year-old Mr. Naik has the rare distinction of being the only Minister who completed five years as Petroleum and Natural gas minister in one government.
- According to the communique, Keshari Nath Tripathi, a former Uttar Pradesh Speaker will take over the post of Governor in West Bengal.
- Balram Das Tandon, 87, founder member of Jan Sangh in 1951, was appointed Governor of Chhattisgarh.
- Padmanabha Acharya, was appointed as Governor of Nagaland.

Warship damaged in mishap, Navy orders probe

- INS Kuthar, a Khukri class corvette, suffered damage while entering the harbour of a naval base in the Andamans.
- It is the 15th reported mishap involving naval personnel and assets after the sinking of the Russian-origin submarine INS Sindhurakshak in August last year in which all the 18 personnel on board were killed.
- INS Kuthar is understood to be part of the fleet of the Vishakhapatnam-based Eastern Naval Command, which is in-charge of operations in Bay of Bengal and areas beyond it.
- The spate of accidents in the Navy resulted in the resignation of former Navy Chief Admiral D.K. Joshi, who took moral responsibility for the accidents.

Parliament passes bill on Polavaram project

- Parliament on Monday passed a bill to facilitate transfer of 205 villages spread across seven mandals in the newly formed State of Telangana to the residual state of Andhra Pradesh for the multi-purpose Polavaram irrigation project.

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- The bill, approved by Lok Sabha last week, was opposed by members of the House from Telangana and the States of Odisha and Chattisgarh on the plea that it would cause unwarranted displacement of 52 thousand scheduled caste families from the three States.
- The project is a difficult project to implement as it involves massive resettlement. It is on par with Sardar Sarovar Dam (in Gujarat) and Indira Sagar project in Madhya Pradesh.

SC Constitution Bench to decide on ‘living will’ to die with dignity

- A five-judge Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court will take up for consideration a petition seeking to declare the execution of a ‘living will’ of persons, suffering from chronic terminal diseases and likely to go into a permanent vegetative state, to refuse treatment to pave way for their death.
- Petition was filed by NGO Common Cause.
- AG Mr. Rohatgi said the issue had lot of legal, social and moral aspects concerning the humanity as a whole. He said right to die merely because of pain and suffering would not be in the interest of society as it was against public policy.
- Ruling in ‘Aruna Shanbaug’s case’ decided that passive euthanasia is wrong.
- In November 2012 the Law Commission had submitted a report relating to passive euthanasia and ‘living will’.

States want review of key provisions in Land Acquisition Act

- A conference of state revenue ministers recently suggested wide-ranging changes to dilute the Land acquisition act, and chief among them was to re-examine the consent clause, as ownership of land rests with the government in Public Private Partnership (PPP) projects, and also scrap the mandatory social impact assessment (SIA).
- Kerala felt that obtaining consent of land owners prior to preliminary notification was a herculean task as the identification of land owners at such initial stages may pose a problem.
- Madhya Pradesh felt that the provision of consent from 70 per cent land owners in case of PPP projects should either be deleted or eased out.
- States also want to do away with the mandatory social impact assessment (SIA) study prescribed in the act and should be confined to large projects or PPP projects as it may delay the acquisition process, which is called the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement, 2013.
- States also wanted the definition of “affected family” in the act to be re examined as it is very elaborate and includes livelihood losers working in the affected area for three years prior to the acquisition of land and whose primary source of livelihood is affected.

- The clause specifying sharing of 40 per cent enhanced cost with original land owners when the land is transferred on higher consideration should be deleted as it leads to disputes, states felt.

NCW backs amendments to Juvenile Justice Act

- National Commission for Women (NCW) chairperson Mamta Sharma on Wednesday said the Commission would back amendments to the Juvenile Justice Act to ensure proper punishment in rape cases.
- Ms Sharma reiterated that times were changing and keeping in mind that 45 per cent of the registered rape cases were perpetrated by juveniles, amendments were necessary in the law.
- Union Minister for Women and Child Development said juveniles committing rape should be tried as adults, the National Commission of Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) and child rights groups had opposed it.
- Uttar Pradesh reported the highest number cases against women at 8252, with Delhi coming second with 2000 cases and Haryana -864 cases.
- She also called for a Code of Conduct for Parliamentarians.
- The NCW is also short of funds and last year the annual budget was down to Rs nine crore, half of which goes for salaries.

SC/ST Amendment bill sent to standing committee

- A Bill that makes it a punishable offence for public servants to “wilfully neglect” duties on matters relating to atrocities against Scheduled Castes and Tribes was referred to a Standing Committee.
- The Bill replaces an Ordinance that states that if a non-SC/ST public servant wilfully neglects duties required to be performed under this Act, he or she shall be punished with imprisonment for a term from six months to one year.
- The Bill also makes provisions for States to set up special courts to try offences under the Act.

Kharif production may fall due to deficient monsoon

- Kharif production is likely to be lower by about 10 million tonnes owing to deficient and poorly distributed southwest monsoon.
- The worst hit will be soyabean, cotton and groundnut harvest in key growing States such as Gujarat, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh.
- However, rice output will be unaffected as rainfall has been better in northeast India, and North India has good irrigation facilities.

- Monsoon is lower by 41 per cent with 53 per cent departure from normal in north-west India and 55 per cent lower in central India.

Centre seeks to allay fears of civil services aspirants

- The Union government on Wednesday said that it was working to address the concerns of those aspiring for a career in the civil services and had sought a report that would be used to draw a road map for the future with respect to the recruitment examination conducted by the Union Public Service Commission.
- Union Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office said the government had asked a three-member committee set up in March to expedite submission of the report.
- On Tuesday, the Centre urged the commission to consider postponing the Civil Services Aptitude Test (CSAT), part of the preliminary examination scheduled for August 24, until "clarity" emerged on the syllabus and its pattern.

Govt to extend Ganga action plan to major rivers

- The government on Thursday said that based on the outcome of the action plan on Ganga, it may extend it to other major rivers of the country.
- Central assistance is being provided to states under two schemes — Repair, Renovation and Restoration (RRR) of Water Bodies and Flood Management Programme (FMP) during 12th Plan.
- Under the RRR scheme, a total of 3341 water bodies were taken up for restoration in 12 states, out of which 2033 water bodies have been completed till date. Under the FMP, a total of 420 workers were approved during XI Plan out of which 252 works were completed.

Modi government to go with UPA policy on FDI in retail

- The Narendra Modi Government is unlikely to rescind the foreign direct investment (FDI) policy for multi-brand retail that the Congress-led United Progressive Alliance government had notified.
- The decision to continue with the UPA Government's policy has been taken as the Centre does not want to deny the freedom of choice that the notified FDI rules gives to States for choosing whether or not to let foreign retailers set up shop.
- The Modi Government also decided to carry on with the UPA Government's initiative of Aadhaar card for targetted schemes but new Government will issue Aadhaar numbers to Indian citizens only.

CAG files adverse report on PPP projects

- The Comptroller and Auditor-General of India (CAG) has picked holes in the way the Public Private Partnership (PPP) was handled in two vital infrastructure sectors.

- The Mumbai airport and three of the Railways projects mostly faulted on procedural grounds.
- In case of the Mumbai airport, the CAG has asked the government to review the operator's performance because when project cost had doubled, the gap was filled by asking passengers to shell out a development cess.
- On the other hand, the revenue share of another consortium member — the public sector Airports Authority of India (AAI) — was “set to decline with the outsourcing of activities as noticed in the case of domestic and international cargo activities and the Airport Hotel project.”
- Railway projects include a railway line to a port, something that new Railway Minister D. V. Sadananda Gowda hopes to promote in a big way to solve the ‘last mile problem’.
- A CAG report on the Railways , said it had violated rules while selecting private players. Also, the Railways did not formulate any model agreement for execution of the projects within the time frame nor did it adopt the model prescribed by the Planning Commission for PPP projects.

Activists: WHO advisory on MSM needs rethink

- Activists working on gay and transgender rights feel the new guidelines from the World Health Organisation (WHO) on HIV services for key groups have not been very well thought out specially in the context of providing anti-retroviral therapy (ART) to men who have sex with men (MSM).
- The WHO in a news release on July 11 for the first time strongly recommended that men who have sex with men consider taking antiretroviral medicines as an additional method of preventing HIV infection alongside the use of condoms.
- Rates of HIV infection among men who have sex with men remain high almost everywhere and new prevention options are urgently needed, the WHO said.
- In India, the numbers of MSM was much lesser than other countries, compared to the population size.
- ART is being given to those with CD 4 cell counts below 350 (CD4 cells or T-cells are the cells that send signals to activate your body's immune response when they detect viruses or bacteria).
- The National Aids Control Programme (NACP) IV aims to provide universal access to free ART to all those who require it.
- The WHO warned that failure to provide adequate HIV services for key groups – men who have sex with men, people in prison, people who inject drugs, sex workers and transgenders – threatens global progress on the HIV response.

Special court to hear coal scam cases: SC

- The Supreme Court decided to set up a special court to try cases arising from the coal block allocation scam and also appoint a special public prosecutor to lead the cases there.

- The petitioner NGO common cause and CBI both accepted the name of Gopal Subramaniam as the special prosecutor.
- Court on Friday issued notice to seven private and public sector companies on central government's plea seeking transfer, to apex court of all cases, challenging the cancellation of coal blocks allocated to them, pending before various high courts.

Chasing black money, India gets Swiss invite for discussions

- Swiss authorities have invited Indian officials to Berne to discuss further cooperation in these matters.
- Switzerland has been refusing to share details on names obtained by Indian authorities through other countries, namely France and Germany, saying they figured in lists stolen by certain ex-employees of the concerned banks and no details can be shared on the basis of illegally-obtained information.
- Typically, there are two types of information exchange frameworks followed by Swiss authorities — 'spontaneous' exchange where details are given voluntarily to a foreign country if any irregularity is found with regard to a foreign client; and exchange of information in reply to a request.
- A high-level delegation from Switzerland had held discussions on tax matters with the Indian government officials in New Delhi in February this year.
- Latest data from the Swiss National Bank showed that total money of Indians in Swiss banks increased to Rs. 14,100 crore at the end of 2013, from Rs. 8,547 crore a year ago.
- Following amendments to the Double Taxation Avoidance Convention (DTAC) with Switzerland in October 2011, India has made several requests seeking information about its nationals holding bank accounts in Swiss Banks.
- Google must adhere to map restriction policy'
- Surveyor-General of India Swarna Subba Rao said "Google, which has been populating geospatial data in the cyber space for some time, has to follow the law of the land and adhere to the map restriction policy of the country".
- Map restriction policy of the country does not allow detailed maps of defence and sensitive locations to be available in public domain.
- The Government of India has specific guidelines laid down with regard to publication of maps in the public domain and all the maps have to be vetted by defence authorities before being published and Google has refused to follow it.
- The Survey of India is redefining vertical data of the country and in due course benchmarks like the mean sea level may be corrected in line with the new data.
- The work on building the national reference framework for the purpose of creating an indigenous land based GIS system is going on and it would take time to be completed.

Combing operations stepped up in Maoist-affected districts

- Combing operations have been stepped up in Maoist-affected Ganjam, Gajapati and Kandhamal districts of Odisha following the arrest of top left wing extremist leader Sabyasachi Panda.
- Police suspect that Maoist cadres from neighbouring Andhra Pradesh and Chhattisgarh were still active in Kandhamal-Gajapati-Rayagada and Rayagada-Kandhamal-Kalahandi border areas.
- OMP, which had been formed by Panda in 2012, had been dominating the southern districts of Ganjam, Gajapati, Kandhamal, Rayagada and Nayagarh during the last several years and the rebel is believed to have been involved in over 60 different cases in these districts.

Central government officials to declare assets under new Lokpal rules

- The Union government has notified rules on declaration of assets and liabilities of its employees under the Lokpal Act.
- Though system of declaration of assets and liabilities has been in vogue, the Lokpal Act seeks to systematise it with additional information.
- As per the new rules notified by the government, its employees have to file returns with details on cash in hand, bank deposits, investment in bonds, debentures, shares and units in companies or mutual funds, insurance policies, provident fund, personal loans and advance given to a person or any entity, among others.
- The returns should give information about spouses as well. The employees' need to declare motor vehicles, aircraft, yachts or ships, gold and silver jewellery and bullion possessed by them, their spouses and dependent children, according to the form.
- The employees also to have to give details of their immovable properties along with statement of debts and other liabilities on first appointment or as on March 31 of every financial year.

Government promises broadband facility in every village

- The Centre on Monday promised to extend broadband facility to every village in the country with the active cooperation of State governments.
- More than 1.34 lakh internet enabled centres have been set up in rural areas to promote and develop information technology in rural areas of the country.
- Problem of unavailability of bandwidth and regional language barrier have impeded thee-governance initiatives in India, government said availability of bandwidth to important places will be done on priority basis.

- Mobile web in regional languages also has many challenges such as character encoding, bandwidth cost, presentation issues, device limitations, lack of standardisation, fonts, backward compatibility with legacy devices, rendering issues, lack of availability for all characters, issue of multiple scripts, standardization of glyph support, syllable composition and logic dependency on implementation level of handset manufacturer.

India home to one in every three child brides in world: UN

- According to a United Nations report, India has the sixth highest prevalence of child marriages in the world, with one in every three child bride living in India.
- Child marriage among girls is most common in South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa and India is among the top 10 countries with the highest rates of child marriage.
- Worldwide, more than 700 million women alive today were married as children or before their 18th birthday.
- In India, about 27 per cent of women aged 20 to 49 years were married before age 15. About 31 per cent of women in that age group were married after age 15 but before they turned 18.
- The report added that in India, the median age at first marriage is 19.7 years for women in the richest quintile compared to 15.4 for the poorest women.

Shipping firms needn't renew licences every year

- The Ministry of Shipping has decided to reduce paperwork by scrapping the requirement of annual renewal of licenses for Indian ships and any other vessel chartered by an Indian citizen or company.
- Such licences will now be issued with a life-time fee instead of annual fee but the licence will be co-terminus with the certificate of Registry of the Ship.
- The decision also provides for all the five Registrars of Ships at Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Goa and Cochin to issue these licenses under the provisions of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958.

'Force-feeding' by Shiv Sena MP's rocks Parliament

- Parliament was rocked over reports of 11 Shiv Sena MPs, incensed at not being served Maharashtrian food, forcing a Muslim catering supervisor to break his Ramzan fast at the New Maharashtra Sadan in New Delhi.
- Opposition MPs protested in both Houses of Parliament, even as Parliamentary Affairs Minister M. Venkaiah Naidu dismissed the allegations as "unsubstantiated".

Whistle blowers to Get Security from Govt.

- Whistleblowers or people exposing corruption can get security from the government, The government has authorised Chief Vigilance Officers (CVOs) of ministries or departments of the Central Government as designated authority to receive any written complaint or disclosure on any allegation of corruption or misuse of office in respect of any employee working under them.
- If the designated authority in the ministries or departments, either on the application of the complainant, or on the basis of the information gathered, is of the opinion that the complainant needs protection, the designated authority shall take up the matter with the Central Vigilance Commission for issuing appropriate directions to the authorities concerned.
- The Commission, after receipt of such reference from the designated authority, takes up the matter with the Ministry of Home Affairs, the nodal agency, to undertake the responsibility of providing security cover to the genuine whistleblowers.

Fewer Girls-only Families now, Says Report

- In the context of falling sex ratios in India, a United Nations report points to a new level of ‘daughter aversion,’ most starkly visible in the negligible number of girls-only families in some parts of the country.
- The report, “Sex Ratios and Gender Based Sex Selection, History Debates and Future Directions”, which reviews existing studies, says it’s time to look at girls-only families, which are starting to disappear — they are only two per cent in Haryana, Punjab and Rajasthan.
- Contemporary India is witnessing a highly gendered version of fertility decline in northwest India.
- Families are planning to have at least one son and at most one daughter. It points to institutions and personnel directly mediating sex ratios at birth, for example clinics and medical practitioners, as an important area for research.

India to Place Special Emphasis on Neighbourhood: Sushma

- India will place special emphasis on its neighbourhood, stretching from West Asia to East Asia, while playing a role to fulfill its international responsibilities to build a peaceful and prosperous world.
- In the emerging global environment, it is essential for India to pursue pro—active and broad—based international engagement to advance our national development and security and to fulfill our international responsibilities to build a peaceful and prosperous world.

India keen on WTO endorsement on food subsidy

- India is unlikely to allow ratification of a trade facilitation protocol at a crucial World Trade Organisation (WTO) meeting in Geneva, if it does not simultaneously endorse its concerns about food subsidies to feed its poor.
- Most developed countries are pressuring India to drop its demand on food subsidy and endorse only the protocol for trade facilitation agreed upon December by WTO members in Bali last year, If India drops its demand, it risks facing legal action by WTO members in case its food subsidy exceeds 10 per cent of the total production value of a basic agricultural commodity.
- New Delhi has gained the support of several developing countries, small and big alike, which might find themselves in a similar quandary.
- However, the Geneva meet won't be the last word on the subject because even if there is no unanimity on Thursday, there is still a week left for the deadline for signing the trade facilitation protocol to end.

Include third gender children in schools: HRD Ministry

- The Union Human Resource Development (HRD) Ministry has advised all States and Union Territories (UTs), barring Jammu and Kashmir, to take appropriate action for the inclusion of “third gender” children among socially and educationally backward classes for admission in educational institutions under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA).
- Supreme Court ordered to treat and grant legal recognition to the “third gender”. The Court had directed the Centre and States to take steps to treat transgenders as socially and educationally backward classes and extend reservation for admission in educational institutions and for public appointments.
- The affirmative action provided for transgenders under the SSA is aimed at pushing up their literacy levels, which is around 44 per cent as opposed to the national average of 74 per cent as recorded in the 2011 Census.

Congress ineligible for LoP post, says A-G

- Attorney-General Mukul Rohatgi, on a reference from Speaker Sumitra Mahajan, holding that the Congress was not eligible for the status.
- Mr. Rohatgi said the Congress lacked the requisite one-tenth strength of the Lok Sabha (55 in a House of 545). Mr. Rohatgi's opinion is not binding on the Speaker.
- The Leader of the Opposition, which is of the rank of a Cabinet Minister, is a member of panels that select candidates for key Constitutional posts.

Govt. mulls use of radiation tech to preserve vegetables

- The government proposes to adopt radiation technology developed by the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) for improving the shelf-life of fruits and vegetables especially onions, potatoes and tomatoes to address the issue of supply side shortage that often results in price rise.
- Radioactive technology had been available in the country for some time and already in use in Maharashtra, though on a small scale, Safety concerns should be taken care of as existing norms do not permit radiation above a permissible limit.
- Food irradiation is a physical process in which food and farm commodities, in pre-packed form or in bulk, are exposed to controlled radiation energy to prevent sprouting, delay ripening, kill insects, pests, pathogenic and spoilage micro-organisms.

Budget Passed in Lok Sabha by Voice Vote

- The Lok Sabha on Friday passed the Finance Bill, 2014 by voice vote giving effect to the legislative tax proposals in the Budget.
- In Budget debate ahead of its passage in Lok Sabha, the Finance Minister reiterated the Government's intent to fulfil its promise of bringing back money stowed away in foreign banks.
- Mr. Jaitley also said that the NDA Government will not be a high-tax government as it intends to create more jobs, industry and give a fillip to economy.
- Referring to the GAAR, the Minister said he will take a final call on contentious issue at a later date and said to revive investor's sentiment which had been damaged by retrospective amendment to the Income Tax.
- Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley clarified that the higher long term capital gains tax rate of 20 per cent on non-equity mutual funds passed as part of the Budget would come into effect from July 10 onwards instead of April 1. The Provision to raise the holding period for unlisted shares and debt funds units to 36 months from 12 months for them to qualify as long-term capital assets will also take effect July 10 onwards.

President inaugurates museum at Rashtrapati Bhavan

- President Pranab Mukherjee, who completed two years in office, inaugurated a museum with fibre-glass statues of former Presidents within the Rashtrapati Bhavan.
- The Museum has an interactive zone where visitors can learn more about former Presidents and see audio-video clippings related to them.
- The President also inaugurated a 'Knowledge Hub' in the Dr. Rajendra Prasad Sarvodaya Vidyalaya within the Rashtrapati Bhavan and 16 serviced apartments. The 'Knowledge Hub' will be a space for innovative teaching and learning practices and use collaborative, interactive pedagogical practices to help teachers connect to the world outside their classroom.

Monsoon improving, normal rainfall likely in August: IMD

- In a forecast that would bring cheer to vast swathes of the country, weather officials have said that the momentum picked up by southwest monsoon in July is likely to continue in August with normal rainfall expected next month.
- While July is likely to receive rainfall of 93 per cent of the long period average (LPA), rainfall of 96 per cent of the LPA is expected in August.
- According to the India Meteorological Department, 96-104 per cent of the LPA means normal rainfall whereas 90-96 makes for below normal monsoon showers.

PM reviews infrastructure projects progress

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi had his second monthly meeting on the setting of targets and monitoring of progress in the implementation of key projects with the Secretaries of infrastructure ministries including roads, power, telecom and railways.
- Mr. Modi has introduced a system of monthly setting of targets and weekly monitoring of progress on them for infrastructure projects.
- Infrastructure sector is a focus area for the Modi government and a key to its agenda for the economy's revival.

DoPT launches e-service record system for govt. employees

- With the objective to promote a paperless regime and better human resource management, the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) has launched an e-service record book portal for government employees.
- Earlier documented in paper files, the service record provides information on various portfolios and posts held by a particular government employee.
- In future, it would also prove to be of great assistance in an efficient management of human resource. The system can facilitate work allocation based on the skills and experiences of the employees under consideration for a particular post or department.
- The DoPT has also launched a Basic Leadership Skills Module for Central Secretariat Services officers at the Institute of Secretariat Training and Management. The module is expected to equip civil servants with the skills that help them function efficiently in a complex and challenging environment.
- A Learning Resource Centre has also been set up with a mandate to identify and adopt the leading national and international practices in the field of training techniques and technologies to strengthen the Trainers Development Programme, to develop a cadre of high quality trainers.

Facebook extends closing of WhatsApp acquisition by a year

- Social networking giant Facebook has extended by a year the closing of its landmark \$ 19 billion deal to acquire instant messaging app WhatsApp. The California-based firm will have to pay WhatsApp \$ 1 billion in cash and \$ 1 billion in stock options in case it fails to close the deal in the stipulated time.
- Facebook said the acquisition is subject to customary closing conditions, including regulatory approvals, and is expected to close in the second half of 2014.
- The firm added that at present it expects that these conditions will be satisfied and that “we will extend the date to August 19, 2015.”
- The hefty transaction - which includes \$ 12 billion worth of Facebook shares, \$ 4 billion in cash and \$ 3 billion in restricted stock units - will boost the world’s biggest social network presence by adding 450 million users of WhatsApp, including a significant number of youth.

Farmers deserve a standing ovation: Narendra Modi

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday asked the scientific community to set specific goals for themselves to ensure that lab research reaches farmers and helps raise their incomes.
- Mr. Modi said that Indian farmers deserve a standing ovation for providing for the nation and changing the face of the country in the food and farm sector. Yet, there is potential for more not only in crops but in fisheries and animal husbandry.
- Bemoaning the supply-demand gap in pulses and edible oilseeds, Mr. Modi asked scientists to dedicate themselves in the research of suitable variety so that the country is not dependent on import of these commodities.
- PM also highlighted the need to conserve the water, he sighted the example from the history of Mahatama Gandhi.
- Collegium system should go’ - Law Ministry
- At a high-level meeting between the Law Ministry and eminent jurists , absolute consensus was reached that the collegium system should go.
- The meeting saw parliamentarians and retired Chief Justices of India participating along with Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley and Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad, Law Commission Chairperson Justice A.P. Shah, Attorney-General Mukul Rohatgi and Solicitor-General Ranjit Kumar attended.
- The government was very clear in its assurance that it did not want to go back to the pre-collegium system days when the Executive had veto power over judges’ appointments.

Members to 18 Panels Appointed Unanimously

- NDA government managed the appointments of members to the various parliamentary committees “unanimously.”
- All the parties agreed to choose members through consensus rather than insist on an election, the last time such an initiative was pulled off was in 1984.
- Appointments have been made to 18 parliamentary committees and government bodies, which include the crucial committees – Public Accounts Committee, Public Estimates Committee, Public Undertaking Committee – and to the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes and the Official Languages.

HSGPC: Centre may seek Presidential reference

- The Centre is exploring the option of making a Presidential reference to the Supreme Court for its opinion on the validity of the controversial law enacted by the Haryana government to create a new board to manage Sikh shrines in Haryana.
- Attorney-General Mukul Rohatgi gave an opinion that the Haryana Sikh Gurdwaras (Management) Bill, 2014, which got the assent of the then Governor on June 14, was unconstitutional.
- Mr. Rohatgi told the Centre that the Haryana Assembly did not have the legislative competence to pass the Bill as the Sikh Gurdwaras Act, 1925, came under the Union List.
- The gurdwaras in Haryana are managed by the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC). But, under the new law passed by the Assembly, 72 of them will be managed by the Haryana Sikh Gurdwara Prabhandhak Committee, with the SGPC losing control over them.
- According to the Punjab government, the SGPC is an “inter-State body” as defined under Section 72 of the Punjab Reorganisation Act, 1966, indicating that its jurisdiction extends beyond Punjab and its members are elected from places beyond the State’s boundaries. And The move to set up a separate committee in Haryana was in contravention with the provisions of the Reorganisation Act, as it affected the SGPC’s ‘inter-State’ status.

Panel suggests separate law to protect northeast people

- A separate law with specific provisions to protect people from the northeast living in different parts of the country along with amendment of sections of IPC has been suggested by M P Bezbaruah committee that was set up after increased attacks on citizens from the region.
- Committee had recommended a new law based on an observation by Delhi High Court which said one person from a State must not be discriminated in another State.
- The Bezbaruah Committee was set up after the death of Nido Tania, 20, following an altercation with shopkeepers and others at the Lajpat Nagar in south Delhi in January. Last week, another youth from

Manipur, Akha Salouni (29), was killed after he was allegedly beaten by a group of five men in a suspected case of road rage in Kotla Mubarakpur in South Delhi.

Government mulls Amendments to anti-dowry Law

- Keeping in view the rising number of complaints regarding the misuse of anti-dowry law, the Centre is mulling to introduce penal provisions in the Act that will ensure punishment or penalty to those who make false charges.
- Earlier this month, the Supreme Court had directed the State governments to instruct police “not to automatically arrest when a case under Section 498A of IPC (dowry harassment) is registered but to satisfy themselves about the necessity for arrest under the parameters laid down flowing from Section 41 of Criminal Procedure Code.”
- The Apex court had expressed concern over the misuse of the anti-dowry law by “disgruntled” wives against her husband and in-laws and noted that the Act was being increasingly used to harass in-laws.
- The amendments may include widening the definition of ‘dowry’ by changing the words ‘in connection with marriage’ to ‘given before the marriage, at the time of marriage and at any time after the marriage’.
- Notifying the list of gifts exchanged during the wedding may also be made mandatory and failure to do so could invite heavy penalties including a three-year jail term not only to the bride and the groom but also to their parents.

Increase compensation for acid attack victims: SC

- The Supreme Court on Friday issued notices to State governments on steps taken to enhance the rehabilitation and monetary compensation awarded to acid attack victims struggling to survive and get medical treatment.
- In February 6, 2013, the Supreme Court in another case had directed the government to draft appropriate regulations for sale of acid and rehabilitation of victims.
- “There is laxity on your part. Everyday, we have one or two such incidents of acid attack,” CJI Lodha observed.

INTERNATIONAL ISSUES

India among Jihad Targets of ISIS

- Ibrahim Awwad al-Badri, commander of the insurgent group Islamic State of Iraq and al-Shams (ISIS), has vowed war against several countries, including India, in a Ramzan speech released online.
- The reference to India, the first in an ISIS manifesto, raises new concerns for the safety of the almost hundred of its nations trapped in Iraqi cities controlled by the Islamist group, which is battling the governments of Iraq and Syria.
- The Ramzan speech by Mr al-Badri — also known by the pseudonym Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi — calls on believers to take up arms during the month of penitence, and “terrify the enemies of Allah and seek death in the places where you expect to find it, for the dunya (worldly life) will come to an end”.
- “Muslims’ rights”, Mr. al-Badri states in his speech, are forcibly seized in China, India, Palestine, Somalia, the Arabian Peninsula, the Caucasus, Sham (the Levant), Egypt, Iraq, Indonesia, Afghanistan, the Philippines, Ahvaz, Iran (by the rafidah (shia)), Pakistan, Tunisia, Libya, Algeria and Morocco, in the East and in the West.

Iraq’s New Parliament Broke up in Chaos

- Iraq’s new Parliament broke up in chaos, with lawmakers threatening each other or walking out despite global calls for fractious politicians to form a government needed to face a Sunni militant onslaught.
- After a break called to calm soaring tempers, so many Sunni and Kurdish deputies stayed away that the quorum was lost, so a Speaker could not be elected as was constitutionally required, and the session ended in disarray.
- Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki’s bid for a third term has been battered by the jihadist-led offensive that has seized large chunks of five provinces, adding fuel to dissatisfaction over persistent allegations of sectarianism and monopolising power.
- The latest crisis has alarmed world leaders, displaced hundreds of thousands of people and polarised Iraq’s Shia, Sunni and Kurdish populations.
- The disunity quickly manifested itself in what was the opening session of a parliament elected in April, which included walkouts, threats and confusion over the constitution.

The European Court of Human Rights upheld France's controversial burqa

- The European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) upheld France's controversial burqaban, rejecting arguments that outlawing full-face veils breaches religious freedom.
- In a case brought by a 24-year-old French woman with the support of a British legal team, the court ruled that France was justified in introducing the ban in the interests of social cohesion.
- The court emphasised that states should be allowed a degree of discretion — “a wide margin of appreciation” — on a policy issue which is subject to significant differences of opinion. Two of the 17 judges who spent several months deliberating on the case dissented from the majority view that the ban did not breach the European Convention on Human Rights' provisions protecting the freedom of thought, conscience and religion.

Japan's Defence Policy shift Slammed

- China has slammed the move by Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's government to reinterpret the country's Pacifist Constitution to enable a wider role for the Japanese military overseas, terming the decision “a brutal violation” of the spirit of the post-Second World War Constitution.
- Mr. Abe's Cabinet approved a reinterpretation of the post-war imposed Pacifist Constitution that severely limited the use of the Japanese military, even when on overseas peacekeeping missions. The reinterpretation now allows for “collective self-defence” that would permit Japan to come to the aid of its allies overseas.
- That the move came amid the most heightened tensions between China and Japan in many years over disputed East China Sea islands and questions over war-time history has prompted analysts in Beijing to see the reinterpretation as being directed at China.
- The new policy raises doubts about Japan's approach to peaceful development. We urge Japan to sincerely respect the rightful concerns of neighbouring Asian countries, diligently solve any related issues, and not affect China's rights and the stability of the region, Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hong Lei was quoted as saying by the official Xinhua news agency.

India Refuses to Ratify TF Protocol

- Protesting against the imbalance in favour of developed countries at the ongoing World Trade Organisation (WTO) negotiations at Geneva, India on Wednesday broke away from the consensus on the Trade Facilitation (TF) Protocol. India's refusal to ratify this agreement that has been readied to their satisfaction as a follow up to the Bali Ministerial decisions of last December has led to a stalemate at the talks.
- In a strong statement India said it will support the TF agreement only if there is progress in Geneva on mechanisms for ensuring permanent protection of the government's Minimum Support Price (MSP) against the WTO's subsidy caps.

- The new government is clear that the MSP is a tool important enough for us to take this stand at the WTO.
- India has repeatedly expressed concern over the uneven pace of work at the negotiations in Geneva over the past few months but despite that the imbalance in progress has persisted.

Xi Jinping's Historic Sri Lanka Visit

- China's President Xi Jinping will this year become the first Chinese head of state to visit Sri Lanka in three decades, underlining Beijing's renewed push to deepen its strategic and economic presence in the neighbourhood and in the Indian Ocean.
- Mr. Xi's visit was discussed in Beijing this week as Sri Lankan Minister of Economic Development Basil Rajapaksa, as the President's Special Envoy, met with the Chinese leadership.
- The Chinese leader will become the first President to visit Sri Lanka since former leader Li Xiannian in 1986. His visit assumes significance in the context of strengthening ties between the two countries, with China investing heavily in the island nation.
- A \$500 million- built port built by the Chinese was inaugurated in Colombo last year giving Beijing a strong foothold in one of the busiest international shipping routes in the world. With heavy investment in infrastructure, including in a massive port it helped build in Hambantota along Sri Lanka's southern coast, China is said to have surpassed Japan and India as the biggest contributor to investments in the island nation.
- Foreign policy experts have often pointed to Sri Lanka playing the "China card" against India, which has invested in some key projects in the neighbouring country, including a massive housing project targeting 50,000 homes in the war-torn north that it is currently engaged in.
- For Chinese President Xi, Sri Lanka has become a particularly important country as a crucial point on his government's signature "maritime silk road" economic initiative, which the President unveiled in October in a bid to boost maritime connectivity and economic ties in the neighbourhood.

Bomb exploded near Somalia's Parliament

- Several people were killed when a powerful suicide car bomb exploded near Somalia's Parliament in the capital Mogadishu on Saturday, police and witnesses said.
- Al-Qaeda-linked Shabab rebels claimed responsibility for the bombing, the latest in a surge of attacks in Mogadishu during Islam's holy month of Ramadan.
- A car loaded with explosives was intercepted near the Parliament and it went off.
- Police and witnesses at the scene said three police officers and the suicide bomber died in the blast.

Germany Seeks Swift Response on Spook

- German ministers called for a swift response from the U.S. to allegations of spying by a suspected double agent, which have raised fears of fresh tensions between the two allies.
- Interior Minister Thomas de Maiziere in pre-released excerpts from Monday's Bild newspaper called for a "quick and clear" statement by the U.S. on the allegations.
- Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier said in a tweet, following reports of U.S. spying that have sparked anger in Germany after revelations the NSA allegedly tapped Chancellor Angela Merkel's phone. The U.S. ambassador, who was called to a meeting at the foreign ministry late on Friday, had been told Washington is expected to shed light on the reports "as quickly as possible."
- The 31-year-old employee of the German foreign intelligence agency known as the BND arrested last week had been working for the CIA for around two years.
- "All signs indicate that he was acting for the Americans," the Frankfurter Allgemeine Sonntagszeitung (FAS) Sunday newspaper quoted an unnamed senior official at Germany's foreign intelligence service as saying.

Iraqi officials analysing Baghdadi video

- Iraqi officials are working to determine the authenticity of a video that purportedly shows the leader of the Islamic extremist group that has seized large swaths of the country delivering a sermon this week in the nation's second-largest city, authorities.
- The 21-minute video said to show Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, the head of the Islamic State group, was reportedly filmed on Friday at the Great Mosque in the northern city of Mosul. It was released on at least two websites known to be used by the organisation and bore the logo of its media arm.

Clashes on Syria-Lebanon Border Kill Several

- Heavy clashes along the Syria-Lebanon border killed several people, including a number of Hezbollah fighters and Syrian rebels.
- The area has long been a flashpoint in the Syrian civil war.
- The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said the fighting left seven Hezbollah fighters dead and 31 injured.
- The Iran-backed Hezbollah openly joined the Syrian conflict last year. The group's fighters have been instrumental to President Bashar Assad's success on the battlefield, tipping the balance of power in the 3-year-old conflict in the government's favor.

BRICS summit to reflect new global political architecture

- Global political issues such as the unrest in Iraq and Ukraine and the surveillance of world leaders by the U.S. National Security Agency are likely to find their way into the discussions at the BRICS summit.
- In particular, BRICS countries will announce the BRICS bank and contingency reserve fund as a counterpoint to the U.S.-led World Bank and International Monetary Fund.
- BRICS countries have areas of cooperation on various subjects, from energy to education, and there are new proposals, such as a Brazilian suggestion on the creation of a statistics platform different from the OECD methodology (The OECD analyses GDP, employment and other indices).

Israel Resumes air Strikes on Gaza as Ceasefire Fails

- Israel on Tuesday resumed airstrikes on Gaza after an Egyptian-brokered ceasefire failed to stop the escalating violence that has killed 192 Palestinians in nine days of fighting as Hamas continued to fire rockets at the Jewish state.
- Earlier Israel accepted, while Hamas refused the Egyptian proposal for a ceasefire.
- The Egyptian-proposed ceasefire plan was aimed at halting Israel's deadly nine-day offensive on the Gaza Strip that has killed 192 Palestinians but the Israeli premier had warned that the operation would be intensified if Hamas militants refused to accept the truce.

Malaysia Airlines plane with 295 on board crashes over Ukraine near Russian border

- A passenger plane carrying 295 people was shot down over a town in the east of the Ukraine, killing all 295 people aboard.
- Ukraine separatist group blames Ukraine Air Force for the incident. Pro-Russian separatists have told Russian news agency Ria that they are willing to have up to 3-day ceasefire in Ukraine to allow for recovery work at site.
- Ukraine has categorically denied the charges.
- European Union called for an international investigation into the crash of the Malaysian jetliner in eastern Ukraine and for parties to "share all relevant information".
- The aircraft, which other sources said was a Boeing 777 flying from Amsterdam to Kuala Lumpur, came down near the city of Donetsk, stronghold of pro-Russian rebels, adding that it was hit by a ground-to-air missile.
- The region has seen severe fighting between Ukrainian forces and pro-Russia separatist rebels in recent days.

Israel resumes strikes on Gaza

- Israeli jets struck three sites in Gaza after a rocket was launched at Israel. The strikes followed an almost 12-hour pause in fighting and came as international efforts intensified to end the three-week conflict between Israel and Hamas. The UN called for an “immediate” ceasefire.
- In New York, an emergency meeting of the UN Security Council called for “an immediate and unconditional humanitarian ceasefire.” It was the Council’s strongest statement yet on the conflict that has already killed 1,030 Palestinians, 43 Israeli soldiers and three civilians on the Israeli side, but it was not a resolution and therefore not binding.
- Both Israel and Palestine criticised the statement on different grounds. While Israel criticised that statement does not mention rockets launched by Palestine and Palestine criticised that it is not legally binding.

International arbitration court orders Russia to pay \$50 billion to former Yukos shareholders

- In one of the biggest such cases ever, the Permanent Court for Arbitration in the Hague, Netherlands, determined Russia was not acting in good faith to collect taxes when it levelled massive claims against Yukos in 2003.
- The tax case led to the imprisonment of Yukos CEO Mikhail Khodorkovsky and has been widely seen as retaliation for his support of opposition political parties.
- The ruling adds to tensions between Russia and the international community at a time when relations are at their lowest ebb since the end of the Cold War. Following the downing of Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 over eastern Ukraine, the U.S. and European Union are debating further economic sanctions against Moscow because of its support for rebels suspected of launching the attack.
- The Yukos takeover was the beginning of a process under which Russia, under President Vladimir Putin, retook control of the country’s energy industry. Yukos’ main assets were sold at auction to a shell company.
- Russia was ordered to pay the judgment within 180 days or begin paying interest. If Russia declines to pay, shareholders can attempt to seize Russian assets abroad such as commercial properties, travelling art collections or airplanes.

Russia Violated Missile Treaty: U.S.

- U.S. President Barack Obama said in a letter to his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin in a letter on Monday that Russia had violated a 1987 arms control treaty when it allegedly ground-launched a cruise missile.

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- The Obama administration's charge against Russia, described as the "most serious allegation of an arms control treaty violation," made to date, follows reports by U.S. officials that Russia began testing cruise missiles as far back as 2008.
- The INF Treaty was signed on December 8, 1987 by erstwhile U.S. President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, and was considered to be an agreement that would limit the risk of strikes against Europe.
- This risk increased after the Soviet Union achieved "rough strategic parity" with the U.S. in the mid-1970s and then began replacing older intermediate-range SS-4 and SS-5 missiles with a new intermediate-range missile, the SS-20.

Israel unleashes heaviest bombardment on Gaza

- Israel unleashed its heaviest bombardment in a three-week-old war against Hamas, striking symbols of the militant group's control in Gaza and firing tank shells.
- The heavy strikes, which came a day after Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu warned of a "prolonged" campaign against Hamas, were a new blow to international efforts to reach a sustainable truce in the fighting.
- On Tuesday, Israeli warplanes carried out dozens of attacks, levelling the home of the top Hamas leader in Gaza, Ismail Haniyeh, and damaging the offices of the movement's Al-Aqsa satellite TV station, a central mosque in Gaza City and government offices.

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INDIA & THE WORLD

China's Xi invites Modi to visit, calls for 'early' border settlement

- In Fortaleza to attend the BRICS Summit, Mr. Modi and Mr. Xi met for 80 minutes – extending beyond the scheduled 40 minutes.
- China's President Xi Jinping on Tuesday invited Prime Minister Narendra Modi to visit China in November and called for a "negotiated resolution" to the boundary dispute "at an early date".
- China had invited Mr. Modi to attend the APEC leaders' meeting in Beijing in November. However, with scheduled SAARC and G20 meetings that same month, the visit may take place at a later date.
- Mr. Xi called for a "negotiated solution to the border issues at an early date"
- Prime Minister Modi said that maintaining peace and tranquility on the border was essential for resolving the issue and India is willing to peacefully settle the boundary issue through existing mechanisms and friendly negotiations.
- The Prime Minister also referred to India and China's common civilisational heritage, and links through Buddhism, and called for both countries to do more together to tackle their common challenge of fighting terrorism.
- The Chinese President said he wanted both countries to launch "a batch of exemplary projects" in infrastructure, such as railway construction, to enable more balanced and sustainable trade. The rising trade deficit in China's favour, reaching \$ 29 billion last year, was raised by Mr. Modi.
- Mr. Xi also said China welcomed India to join its initiative to set up a new Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank as a founding member, the official Xinhua news agency reported.

India, Russia begin naval drills in Sea of Japan

- Two countries fielded an impressive array of warships and aircraft during the Indra-14 exercise, will work together to check piracy, render assistance to ships in distress and counter the threat from submarines.
- India and Russia have commenced naval manoeuvres in the Sea of Japan which coincide with their growing energy ties that could, in the future, include transit of oil through the Arctic route.
- Russia's guided missile cruiser Varyag and destroyer Bystry are participating in the exercise, in which the Navy is showcasing INS Shivalik, a modern stealth frigate, and INS Ranvijay, a Rajput class destroyer.

India to Host IBSA Summit Next Year

- India will be hosting the 7th IBSA (India-Brazil-South Africa) Summit in 2015.
- IBSA is a trilateral initiative amongst India, Brazil and South Africa “to promote, inter-alia, South-South cooperation and exchange”.
- The platform was announced, following a meeting of the foreign ministers of the three countries in Brasilia in 2003, through the adoption of the Brasilia Declaration.
- The IBSA summit involves consultations at the Heads of State level while meetings between Ministers and officials are held at the Trilateral Joint Commission and Focal Point levels respectively.
- New Delhi would also be hosting the India Africa Forum in December this year.

Bank in Shanghai, but presidency for India

- BRICS countries ironed out their differences over the announcement of the BRICS bank and the contingent reserve fund. The two economic initiatives are the major announcements of the Fortaleza declaration.
- Shanghai won out as the location for the headquarters for the BRICS bank with equal shareholding for all BRICS members. India would assume the first presidency of the bank, which would be named, as per the Indian suggestion, the “New Development Bank”.
- The NDB, to be headquartered in Shanghai, will have an initial authorised capital of \$100 billion and an initial subscribed capital of \$50 billion equally shared by the five member countries.
- What has clouded the bank’s future in recent months is the unexpected move by China to push forward the setting up of another financial institution — the Asia Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB).
- The AIIB is expected to focus on China and Southeast Asia, while the BRICS bank effort which would emphasise projects in the member countries and in Africa.
- The AIIB move is being seen as an effort by China to challenge the influence of Japan in the region, as seen in Japanese influence in the functioning of the Asian Development Bank.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi also said that The U.N. Security Council and the IMF are in need of “urgent reform”.
- He also pitched for a common outlook on global crises such as the conflict in Israel, Syria and Iraq, and called for BRICS countries to help “Afghanistan fight the forces of terrorism.” He said that cyber security was a priority for BRICS countries, and called for a united stand on “zero terrorism”.

- Mr. Modi invoked mantra of “Vasudaiv kutumbakam” (the global family), and called for more “people to people” ties within the BRICS countries, including a BRICS university, more travel, scientific exchanges and sharing of healthcare facilities.

For IAF, Rafale makes the grade

- Despite an aggressive counter campaign by the British and Americans, the Indian side is firm about wrapping up the Rafale deal.
- The Rafale has made the grade because it is a safer twin-engine aircraft, which the IAF wants to fly for the next 40 years.
- The French have modified the Rafale for atomic weapon delivery, which opens up the possibility of its role in imparting “second strike” capability, which is central for validating India’s posture of credible nuclear deterrence.
- Presently Russia’s Su-30 MKI forming the core of the IAF’s strike force, supplemented by the air superiority Mirage-2000 jets and the Jaguar bombers.
- Russia is fast losing its dominance in Indian skies as the Indian Air Force, instead of another batch of IL-78 air-to-air refuellers, which are central for extending the strike range of fighter aircraft, the IAF has declared its preference for the French A330 MRTT refuelling planes.
- Anticipating a loss of turf, the Russians are, nevertheless showing signs of mounting a riposte by developing weapons in partnership with Indian companies, taking advantage of the 49 per cent stake that foreign companies are now allowed in Indian defence industry.

‘U.S., E.U. can’t be trusted on Bali package’

- India said on Thursday that it no longer trusts the United States at the ongoing World Trade Organisation (WTO) negotiations on the Bali package in Geneva.
- Commerce and Industry Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is likely to meet WTO Director-General Roberto Azevedo, United States Trade Representative and the EU Trade Commissioner in Sydney at the G20 Summit in an attempt to find a solution to the gridlocked Bali Deal negotiations.
- India is sticking to its ground in Geneva and refusing to support a Trade Facilitation Agreement [TFA] unless work starts on finding a permanent solution for its minimum support prices for procuring food from poor farmers for below poverty line Indians that are in danger of breaching the WTO caps on subsidies.

Pipeline to Pakistan may revive stalled mega projects

- India’s decision to pipe natural gas and other petroleum products to Pakistan is being seen as a first step that could lead to the revival of two stalled mega undertakings involving Islamabad — the Iran-Pakistan-India (IPI) pipeline and the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) project.

- Instability in Pakistan’s Baluchistan, through which the proposed IPI would pass, coupled with the policy of the United States so far to seek Iran’s political and economic isolation, have impeded the project.
- But the IPI could revive, should a breakthrough be achieved in the ongoing nuclear talks between Iran and the six global powers.

India, U.S, Japan joint naval exercise in Pacific

- India, the United States and Japan are embarking on joint naval manoeuvres in the Pacific Ocean on Thursday as part of the Malabar series of exercises. The exercise, in which 800 personnel from the Navy will participate, follows the U.S.’s strategic pivot to Asia — a doctrine that will result in the shifting of a bulk of American naval assets in the Asia-Pacific over the next decade.
- The shift in the U.S. military posture is seen as part of a new initiative to contain China. However, Indian officials say that India will exercise its “strategic autonomy” but will not participate in a U.S. led counter-China policy with Japan and Australia as partners.
- The Navy is fielding a frigate, a destroyer, and a supply vessel in the week-long exercise meant to focus on anti-piracy and anti-terrorism operations. The three countries earlier participated in joint exercises in 2009, and Singapore and Australia were also part of the manoeuvres in 2007. This exercise follows the Indra-14 drills that India and Russia held in the Sea of Japan.

World needs India to succeed: WB president

- The world was closely watching the new government in India and needed India to succeed in order to end extreme poverty by 2020, According to Jim Yong Kim, president of the World Bank Group.
- He also mentioned, If the ranking of India in Doing Business Report(DBR) was based just on Gujarat, [the country] would improve 50 places. So our hope is that what Mr. Modi did in Gujarat in improving the business environment is scaled to all of India, if that does happen, India will rise very quickly in the DBR rankings.
- WB will provide financial support to India worth \$15-18 billion over the next three years.
- He added, “The world needs India to succeed. If India reaches its economic goals, several million people will be lifted out of poverty in a generation’s tim. This represents an historic opportunity [which is] critical not only for India but for the world if we are to end extreme poverty by 2020.”

West Asia: dialogue only viable option, says India

- India expressed “deep concern” over the escalation of conflict between Israel and Palestine. India also reiterated its joint stand — with IBSA and BRICS partners — to promote dialogue and understanding in Palestine and Israel.

- In a statement made at the 21st special session of the UNHRC — on the human rights situation in occupied Palestinian territory — India urged for an immediate ceasefire and called on both sides to resume dialogue.
- The solution to the “Palestine issue,” India said, should be based on relevant U.N. resolutions, the Arab Peace Plan and the Quartet Roadmap resulting in a “sovereign, independent, viable and united State of Palestine within secure and recognised borders side-by-side at peace with Israel and with East Jerusalem as its capital”.

India summons Pakistan envoy over 26/11 trial delay

- India summoned the Deputy High Commissioner of Pakistan and lodged a strong protest against the delay in the ongoing 2008 Mumbai terror attacks trial in Pakistan.
- The trial of the seven Pakistani accused, going on in a Pakistan anti-terrorism court, was adjourned for the seventh time on Wednesday, leading India to lodge a “strong diplomatic protest” with Islamabad.
- Indian officials also reiterated the “high importance India attaches to bring to justice all those responsible in Pakistan for the Mumbai terrorist attacks”.
- The last two hearings in the trial could not take place because of the presiding judge being on leave. Earlier, on four occasions, trial could not be held owing to the prosecution lawyers being absent over security reasons.

India lags behind BRICS on human development

- According to the 2014 UNDP Human Development Report, India’s human development index has improved very slightly but remains among the median countries in terms of human development, just seven places above Bangladesh.
- The Human Development Index is a composite index that measures income, education (average years of education completed by adults, and expected years of education for children entering school) and health (life expectancy).
- With an HDI value of 0.586 out of a maximum possible 1, India is ranked 135. India’s human development index improved slower in the 2000s than it did in the 1980s despite much faster economic growth.
- When inequality is factored in, India loses nearly 30% of its HDI value. India’s human development indicators are also substantially different for men and women; the HDI for men alone is much higher at 0.627, while the HDI for Indian women alone is just 0.519.
- The report cites ILO estimates that a “basic social floor - universal basic old age and disability pensions, basic childcare benefits, universal access to essential health care, social assistance and a 100-day employment scheme” would cost India less than 4 per cent of its GDP.

Chinese Rail Lines up to India Border

- China is planning the construction of two railway lines in Tibet that will extend up to the border with India and are expected to be completed by 2020.
- The railway lines will run from the town of Shigatse, which next month will be connected to the Qinghai-Tibet railway line that extends to Lhasa.
- Railway line will be further extended during the 13th five year plan period (2016-2020), running to two regions near the border with India: Yatung, a trade centre close to Sikkim and Bhutan, and to Nyingchi in the east, near the Arunachal Pradesh border.
- A third railway line will be build to Gyirong, where there is a trade and border checkpoint connecting Tibet's Yatung county and Nepal.
- It will accelerate transportation of the mineral products, which could only be transmitted through highways that often risk being cut off during rainy seasons or see vehicle turnovers, the bargaining chips will be increased on the Chinese side if people in the South Tibet region see better economic development in southwestern Tibet.

India Links Trade Pact to Food Subsidies Deal

- India said at the WTO General Council meeting in Geneva that the failure of the trade body to work in the interests of all its members and to deliver meaningfully on the development mandate of the Doha Development Round would pose a far more serious risk to its credibility than any other factor.
- India suggested that the adoption of the Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) be postponed till satisfactory progress is made on the issue of finding permanent protection for India's minimum support prices to farmers against the WTO subsidy caps that are benchmarked to food prices of the 1980s.
- India said it was not opposed to the TFA but demanded that other decisions of Bali be taken forward in the same time frame and demanded that the adoption of the TF Protocol be postponed till a permanent solution on public stockholding for food security is found.
- India proposed modifications to the Protocol, including setting December 31, 2014 as the deadline for finding a permanent solution on public stockholding for food security, Other suggestions include the immediate establishment of an institutional mechanism such as a dedicated Special Session of the Committee on Agriculture to arrive at the permanent solution by the deadline.
- India pointed out that the developing countries had accepted the Bali package in good faith reassured by the renewed affirmation of commitment to the Doha Development Agenda and its development dimension.

Boko Haram: Ready for negotiations to free abducted girls, says Nigeria

- Nigeria's Permanent Representative to the UN, said the country is open to negotiations in order to secure the release of over 200 schoolgirls who were abducted in April.
- It is now more than 100 days after the schoolgirls were abducted by Islamist militant group Boko Haram in Chibok, Borno.
- According to the Human Rights Watch, Boko Haram has been responsible for the death of 2,053 civilians in 95 attacks during the first six months of this year.

China asks India, U.S., Japan to ensure naval drills will be 'helpful' to peace in the region

- India, the United States and Japan kicked off three-way naval exercises, China has called on the three countries to ensure that the Malabar drills in the Pacific Ocean would be helpful to build mutual trust in a region grappling with renewed maritime tensions.
- India for the first time in more than five years agreed to a long-pending Japanese request to participate in the India-U.S. "Malabar" naval exercises.
- Chinese leaders and State media have, in recent months, frequently praised India's stated policy of strategic independence amid increasing debate in China on the U.S. "pivot" or rebalancing to strengthen military ties with countries in the Asia-Pacific.

U.S. criticises India's "restrictive" religious laws

- Indian authorities implemented "restrictive laws" and did not "always efficiently or effectively prosecute those who attacked religious minorities," according to the 2013 International Religious Freedom report, released by the U.S. State Department.
- Citing a long list of notable incidents where religious rights were curbed, the IRF report said that although the Indian government "generally respected" religious freedom, some laws and policies restricted this freedom and officials invoked several sections of the Indian Penal Code that resulted in minorities' freedom of speech being curtailed on Internet sites.

India, U.S. to discuss problems in nuclear trade

- Mr. Kerry will be meeting External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj along with a full delegation for the fifth Indo-U.S. Strategic Dialogue.
- Mr. Kerry will also meet Mr. Jaitley, and sources said discussions on defence purchases that the U.S. is pushing, including helicopters, missiles, and ultra-light howitzer guns, are expected to be positive.

- During the strategic dialogue, India and the U.S. will try and iron out the issues in conducting civil nuclear trade. Despite interest from companies such as Westinghouse and GE, trade has been blocked over U.S. concerns on India's suppliers' liability clause. India has already been able to cross similar hurdles with France and Russia.

Indians in Libya told to leave country

- Amid spiralling violence in Libya, India's mission in Tripoli advised its nationals to leave the strife-torn country using all available means and not to travel to that country.
- Andhra Pradesh government wrote to External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj seeking the Centre's intervention to evacuate people from the State who were working in the north African country.
- Prior to the uprising in Libya, the number of Indians engaged there was estimated to be more than 18,000.

ECONOMY & BANKING ISSUE

RBI Committee for Indices on Labour to Improve Decision-Making

- Seeking to address data gap problems, a Reserve Bank of India panel, made a case for compilation of separate indices on producer price, labour force, urban wages and household indebtedness with a view to improving monetary policy formulation.
- To address major data gaps in monetary policy-making, the committee recommends the compilation of various indicators, such as producer price index, services sector output and price index, labour force survey, urban wages, retail sales, construction activity survey, and surveys of household indebtedness through co-ordination with the relevant government agencies.
- The panel, headed by RBI Executive Director Deepak Mohanty, said: “with increasing integration with the global economy and the growing complexity of the economic structure, information needs have increased considerably and data gaps are being experienced in various domains of central banking.

Highlights of the Budget:-

- Arun Jaitley retains fiscal deficit target at 4.1%, outlines roadmap-
- Government will retain the fiscal deficit (Total expenditure- Total government non debt creating revenue) target for 2014-15 at 4.1 per cent of GDP and brought down to 3.6 per cent in 2015-16 and 3 per cent by 2016-17. There are many challenges to lowering fiscal deficit like low growth, High interest rate, subsidy burden etc.
- The CAD, which is the difference between inflows and outflows of foreign exchange, was brought down to 1.7 per cent of GDP in 2013-14, from a record 4.7 per cent in the previous year, because of actions taken by Government, RBI and Sebi.

Strong Emphasis on Rural Development

- Agriculture credit availability will be Rs. 8 lakh crore. Farmers who make prompt repayment will be given loan at 4 per cent interest.
- rural infrastructure development fund of Rs. 5,000 crore will be available.
- provision has been made for developing agricultural warehouses at a cost of Rs. 5,000 crore.
- The National Rural Livelihood Mission will be extended to 100 more districts.
- Soil health cards will be provided to farmers and a new urea policy will be developed.
- 1000 crore for “Pradhan mantri krishi sinchayee yojana” for assured irrigation.
- Shyam Prasad Mukharji Rurban Mission for integrated product based infrastructure.
- Deen Dayal upadhayaya gram jyoti yojana for rural power.

11 per cent jump in Home Ministry's budget

- The Home Ministry was allocated Rs. 65,745 crore in the 2014-15 Budget announced on Thursday, a 11 per cent jump over last year's outlay.
- It is also proposed to set up 'Crisis Management Centres' in all the districts of National Capital Territory of Delhi this year in all government and private hospitals. The funding will be provided from the Nirbhaya Fund setup after 16th december 2012 incident in Delhi.
- CRPF which is involved in anti-Naxal operations besides maintaining security situation in Jammu and Kashmir and the Northeastern region has been allocated Rs. 12,169.51 crore comparison to Rs. 11,373.72 crore it received last year.
- The BSF, which guards Indo-Pak and Indo-Bangladesh borders ; Assam Rifles, which plays a key role in anti-insurgency operations in the Northeast and guards the Indo-Myanmar border ; The ITBP, which guards the icy heights along the Sino-Indian border etc. have all seen a rise in their allocation.
- A sum of Rs. 11.37 crore has been allocated for developing traffic and communication networks and model traffic systems in NCR, Rs. 11.50 crore for installation of traffic signals in the national capital and Rs 110 crore for construction of fortified police stations in Naxal-affected states.

Govt to Review DTC bill in its Present Form

- Draft DTC Bill prepared by the then Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee in 2010 which proposed the slabs at Rs 2-5 lakh (10 per cent) , Rs 5-10 lakh (20 per cent) and Rs 10 lakh and above (30 per cent). Here the corporate tax was proposed at 30 per cent.
- The Standing Committee on Finance headed by Senior BJP leader Yashwant Sinha suggested raising the income tax exemption limit to Rs 3 lakh as against Rs 2 lakh proposed in the DTC Bill, 2010.
- The Standing Committee in its recommendation suggested the slabs in the brackets of Rs 3-10 lakh, Rs 10-20 lakh and Rs 20 lakh and above. On corporate tax, it recommended that the rate be retained at 30 per cent.

Govt proposes over Rs. 2,000 cr for Ganga Conservation Mission

- An integrated programme for the conservation of river Ganga called "Namami Gange" with an outlay of Rs 2,037 crores has been proposed.
- To harness the enthusiasm of the NRI community towards the conservation of the river Ganga, an 'NRI Fund for Ganga' will be set up which will finance special projects.
- A sum of Rs. 100 crore has been set aside for Ghat development and beautification of the river front at Kedarnath, Haridwar, Kanpur, Varanasi, Allahabad, Patna and Delhi.
- The budget also contains the first ever effort to link the rivers across the country with the Finance Minister setting aside a sum of Rs. 100 crore in the current budget to expedite the preparation of Detailed Project Reports.

Govt to continue Aadhaar, provides Rs. 2k cr in 2014-15

- A sum of Rs 2,039.64 crore has been provided for 2014-15 to execute the task of implementing Unique Identification as entrusted to Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI).
- UIDAI was mandated to collect biometrics of 600 million residents in the country and rest of the population was to be covered under the National Population Register (NPR) project.
- Cabinet Committee on UIDAI decided that all residents would be issue National Multi-purpose Identity Cards under NPR and UIDAI would generate Unique identification number for the entire population. Both UIDAI and NPR were to share the biometric data collected by them for issuing NMIC and generating unique identification number.
- The NPR is a comprehensive identity database maintained by the Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India under the Home Ministry.

FDI limit in insurance, defence hiked to 49%

- Government proposed hiking the foreign direct investment limit in insurance and defence sectors to 49 per cent, with full Indian management and control, through the FIPB (Foreign Investment Promotion Board) route.
- Government also proposed Rs. 5,000 crore hike in defence allocation over the previous interim budget.
- Mr. Jaitley also announced that Rs. 1,000 crore were being earmarked for strategic railway projects in border areas.

Rs. 37,880 crore to be Pumped into Nation's Road Network

- Union Budget 2014 has given importance to fast-tracking highways and improving the road infrastructure.
- Proposal of investment in National Highways Authority of India and State roads of an amount of Rs. 37,880 crore which includes Rs. 3,000 crore for the North East.
- Mr. Jaitley also proposed setting up of an institution, called 3P India, with a corpus of Rs. 500 crore to provide support to mainstreaming PPPs.
- Mr. Jaitley proposed to develop an additional 15,000 km of gas pipeline systems in the country using appropriate PPP models.

IIP grows to 19-month high of 4.7% in May

- IIP grew at 4.7 per cent in May, a 19-month high.
- The growth is mainly on the back of recovery in the output of manufacturing, mining and electricity production and capital goods.
- Manufacturing, which constitutes over 75 per cent of the index, grew 4.8 per cent in May against 3.2 per cent decline in output a year ago.

RBI Governor Launches Indian Bank's mobile Branches

- Indian Bank has, as part of the urban financial inclusion initiative, launched two mobile branches with ATM facility in Chennai.
- Under the financial inclusion initiative, Indian Bank has provided banking services to 5,098 villages, of which 4,934 villages have been covered through smart card enabled business correspondent model.
- Bank already operates eight mobile branches providing banking services in 70 villages.

Nabard Launches Rupay Kisan Cards

- National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (Nabard) today rolled out RuPay Kisan Card and RuPay Debit Card, it is in the nature of ATM cum Debit Card, is being issued by any cooperative bank in the state of Haryana.
- RuPay cards by cooperative banks will enable them to improve their customer service and bring it on par with any other bank to farmers and other customers.

Government to take on GAAR implementation soon: Revenue Secretary

- Revenue Secretary Shaktikanta Das on Saturday said the government would shortly take a view on whether controversial tax law GAAR should be implemented from the scheduled date of April, 2015.
- The Government had earlier proposed imposing the General Anti-Avoidance Rules (GAAR) from April 1, 2015, for those claiming tax benefit of over Rs. 3 crore. The rules are aimed at minimising tax avoidance for investments made by entities based in tax havens.
- As per the existing proposal, investments made after March 2013 will be covered under GAAR with effect from assessment year 2016-17.

BSE forms 11-member advisory group on REITs

- The Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) has launched an advisory group on REITs (real estate investment trusts), which are aimed at attracting long-term funds to the cash-strapped realty sector from both foreign as well as domestic investors.
- REITs can bring in USD 10 billion of foreign funds into the sector by the end of this fiscal.
- REITs were originally announced in FY 2014 Budget, but at that time the government did not offer any tax sops to attract investors. But Arun Jaitley had announced tax incentives like exemption from long-term capital gains tax to popularise REITs.

Rs. 2923 cr fine on telcos for violating issuance norms

- The Government has imposed a penalty of about Rs 2,923 crore on telecom operators in the past seven years for issuing mobile connections without proper verifications.
- TERM cells have imposed penalty on non-compliant consumer application form (CAF) and filing of complaints/FIR against forged cases.
- Major deficiencies in issuing mobile connections were related to missing CAF, missing photo or document proof, subscriber's acquisition based on forged or fake documents, pre-activated mobile connections, more than 9 connections to an individual in one service area etc.
- James Rodriguez of Colombia won the Golden boot award for most number(6) of goals in the tournament.

WPI Inflation Eases to 5.4 % in June

- Annual wholesale price index-based (WPI) inflation eased to 5.4 per cent in June, it was 6 per cent in May.
- Retail inflation fell to 30-month low of 7.31 per cent in June, mainly on account of lower prices of food items, including vegetables, cereals and meat.
- The retail inflation, measured on consumer price index (CPI), was 8.28 per cent in May. Its lowest was 7.65 per cent in January, 2012, the month the government started releasing the data in percentage terms.
- According to the data, the corresponding provisional inflation rates for rural and urban areas for June are: 7.72 per cent and 6.82 per cent compared to 8.86 per cent and 7.55 per cent in May, respectively.
- The moderation in inflation together with the rebound in industrial production, as per the recently released data, provides a positive signal that the structural bottlenecks afflicting the economy could be gradually showing signs of receding.
- Prices of vegetables, though on a downward trend, continued to remain elevated despite a series of steps from new Government for a crack-down on high food inflation. These include restrictions on exports of key kitchen commodities.

Govt slaps \$579 m additional penalty on Reliance Industries

- The government has slapped an additional penalty of \$579 million on Reliance Industries for producing less than targeted natural gas from its KG-D6 block.
- With this, the total penalty on RIL for missing the target in four fiscal years beginning April 1, 2010 now stands at a cumulative \$2.376 billion.
- The Production Sharing Contract (PSC) allows RIL and its partners BP Plc and Niko Resources to deduct all capital and operating expenses from the sale of gas before sharing profit with the government.
- The creation of excess or unutilised infrastructure impacts the government's profit share and this is sought to be corrected by disallowing part of the expenses incurred.

- Gas output from the Dhirubhai-1 and 3 gas field in the eastern offshore KG-D6 block was supposed to be 80 million standard cubic meters per day but actual production was only 35.33 mmscmd in 2011-12, 20.88 mmscmd in 2012-13 and 9.77 mmscmd in 2013-14.

RBI eases reserve norms for banks issuing infra bonds

- The objective of these instructions is to mitigate the Asset-Liability Management (ALM) problems faced by banks in extending project loans to infrastructure and core industries sectors, and also to ease the raising of long term resources for project loans to infrastructure and affordable housing sectors
- The RBI said that apart from what is technically defined as infrastructure, affordable housing is another segment of the economy which requires long-term funding.
- India is looking at investing \$1 trillion in infrastructure development by 2017, half of which is expected to come from the private sector.
- Finance Minister during budget speech also said that banks will be encouraged to extend long term loans to infrastructure sector with flexible structuring to absorb potential adverse contingencies, sometimes known as the 5/25 structure.
- Under the 5/25 structure, bank may fix longer amortisation period for loans to projects in infrastructure and core industries sectors, say 25 years, with periodic refinancing, say every five years. This ensures that banks Asset and Liability is properly managed.

Finding life beyond Earth is within reach: NASA

- Experts from NASA and its partner institutions have outlined a road-map to the search for life in the universe, an ongoing journey that involves a number of current and future telescopes.
- NASA's quest to study planetary systems around other stars started with ground-based observatories, then moved to space-based assets like the Hubble Space Telescope, the Spitzer Space Telescope, and the Kepler Space Telescope.
- Today's telescopes can look at many stars and tell if they have one or more orbiting planets. Even more, they can determine if the planets are the right distance away from the star to have liquid water, the key ingredient to life as we know it.
- The NASA road-map will continue with the launch of the Transiting Exoplanet Surveying Satellite (TESS) in 2017, the James Webb Space Telescope in 2018, and the proposed Wide Field Infrared Survey Telescope — Astrophysics Focused Telescope Assets (WFIRST-AFTA) early in the next decade.
- The Webb telescope and WFIRST—AFTA will lay the groundwork, and future missions will extend the search for oceans in the form of atmospheric water vapour and for life as in carbon dioxide and other atmospheric chemicals, on nearby planets that are similar to Earth in size and mass, a key step in the search for life.

India, Brazil to expand trade

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi met Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff and two countries signed agreements on cooperation in the field of environment and remote sensing.
- During the meeting, the two heads of nations agreed to take steps to further expand and diversify trade and investment flows and deepen cooperation in agriculture and dairy science, conventional and renewable energy, space research and application, defence, cyber security and environment conservation.
- They also agreed to intensify cooperation in international forums and multilateral institutions, including the G20.
- The two sides signed Memoranda of Understanding on environment; on cooperation in augmentation of a Brazilian earth station for receiving and processing data from Indian Remote Sensing satellites; and on cooperation in the establishment of a consultation mechanism on mobility and consular issues.

Exports grow 10.2% in June

- Exports grew at above 10 per cent year-on-year for the third month in a row in June, up 10.2 per cent to \$26.5 billion.
- Imports in June also grew for the first time in 13 months, up 8.3 per cent to \$38.2 billion.
- Monthly trade deficit rose marginally to \$11.8 billion in June from \$11.2 billion in May. The partial relaxation in gold import norms in May resulted in higher imports at \$3.1 billion in June against the average of \$1.5 billion during the past 12 months.
- Export growth was the strongest in petro products at 38 per cent, followed by engineering goods that grew 22 per cent. Electronic goods exports shrank (-) 25 per cent and gems and jewellery exports contracted (-) 5 per cent in June.
- Chemicals imports were up 19 per cent and petroleum imports 11 per cent. Imports of transport equipment shrank (-) 11 per cent, machinery (-) 3.4 per cent and pearls and stones (-) 2.2 per cent. The growth in oil imports is likely to have been led by the pace of recovery in industrial output seen in June.

Core steps will be taken to sustain economic recovery

- Finance Minister said that there was “no contradiction in being pro-business and being pro-poor.” Only a spike in economic activity could create the resources “to service the poor” through social welfare programmes.
- Mr. Jaitley outlined a road map for economic recovery through a stable tax regime, targeted subsidies for the poor and marginalised and using private investment to boost infrastructure and housing, foreign direct investment (FDI) in defence and insurance.
- He said that new government has pushed for fiscal discipline than populism and it intended to rationalise subsidies so that they benefitted the poor, not the middle class through subsidies in the oil sector and education.

Contingent liabilities of states a cause for concern, says RBI paper

- A working paper of the Reserve Bank of India titled “Debt sustainability at the State level in India” sounded a warning that the contingent liabilities, primarily in the form of issuance of guarantees by the state governments, remained an area of concern.
- Going forward, there could be downside risks in case the slowdown in growth momentum observed during the last two years persisted.
- The debt position of state governments witnessed a significant improvement from 2004-05 onwards. This has been attributed, among others, to the implementation of Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Acts/Fiscal Responsibility Legislations (FRLs) at the state level in early 2000s.
- Karnataka was the first to enact its FRBM Act in September 2002, followed by Kerala (2003), Tamil Nadu (2003) and Punjab (2003).
- This was also supported by the implementation of Debt Swap Scheme (DSS) from 2002-03 to 2004-05 and Debt Consolidation and Relief Facility (DCRF) from 2005-06 to 2009-10. These two debt restructuring schemes provided debt relief through debt consolidation, and reduced the interest burden on the states.
- These developments were mirrored in lower debt-GDP ratio at 26.6 per cent in end-March 2008, before declining further to 21.7 per cent in end-March 2013.

SEBI finalises draft norms for Infra Investment Trusts

- The Securities and Exchange Board of India, came out with draft guidelines for Infrastructure Investment Trusts (InvITs), which will enable creation of a new investment product for arranging long-term financing for infrastructure projects.
- These InvITs can be listed on the stock exchanges, will get tax benefits and will invest the funds collected from investors in infrastructure projects, including PPP.
- An InvIT prior to making an offer of units, either through public issue or private placement, may have strategic investors such as banks, international multilateral financial institutions, FPIs including sovereign wealth funds, which together invest not less than 5 per cent of the size of the InvIT or such amount as may be specified by Sebi.
- The proposed holding of an InvIT in the underlying assets shall be not less than Rs.500 crore, and the offer size of the InvIT shall not be less than Rs.250 crore at the time of initial offer of units.
- The aggregate consolidated borrowing of the InvIT and the underlying SPVs shall never exceed 49 per cent of the value of InvIT assets. Further, for any borrowing exceeding 25 per cent of the value of InvIT assets, requirement of credit rating and unit holders approval has been made mandatory.
- InvITs would allow investors to invest in specific products linked to infrastructure projects, while providing necessary safeguards. Besides, it would help the corporates raise significant amounts of capital for their projects.
- An InvIT which proposes to invest at least 80 per cent of the value of the assets in the completed and revenue generating infrastructure assets, The remaining 20 per cent may be invested in under construction infrastructure projects.

SEBI eases disclosure norms for AIFs

- Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs) are basically funds established, or incorporated in India, for the purpose of pooling in capital from Indian and foreign investors for investing as per a pre-decided policy.
- The Securities and Exchange Board of India said that all AIF have to disclose the ‘disciplinary history’ of the fund, its sponsor, manager, directors, partners, promoters and associates for the last five years.
- Further, SEBI said any change in placement memorandum (which consists of details of disciplinary actions of the funds) to all would be intimated to investors and to SEBI once every six months on a consolidated basis, as against the current practice of seven days.
- Under SEBI guidelines, AIFs can operate broadly in three categories. The Category-I AIFs are those funds that get incentives from the government, SEBI or other regulators and include Social Venture Funds, Infrastructure Funds, Venture Capital Funds and SME Funds. The Category-III AIFs are those trading with a view to making short-term returns and it includes hedge funds, among others. The Category-II AIFs can invest anywhere in any combination but are prohibited from raising debt, except for meeting their day-to-day operational requirements. These AIFs include private equity funds, debt funds or fund of funds, as also all others falling outside the ambit of two other categories.

Recapitalisation of PSU banks on high priority: Jaitley

- Finance Minister Arun Jaitley on Saturday said recapitalisation to the tune of Rs 2.4 lakh crore in public sector banks to meet Basel III norms is a ‘high priority’ item for the government.
- The UPA Government’s Interim Budget had allocated Rs 11,200 crore for the current fiscal towards this.
- The Government owns 58.60 per cent stake in SBI right now. For SBI to raise capital for meeting the Basel III norms, the Government could need to lower its shareholding.
- He said the capital would be raised by the banks without diluting public sector characteristics in them. So, the government stake in the banks would remain over 51 per cent.
- This programme has to be rapidly expanded so that the remaining 42 per cent of financially excluded population is brought into the banking system.

IMD says monsoon deficit has come down to 31%

- The monsoon deficit has come down to 31 per cent with rains picking up in July across the country, giving relief to farmers.
- Central and northwestern India have been receiving deficient rainfall, but even in these parts the monsoon has been making progress.
- The monsoon is expected to remain good for the next two weeks in north, central, southern peninsula and eastern India.
- However, parts of northwestern India, which includes western Rajasthan and Kutch region, may still receive weak rainfall.

Online Coaching for Bank Exams

<http://bankpoclerk.com/community/elearning>

- In the next 24 to 48 hours, the weather system will bring in widespread good monsoon rains over Telangana, Chhattisgarh, east Madhya Pradesh and Vidarbha. The rain belt will gradually shift to bring rest of Madhya Pradesh and adjoining Maharashtra under its purview. By July 22-23, a fresh weather system will bring rains over Gangetic West Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand and Odisha.

GEAC clears field trials for GM crops

- The Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) has given the green signal for field trials of genetically modified (GM) rice, mustard, cotton, chickpea and brinjal.
- While the GEAC has approved the commercial release of Bt brinjal it has been stayed by the Ministry of Environment and Mr. Pande said the government would have to take a decision on this.
- The only genetically modified crop approved for release in India is cotton.
- Three companies - Bayer Bio Sciences, Monsanto and BASF have been allowed to import the Soyabean oil, which is genetically modified. The last time Central Food Technological Research Institute (CFTRI), gave a clean chit to imported samples.

World Bank chief to meet Modi, review key development priorities

- World Bank Group President Jim Yong Kim will meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi this week to understand his development priorities.
- “The historic mandate from the people of India represents a tremendous opportunity to unlock India’s growth potential and take advantage of its immense demographic dividend,” said Mr. Kim
- Mr. Kim will visit World Bank-supported project sites in Tamil Nadu to see the challenges of India’s rural-urban transformation, and how, empowered with the right skills, rural women in the state are taking advantage of emerging urban employment opportunities.
- World Bank Group’s private sector arm, the International Finance Corporation (IFC) has successfully mobilised its \$1 billion offshore rupee bond program, aimed at strengthening India’s capital markets and attracting foreign investments.
- India is home to the largest operations of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), the International Development Association (IDA), and the International Finance Corporation (IFC).
- World Bank Group assistance to India between July 2013 and June 2014 amounted to \$6.4 billion.

Revenue collection expected to exceed target this fiscal: Jaitley

- After missing target in the last financial year, the government on Monday exuded confidence that tax collection during the current fiscal would exceed budget estimate of Rs. 13.64 lakh crore.
- During 2013-14, tax collection fell short of target by a whopping Rs. 77,000 crore. The government collected Rs. 11.58 lakh crore against the budget estimate of Rs. 12.35 lakh crore.
- Mr. Jaitley emphasised that the credibility of Income Tax department is its greatest asset. “Credibility of income tax department is its greatest asset, that’s why highest standards of ethics are expected from officers of the department,”.

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- There are doubts about the meeting of indirect tax collection target for the current fiscal as there is slowdown in the economy. On income tax front, however, there is possibility of surpassing target.

TRAI suggests Rs.2,400-crore plan for two island chains

- The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), recommended a Rs.2,400-crore project to connect India's two major outlying island chains ;Andaman & Nicobar Islands (ANI) and Lakshadweep, with stable and strong cable-based networks to replace the satellite mode of transmission.
- The move is expected to encourage more operators to run services in these island chains. At the same time, the regulator has recommended the retention of the satellite option.
- For ANI, TRAI has suggested connecting 22 islands, which included 18 islands with a population of above 100 and four islands which have the presence of police, forest camps and tourists. Only 29 out of 576 islands in ANI are inhabited and 90 per cent of the population lives on just three islands — North, Middle and South Andaman Islands.
- For Lakshadweep, TRAI has projected connectivity in ten inhabited villages. Here, 11 out of 36 islands are inhabited. Lakshadweep is part of the Kerala circle and only two operators — BSNL and Airtel operate services — as against eight in mainland Kerala.

RBI Working on Bankruptcy Exit System

- In the absence of a good bankruptcy code in India, Reserve Bank is working on a system to enable entrepreneurs seeking to exit insolvent business.
- RBI have been thinking how to create a system so that people should voluntarily withdraw from an unattractive business.
- While there is a talk of providing legal provision in the Companies Act in this regard, but the RBI would like to work on examining the regulatory framework for the voluntary withdrawal by the entrepreneur.
- To identify stressed assets, RBI has established a Credit Central Repository of Information. It ensures that if a large borrower defaults with one bank, the information about the same is passed on to the other banks on quarterly basis.

Firms with 10 or more employees may come under EPF Act

- The government is considering a proposal to reduce threshold limit for coverage of firms under the EPF Act to 10 persons, At present, all those firms employing 20 or more workers are covered by the retirement fund body Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) for providing a social security net.
- The timeframe for implementing this proposal has not been fixed. The number of employees to be benefited from this proposal has not been worked out. And EPFO has no plan to bring unorganised workers under the provident fund scheme.

- EPFO runs social security schemes including Employees' Provident Fund Scheme 1952, Employees' Pension Scheme 1995 and Employees Deposit Linked Insurance Scheme 1976 for the organised sector workers at present.

Ultra high net worth households grew 16% in FY14: report

- India's economic recovery is well and truly under way if one were to track the growth of ultra high net worth households/individuals (UHNHs/UHNIs) in India.
- UHNIs are those with wealth exceeding Rs. 25 crore and the report said their number could triple in the next three years. UHNHs net worth is projected to grow at CAGR of 34 per cent from an estimated Rs. 104 lakh crore in FY14 to Rs. 408 lakh crore in FY19.
- HNIs were returning to equity markets compared to the lull for the last five years. "Investors had earlier preferred fixed income investments but equity allocation rose from 35 per cent in 2012 to 38 per cent in 2013 while debt investments reduced to 24 per cent.

Govt. raises FDI cap in insurance to 49%

- Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved the raising of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) cap in insurance from 26 per cent to 49 per cent through the Foreign Investment Promotion Board route.
- The government will bring a Bill before Parliament in the current session in this regard. The Bill for the same proposal that was moved by the UPA government, lapsed after the last Lok Sabha's dissolution.
- The insurance industry has been demanding a hike in the FDI limit for long. As the insurance business grows, so do capitalisation needs. But insurance firms are restricted by the existing FDI cap from tapping overseas investors for capital while Indian investors don't always have deep pockets.

Cabinet clears bill to empower SEBI to deal with ponzi schemes

- A Bill to effectively empower the market regulator SEBI to crack down on ponzi schemes and investment frauds was approved by the Cabinet. Following the CCEA approval, the Securities Laws (Amendment) Bill will be introduced in Parliament.
- The Bill seeks to give SEBI sweeping powers like attachment of properties, launch of recovery proceedings, seeking call data records to investigate cases and ordering search and seizure against manipulators and fraudsters.

Central Bank of Sri Lanka in investment pact with RBI

- The Central Bank of Sri Lanka (CBSL) and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) signed an agreement, enabling the RBI to access the Sri Lankan government securities market, up to a maximum value of \$500 million.

- The CBSL, in turn, will be able to further diversify its reserves management activities into Indian rupee denominated assets.

SAT extends stay on SEBI order on Karvy Stock Broking

- Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT) extended the stay on implementing the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) order that barred Karvy Stock Broking from taking up new assignment or launching new schemes.
- SEBI's ruling was with regard to the IPO scam of 2003-2005. Earlier in June, SAT had stayed the SEBI order till a hearing.
- SEBI had charged that Karvy Stock Broking had "failed to maintain high standards of integrity and further indulged in manipulation and malpractices and thereby violated the code of conduct" specified in its Broker Regulations.

No proposal to lower gold import duty: FinMin

- The Finance Ministry on Friday said at present it has no proposal to lower customs duty on gold from the current 10 per cent.
- There have been demands for reduction in the levy on the precious metal as imports declined to 638 tonnes in 2013-14 from 845 tonnes in the previous fiscal.
- Following a sudden spurt in gold import in the beginning of 2013, the government had hiked import duty on the precious metal to 10 per cent in phases. The government and the Reserve Bank also imposed certain other restrictions on shipments, including linking of imports to exports to prevent outflow of foreign exchange.
- Government said the cases of gold smuggling had gone up in 2013-14 to 2,441. In 2012-13 and 2011-12 the number of such cases stood at 869 and 500 respectively.

MSME: a road map for executing budget announcements

- This year's budget has announced specific steps that provide a positive direction to the micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) sector for growth. One such long-overdue step is the announcement of revision of the existing definition.
- The threshold limits of defining MSMEs were set way back in 2006 and, while global MSMEs are a lot larger than Indian MSMEs, the definition makes it difficult to create linkages between MSMEs in India and the MSMEs worldwide.
- Definition is based on investment in plant and machinery. Inflation has increased the cost of investment under plant and machinery, and this strengthens the case to expeditiously review the definition based on investment criteria.
- Access to finance remains a challenge for MSMEs. Setting up a committee to examine the financial architecture of MSMEs is welcome; however, what is required is concrete recommendations for faster availability of credit at low cost.

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- Issues related to service tax for MSMEs are yet to be resolved. For instance, an increase in the threshold limit for levy of service tax is desirable.
- The proposed entrepreneurship-friendly Bankruptcy Law is a much needed breather for the industry, and will facilitate easy exit for loss-making units.
- Finally, the focus on SME development in the Northeast and Jammu & Kashmir, as announced in the budget, will lead to balanced regional development, especially through better rail connectivity in the Northeast.

India has to decide on trade rules: Kerry

- U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry said, while India and the U.S. have one of the most important relationships, “India has a decision to make about where it fits in the trading system”.
- India’s willingness to support a rules-based trading order and fulfil its obligations would help to welcome greater investment from the U.S. and from around the world.
- Mr. Kerry said the fact that Prime Minister Narendra Modi put in place greater transparency and accountability during his time as Chief Minister of Gujarat “tells us he has already provided a model of how raising standards can actually increase economic growth.”

World Bank rolling back safeguards: leaked report

- The World Bank may be on the verge of rolling back a wide range of in-built environmental and community protections surrounding its development projects worldwide.
- The impact on India could be substantial, especially as World Bank President Jim Yong Kim said after meeting Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on July 23 that the Bank “will be ready to provide financial support worth \$15-18 billion over the next three years,”.
- Under the broad rubric of ‘more carve-outs than coverage,’ critics of the Bank’s latest proposed move noted that borrower systems may replace application of the safeguards, with no clear minimum standard for determining their adequacy; and sub-projects classified by borrowers as Substantial Risk need only comply with national laws, not the safeguards.
- On human rights BHR noted that the vision statement did not contain any enforceable clauses, rather they were, “limited in scope, and takes for granted that the Bank’s operations are supportive of human rights without providing a framework for ensuring this.”

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AWARDS & PRIZES

Russian award for Viswanathan Anand

- Chess greats Viswanathan Anand (India) and Boris Gelfand (Israel) have been selected for the Russian Federation's 'Order of Friendship' award.
- The awards recognise foreign nationals' contribution to expanding friendship and cooperation with the Russian Federation and to the development of economic, scientific and cultural ties.
- Anand and Gelfand played the FIDE world chess championship match at the State Tretyakov Gallery in Moscow in 2012.

President Pranab Mukherjee to award Gandhi Peace prize

- Environmentalist Chandi Prasad Bhatt will be awarded the prestigious Gandhi Peace prize for 2013 by President Pranab Mukherjee.
- The Gandhi Peace Prize was instituted by the government in 1995 on the occasion of the 125th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.
- This annual award is given to individuals and institutions for their contributions towards social, economic and political transformation through non-violence and other Gandhian methods. It carries a plaque, citation and an amount of Rs. 1 crore.
- The recipients of this award include former Tanzanian President Dr Julius K Nyerere, founder President of Sarvodaya Shramadana movement in Sri Lanka Dr A.T. Ariyaratne, Dr Gerhard Fischer of Rama Krishna Mission in Germany, Baba Amte, Dr Nelson Mandela etc.

Environmentalist Chandi Prasad gets Gandhi Peace Prize

- Environmentalist and social activist Chandi Prasad Bhatt was presented the Gandhi Peace Prize by President Pranab Mukherjee.
- Mr. Bhatt is a dedicated, tireless and invaluable worker for the conservation of the environment, the Chipko movement started by him in 1973 followed the method of peaceful and non-violent Satyagraha for the redressal of the legitimate rights of the hill people to collect wood and fodder and saving them from natural calamities owing to large-scale deforestation.
- A Gandhian and a member of the Sarvodaya movement, Mr. Bhatt organised the Dashauli Gram Swarajya Sangh in 1964. He dedicated himself through the Sangh to improve the lives of villagers, providing employment near their homes in forest-based industries, and fighting against wrong policies through Gandhian non-violent satyagraha.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Mars orbiter Spacecraft to Reach Target in 75 Days

- Exactly 75 days from Saturday, India's Mars spacecraft is scheduled for a rendezvous with the red planet, Mars Orbiter Spacecraft has travelled 525 million km on its heliocentric arc.
- In the last crucial milestone on June 11, ISRO performed the second Trajectory Correction Manoeuvre (TCM—2) on the orbiter as a mid-course correction to keep the spacecraft on course.
- The ambitious Mars mission under a Rs 450 crore project was launched from Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh onboard the Pollar Satellite Launch Vehicle on November 5 2013.

Biodiversity Loss Pushing Earth Towards Sixth Mass Extinction

- Scientists now warn that the persistent loss and decline of biodiversity is leading humanity to early days of the planet's sixth mass biological extinction event.
- Since 1500, more than 320 terrestrial vertebrates have become extinct. Populations of the remaining species show a 25 per cent average decline in abundance. The situation is similarly dire for invertebrate animal life.
- While previous extinctions have been driven by natural planetary transformations or catastrophic asteroid strikes, the current die-off can be associated with human activity.
- Where human density is high, you get high rates of defaunation, high incidence of rodents and thus high levels of pathogens, which increases the risks of disease transmission. The loss of animals is driven primarily by loss of habitat and global climate disruption, and could have trickle-up effects in our everyday lives.

Contact Re-established with Russian Satellite Carrying Geckos

- Russia's space agency lost contact last week with a Photon-M satellite carrying five of the lizards for an experiment on weightlessness and sexual behaviour.
- But mission control outside Moscow said this weekend it had re-established communications with the satellite and the intrepid gecko sexplorers' research would continue.
- The satellite was launched from Kazakhstan's Baikonur cosmodrome on July 19 after electrical problems delayed it for three weeks.

Science and Technology

- Sea state forecasts improve vessels' operational safety at ports
- Forty-eight hour forecasts on sea state conditions are coming to the aid of crews and vessels in ensuring operational safety across all major and many minor ports in the country.
- Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) are currently providing the forecasts to 12 major and 64 of the 200 minor ports along the Indian coastline.
- The forecast service basically provides sea state up to a distance of 50 km from the port locations.
- Strategically located, the major ports with excellent infrastructure handle both regional and international multi cargo, while the minor ports handle around 30 per cent of the total traffic, there

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was scope for development of minor ports into major ones, given the huge international demand for bulk transport of multi-cargo.

IN THE NEWS

Emotional Reunions

- “It’s our second life,” said a relieved Sona Joseph as she arrived at the Cochin International Airport Limited (CIAL) along with her twin sister Veena Joseph and 44 other Indian nurses on special Air India flight, AI 160, from Erbil in strife-torn Iraq.
- In what came as a relief to the Modi government after days of planning a rescue mission in Iraq, the plane carrying 183 evacuees, including workers from Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, touched down safely at Kochi though five hours behind schedule.
- Kerala Chief Minister Oommen Chandy, who was at the airport with a host of leaders and officials, attributed the successful evacuation to the concerted and coordinated efforts of the Ministry of External Affairs, the State government, and the Indian embassy.

Pinky Anand appointed ASG

- Senior Advocate Pinky Anand has been appointed Additional Solicitor-General in the Supreme Court.
- She is the second woman lawyer to be appointed ASG after senior advocate Indira Jaising.

Nobel laureate, activist Nadine Gordimer dies

- Nadine Gordimer, died peacefully in her sleep at her home in Johannesburg on Sunday. She was 90 years old.
- Nadine Gordimer was first a writer of fiction and a defender of creativity and expression, she was also a determined political activist in the struggle to end white minority rule in her country.
- Gordimer won the Nobel Prize for literature in 1991 for novels that explored the complex relationships and human cost of racial conflict in apartheid-era South Africa.
- Gordimer’s first novel, *The Lying Days* appeared in 1953, and she acknowledged that it had autobiographical elements. A New York Times reviewer compared it to Alan Paton’s *Cry the Beloved Country*, saying Gordimer’s work “is the longer, the richer, intellectually the more exciting.”
- She won the Booker Prize in 1974 for *The Conservationist*, a novel about a white South African who loses everything.

Syrian President Assad sworn in for third term

- President Bashar Assad marked the start of his third seven-year term in office amid a bloody civil war that has ravaged the Arab country.

- In the past year, Syria have seized the momentum in the civil war and troops made steady advances on several fronts against outgunned rebels bogged down in infighting.
- Throughout the crisis, Mr. Assad has maintained that the conflict that has torn his nation apart was a Western-backed conspiracy executed by “terrorists” and not a popular revolt by people inspired by the Arab Spring uprisings, seeking democracy and disenchanted with his authoritarian rule.
- Syria’s civil war, now in its fourth year, has killed more than 170,000 people and displaced one third of the country’s population.
- Mr. Assad declared victory over “terrorism” and said countries that supported the Syrian opposition “will pay a high price”.

Jakarta Governor Widodo wins Indonesian presidential election

- Jakarta Governor Joko Widodo, who won the hearts of Indonesians with his common man image, won Indonesia’s presidential election with 53 per cent of the vote.
- The numbers were released shortly after his opponent, former general Prabowo Subianto, declared he was withdrawing from the contest, saying there was massive fraud during the election.

Exoplanet with 704-day-long Year Found

- Using NASA’s Kepler spacecraft, researchers have discovered an exoplanet with the longest known year.
- The newly discovered Kepler-421b circles its star in 704 days. It is the longest period of revolution known yet for a planet outside of our solar system.

MH17 black boxes handed over to British experts

- The British government has confirmed that the two black boxes from Malaysian airlines Flight MH 17 that crashed in eastern Ukraine killing 298 on board have been handed over to British investigators.
- Boxes will contain recordings of all cockpit conversations prior to the crash, The AAIB can now analyse hours of conversation and the contents of the flight data recorder for clues on why and how the plane went down.
- The boxes were handed over by a joint technical protocol signed by representatives of the Netherlands, Malaysia, Ukraine and the United Nations’ International Civil Aviation Organisation.
- The AAIB is responsible for the investigation of civil aircraft accidents and serious incidents within the U.K.

Sachin Tendulkar bats for clean water with Livpure

- Livpure Foundation, the CSR arm of SAR group, announced an initiative to spread awareness on safe drinking water as water borne diseases are one on the biggest causes of mortality in India.

- As part of the initiative, the foundation would focus on urban slums and various states including West Bengal, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh.
- Cricket legend Sachin Tendulkar said "There are so many children under 5 who are affected by water borne diseases...not just affected many lives are lost. It is a movement to help eradicate the mortality rate among children due to waterborne diseases".

Iraq elects Fuad Masum as president

- Iraqi lawmakers elected a veteran Kurdish politician as the nation's new president, hours after an attack on a prison convoy killed dozens of people.
- In the past, Islamic militants have staged several jailbreaks, including a complex, military-style assault on two Baghdad-area prisons in July 2013 that freed more than 500 inmates.
- Masum's election comes as Iraq is facing its worst crisis since the 2011 withdrawal of U.S. troops amid the blitz offensive last month by Islamic State group that captured large swaths of land in the country's west and north, including Iraq's second largest city of Mosul.
- The vote for president a post previously held by ailing Kurdish leader Talabani is widely viewed as a step toward achieving consensus among political rivals, seen as necessary for tackling the deteriorating security crisis.
- Masum is considered a soft-spoken moderate, known for keeping good relations with Sunni and Shiite Arab politicians.
- Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki's bloc won the most seats in April elections, but he has faced mounting pressure to step aside, with critics accusing him of monopolizing power and alienating the country's Sunni and Kurdish minorities, contributing to the latest unrest.

PM launches engagement platform

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched an online platform mygov.nic.in to engage citizens in the task of "good governance" (surajya) as he completed 60 days in office. MyGov is a technology-driven platform that would provide people with the opportunity to contribute towards good governance.
- Groups and corners are an important part of MyGov. The platform has been divided into various groups namely Clean Ganga, Girl Child Education, Clean India, Skilled India, Digital India, Job Creation. Each group allows for online and on-ground tasks to be undertaken by contributors.
- In a video address posted on the Prime Minister's website, Mr. Modi pointed out there was a widespread belief in the country that after a government is elected, a gap develops between the people and the executive.

SPORTS

Germany Lift FIFA World Cup 2014 title

- Germany's Mario Götze kicks in second half of extra time to win 1-0 against Argentina in final of the FIFA World Cup 2014. Germany became the first side from Europe to win a World Cup in South America.
- Lionel Messi Of Argentina was awarded Golden Ball, which is given to best player of the tournament.
- This was Germanies fourth world cup, last coming in 1990 against the same opponent. This is the first World Cup for unified Germany, the previous three having been won by West Germany in 1954, 1974 and 1990.
- Argentina last won world cup in 1986, which was played in Mexico.
- Manuel Neuer of Germany won the Golden Glove, award for best goalkeeper.
- James Rodriguez of Colombia won the Golden boot award for most number(6) of goals in the tournament.

2014 FIFA World Cup Copa do Mundo da FIFA Brasil 2014



FIFA WORLD CUP
Brasil

2014 FIFA World Cup official logo

Juntos num só ritmo
(All in one rhythm)

Tournament details

Host country	Brazil
Dates	12 June – 13 July 2014 (32 days)
Teams	32 (from 5 confederations)
Venue(s)	12 (in 12 host cities)

Final positions

Champions	 <u>Germany</u> (4th title)
Runners-up	 <u>Argentina</u>
Third place	 <u>Netherlands</u>











Fourth place  [Brazil](#)




























Tournament statistics

Matches played 64
Goals scored 171 (2.67 per match)
Attendance 3,429,873 (53,592 per match)
Top scorer(s)  [James Rodríguez](#)
 (6 goals)^[1]
Best player  [Lionel Messi](#)^[2]
Best young player  [Paul Pogba](#)^[3]
Best goalkeeper  [Manuel Neuer](#)^[4]
Fair play award  [Colombia](#)^[5]

India aims top three finish in Glasgow CWG

- The unprecedented success achieved in the last edition in India would be hard to replicate this time after the dropping of a few disciplines, a 215-strong Indian contingent would nonetheless seek a top-five finish in the 20th Commonwealth Games.
- India finished second behind Australia with a record 101 medal haul in New Delhi Games.
- The Delhi CWG triggered an ascent in sports achievements with another record-breaking show in the 2010 Asian Games in Guangzhou where India won 65 medals. Two years later, the country won six medals in London, almost half of the individual medals won in the entire Olympic history.
- The Games will see 4,500 athletes from 71 nations of the erstwhile British empire compete for the top honours with superstar sprinter Usain Bolt of Jamaica and middle and long distance king Mo Farah of England expected to set the Hampden Park Stadium ablaze.
- India, which has sent 215 athletes in 14 sports, will be hit hard by the scrapping of archery and tennis from Glasgow Games and the reduction in the number of medal events in shooting and wrestling. The country had won a combined 12 medals from archery and tennis in 2010 while bagging 14 medals from the 18 events dropped this time from shooting. Greco-Roman category in wrestling, from which India won eight medals in 2010, has also been done away with in Glasgow.

Rank	Nation	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	 England (ENG)	58	59	57	174
2	 Australia (AUS)	49	42	46	137
3	 Canada (CAN)	32	16	34	82
4	 Scotland (SCO)*	19	15	19	53
5	 India (IND)	15	30	19	64
6	 New Zealand (NZL)	14	14	17	45
7	 South Africa (RSA)	13	10	17	40
8	 Nigeria (NGR)	11	11	14	36
9	 Kenya (KEN)	10	10	5	25
10	 Jamaica (JAM)	10	4	8	22

Rank	Nation	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
11	 Singapore (SIN)	8	5	4	17
12	 Malaysia (MAS)	6	7	6	19
13	 Wales (WAL)	5	11	20	36
14	 Cyprus (CYP)	2	4	2	8
15	 Northern Ireland (NIR)	2	3	7	12
16	 Papua New Guinea (PNG)	2	0	0	2
17	 Cameroon (CMR)	1	3	3	7
18	 Uganda (UGA)	1	0	4	5
19	 Grenada (GRN)	1	0	1	2
20	 Botswana (BOT)	1	0	0	1
	 Kiribati (KIR)	1	0	0	1
22	 Trinidad and Tobago (TRI)	0	3	5	8
23	 Pakistan (PAK)	0	3	1	4
24	 Bahamas (BAH)	0	2	1	3
	 Samoa (SAM)	0	2	1	3
26	 Namibia (NAM)	0	1	2	3
27	 Mozambique (MOZ)	0	1	1	2
	 Mauritius (MRI)	0	1	1	2
29	 Bangladesh (BAN)	0	1	0	1
	 Isle of Man (IOM)	0	1	0	1
	 Nauru (NRU)	0	1	0	1
	 Sri Lanka (SRI)	0	1	0	1
33	 Ghana (GHA)	0	0	2	2
	 Zambia (ZAM)	0	0	2	2
35	 Barbados (BAR)	0	0	1	1
	 Fiji (FIJ)	0	0	1	1
	 Saint Lucia (LCA)	0	0	1	1
Total		261	261	302	824

U.S. Lawmakers Ask FIBA to Review its Policy on Sikh Turbans

- Appalled by reports that Sikh players from India were asked to remove their turbans at an international basketball match, top U.S. lawmakers have launched a campaign asking International Basketball Federation(FIBA) to review the discriminatory policy.
- Sikh players participating within FIBA were told that their turbans violate Article 4.4.2 of FIBA’s official rules, which states that “Players shall not wear equipment (objects) that may cause injury to other players.”

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- There is no evidence showing that a turban has been dangerous during basketball games or other popular sports events, the Congressmen argue, The letter cited the example of Darsh Preet Singh who captained the basketball team at Trinity University while maintaining his turban throughout a successful career at the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA).

ON TARGET Apurvi and Rahi Shoot Gold

- Apurvi Chandela and Rahi Sarnobat were the toast of the Indian camp as the duo won gold in the women's 10m air rifle and 25m pistol respectively.
- Apurvi went to the final topping the preliminaries with a Games record total of 415.6 points. She shot brilliantly right through the final, going into the lead with a score of 31.4 points and staying there through the next eight rounds.
- Ayonika had finished fourth in the preliminaries with a score of 413.2 points. However, the Mumbai girl was in no mood to surrender and showed steely resolve as she clawed her way back to second with three rounds remaining. In the end, Ayonika had a score of 204.9 points as against Apurvi's winning total of 206.7 points.
- India also picked up a silver medal through Prakash Nanjappa in the men's 10m air pistol. Australia's Daniel Repacholi took the gold.

Red Bull driver Ricciardo wins Hungarian Grand Prix ahead of Alonso

- Daniel Ricciardo of Red Bull won the Hungarian Grand Prix , overtaking Ferrari's Fernando Alonso near the end of the race.
- Lewis Hamilton, who started from pit lane after crashing during qualifying, was third, holding off Mercedes teammate Nico Rosberg, who started from pole position.
- It was Ricciardo's second victory of the season and his career, having won the Canadian Grand Prix in Montreal in June.

Hazare, Deodhar tourneys to be Played First for World Cup Selection

- With the ICC Cricket World Cup to be played in Australia and New Zealand in February-March 2015, two 50-over one-day tournaments — the inter-State Vijay Hazare and the inter-zonal Prof. Deodhar Trophy — will gain precedence over the national championship for the Ranji Trophy, which is a first class tournament.
- The BCCI's Technical Committee, headed by Anil Kumble, which met at the Cricket Centre here , has recommended the change in the annual tournament schedule to the Working Committee, which is expected to ratify the same.
- The only home international season this year will feature three Tests against the West Indies at Bangalore, Hyderabad and Ahmedabad, five ODIs at Kolkata, Visakhapatnam, Cuttack, Dharamsala and Kochi and a Twenty20 match at New Delhi.

ICC warns Ali against Repeat of Gaza Protest

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- England's Moeen Ali has been warned by world cricket chiefs not to wear wristbands declaring his support for the people of Gaza again during international matches.
- But the International Cricket Council (ICC) said Ali would face no disciplinary action on this occasion after being warned about his future conduct by match referee David Boon.
- Ali wore wristbands during the third Test against India on Monday that read "Save Gaza" and "Free Palestine"

Indians wrest three Golds

- It rained gold medals for India, as the freestyle wrestling competitions got underway, The fine show also helped the country get into a double count in terms of gold medals.
- Besides the three titles won by Sushil Kumar, Amit Kumar and Vinesh, India also picked up a silver medal through Rajiv Tomar while Jyoti finished fourth in the women's 75kg category.

Mali adds to India's tally

- Chandrakant Mali boosted the Indian tally by winning a bronze medal in the 94kg category of the weightlifting competitions.
- The Indian had a best of 150kg in the snatch and 188kg in the clean and jerk to finish with a total of 338kg, behind Steven Kukuna Kari (Papa New Guinea) and Simplicie Ribouem (Australia). Kari won the gold on lower body weight after he and Ribouem finished with 349.
- India is ranked 6th after Navjot Kaur won the latest bronze medal for the Indian side taking their medal tally to 42 with 10 gold, 20 silver and 12 bronze.

Uthappa elected KSBA president

- M.C. Uthappa was elected unopposed as president of the Karnataka State Billiards Association (KSBA) at its 60th AGM and elections here on Sunday.

The office-bearers (2014-16):

- **President:** M.C. Uthappa; **Vice-President:** B.P. Madhav; **Secretary:** H.R. Rathan Kumar; **Joint Secretary:** H.E. Anand.

Treasurer: K.N. Prakash.

- Executive Committee: C.R. Nanda Kumar, Kishore Kumar Khurana, Arunanada, Prakash Kheny, L. Satyanarayana, Sanjay Punjabi, S. Natraj, M.D. Vasudevan, Sadiq Suhail.

England thrash India at The Oval to secure 3-1 victory in Test series

- On a late summer Kennington afternoon, India suffered their final humiliation of a month that had already seen indignity heaped on indignity. Faced with the task of making 338 in their second innings even for England to bat again, they had capitulated with almost relentless predictability by

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4.20pm, dismissed for 94, leaving England winners by an innings and 244 runs. Only at Lord's, in 1974, when the margin was an innings and 285, have England delivered a bigger beating to India, for whom this represents their third heaviest innings defeat.

- Thus, England, seemingly on the ropes and in crisis only a few weeks ago, after they themselves had been dismissed ignominiously at Lord's, finish the summer having won the last three matches by 266 runs at Ageas Bowl; an innings and 54 at Old Trafford; and now this. It also means that England retain the Pataudi Trophy that they won under Andrew Strauss and retained under Alastair Cook in India.

Man of the match: Root.

Men of the series: Anderson (England) and Bhuvneshwar (India).

Practice Set: 10

GENERAL AWARENESS

- Consider the following statements:
 - India's first National Defence University (INDU) is to be set up near Gurgaon.
 - There has been considerable opposition to the setting up of the National Investigation Agency (NIA) by states dubbing it as an anti-federal measure.
 - The four existing defence institutions – National Defence College, College of Defence Management, Defence Services Staff College and National Defence Academy – are proposed to be brought under INDU.
Which of the above statement is/are correct?
 - Only 2
 - Only 1 & 3
 - Only 1
 - None of these
 - All of above
- At which of the following places, the Ministry of Home Affairs is setting up a Central Detective Training School (CDTS) that will help sharpen the intelligence gathering capabilities of central and state agencies?
 - Solan
 - Jaipur
 - Ghaziabad
 - Pune
 - None of these
- Consider the following statements:
 - India recently showcased the achievements made under the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) at the Women Deliver Conference held in May.
 - The Women Deliver Conference was held in May in New Delhi.
 - The NRHM makes special focus on improving the reproductive and child health in the country.
Which of the above statement is/are incorrect?
 - Only 3
 - Only 1 & 3
 - Only 2
 - None of these
 - All of above
- In which state of India there is a total ban on Short Messaging Services (SMSes) on prepaid mobile connections?
 - Jammu & Kashmir
 - Manipur
 - Arunachal Pradesh
 - Maharashtra
 - None of these
- Mahendra Karma, the person who set up the Salwa Judum in Chhattisgarh, has been shot dead in a Maoist attack recently. What is Salwa Judum?
 - The highest council of tribes of Chhattisgarh
 - An annual gathering of tribes
 - An anti-Naxal tribal militia trained and armed by the state
 - A campaign to encourage tribal people to send their children to schools
- In which of the following state of India Toto and Labha tribes are in danger extinction and the state government has set up a separate department for tribals?
 - Kerala
 - West Bengal
 - Assam
 - Gujarat
 - None of these
- The government has implemented 66 of 72 recommendations made by the Sachar Committee. This committee was appointed in 2005 to prepare a report on the latest social,

- economic and educational condition of the _____ community of India.
- (1) Schedule Caste (2) Scheduled Tribes
(3) Migrant (4) Muslim
(5) None of these
8. Consider the following facts about the expert panel constituted to draft recommendations for the National Water Framework Law:
1. The panel was head YK Alagh
 2. The panel recommended that government should ensure 25 litre per person per day water to all.
 3. While people living below poverty line should be provided certain quantity of drinking water free, other beneficiaries be charged.
- Which of the above statement is/are correct?
- (1) Only 1 & 2 (2) Only 2 & 3
(3) All of the above (4) None of the above
(5) All of above
9. Consider the following statements about India's health indices:
1. Of the 1000 children, 52 are dying before reaching the age of five.
 2. The Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) in India is 212 per 1000 live births.
 3. The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) stipulate to bring down IMR and maternal mortality ratio (MMR) to 42 per 1000 live births and 109 per 1,00,000 live births respectively by December, 2015.
- Which of the above statement is/are correct?
- (1) Only 2 (2) Only 1 & 2
(3) Only 3 (4) All of the above
(5) None of these
10. Who among the following has recently been conferred the Sangeet Natak Adademi Award for her/his contribution to Indian theatre by the President of India?
- (1) Nirmal Rishi (2) Sudha Shivpuri
(3) Tripurari Sharma (4) Alakhnandan
(5) None of these
11. The International Olympic Committee (IOC) is considering the inclusion of one of the eight removed sports from the list of 25 core sports in the 2020 Olympics. Which of the following is one of the removed sports?
- (1) Wrestling (2) Boxing
(3) Basketball (4) Archery
(5) None of these
12. Civil rights activist Aruna Roy recently resigned from the Sonia Gandhi-led National Advisory Council (NAC) on differences over non-acceptance for her demand. What type of organization is the NAC?
- (1) Constitutional
(2) Legal
(3) Party-based
(4) Constituted by an Act of Parliament
(5) None of these
13. The Indian Navy has recently launched its new warship INS Khaitan. It is a _____ warfare corvette.
- (1) anti-submarine
(2) anti-aircraft
(3) anti-piracy (4) nuclear capable
(5) None of these
14. Who among the following was the captain Indian Women's cricket team for the limited over series with Bangladesh in April this year?
- (1) Poonam Raut
(2) Mithali Raj
(3) Harmanpreet Kaur
(4) Anagha Deshpandey
(5) None of these
15. Consider the following facts about India-Myanmar ties:
1. India and Thailand is working on a 3200-km long highway via Myanmar
 2. Thailand is inviting Indian businesses to invest in Thai Exclusive Economic Zones
 3. India has also signed a civil nuclear deal with Thailand
- Which of the above statement is/are correct?
- (1) Only 2 (2) Only 3
(3) Only 1 & 3 (4) All of the above
(5) None of these
16. The UNESCO has designated which of the following places in India as a world biosphere reserve under its 'Man and the Biosphere Programme'?

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Practice Set- 10

- (1) Chennai (2) New Delhi
(3) Pune (4) Mumbai
(5) None of these
17. India's first Defence University will be establish at
(1) Gurgaon
(2) Pune
(3) Bangalore
(4) Dehradun
(5) None of these
18. The Nimesh Panel report which has recently been accepted by the Akhilesh Yadav government in Uttar Pradesh is associated with which of the following?
(1) Memorial scam
(2) Noida land scam
(3) Lucknow and Faizabad bomb blasts
(4) Yamuna Express Way land acquisition scam
(5) None of these
19. Which of the following state has recently decided to designate all court of Sessions and Additional Sessions Judges at each district and Fast Track Courts, as Children's Courts?
(1) Delhi (2) Haryana
(3) Karnataka (4) Uttar Pradesh
(5) None of these
20. Read carefully the names of these towns in Karnataka:
1. Mysore 2. Dharwar
3. Gulbarga 4. Bidar
(5) None of these
In which of the following cities of Karnataka the President of India, Pranab Mukherjee has recently approved the proposal to set up permanent benches of the Bangalore High Court?
(1) only 1 (2) only 1 & 4
(3) only 4 (4) only 2 & 3
(5) None of these
21. Consider the following
(1). Recently the government Agency for the National Skill Development Agency For Coordinating & harmonising the skill development.
(2). National Skill Development Agency will Function as an autonomous body.
- (1) Both 1 & 2 (2) Only 1
(3) Only 2 (4) Neither 1 nor 2
(5) None of these
22. Consider the following statement about Roshni.
(1) Programme Roshni started by Rural Development ministry.
(2) The Programme entails providing beneficiaries ages between 18-30.
Which of the above statement is/are correct
(1) Only 2 (2) Both 1 & 2
(3) Neither 1 nor 2 (4) Only 1
(5) None of these
23. Consider the following statements:
1. Under the proposed foof Security Bill, the targeted Rural population is 75%.
2. Antyodaya Anna Yojana beneficiaries to get 35 kg per month.
Which of the above statement is/are correct?
(1) Both 1 & 2 (2) only 1
(3) only 2 (4) Neither 1 nor 2
(5) None of these
24. Consider the following statements
1. In India the first telegraph message was transmitted live through electrical signals between Kolkata & Diamond Harbour.
2. From July 15 Telegram will become history.
Which of the above statement is/are correct?
(1) Only 1 (2) Only 2
(3) Neither 1 nor 2
(4) Both 1 & 2
(5) None of these
25. On 13th June two segments of Mumbai's Eastern Freeway were inaugurated
1. This is 17 Km long Freeway
2. This comprises country's longest elevated roa(4)
3. It was inaugurated by Mr. Manmohan Singh.
Which of the above statement is/are correct?
(1) Only 1 & 2 (2) All of the above
(3) None of the above (4) Only 1
(5) None of these

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26. (i) Iran has welcomed the decision by the United States to impose new sanctions, as a step to protect the spirit of the recently signed Geneva nuclear accord, which promised to revive Tehran's ties with the West.
(ii) Belgium is all set to become the first country to allow euthanasia for terminally ill children with no age restrictions.
Which of the above statement/statements is/are true?
(1) only i (2) only ii
(3) both i and ii (4) neither i nor ii
(5) None of these
27. (i) The Centre has initiated the process to set up the 8th Central Pay Commission that will come to effect from 2016 onwards.
(ii) CCI has recently approved a LNG (liquefied natural gas) terminal project of the Gujarat State Petroleum Corporation at Mundra.
Which of the above statement/statements is/are true?
(1) only i (2) only ii
(3) both i and ii (4) neither i nor ii
(5) None of these
28. (i) India has sided with Afghanistan in its ongoing dispute over a security pact that would allow a smaller contingent of U.S. troops to stay back after the bulk of western forces withdraws from the country next year.
(ii) India and Afghanistan have agreed to deepen their defence and security cooperation with the focus on enhancement in training and meeting the equipment and infrastructure needs of Afghanistan National Security and Defence Forces (ANSDF) to increase their operational capabilities and mobility.
Which of the above statement/statements is/are false?
(1) only i (2) only ii
(3) both i and ii (4) neither i nor ii
(5) None of these
29. (i) North Korea executed its second-ranked official Jang Song-thaek — the uncle of the current leader Kim Jong-un — after accusing him of attempting to “overthrow” his nephew
(ii) S. Jaishankar recently stepped down as India's Ambassador to China after serving an eventful tenure as the longest serving Indian envoy to the Middle Kingdom.
Which of the above statement/statements is/are true?
(1) only i (2) only ii
(3) both i and ii (4) neither i nor ii
(5) None of these
30. (i) A marathon 'run for unity' was organised by Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) across the country in honor of Mahatma Gandhi.
(ii) The revised Code of Conduct for Ministers (both Union and States) has a new provision as per which Ministers cannot force civil servants to take decisions that may be in conflict with their duties and responsibilities.
Which of the above statement/statements is/are true?
(1) only i
(2) only ii
(3) both i and ii
(4) neither i nor ii
(5) None of these
31. (i) Uzbekistan held a parliamentary election for the first time recently that featured more than one party.
(ii) The European Union broke off talks with Ukraine on the far-reaching trade deal in accordance with demands by protesters and Ukraine's president who is accused of dissembling.
Which of the above statement/statements is/are true?
(1) only i (2) only ii
(3) both i and ii (4) neither i nor ii
(5) None of these
32. (i) The case of Devyani Khobragade is the first instance of an IFS officer charged with human trafficking in US.
(ii) The SFJ complaint against Ms. Sonia Gandhi invokes the federal court jurisdiction over the case based on Alien Tort Statute and the Torture Victim Protection Act of 1992 giving the survivors of human rights abuses the right to sue the perpetrators in the US.
Which of the above statement/statements is/are true?

- (1) only i (2) only ii
(3) both i and ii (4) neither i nor ii
(5) None of these
33. (i) The company buysellbitco.in , as the name indicates, allows Indians to trade in Bitcoin, the open source peer-to-peer payment network, using Indian rupees for transactions.
(ii) Kalanithi Maran-owned low-cost carrier SpiceJet has recently announced the signing of an interline agreement with Singapore-based budget carrier Tiger Airways .
Which of the above statement/statements is/are true?
(1) only i (2) only ii
(3) both i and ii
(4) neither i nor ii
(5) None of these
34. (i) Michelle Bachelet won Chile presidency and will be holding the office for second time.
(ii) The swanky expanded international airport in Bangalore was named after Bangalore's founder Kempegowda, a chieftain who ruled the city in the 16th century under the Vijayanagara empire.
Which of the above statement/statements is/are false ?
(1) only i (2) only ii
(3) both i and ii (4) neither i nor ii
(5) None of these
35. (i)The Supreme Court has accepted a petition for disqualifying MPs and MLAs, convicted for criminal offences, without giving them the benefit of appeals pending in higher courts recently.
(ii) Section 8 says that a person convicted of the charge of any offence and sentenced to imprisonment under Sections 8 (1) (2) and (3) shall be disqualified from the date of conviction and shall remain so for six years after his release.
Which of the above statement/statements is/are true?
(1) only i (2) only ii
(3) both i and ii (4) neither i nor ii
(5) None of these
36. (i) Bangladesh celebrated its 44th Victory day recently - the day when the Pakistan Army surrendered to the Indian Army and the Mukti Bahini fighters.
(ii) Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Ltd and Kawasaki Heavy Industries Ltd. are the names of contractors in China.
Which of the above statement/statements is/are true?
(1) only i (2) only ii
(3) both i and ii (4) neither i nor ii
(5) None of these
37. (i) India may scrap the ban on portfolio investments in the defence sector,that would be giving more flexibility to the likes of the Tata and Mahindra groups that have big stakes in the industry.
(ii) Gold is the second-most expensive item on India's import bill.
Which of the above statement/statements is/are true?
(1) only i (2) only ii
(3) both i and ii (4) neither i nor ii
(5) None of these
38. (i) China's first moon rover, Yutu, or Jade Rabbit was world's first soft landing on the lunar surface in nearly 40 years.
(ii) Scientists have discovered water vapour on Jupiter's icy moon Europa, which is believed to be a strong candidate for hosting alien life.
Which of the above statement/statements is/are true?
(1) only i
(2) only ii
(3) both i and ii
(4) neither i nor ii
(5) None of these
39. (i) Amnesty International India has demanded dropping of all charges against Irom Sharmila and her immediate release as well.
(ii) Though several States have expressed opposition to the Prevention of Communal Violence Bill, the Union Cabinet gave its approval to it, paving the way for its introduction in the winter session of Parliament .
Which of the above statement/statements is/are true?

- (1) only i (2) only ii
 (3) both i and ii (4) neither i nor ii
 (5) None of these
40. (i) India's indigenously built stealth frigate INS Satpura, the Guided Missile Destroyer INS Ranvijay and missile corvette INS Kuthar would participate in the four-day first ever Japan-India Maritime Exercise (JIMEX) .
 (ii) This exercise is to be conducted in waters off the Indian coast in the Arabian sea.
 Which of the above statement/statements is/ are true?
 (1) only i (2) only ii
 (3) both i and ii (4) neither i nor ii
 (5) None of these

QUANTITATIVE APTITUDE

Directions (Q. 41-45) : What approximate value should come in place of the question-mark (?) in the following question (You are not expected to calculate the exact value).

41. $6,23,898 \times 99 = ? \times 60,000$
 (1) 1000 (2) 1030
 (3) 1050 (4) 1065
 (5) 1010
42. $\frac{4}{5} \times \frac{3}{7} \div \frac{6}{7} \div \frac{5}{9} = ?$
 (1) $\frac{9}{17}$ (2) $\frac{20}{49}$
 (3) $\frac{18}{25}$ (4) $\frac{1}{2}$
 (5) $\frac{4}{7}$
43. $(399.98)^2 = ?$
 (1) 160000 (2) 15999
 (3) 1600 (4) 1599
 (5) 16000
44. $\sqrt{624.9995} + (4.9989)^2 = ? \div \frac{1}{4.990865}$
 (1) 6 (2) 50
 (3) 10 (4) 125
 (5) 15

45. $989.001 + 1.00982 \times 76.792 = ?$
 (1) 1000 (2) 1100
 (3) 1065 (4) 110
 (5) 100

Directions (Q. 46-53) : What will come in place of the question mark(?) in the following questions?

46. $19683 = ? \times 3$
 (1) 90 (2) 27
 (3) 3 (4) 18
 (5) None of these
47. $(1515)^2 = ? \div 1515$
 (1) 3030 (2) 2295225
 (3) 4485 (4) 5115
 (5) None of these
48. $60 = ?\%$ of 400
 (1) 6 (2) 12
 (3) 20 (4) 15
 (5) None of these
49. $1400 \times ? = 1050$
 (1) $\frac{1}{4}$ (2) $\frac{3}{4}$
 (3) $\frac{3}{5}$ (4) $\frac{2}{3}$
 (5) None of these
50. 40% of ? = 240
 (1) 60 (2) 6000
 (3) 960 (4) 600
 (5) None of these
51. $35 + 15 \times 1.5 = ?$
 (1) 75 (2) 25.25
 (3) 57.5 (4) 51.5
 (5) None of these
52. $1984 + 523 - ? = 1899$
 (1) 718 (2) 608
 (3) 708 (4) 618
 (5) None of these
53. $3 + 33 + 333 + 3.33 = ?$
 (1) 362.3
 (2) 372.33
 (3) 702.33
 (4) 702
 (5) None of these

Directions (Q. 54-60): What will come in place of the question mark (?) in the following number series?

54. 12 14 17 13 8 14 21 13 4 \?
- (1) 14 (2) 13
(3) 15 (4) 2
(5) None of these
55. 4 6 12 30 90 315 ?
- (1) 945 (2) 1102
(3) 1260 (4) 1417.5
(5) None of these
56. 25 16 ? 4 1
- (1) 3 (2) 6
(3) 12 (4) 18
(5) None of these
57. 15 12 17 10 ? 8 25 6
- (1) 3 (2) 7
(3) 21 (4) 19
(5) None of these
58. 1 ? 27 64 125
- (1) 8 (2) 4
(3) 6 (4) 9
(5) None of these
59. 2 5 7 12 19 31 50 ?
- (1) 53 (2) 81
(3) 69 (4) 74
(5) None of these
60. 1 6 36 240 1960 ?
- (1) 19660 (2) 3680
(3) 36800 (4) 19600
(5) None of these
- Directions (Q. 61-65) :** In each of the following questions, a question is followed by information given in three statements. You have to study the question along with the statements and decide that the information given in which of the statements is necessary to answer the question.
61. What is the speed of a train?
- I. The train crosses a pole in 10 seconds.
II. The length of the train is 240 metres.
III. The train crosses a platform of equal length in 20 seconds.
- (1) Only I and II
(2) Only II and III
(3) All I, II and III
(4) Any two of the three
(5) II and either I or III
62. What is a two-digit number?
- I. The number obtained by interchanging the digits of the number is greater than the original number by 18.
II. The sum of the two digits of the number is 14.
III. The difference between the two digits of the number is 2.
- (1) Any two of the three
(2) Only I and II
(3) II and either I or III
(4) All the three
(5) III and either I or II
63. In how many days can 16 men and 8 women together complete a piece of work?
- I. 8 men complete the piece of work in 10 days.
II. 16 women complete the piece of work in 10 days.
III. 5 women take 32 days to complete the piece of work.
- (1) Only I and II
(2) Only I and III
(3) Only II and III
(4) Only I and either II or III
(5) Any two of the three
64. What is the area of a square?
- I. The measure of diagonal of the square is given.
II. The measure of one side of the square is given.
III. The perimeter of the square is given.
- (1) Only II
(2) Only III
(3) Only I and III
(4) Only II and III
(5) Any one of the three
65. What is the rate of interest p.c.p.a.?
- I. Simple interest earned per annum is Rs 5,300.
II. The difference between the compound and the simple interest on an amount is Rs 1,060 at the end of 2 years.
III. An amount doubles itself in 5 years at simple interest.
- (1) All the three
(2) Only III
(3) Either II or III

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Practice Set- 10

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- (4) Only III or I and II
 (5) The question cannot be answered even with the information in all the three statements

Directions (Q. 66-70): Study the table carefully to answer the questions that follow:

Sale (in crores) of number of units by six different companies over the years

Year → Company ↓	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
L	1070	800	28.48	180	26	5 366
M	175.1	76.0	31.38	43.0	27.5	32.8
N	156.6	66.49	43.7	45.2	19.0	40.12
O	112.4	78.24	56.6	35.1	25.1	25.0
P	95.1	111.8	53.2	48.9	22.5	37.0
Q	192.0	72.18	31.04	42.2	17.0	30.0

66. The number of units sold by Company M in the year 2002 is what per cent of the total number of units sold by all the companies together in that year? (rounded off to two digits after decimal)
 (1) 14.16
 (2) 21.48
 (3) 16.28
 (4) 26.26
 (5) None of these
67. In which Company has sold the maximum number of units over the years?
 (1) Q
 (2) M
 (3) N
 (4) P
 (5) None of these
68. Which year is the percentage increase/decrease in the number of units sold from the previous year the lowest for Company L?
 (1) 2000
 (2) 2002
 (3) 2001
 (4) 1998
 (5) None of these
69. What is the approximate average number of units sold in the year 1999?
 (1) 407300000
 (2) 427400000
 (3) 42740000
 (4) 4073000000
 (5) 40730000
70. What is the difference between number of units sold by Company O in the year 1997 and in the year 2000?

- (1) 7730000000
 (2) 703000000
 (3) 7030000000
 (4) 773000000
 (5) None of these

Directions (Q. 71-75): What should come in place of the question mark (?) in the following questions?

71. 23% of 8040 + 42% of 545 = ?% of 3000
 (1) 56.17
 (2) 63.54
 (3) 71.04
 (4) 69.27
 (5) None of these

72. $12\frac{1}{3} + 10\frac{5}{6} - 7\frac{2}{3} - 1\frac{4}{7} = ?$

- (1) $13\frac{13}{14}$
 (2) $13\frac{11}{14}$
 (3) $11\frac{13}{14}$
 (4) $14\frac{11}{13}$
 (5) None of these

73. $\sqrt{\sqrt{1024} + \sqrt{7921}} \times 48.5 = ?$

- (1) 586.5
 (2) 423.5
 (3) 348.5
 (4) 521.5
 (5) None of these

74. $3^{3.5} \times 21^2 \times 42^{2.5} - 2^{25} \times 7^{3.5} = 21^?$

- (1) 8
 (2) 10
 (3) 12.5
 (4) 6.5
 (5) None of these

75. $(56)^2 + (89)^2 = (?)^2 - (94)^2 - 1132$

- (1) 145
 (2) 21025
 (3) 135
 (4) 24025
 (5) None of these

76. In how many different ways can the letters of the word 'PADDLED' be arranged?

- (1) 910
 (2) 2520
 (3) 5040
 (4) 840
 (5) None of these

77. What would be the cost of building a 7-metre-wide garden around a circular field with diameter equal to 280 metres, if the cost per sq metre for building the garden is Rs 21?

- (1) Rs 1,56,242
 (2) Rs 2,48,521
 (3) Rs 1, 11,624
 (4) Rs 2,06,118
 (5) None of these

78. Vipul decided to donate 5% of his salary. On the day of donation he changed his mind and donated Rs 1687.50, which was 75% of what

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Practice Set- 10

- he had decided earlier. How much is Vipul's salary?
(1) Rs 37,500 (2) Rs 45,000
(3) Rs 33,750
(4) Cannot be determined
(5) None of these
79. 9 children can complete a piece of work in 360 days. 18 men can complete the same piece of work in 72 days and 12 women can complete the piece of work in 162 days. In how many days can 4 men, 12 women and 10 children together complete the piece of work?
(1) 124 (2) 81
(3) 68 (4) 96
(5) None of these
80. The simple interest accrued on an amount of Rs 14,800 at the end of three years is Rs 6,216. What would be the compound interest accrued on the same amount at the same rate in the same period?
(1) Rs 6986.1142
(2) Rs 7042.2014
(3) Rs 7126.8512
(4) Rs 8321.4166
(5) None of these
- REASONING**
81. Which of the following will be the middle digit of the second highest number among the following five numbers if the positions of the first and the third digits in each number are interchanged?
432 851 719 643 287
(1) 8 (2) 3
(3) 5 (4) 1
(5) 4
82. In a class, two-thirds of the students play football, half of the remaining play both football and cricket, and the remaining ten students play only cricket. How many students play both football and cricket?
(1) 30 (2) 10
(3) 40 (4) 20
(5) Cannot be determined
83. In a certain code, JEALOUS is written as BFKKTVP. How is HEARTEN written in that code? (1) OFUQBFI (2) BFIQOFU
(3) BFIQUFO (4) UFOQIBF
(5) None of these
84. In a certain code ORIENT is written as '532146' and SOUL is written as '7598'. How is LINE written in that code?
(1) 9241 (2) 8341
(3) 8241 (4) 6241
(5) None of these
85. If it is possible to make only one meaningful word with the first, the second, the fifth and the ninth letters of the word MEDIATION, which of following will be the third letter of that word? If no such word can be made, give 'X' as the answer and if more than one such word can be made, give 'Z' as the answer.
(1) A (2) N
(3) M (4) X
(5) Z
86. Pradeep correctly remembers that he visited Chennai before twelfth of July but after eighth of July. His friend correctly remembers that Pradeep visited Chennai after tenth of July but before fourteenth of July. On which day of July did Pradeep visit Chennai?
(1) Eleventh
(2) Twelfth
(3) Tenth
(4) Either tenth or eleventh
(5) None of these
87. In a certain code, 'pick and choose' is written as 'ko ho po' and 'pick up and come' is written as 'to no ko po'. How is 'pick' written in that code?
(1) ko
(2) po
(3) Either ko or po
(4) Cannot be determined
(5) None of these
88. Four of the following five are alike in a certain way and so form a group. Which is the one that does not belong to that group?
(1) 144 (2) 169
(3) 256 (4) 288
(5) 324

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89. Prabir started walking towards South. He took a right turn after walking 10 metres. He again took a left turn after walking 20 metres. Which direction is he facing now?

- (1) South
- (2) North
- (3) West
- (4) East
- (5) Cannot be determined

90. B is brother of D. D is sister of E. E is brother of F. How is F related to B?

- (1) Brother
- (2) Sister
- (3) Brother or Sister
- (4) Data inadequate
- (5) None of these

91. Four of the following five are alike in a certain way and so form a group. Which is the one that **does not** belong to that group?

- (1) Camel
- (2) Horse
- (3) Bullock
- (4) Cat
- (5) Donkey

92. How many such pairs of digits are there in the number 421579368 each of which has as many digits between them in the number as when they are arranged in ascending order?

- (1) None
- (2) One
- (3) Two
- (4) Three
- (5) More than three

Directions (Q. 93-95) : Following questions are based on the information given below:

- (i) 'P × Q' means 'P is father of Q'.
- (ii) 'P - Q' means 'P is sister of Q'.
- (iii) 'P + Q' means 'P is mother of Q'.
- (iv) 'P ÷ Q' means 'P is brother of Q'.

93. In the expression $B + D \times M \div N$, how is M related to B?

- (1) Granddaughter
- (2) Son
- (3) Grandson
- (4) Granddaughter or Grandson
- (5) None of these

94. Which of the following represents 'J is son of F'?

- (1) $J = R - T \times F$
- (2) $J + R - T \times F$
- (3) $J \div M - N \times F$
- (4) Cannot be determined
- (5) None of these

95. Which of the following represents 'R is niece of M'?

- (1) $M \div K \times T - R$
- (2) $M - J + R - N$
- (3) $R - M \times T - W$
- (4) Cannot be determined
- (5) None of these

Directions (Q. 96-102) : In each of the questions below are given three statements followed by three conclusions numbered I, II and III. You have to take the given statements to be true even if they seem to be at variance with commonly known facts. Read all the conclusions and then decide which of given conclusions logically follows from the given state-ments disregarding commonly known facts.

96. **Statements:** a. Some tents are buildings.
b. Some buildings are chairs.
c. Some chairs are windows.

Conclusions: I. Some windows are buildings.
II. Some windows are tents.
III. Some chairs are tents.

- (1) None follows
- (2) Only I and II follow
- (3) Only II and III follow
- (4) Only I and III follow
- (5) All follow

97. **Statements:** a. All tables are boards.
b. All pens are boards.
c. All boards are papers.

Conclusions: I. Some pens are tables.
II. Some papers are pens.
III. No pen is a table.

- (1) All follow
- (2) Only either I or III follows
- (3) Only II follows
- (4) Only either I or III and II follow
- (5) None of these

98. **Statements:** a. All chains are cycles.
b. Some cycles are wheels.
c. All wheels are mirrors.

Conclusions: I. Some cycles are mirrors.
II. Some wheels are chains.
III. Some mirrors are chains.

- (1) None follows
- (2) Only I follows
- (3) Only II follows
- (4) Only III follows
- (5) All follow

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1 1

Practice Set- 10

99. **Statements:** a. Some boxes are hammers.
b. Some hammers are beads.
c. All beads are rings.
- Conclusions:** I. Some rings are hammers.
II. Some hammers are boxes.
III. Some rings are beads.
- (1) None follows
(2) Only I follows
(3) Only II and III follow
(4) Only I and III follow
(5) All follow
100. **Statements:** a. All hotels are airports.
b. All airports are belts.
c. Some belts are hooks.
- Conclusions:** I. Some belts are hotels.
II. Some airports are hotels.
III. Some hooks are belts.
- (1) Only I and II follow
(2) Only I and III follow
(3) Only II and III follow
(4) Only III follows
(5) All follow
101. **Statements:** a. All jackets are trousers.
b. No trouser is a shirt.
c. Some shirts are caps.
- Conclusions:** I. Some caps are jackets.
II. Some shirts are jackets.
III. Some trousers are jackets.
- (1) Only I follows
(2) Only II follows
(3) Only III follows
(4) All follow
(5) None of these
102. **Statements:** a. Some cameras are binoculars.
b. All binoculars are spoons.
c. Some spoons are cups.
- Conclusions:** I. Some cups are binoculars.
II. Some spoons are cameras.
III. Some cups are cameras.
- (1) Only I follows
(2) Only II follows
(3) Only III follows
(4) Only either I or III follows
(5) None of these
- Directions (Q. 103-109):** Study the following arrangement carefully and answer the questions given below:
- R D 1 5 E % K 3 J I 9 P 8 # A 2 B \$ K M 6 W
@ N 4 © T J 7 F H
103. How many such consonants are there in the above arrangement, each of which is immediately preceded by a symbol and immediately followed by a number?
(1) One (2) Two
(3) Three (4) Four
(5) None of these
104. What should come in place of the question mark(?) in the following series based on the above arrangement?
D5% J98 2\$M ?
(1) @4T (2) WN©
(3) NO (4) @4©
(5) None of these
105. Which of the following is exactly in the middle between the tenth from the left end and the eighth from the right end?
(1) \$ (2) #
(3) B (4) 7
(5) None of these
106. Four of the following five are alike in a certain way based on their positions in the above arrangement and so form a group. Which is the one that **does not** belong to that group?
(1) BK2 (2) E1%
(3) J93 (4) N©@
(5) 4TN
107. Which of the following is the sixth to the right of the eighteenth from the right end?
(1) P (2) 3
(3) W (4) M
(5) None of these
108. Which of the following is the third to the right of the twelfth from the left end?
(1) J (2) A
(3) B (4) @
(5) None of these
109. How many such numbers are there in the above arrangement, each of which is immediately preceded by a consonant and immediately followed by a symbol?
(1) One (2) Two

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Practice Set- 10

12

- (3) Three (4) Four
(5) None of these

Directions (Q. 110-115) : Below in each question are given two statements (A) and (B). These statements may be either independent causes or may be effects of independent causes or of a common cause. One of these statements may be the effect of the other statement. Read both the statements and decide which of the following answer choices correctly depicts the relationship between these two statements.

Mark answer (1): if statement (A) is the cause and statement (B) is its effect.

Mark answer (2): if statement (B) is the cause and statement (A) is its effect.

Mark answer (3): if both the statements (A) and (B) are independent causes.

Mark answer (4): if both the statements (A) and (B) are effects of independent causes.

Mark answer (5): if both the statements (A) and (B) are effects of some common cause.

110. (A) Govt.-owned oil companies have reduced the prices of petroleum products with immediate effect.
(B) Govt. has made an appeal to the public to reduce consumption of petroleum products.
111. (A) The police authority has recently caught a group of housebreakers.
(B) The citizens' groups in the locality have started night vigil in the area.
112. (A) The Govt. has decided to allow private universities to run their own courses after obtaining necessary approvals.
(B) There has been a continuous decrease in the number of students enrolled for various courses offered by the Govt.-run universities.
113. (A) The wholesale grain market is flooded with fresh stock.
(B) The Govt. has recently increased the procurement price of grains.

114. (A) The school authority has asked the X Std students to attend special classes to be conducted on Sundays.
(B) The parents of the X Std students have withdrawn their wards from attending private tuitions conducted on Sundays.
115. (A) The villagers have decided to boycott the forthcoming assembly elections.
(B) The state government has recently revised the electoral roll.

Directions (Q. 116-120): Study the following information carefully and answer the given questions:

Given an input line, a coding machine rearranges the input following certain steps as explained below:

Input: 47 desert go 56 there often 32 12

Step I: 47 desert go 56 there often 32 12

Step II: there 47 desert go 56 often 32 12

Step III: there 12 often 47 desert go 56 32

Step IV: there 12 often 32 47 desert go 56

Step V: there 12 often 32 go 47 desert 56

The arrangement in Step V is the final arrangement and Step V is the last step.

In each of the following questions the rearrangement is done following the same rules as explained in the above illustration.

116. If the fourth step of an input is 'wonderful 22 seashore 36 48 fine 62 morning', what was the first step?
(1) fine 48 wonderful 22 seashore 36 62 morning
(2) fine 48 wonderful 22 36 seashore 62 morning
(3) fine 48 seashore wonderful 22 36 morning 62
(4) fine 48 seashore wonderful 36 22 morning 62
(5) Cannot be determined
117. What will be the third step for the following input?
Input: paper common 36 51 pencil 28 test 66
(1) test 28 paper pencil common 36 51 66

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- (2) test 28 pencil 66 paper common 36 51
(3) test 66 pencil paper 28 common 51 36
(4) test 28 pencil paper common 36 51 66
(5) None of these
118. If Step II of an input is 'waive 14 available time 38 46 probation 85', how many more steps will be required to complete the arrangement?
(1) Three (2) Four
(3) Five (4) Two
(5) None of these
119. Which step will be the last step for the input '27 sports 48 television commentary 18 house 36'?
(1) IV (2) V
(3) VI (4) VII
(5) None of these
120. What will be the fourth step of an input having first step as 'number game 54 23 always lacking 16 75'?
(1) number 16 lacking 23 game always 54 75
(2) number 16 lacking 23 always 54 game 75
(3) number 16 lacking 23 game 54 always 75
(4) Cannot be determined
(5) None of these

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Directions (Q. 121-130) : Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions given below it. Certain words/phrases have been printed in bold to help you locate them while answering some of the questions.

For more than three years, Anna Feng didn't tell her husband that she had sunk nearly half of their savings into the Shanghai stock market. While he thought all their money was safely sitting in a bank, the value of the stocks **plunged** by almost 75%. But over the past couple of months, the Shanghai market has shown signs of life, and Feng, a 56-year-old retiree, has recouped half her losses. She's quietly hopeful that maybe she'll make it all back. "Everyone seems to be so optimistic about the markets now," she says.

Around the world, stocks have been on a tear. In Asia, for example, the Tokyo TOPIX stock index

hit a 14-year high last week as a bull run in once-dormant Japan gathered momentum; Mumbai's main equity index hit an all-time high in trading early Friday amid India's continuing economic boom; and Hong Kong shares reached a five-year high while indices in Singapore, Jakarta and Sydney set new records. And though stocks in Asia, in particular, are on fire, they are not alone. From Germany to Venezuela to South Africa, equity markets in both mature and emerging markets have moved up sharply this year and show little sign of slowing.

The underpinning for stocks' strong performance, global bulls say, is straightforward. Economic growth continues to be strong in places where it has been **buoyant** for several years (the US, China and India) and is finally picking up in places where it had been notably absent—Japan and parts of "old" Europe. Moreover, earnings and corporate balance sheets around the world are as healthy as they have been in years. In Japan, corporate profits have climbed for four straight years and consumer spending is rising briskly on the back of declining unemployment. Economists say that Japan is now in a golden cycle. So, for now, is much of the world. "It comes down to very simple macroeconomics," says Subir Gokam, an economist at CRISIL, India's largest credit-rating firm. "The global economy is growing without much inflationary pressure."

Is anything wrong with this picture? One very big thing, warn the skeptics. Interest rates are rising nearly everywhere, and if there is one simple adage that many investment advisers live by, it's this: "When rates are high, stocks will die." Indeed, one of the most impressive-or scariest aspects of the current global bull run is that it has come in the teeth of central-bank tightening, most importantly by the US Federal Reserve, which could slow growth in the world's key economic locomotive. The Fed has increased a key short-term interest rate the so-called Fed funds rate-15 times dating back to June 2004, and is widely expected to raise it once or twice more over the next few months. A brief recession and the Sep 11 terrorist attacks in 2001 **spurred** a prolonged period of very low interest rates. That **boosted** US consumption in particular the rate-sensitive housing market and kept the global economy

humming. But long-term rates are now beginning to tick upward: last week the US 30-year treasury bond reached 5.04%, its highest level since late 2004, and the housing market is cooling off potentially triggering an economic slowdown as homeowners cut their spending.

121. According to the passage, what makes people hopeful about the markets?

- (1) The descent in the value of stocks
- (2) The trend of substantial increase in the value of stocks
- (3) Safety provided by banks to their deposits
- (4) Optimism of the stock market players
- (5) The interest rates are going up

122. Which of the following is TRUE about the comparison between market indices of Mumbai and Hong Kong on the one hand and Singapore, Jakarta and Sydney on the other?

- (1) The indices in the former case are increasing while those in the latter are decreasing.
- (2) There is no remarkable trend visible between the two sets of indices.
- (3) Indices in both the groups have been stable over a period of last five years.
- (4) The markets in both the groups of countries have shown upward trend.
- (5) None of these

123. What is the impact of increasing long-term interest rates?

- (A) Demand in housing market is gradually diminishing.
- (B) Retardation in economic growth.
- (C) Restrictions imposed by central bank.
- (1) (A) only (2) (B) only
- (3) (C) only (4) (A) & (C) only
- (5) None of these

124. In what way did the terrorist attacks in the US influence the markets?

- (1) It led to a brief recession.
- (2) It increased long-term need for housing.
- (3) It helped increase the interest rates on housing.
- (4) It prolonged the low interest rate regime.
- (5) None of these

125. How are the interest rates associated with the stocks?

- (1) In direct proportion
- (2) In inverse proportion
- (3) No relation
- (4) Dependent upon the investors
- (5) None of these

126. Which of the following statements is/are FALSE in the context of the passage?

- (A) Economic growth in US, China, India, Japan and old European countries started to show a downward trend.
- (B) Higher interest rates help boost stock value.
- (C) Skeptics firmly believe that economic growth is a boon from all the angles.

- (1) All the three (2) (A) and (B) only
- (3) (B) and (C) only (4) (A) and (C) only
- (5) None of these

127. How do the stock values in Asian countries compare with that in the other countries of the globe?

- (1) It cannot be inferred on the basis of the content of the passage.
- (2) There is a general decline in the market indices all over the globe.
- (3) Markets show a general rise in the indices all over the globe.
- (4) Markets only in Asian countries have shown upward trend.
- (5) None of these

128. Which of the following is/are the reason(s) for the statement that 'Japan is now in a golden cycle'?

- (A) It is an economic growth without much inflationary pressure.
- (B) Japan witnessed a substantial increase in corporate profits for the last four years.
- (C) There are more employment avenues open and consumer spending has increased significantly.

- (1) All the three (A), (B) & (C)
- (2) (A) & (B) only
- (3) Either (B) or (C) only
- (4) (A) & (C) only
- (5) Either (A) or (C) only

129. According to the content of the passage, the spurt in stock markets appears to be

- (1) a healthy sign of growing world peace

- (2) an indication of eradication of global poverty
- (3) a proof of a negligible number of people below poverty line
- (4) a transition from under-development to enrichment
- (5) None of these

Directions (Q. 130-132) : Which of the following is most **OPPOSITE** in meaning of the word given in bold as used in the passage?

130. **briskly**
(1) vigorously (2) efficiently
(3) hurriedly (4) insignificantly
(5) slowly
131. **boosted**
(1) aggravated (2) elevated
(3) deflated (4) damaged
(5) stopped
132. **plunged**
(1) fell (2) increased
(3) dropped (4) more
(5) appeared

Directions (Q. 133-135) : Which of the following is most nearly the **SAME** in meaning as the word given in bold as used in the passage?

133. **buoyant**
(1) drawing (2) haphazard
(3) upbeat (4) extravagant
(5) sailing
134. **spurred**
(1) shortened (2) widened
(3) thronged (4) stimulated
(5) escalated
135. **skeptic**
(1) disbeliever (2) orthodox
(3) theist (4) philosopher
(5) analyst

Directions (Q. 136-140): In each of the following sen-tences there are two blank spaces. Below each sentence there are five pairs of words denoted by numbers (1), (2), (3), (4) and (5). Find out which pair of words can be filled up in the blanks in the sentence in the same sequence to make the sentence grammatically correct and meaningfully complete.

136. The tunnel was so ___ and congested that we be came
(1) long, enthusiastic (2) deep, cautious
(3) dark, frightened (4) crowded, isolated
(5) sharp, worried
137. In a ___ tone, the leader made a powerful to the mob.
(1) realistic, zeal (2) lower, conviction
(3) loud, argument (4) soft, appeal
(5) pitch, statement
138. Although ___ is not a very desirable feeling, we need a certain amount of it to ___ well.
(1) anxiety, exist (2) grief, enjoy
(3) impatience, preach (4) anger, define
(5) jealousy, bad
139. More is ___ of conditions of the tribals in Maharashtra than ___ conditions of those in the other parts of the country.
(1) certain, the (2) known, of
(3) aware, of (4) favourable, those
(5) uncertain, all
140. Although he is ___ person, he ___ occasionally loses his
(1) quiet, power (2) cheerful, grief
(3) balanced, temper
(4) thoughtful, anxiety (5) generous, wealth

Directions (Q. 141-145) : Which of the phrases (1), (2), (3) and (4) given below should replace the phrase given in bold in the following sentence to make the sentence grammatically meaningful and correct ? If the sentence is correct as it is and no correction is required, mark (5) as the answer.

141. He must have behaved **impolite and suffer** because of that.
(1) impolitely and suffer
(2) impolitely and suffered
(3) impolite and suffered
(4) impolitely and have suffer
(5) No correction required
142. Because of his efficiency, the Director wanted him to work as his assistant.
(1) wanted to him
(2) wants him to he
(3) wanted he to
(4) wanted of him
(5) No correction required

143. Even less intelligent students can be succeeded through hard work and perseverance.
- (1) get succession
 - (2) be success
 - (3) get success
 - (4) be getting succeeded
 - (5) No correction required
144. The Neo Club has **been extended** financial and technical help to poor and deserving women.
- (1) has been extending
 - (2) have been extending
 - (3) is being extended
 - (4) have been extended
 - (5) No correction required
145. Highly intelligent people seldom tolerate any ambiguity.
- (1) tolerate hardly any ambiguity
 - (2) hardly tolerate ambiguous
 - (3) tolerate any clarity whatsoever
 - (4) hardly tolerate any lacuna
 - (5) No correction required
146. **Being toiled for** two hours, he sat down to take some rest.
- (1) Have toiled for
 - (2) Had toiled for
 - (3) Having to be toiled at
 - (4) Having toiled for
 - (5) No correction required
147. Some people by **naturally talk** more than others.
- (1) by natural talk'
 - (2) naturally talk
 - (3) nature by talking
 - (4) naturally by talking
 - (5) No correction required
148. One of the basic choices we make in life is whether following the path of smart selfishness or try to avoid all problems.
- (1) while following
 - (2) is whether to follow
 - (3) is whether or not to follow
 - (4) has been whether follow
 - (5) No correction required
149. Some people **experienced life only if** they are totally at the mercy of their feelings.
- (1) experience life as if they are
 - (2) experienced life as if they are
 - (3) experiencing if only when they are
 - (4) experience life when they were
 - (5) No correction required
150. Good-natured people **have been suffered because of** their politicking companions.
- (1) have suffering with
 - (2) are suffered because of
 - (3) are being suffered because of
 - (4) may suffer because of
 - (5) No correction required
151. Why **does he** worry over petty matters is not known.
- (1) he worries
 - (2) he did worry
 - (3) he does worry
 - (4) should he be worry
 - (5) No correction required
152. Leaders enable a group **by imagining and create** a future which will fulfil the group purpose.
- (1) by imagining to create
 - (2) to imagine and by create
 - (3) to imagine and create
 - (4) to imagining creativity
 - (5) No correction required
153. Being a man of principle, he refused **to follow the illegitimate** instructions.
- (1) following the illegitimate
 - (2) to following illegitimately
 - (3) to follow the illegitimately
 - (4) not to follow illegitimately
 - (5) No correction required
154. The active learning of adulthood is not only possible **but infinitely and** desirable.
- (1) possible but only infinite
 - (2) only possibly infinite and
 - (3) possible only if infinite
 - (4) only possible but infinitely
 - (5) No correction required
155. Making a donation to charity **helps some people feel** good.
- (1) helped some people felt
 - (2) helps some people felt
 - (3) helping some people to feel
 - (4) helps some of people feeling
 - (5) No correction required

Directions (Q. 156-160): Rearrange the following six sentences (A), (B), (C), (D), (E) and (F) in the proper sequence to form a meaningful paragraph; then answer the questions given below them.

- (A) To propose the idea of becoming perfected is not the same as saying that we human beings can be perfect.
 - (B) It only means that we are capable of learning, changing and growing throughout the span of our earthly life.
 - (C) Learning is a process that begins at birth and lasts till death.
 - (D) This development through understanding new things, transforming and developing throughout may be considered as the perfection of soul.
 - (E) Given that we are here to continually learn on the journey of life, it seems that the ultimate goal of learning is the perfection of our souls.
 - (F) Nor that we should be perfect in everything.
156. Which of the following should be the **FIRST** statement after rearrangement?
(1) A (2) B
(3) C (4) D
(5) E
157. Which of the following should be the **SECOND** statement after rearrangement?
(1) A (2) B
(3) C (4) D
(5) E
158. Which of the following should be the **THIRD** statement after rearrangement?
(1) A (2) B
(3) C (4) D
(5) F
159. Which of the following should be **FOURTH** statement after rearrangement?
(1) A
(2) B
(3) C (4) D
(5) F
160. Which of the following should be the **LAST** statement after rearrangement?
(1) A (2) B
(3) C (4) D
(5) E

COMPUTER KNOWLEDGE

161. A digital communication system capable of interconnecting, a large number of computers, terminals and other peripheral devices within a limited geographical area is called—
(1) LAN (2) WAN
(3) Internet (4) All of the above
(5) None of these
162. A secondary storage device that uses a long plastic strip coated with a magnetic material as a recording medium is—
(1) Magnetic tape (2) Compact disk
(3) Hard disk (4) All of the above
(5) None of these
163. An example of a telecommunications device is a
(1) keyboard
(2) mouse
(3) printer
(4) modem
(5) None of these
164. Which of the following is an advantage of stored programs?
(1) Reliability
(2) Reduction in operation costs
(3) The computers becoming general-purpose
(4) All of the above (5) None of these
165. Which of the following is not true for primary storage?
(1) It is a part of the CPU
(2) It allows very fast access of data
(3) It is relatively more expensive than other storage devices.
(4) Can be removed and transported.
(5) All of the above
166. Function of control unit in the CPU is—
(1) To decode program instructions
(2) To transfer data to primary storage
(3) To perform logical operations
(4) To store program instructions
(5) All of the above
167. Electronic spreadsheets are useful in situation where relatively data must be input
(1) Small (2) Large
(3) No (4) All of the above
(5) None is true

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Practice Set- 10

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168. A list of options from which a program user can select anyone in order to perform a desired action is referred as—
(1) Menu (2) Index
(3) Directory (4) All of the above
(5) None of these
169. A method whereby messages to be transmitted between computers are all sent to a central computer, which gathers them and routes them to the appropriate destination(s) is known as—
(1) Message switching (2) Message delete
(3) Message accept (4) All of the above
(5) None of these
170. Multiprogramming systems:
(1) are easier to develop than single programming systems.
(2) execute each job faster.
(3) execute more jobs in the same time period.
(4) use only one large mainframe computer.
(5) None of these
171. Combining records from two or more ordered files into a single ordered file is called—
(1) Menu (2) Merging
(3) Taking (4) All of the above
(5) None of these
172. The ascending order of a data hierarchy is
(1) Bit-byte-record-field-file-database
(2) Byte-bit-field-record-file-database
(3) Byte-bit-record-file-field-database
(4) Bit-byte-field-record-file-database
(5) All of the above
173. A LSI chip contains the entire CPU of computer except main memory is called—
(1) Microprocessor (2) Hard disk
(3) Input device (4) Output device
(5) All of the above
174. A storage medium that loses its contents in the event of power failure is called—
(1) Volatile storage
(2) Non volatile storage
(3) Permanent storage (4) All of the above
(5) None of these
175. One-millionth of a second is referred as—
(1) Microsecond (2) Millisecond
(3) Hour (4) Minute
(5) All of the above
176. Alternate facilities of programs, data files, hardware equipments, etc. used in case the original one is destroyed, lost, or fail to operate is—
(1) Backup (2) Forehead
(3) Delete (4) All of the above
(5) None of these
177. One-thousandth of a second is called—
(1) Microsecond (2) Millisecond
(3) Hour (4) Minute
(5) All of the above
178. The CPU (central processing unit) consists of
(1) Input, output, and processing
(2) Control unit, primary storage, and secondary storage
(3) Control unit, arithmetic-logic unit, and primary storage
(4) All of the above (5) None of these
179. The product of data processing is—
(1) Data (2) Information
(3) Software (4) Computer
(5) All of the above
180. The input device used by computer is—
(1) Motherboard
(2) Central processing unit
(3) Keyboard
(4) System unit (5) All of the above
181. The structure of interconnecting of nodes of a computer network is referred as—
(1) Network topology (2) Internet
(3) Local Area Network
(4) Wide Area Network
(5) All of the above
182. Nibble is—
(1) Double of byte (2) Half of byte
(3) Ten times of byte (4) Five times of byte
(5) All of the above
183. A CD-ROM disk
(1) cannot be erased and rewritten
(2) has more storage capacity than a CD-R
(3) holds less data than a floppy disk
(4) can be written to only once
(5) None of these
184. A facility available in an operating system that allows multiple functions from the same

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- application package is referred as–
(1) Multi-threading
(2) Multi-programming
(3) Multi-processing
(4) All of the above
(5) None of these
185. Which of these keys is not on the number keypad?
(1) Ctrl
(2) Del
(3) Enter
(4) Num Lock
(5) None of these
186. Following is the example of Network–
(1) LAN (2) WAN
(3) Internet (4) All the above
(5) None of these
187. The smallest unit of information a computer can understand and process is known as a
(1) digit (2) kilobyte
(3) bit (4) byte
(5) None of these
188. What menu is selected to cut, copy, and paste?
(1) File (2) Edit
(3) Tools (4) Table
(5) None of these
189. The method of dividing a physical channel into many logical channels so that a number of independent signals may be simultaneously transmitted on it is referred as–
(1) Multithreading (2) Multiprocessing
(3) Multiplexing (4) All of the above
(5) None of these
190. An interconnected computer configurations or computers with two or more independent CPUs that have the ability to simultaneously execute several programs is called–
(1) Multithreading (2) Multiprocessing
(3) Multiplexing (4) All of the above
(5) None of these
191. Following is not a non-impact printer–
(1) Thermal printer
(2) Ink-jet printer
(3) Laser printer (4) Dot-matrix printer
(5) All of the above
192. A number system with a base of 8 is referred as–
(1) Binary (2) Decimal
(3) Octal (4) All of the above
(5) None of these
193. Devices converts digital signals to Sine waves at the sending end and back to digital signals at the receiving end is called–
(1) Modem (2) Telephone
(3) Mobile phone (4) All of the above
(5) None of these
194. Which is graphical representation of an application?
(1) Windows 95
(2) Windows Explorer
(3) Icon (4) Taskbar
(5) None of the above
195. The technique where digital signals are converted to its analog form for transmission over an analog facility is called–
(1) Modulation (2) Digitization
(3) Multiprocessing (4) All of the above
(5) None of these
196. Multiprocessor is a computer system–
(1) Where many CPU under a common control
(2) Consisting of more than one input devices under common control
(3) Where many output devices under
(4) All of the above (5) None of these
197. The point at which the flow of text in a document moves to the top of a new page–
(1) Page break (2) Page insert
(3) Page format (4) All of the above
(5) None of these
198. Technique to implement virtual memory where memory is divided into units of fixed size memory is–
(1) Paging (2) De-fragments
(3) Segmentation (4) All of the above
(5) None of these
199. A Field is a related group of _____.
(1) Records (2) Files
(3) Characters (4) Cables
(5) None of the above
200. To restart the computer ____ key is used.
(1) Del + Ctrl
(2) Backspace + Ctrl
(3) Ctrl + Alt + Del (4) Reset
(5) None of the above

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Practice Set- 10

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ANSWERS

1. (4)	2. (3)	3. (3)	4. (1)	5. (3)	6. (2)	7. (3)	8. (3)	9. (4)	10. (3)
11. (1)	12. (3)	13. (1)	14. (3)	15. (2)	16. (1)	17. (1)	18. (3)	19. (2)	20. (3)
21. (1)	22. (4)	23. (1)	24. (4)	25. (1)	26. (2)	27. (2)	28. (4)	29. (3)	30. (2)
31. (2)	32. (2)	33. (3)	34. (4)	35. (2)	36. (4)	37. (3)	38. (3)	39. (3)	40. (1)
41. (2)	42. (3)	43. (1)	44. (3)	45. (3)	46. (5)	47. (5)	48. (4)	49. (2)	50. (4)
51. (3)	52. (2)	53. (2)	54. (1)	55. (3)	56. (5)	57. (3)	58. (1)	59. (2)	60. (1)
61. (5)	62. (2)	63. (4)	64. (5)	65. (4)	66. (3)	67. (2)	68. (4)	69. (1)	70. (5)
71. (4)	72. (1)	73. (5)	74. (1)	75. (1)	76. (4)	77. (5)	78. (2)	79. (2)	80. (3)
81. (1)	82. (2)	83. (2)	84. (3)	85. (5)	86. (1)	87. (3)	88. (4)	89. (1)	90. (3)
91. (4)	92. (3)	93. (3)	94. (5)	95. (2)	96. (1)	97. (4)	98. (2)	99. (5)	100. (5)
101. (3)	102. (2)	103. (2)	104. (1)	105. (3)	106. (2)	107. (4)	108. (2)	109. (2)	110. (5)
111. (1)	112. (2)	113. (1)	114. (1)	115. (4)	116. (5)	117. (4)	118. (1)	119. (3)	120. (5)
121. (2)	122. (4)	123. (1)	124. (4)	125. (2)	126. (1)	127. (3)	128. (1)	129. (5)	130. (5)
131. (5)	132. (2)	133. (3)	134. (4)	135. (1)	136. (3)	137. (4)	138. (1)	139. (2)	140. (3)
141. (2)	142. (5)	143. (3)	144. (1)	145. (5)	146. (4)	147. (2)	148. (2)	149. (1)	150. (4)
151. (1)	152. (3)	153. (5)	154. (4)	155. (5)	156. (3)	157. (5)	158. (1)	159. (5)	160. (4)
161. (1)	162. (1)	163. (4)	164. (1)	165. (1)	166. (4)	167. (1)	168. (1)	169. (1)	170. (3)
171. (2)	172. (4)	173. (1)	174. (1)	175. (2)	176. (1)	177. (1)	178. (1)	179. (2)	180. (3)
181. (1)	182. (1)	183. (1)	184. (1)	185. (1)	186. (4)	187. (3)	188. (2)	189. (1)	190. (2)
191. (2)	192. (3)	193. (1)	194. (3)	195. (1)	196. (1)	197. (1)	198. (1)	199. (3)	200. (4)

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