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18	
SETS	

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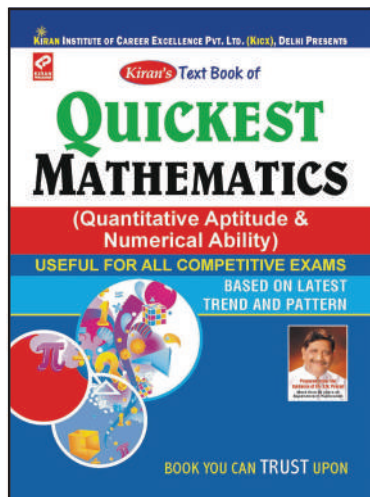
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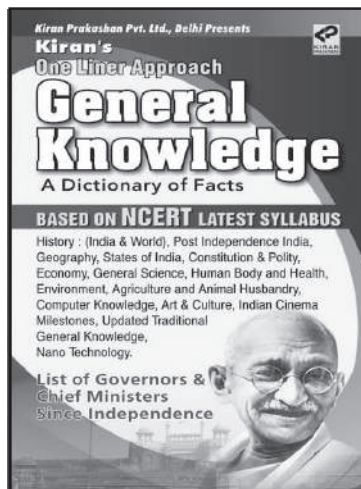
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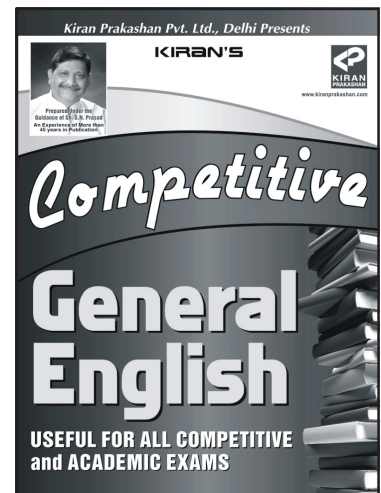
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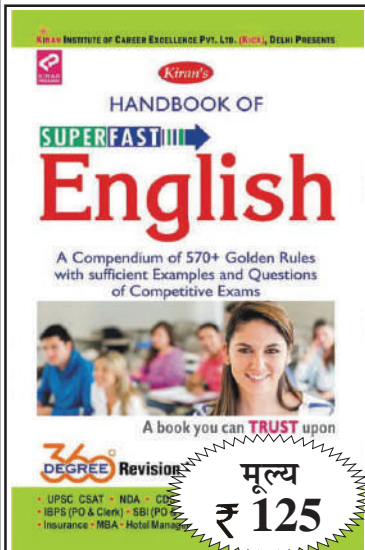
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IMPORTANT INFORMATION

UNION PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

SPECIAL RECRUITMENT ADVERTISEMENT NO. 51/2020

UNION PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION INVITES

ONLINE RECRUITMENT APPLICATIONS (ORA)

FOR RECRUITMENT BY SELECTION TO THE FOLLOWING POSTS

Examination Date : 04.10.2020

Four hundred and twenty one vacancies for the post of Enforcement Officer/Accounts Officer, Employees' Provident Fund Organisation, Ministry of Labour and Employment (SC-62, ST-33, OBC- 116, EWS- 42, UR- 168). Of the four hundred and twenty one vacancies, eleven vacancies are reserved for Physically Challenged person. Out of these eleven, eight vacancies are reserved for Deaf and Hard of Hearing with disability i.e. Deaf (**D**) or Hard of Hearing (**HH**) and remaining three vacancies are reserved for Locomotor Disability including Cerebral Palsy, Leprosy Cured, Dwarfism, Acid Attack Victims and Muscular Dystrophy with disability i.e. Both legs affected but not arms (**BL**) or One leg affected (R or L) (**OL**) or One arm affected (R or L) (**OA**). The posts are also suitable for Physically Challenged person viz. Deaf and Hard of Hearing/ Locomotor Disability including Cerebral Palsy/ Leprosy Cured/Dwarfism/ Acid Attack Victims/ Muscular Dystrophy with disability i.e. Deaf (**D**) or Hard of Hearing (**HH**) or Both legs affected but not arms (**BL**) or One leg affected (R or L) (**OL**) or One arm affected (R or L) (**OA**). The posts are permanent.

- **Pay Scale** : Level-8 in the Pay Matrix as per 7th CPC. General Central Service Group 'B', Non-Ministerial.
- **Age : 30 years.**
- **ESSENTIAL QUALIFICATIONS: (A) EDUCATIONAL** : Bachelor's degree in any subject. **NOTE-I:** Qualifications are relaxable at the discretion of the competent Authority/Union Public Service Commission in the case of candidates otherwise well qualified. **NOTE-II:** Qualifications(s) regarding experience is/are relaxable at the discretion of the Competent Authority/ Union Public Service Commission in the case of candidates belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes if at any stage of selection the competent Authority/ Union Public Service Commission is of the opinion that sufficient number of candidates from these communities possessing the requisite experience are not likely to be available to fill up the vacancies reserved for them.

DESIRABLE: (a) Bachelor's degree in Law/Integrated Five years Degree in Law/Masters in Business Administration/Post Graduate Diploma in Management/Company Secretary/Chartered Accountants/Cost and Management Accountant **(b)** Two years experience in Administration/Accounts/Legal Matters in any government or Listed – Private Organisation.

DUTIES: Duties of Enforcement Officer/Accounts Officer inter alia are to look after the work of Enforcement, Recovery, Accounts, Administration Cash, Legal, Pension and Computer which includes the statutory and administrative functions like conducting inquiry settlement of claims, general administration; maintenance of Cash Book/ administration; maintenance of Cash Book/Reconciliation of Bank Statements; MIS returns etc.

Any Other Conditions: In respect of permanent Government Servant appointed as EO/AO, the EPFO can pay leave salary and pension contribution as admissible under the rules for two years if a demand is made by the parent department for the same for maintaining lien. If he/she ultimately chooses to go back to his/her parent department, the amount remitted is liable to be refunded to the Organization before the officer is relieved. **HQ:** New Delhi. The Officers recruited are liable to be posted any-where in India.

NOTES :

- (a) Candidates are requested to apply only Online against this advertisement on the Online Recruitment Application (ORA) website <http://www.upsconline.nic.in> and NOT write to the Commission for Application forms. They are also requested to go through carefully the details of posts and instructions published below as well as on the website <http://www.upsconline.nic.in>.
- (b) *The age limit shown against all items is the normal age limit and the age is relaxable for SC/ST candidates upto 5 years and upto 3 years for OBC candidates in respect of vacancies reserved for them. SC/ST/OBC Candidates have to produce a caste certificate in prescribed proforma. ***Age limit is also relaxable for Employees of the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation upto 5 years.** For age concession applicable to other categories of applicants please see relevant paras of the "Instructions and Additional Information to Candidates for Recruitment by Selection"
- (c) A candidate will be eligible to get the benefit of community reservation only in case the particular caste to which the candidates belong is included in the list of reserved communities issued by the Central Government. If a candidate indicates in his/her application form that he/she belongs to SC/ST/OBC/General category but subsequently writes to the Commission to change his/her category, such request shall not be entertained by the Commission.
- (d) **HEADQUARTERS** : New Delhi. The Officers recruited are liable to be posted any-where in India.
- (e) **PROBATION** : Two years.
- (f) A pen & paper based Recruitment Test (**RT**) to short-list the candidates for Interview for recruitment to the posts of **Enforcement Officers/Accounts Officers** (Item Nos. 1 above) shall be conducted by the Commission on 04.10.2020.

■ SCHEME AND SYLLABUS FOR THE RECRUITMENT TEST (RT) FOR THE POSTS OF ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS/ACCOUNTS OFFICERS IS AS UNDER:-

I. Scheme of the RT:

- (i) The test will be of two hours duration
- (ii) All questions will carry equal marks.
- (iii) The test will be objective type questions with multiple choices of answer.
- (iv) The medium of the test will be both Hindi and English.
- (v) There will be penalty for wrong answers. Every wrong answer will carry a deduction of one-third of the marks assigned to that question. If no answer is marked for a question, there will be no penalty for that question.

II. Syllabus of the RT: The syllabus of the Test broadly comprises the following topics :-

- (i) General English- To evaluate candidate's understanding of English language & workman – like use of words.
- (ii) Indian Freedom Struggle.
- (iii) Current Events and Developmental Issues.
- (iv) Indian Polity & Economy.
- (v) General Accounting Principles.
- (vi) Industrial Relations & Labour Laws.
- (vii) General Science & knowledge of Computer applications.
- (viii) General Mental Ability & Quantitative Aptitude.
- (ix) Social Security in India.

III. Weightage :

Recruitment Test (RT) and Interview carry weightage in the ratio of 75:25 for the candidates shortlisted based on Recruitment Test (RT) and qualify in the interview.

□□□

CURRENT AFFAIRS

PADMA AWARDS 2020 ANNOUNCED

The government on 25 January 2020 announced 141 Padma Awards for this year on the occasion of 71st Republic Day. The list comprises of 7 Padma Vibhushan, 16 Padma Bhushan and 118 Padma Shri awards. 34 awardees are women and 18 foreigners. 12 persons are awarded posthumously. Former Union Ministers George Fernandes, Sushma Swaraj and Arun Jaitley will be awarded Padma Vibhushan posthumously. Pejavara math seer late Vishveshateertha Swamiji will be awarded Padma Vibhushan posthumously.

PADMA VIBHUSHAN

S.N.	Name	Field	Sate/Country
1.	Shri George Fernandes (Posthumous)	Public Affairs	Bihar
2.	Shri Arun Jaitley (Posthumous)	Public Affairs	Delhi
3.	Sir Anerood Jugnauth GCSK	Public Affairs	Maurritius
4.	Smt. M.C. Mary Kom	Sports	Manipur
5.	Shri Chhanumlal Mishra	Art	Uttar Pradesh
6.	Smt. Sushma Swaraj (Posthumous)	Public Affairs	Delhi
7.	Sri Vishveshateerth Swamiji Sri Pejavara Adhokhaja Matha Udupi (Posthumous)	Others-Spiritualism	Karnataka

PADMA BHUSHAN

S.N.	Name	Field	State/Country
8.	Shri M. Mumtaz Ali (Sri M)	Others-Spiritualism	Kerala
9.	Shri Syed Muazzem Ali (Posthumous)	Public Affairs	Bangladesh
10.	Shri Muzaffar Hussain Baig	Public Affairs	Jammu and Kashmir
11.	Shri Ajoy Chakravorty	Art	West Bengal
12.	Shri Manoj Das	Literature and Education	Puducherry
13.	Shri Balkrishna Doshi	Others-Architecture	Gujarat
14.	Ms. Krishnammal Jagannathan	Social work	Tamil Nadu
15.	Shri S.C. Jamir	Public Affairs	Nagaland
16.	Shri Anil Prakash Joshi	Social work	Uttarakhand
17.	Dr. Tsering Landol	Medicine	Ladakh
18.	Shri Anand Mahindra	Trade and Industry	Maharashtra
19.	Shri Neelakanta Ramakrishna Madhava Menon (Posthumous)	Public Affairs	Kerala
20.	Shri Manohar Gopalkrishna Prabhu Parrikar (Posthumous)	Public Affairs	Goa
21.	Prof. Jagdish Sheth	Literature and Education	USA
22.	Ms. P.V. Sindhu	Sports	Telangana
23.	Shri Venu Srinivasan	Trade and Industry	Tamil Nadu

NOBEL PRIZE : 2019

The Nobel are prizes awarded annually by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, the Swedish Academy, the Karolinska Institutet, and the Norwegian Nobel Committee to individuals and organizations who make outstanding contributions in the fields of chemistry, physics, literature, peace and physiology or medicine. They were established by the 1895 will of Alfred Nobel, which dictates that the awards should be administered by the Nobel Foundation. The Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences was established in 1968 by the Sveriges Riksbank, the central bank of Sweden, for contributions to the field of economics. Each recipient, or "laureate", receives a gold medal, a diploma, and a sum of money, which is decided annually by the Nobel Foundation.

Each prize is awarded by a separate committee; the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences awards the Prizes in Physics, Chemistry and Economics, the Karolinska Institute awards the Prize in Physiology or Medicine, and the Norwegian Nobel Committee awards the Prize in Peace. Each recipient receives a medal, a diploma and a monetary award that has varied throughout the years. In 1901, the recipients of the first Nobel Prizes were given 150,782 SEK, which is equal to 8,402,670 SEK in December 2017. In 2017, the laureates were awarded a prize amount of 9,000,000 SEK. The awards are presented in Stockholm in an annual ceremony on December 10, the anniversary of Nobel's death.

In years in which the Nobel Prize is not awarded due to external events or a lack of nominations, the prize money is returned to the funds delegated to the relevant prize. The Nobel Prize was not awarded between 1940 and 1942 due to the outbreak of World War II.

The 2019 Nobel Prize in physics has been awarded to three scientists "for contribution to our understanding of the evolution of the universe and Earth's place in the cosmos." This year's prize was awarded to James Peebles of Princeton University "for theoretical discoveries in physical cosmology, and Michel Mayor of the University of Geneva and Didier Queloz, of the University of Geneva and the University of Cambridge, "for the discovery of an exoplanet orbiting a solar-type star."

The Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2019 was awarded jointly to John B. Goodenough, M. Stanley Whittingham and Akira Yoshino "for the development of lithium-ion batteries."

The Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine 2019 was awarded jointly to William G. Kaelin Jr, Sir Peter J. Ratcliffe and Gregg L. Semenza "for their discoveries of how cells sense and adapt to oxygen availability."

The Nobel Prize in Literature 2019 was awarded to Peter Handke "for an influential work that with linguistic ingenuity has explored the periphery and the specificity of human experience."

The Nobel Peace Prize 2019 was awarded to Abiy Ahmed Ali "for his efforts to achieve peace and international cooperation, and in particular for his decisive initiative to resolve the border conflict with neighbouring Eritrea."

The Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel 2019 was awarded jointly to Abhijit Banerjee, Esther Duflo and Michael Kremer "for their experimental approach to alleviating global poverty."

■ **PHYSICS** : James Peebles, Michel Mayor and Didier Queloz

■ **CHEMISTRY** : John B. Goodenough, M. Stanley Whittingham and Akira Yoshino

■ **ECONOMICS** : Abhijit Banerjee, Esther Duflo and Michael Kremer

■ **MEDICINE** : William G. Kaelin Jr., Peter J. Ratcliffe and Gregg L. Semenza

■ **LITERATURE** : Peter Handke

■ **PEACE** : Abiy Ahmed Ali

GENERAL BIPIN RAWAT

Former Army Chief General Bipin Rawat took over as the first Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) on December 31, 2019, the day he was superannuated as the Army Chief.

Son of a three-star general, Rawat was commissioned into the army in December 1978 after graduating from the Dehradun based Indian Military Academy where he was awarded the coveted Sword of Honour for exceptional performance. He was commissioned into the 5/11 Gorkha Rifles.

The National Democratic Alliance government superseded two top generals – Lieutenant Generals Praveen Bakshi and PM Hariz – to appoint him army chief on December 31, 2016.

The Department of Military Affairs (DMA) has been created in the Defence Ministry and it will be headed by General Rawat.

BCCI AWARDS

The annual BCCI Awards at a Glance for the 2018-19 season were given away in Mumbai on January 12, 2020.

India spearhead Jasprit Bumrah headlined the BCCI Annual Awards function, grab-bing the prestigious Polly Umrigar award apart from annexing the Dilip Sardesai honour for his exploits in international cricket in the 2018-19 season. Polly Umrigar award is presented to the best male international cricketer and it carries a citation, trophy and cheque for Rs. 15 lakh.

Dilip Sardesai award is conferred on both the highest wicket-taker and highest run-getter in Test cricket. Bumrah took 34 wickets in six matches with three five-wicket hauls.

C.K. Nayudu Lifetime Achievement Award	K. Srikanth
Lifetime Achievement Award for Women	Anjum Chopra
BCCI Special Award	Dilip Doshi
Dilip Sardesai Award - Highest Run-getter in Tests	Cheteshwar Pujara
Dilip Sardesai Award - Highest Wickets in Tests	Jasprit Bumrah
Highest Run-getter in ODIs - Women	Smriti Mandhana
Highest Wickets in ODIs - Women	Jhulan Goswami
Polly Umrigar Award - Best International Cricketer - Men	Jasprit Bumrah
Best International Cricketer - Women	Poonam Yadav
Best International Debut - Men	Mayank Agarwal
Best International Debut - Women	Shafali Verma
Lala Amarnath Award for Best Allrounder in Ranji Trophy	Shivam Dube (Mumbai)
Lala Amarnath Award for Best Allrounder in Domestic Limited-overs	Nitish Rana (Delhi)
Madhavrao Scindia Award - Highest Run-getter in Ranji Trophy	Milind Kumar (Sikkim)
Madhavrao Scindia Award - Highest Wicket-taker in Ranji Trophy	Ashutosh Aman (Bihar)
M.A. Chidambaram Trophy - Highest Run-getter (U-23)	Manan Hingrajia (Gujarat)
M.A. Chidambaram Trophy - Highest Wicket-taker (U-23)	Sidak Singh (Pondicherry)
M.A. Chidambaram Trophy - Highest Run-getter (U-19)	Vathsal Govind (Kerala)
M.A. Chidambaram Trophy - Highest Wicket-taker (U-19)	Apurva Anand (Bihar)
Jagmohan Dalmiya Trophy - Highest Run-getter (U-16)	Aryan Hooda (Jharkhand)
Jagmohan Dalmiya Trophy - Highest Wicket-taker (U-16)	Abhishek Yadav (Jharkhand)
Jagmohan Dalmiya Trophy - Best Woman Cricketer (Sr. Domestic)	Deepti Sharma (Bengal)
Jagmohan Dalmiya Trophy - Best Woman Cricketer (Jr. Domestic)	Shafali Verma (Haryana)
Best Umpire in Domestic cricket	Virender Sharma
Best Performance in Domestic Tournaments	Vidarbha CA

ICC AWARDS

India's Swashbuckling opener Rohit Sharma was on January 15, 2020 named the ICC's '2019 ODI Cricketer of the Year' for his incredible run of form through, while English all-rounder Ben Stokes walked away with the overall honours.

Indian skipper Virat Kohli was named captain of both the ICC's Test and ODI teams of the year besides winning the 'Spirit of Cricket' award for his gesture of trying to stop the fans from booing Steve Smith during a World Cup match. Smith was returning to international cricket from a one-year suspension for ball-tampering at that time.

England's World Cup-winning all-rounder Stokes got the biggest prize - the 'Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy' for Player of the Year, while Australia fast bowler Pat Cummins was named Test Player of the Year.

India seamer Deepak Chahar won the T20 International Performance of the Year, Australia's Marnus Labuschagne was named as Emerging Cricketer of the Year, while Scotland's Kyle Coetzer was declared the Associate Cricketer of the Year.

Awards at a Glance

- **Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy for Best Cricketer of the Year** : Ben Stokes (England)
- **Test Cricketer of the Year** : Pat Cummins (Australia)
- **ODI Cricketer of the Year** : Rohit Sharma (India)
- **T20I Performance of the Year** : Deepak Chahar (India, 6/7 v Bangladesh)
- **Emerging Cricketer of the Year** : Marnus Labuschagne (Australia)
- **Associate Cricketer of the Year** : Kyle Coetzer (Scotland)
- **Spirit of Cricket Award** : Virat Kohli stopping the fans booing Steve Smith at the Oval
- **David Shepherd Trophy for Umpire of the Year** : Richard Illingworth.

SARASWATISAMMAN

Acclaimed Sindhi poet and writer Vasdev Mohi was on January 16, 2020 selected for the prestigious Saraswati Samman, a literary recognition given annually by the KK Birla Foundation. The award is for his work 'Chequebook, a collection of short stories in Sindhi, published in 2012.

'Chequebook' highlights the life of a domestic helper, facing ill-treatment from her husband and hardships because of poverty.

Born in 1944 in Mirpur Khas of undivided India, Mohi has a repertoire that includes 25 books of poetry, translated works, critical pieces and short stories. His critical essays and papers have appeared in

national and international literary seminars. He is the recipient of several awards, including the Sahitya Akademi Award, Sindhi Sahitya Academy Award, Gangadhar Mehar National Award and Lifetime Achievement Award of Sindhi Academy.

With a Masters in English literature, Mohi joined Life Insurance Corp of India, but went on to teach English at the Indian High School, Dubai, from where he retired as the lecturer and the head of department, English.

DADA SAHEB PHALKE AWARD

Veteran actor Amitabh Bachchan was on September 24, 2019 named the Dadasaheb Phalke Award recipient for 2018 for his contribution to the Indian film industry.

Bachchan, 76, who completes 50 years as an actor this year, made his debut with Saat Hindustani in 1969 and has since gone on to work in close to 200 films.

Bachchan is the 66th recipient of the award, named after Dhundiraj Govind Phalke, who directed India's first feature film, Raja Harishchandra, in 1913. The award is considered the highest honour for an artiste in India.

From achieving superstardom in the 1970s and 1980s, with back-to-back blockbusters such as Zanjeer, Deewar, Sholay, Amar Akbar Anthony and Don to facing bankruptcy in the 1990s, to the bouncing back with the TV quiz show Kaun Banega Crorepati in 2000. Big B - as he is popularly known - has had an eventful career.

He was awarded the Padma Vibhushan, the second-highest civilian award in India, in 2015. He has also been awarded the Knight of the Legion of Honour, France's highest civilian honour, for his "exceptional career in the world of cinema and beyond".

The Phalke award comprises a Swarna Kamal (Golden Lotus), a shawl and a cash prize of Rs. 1,000,000.

FEMINA MISS INDIA 2019

Femina Miss India 2019 was the 56th edition of the Femina Miss India beauty pageant. It was held at Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Indoor Stadium, Mumbai on June 15, 2019, and was hosted by Karan Johar and Manish Paul and Manushi Chhillar. At the end of the event, Anukreethy Vas of Tamil Nadu crowned Suman Rao of Rajasthan as her successor. She will represent India at Miss World 2019 in Thailand.

Meenakshi Chaudhary of Haryana crowned Shivani Jadhav of Chhattisgarh as Miss Grand India 2019. Gayatri Bhardwaj of New Delhi crowned Shreya Shanker of Bihar as Miss United Continents India 2019. Shreya Rao Kamavarapu of Andhra Pradesh crowned Sanjana Vij of Telangana as Runner-Up at the end of the event.

MAN BOOKER INTERNATIONAL PRIZE

Celestial Bodies, a family saga set against Oman's transition from slave trading centre to oil producer, became on May 21, 2019 the first novel originally written in Arabic to win the Man Booker International Prize.

The book's author, Jokha Alharthi of Oman, shares the award of £50,000 pounds (about \$63,000) with its translator, Marilyn Booth. The prize, given each year to the best book translated into English and published in Britain, is widely seen as the world's most significant award for translated fiction.

Ms. Alharthi's novel, first published in 2010 as Ladies of the Moon, follows an Omani family over three generations, from the 1880s to today.

RAMON MAGSAYSAY AWARD

Indian journalist Ravish Kumar on August 2, 2019 was awarded the 2019 Ramon Magsaysay Award, regarded as the Asian version of the Nobel Prize.

Kumar, 44, who is NDTV India's senior executive editor is one of India's most influential TV journalists, the award citation said. He is among five individuals who were declared winners of the award.

Kumar's "Prime Time" programme "deals with real-life, under-reported problems of ordinary people".

The four other winners of the 2019 Ramon Magsaysay Award are Ko Swe Win from Myanmar, Angkhana Neelapaijit from Thailand, Raymundo Pujante Cayabyab from Philippines and Kim Jong-Ki from South Korea. Established in 1957, the Ramon Magsaysay Award is Asia's highest honour.

It celebrates the memory and leadership example of the third Philippine president after whom the award is named, and is given every year to individuals or organisations in Asia who manifest the same selfless service and transformative influence that ruled the life of the late and beloved Filipino leader.

GOLDEN GLOBE AWARDS

The 77th Golden Globe Awards, honouring the best in film and American television of 2019, were broadcast live from The Beverly Hilton in Beverly Hills, California on January 5, 2020, by NBC. It was produced by Dick Clark Productions and the HFPA. Ricky Gervais hosted the ceremony for the fifth and final time.

The nominees were announced on December 9, 2019, by Tim Allen, Dakota Fanning, and Susan Kelechi Watson. Marriage Story earned a leading six nominations. Tom Hanks and Ellen DeGeneres were announced as the recipients of the Cecil B. DeMille Award and the Carol Burnett Award, respectively.

Once Upon a Time in Hollywood won the most awards for the ceremony with three, including Best Motion Picture – Musical or Comedy. 1917 Joker, and Rocketman won two awards each, with 1977 winning Best Motion Picture – Drama. In television, Succes-

sion, Fleabag, and Chernobyl were the most awarded, with two awards each.

- **Best Motion Picture - Drama** : 1917
- **Best Performance by an Actress in a Motion Picture- Drama** : Renee Zellweger (Judy)
- **Best Performance by an Actor in a Motion Picture- Drama** : Joaquin Phoenix (Joker)
- **Best Motion Picture - Musical or Comedy** : Once upon a time.... In Hollywood
- **Best Performance by an Actress in a Motion Picture - Musical or Comedy** : Awkwafina (The Farewell)
- **Best Performance by an Actor in a Motion Picture - Musical or Comedy** : Taron Egerton (Rocketman)
- **Best Motion Picture - Animated** : Missing Link
- **Best Motion Picture - Foreign Language** : Parasite (South Korea)
- **Best Performance by an Actress in a Supporting role in any Motion Picture** : Laura Dern (Marriage Story)
- **Best Screenplay - Motion Picture** : Quentin Tarantino (Once Upon A Time... in Hollywood)
- **Best Original Score - Motion Picture** : Hildur Guonadottir (Joker)
- **Best Original Song - Motion Picture** : "I'm Gonna Love Me Again" (Rocketman)
- **Best Television Series - Drama** : Succession - HBO
- **Best Performance by an Actress in a Television Series - Drama** : Olivia Colman (The Crown)
- **Best Performance by an Actor in a Television Series - Drama** : Brian Cox (Succession)
- **Best Television Series - Musical or Comedy** : Fleabag (Prime Video)
- **Best Performance by an Actress in a Television Series - Musical or Comedy** : Phoebe Waller-Bridge (Fleabag)
- **Best Performance by an Actor in a Television Series - Musical or Comedy** : Ramy Youssef (Ramy)
- **Best Television Limited Series or Motion Picture made for Television** : Chernobyl- HBO
- **Best Performance by an Actress in a Limited Series or a Motion Picture made for Television** : Michelle Williams (Fosse/Verdon)
- **Best Performance by an Actor in a Limited Series or a Motion Picture made for Television** : Russell Crowe (The Loudest Voice)
- **Best Performance by an Actress in a Supporting Role in a Series, Limited Series or Motion Picture made for Television** : Patricia Arquette (The Act)
- **Best Performance by an Actor in a Supporting Role in a Series, Limited Series or Motion Picture made for Television** : Stellan Skarsgard (Chernobyl)

66th NATIONAL FILM AWARDS 2019

The 66th National Film Awards were announced in Delhi on 9 August 2019. Ayushmann Khurana-Radhika Apte starrer *Andhadhun* won the 'Best Film' award; while, Aditya Dhar-directorial debut *Uri: The Surgical Strike* bagged four awards - best actor, best background music, best sound design and best direction in the 66th National Film Awards 2019. Ayushmann Khurana and Vicky Kaushal shared the 'Best Actor' award for their performances in *Andhadhun* and *Uri: The Surgical Strike*.

THE WINNERS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

- Best Feature Film: 'Hellaro' (Gujarati)
- Best Non Feature Film: *Son Rise* by Vibha Bakshi and *The Secret Life of Frogs* by Ajay and Vijay Bedi
- Best Actor: Ayushmann Khurana ('*Andhadhun*') & Vicky Kaushal ('*Uri*')
- Best Actress: Keerthy Suresh for '*Mahanati*' (Telugu)
- Best Supporting Actress: Surekha Sikri for '*Badhaai Ho*'
- Best Supporting Actor: SwanandKirkire for '*Chumbak*' (Marathi)
- Best Director: Aditya Dhar for- '*Uri: The Surgical Strike*'
- Best Popular Film providing wholesome entertainment: '*Badhaai Ho*'
- Best film on social issues: '*Padman*'
- Best Film on Environment Conservation/Preservation: '*Paani*' (Marathi)
- Best Film for National Integration - *OndallaEradalla* (Kannada)
- Best Educational Film: *Sarala Virala*
- Best Cinematography - *Olu* (Malayalam) to MJ Radhakrishnan
- Best Children's Film: '*SarkariHiriyaPrathamika Shale Kasargodu*' (Kannada)
- Best Child artist: P V Rohith (Kannada), Sameep Singh (Punjabi), Talha Arshad Reshi (Urdu) and Shrinivas Pokale (Marathi)
- Best Debut Film of a Director: *Naal* (Marathi)
- Best Choreography: '*Ghoomer*' in '*Padmavaat*'
- Best Editing: '*Nathicharami*' (Kannada)
- Best Special Effects: *KGF*
- Special Jury Award: Award shared by Sruthi Hariharan, Joju George for Joseph, Savithri for Sudani From Nigeria, Chandrachud Rai

BEST REGIONAL FILMS

- Best Rajasthani Film: *Turtle*
- Best Tamil Film: *Baaram*

- Best Marathi Film: *Bhonga*
- Best Hindi Film: *Andhadhun*
- Best Urdu Film: *Hamid*
- Best Telugu Film: *Mahanati*
- Best Assamese Film: *Bulbul Can Sing*
- Best Punjabi Film: *Harjeeta*

MUSIC

- Best Lyrics: *Nathichirami* (Kannada)
- Best Music Direction (Songs): Sanjay Leela Bhansali for *Padmavaat*
- Best Music Direction (Background score): *Uri*
- Best Sound Design: *Uri*
- Best Female playback Singer: Bindhu Malini for *Mayavi Manave* from *Nathichirami* (Kannada)
- Best Male Playback Singer: Arijit Singh for '*Binte Dil*' in '*Padmavaat*'

PRODUCTION

- Best Make-Up artist- *Awe*
- Best Production Design: *Kammara Sambhavam* (Malayalam)
- Best Costume: *Mahanati*

SCREENPLAY

- Best Original Screenplay: '*Chi Arjun La Sow*' (Telugu)
- Best Adapted Screenplay: *Andhadhun*
- Best Dialogues: *Tariqh*

55th JNANPITH AWARD

The Jnanpith Selection Board on 29 November 2019 announced eminent Malayalam poet Akkitham as the winner of the 55th Jnanpith Award. Akkitham has authored 55 books out of which 45 are collections of poems including "Khanda Kavyas", "Katha Kavyas", "Charitha Kavyas" and songs. Some of his celebrated creations include "Veeravadam", "Balidarsanam", "Nimisha Kshethram", "Amrita Khatika", "Akkitham Kavithaka", "Epic of Twentieth Century" and "Antimahakalam". A Padma Shri awardee, he has won several literary accolades including the Sahitya Akademi Award (1973), Kerala Sahitya Akademi Award (1972 and 1988), Mathrubhumi Award, Vayalar Award, and Kabir Samman.

28th VYAS SAMMAN

The 28th Vyas Samman for the year 2018 was in October 2019 conferred on noted Hindi poet and writer Leeladhar Jagori for his poetry collection '*Jitne Log Utne Prem*', at a function held in New Delhi. Jagori was conferred the prestigious award for his poetry collection by renowned author and scholar Govind Mishra. Well known Hindi poet Leeladhar Jagori's poems often celebrate love and hope. The poetry collection '*Jitne Log Utne Prem*' is Jagori's 12th anthology of poetry.

NATIONAL SPORTS AWARDS 2019

Based on the recommendations of the Selection Committee for the Sports Awards 2019, headed by Justice Mukundakam Sharma, the government on 19 August 2019 decided to confer awards upon the following sportspersons, coaches, entities and university:

- Khel Ratna: Bajrang Punia (wrestling), Deepa Malik (para-athletics);
- Arjuna Award: Ravindra Jadeja (cricket), Chinglensana Singh Kangujam (hockey), Ajay Thakur (kabaddi), Tajinder Pal Singh Toor (athletics), Mohammed Anas Yahiya (athletics), Sundar Singh Gurjar (para sports-athletics), S Bhaskaran (body building), Sonia Lather (boxing), Gaurav Singh Gill (motor sports), Bhamidipati Sai Praneeth (badminton), Pramod Bhagat (para sports-badminton), Anjum Moudgil (shooting), Harmeet Rajul Desai (table tennis), Pooja Dhanda (wrestling), Fouaad Mirza (equestrian), Gurpreet Singh Sandhu (football), Poonam Yadav (cricket), Simran Singh Shergill (polo), Swapna Burman (athletics).
- Dronacharya Award (regular category): Coach: Vimal Kumar (badminton), Sandeep Gupta (table tennis) and Mohinder Singh Dhillon (athletics)
- Dronacharya Award (Lifetime Category): Coach: Mezban Patel (hockey), Rambir Singh Khokar (kabaddi) and Sanjay Bhardwaj (cricket)
- Dhyan Chand Award: Manuel Fredricks (hockey), Arup Basak (table tennis), Manoj Kumar (wrestling), Nitten Kirrtane (tennis) and C Lalremsanga (archery).
- Maulana Abul Kalam Azad (MAKA) Trophy Punjab University, Chandigarh – Overall winner university.

President Ramnath Kovind on 29 August 2019 gave away the national sports awards in New Delhi on the occasion of National Sports Day.

GALLANTRY AWARDS

The Indian Air Force personnel who were part of the February 26 Balakot air strike on a Jaish-e-Mohammad terror training camp in Pakistan and the air engagement a day after were awarded gallantry medals on the eve of Independence Day on August 14, 2019.

Wing Commander Abhinandan Varthaman, who was caught by Pakistan after his MiG21 Bison fighter jet went down across the Line of Control (LoC) on February 27 and was returned three days later, awarded Vir Chakra, the country's third-highest gallantry award. During a dog-fight, he shot down a Pakistani F-16 but his jet was shot down soon after. He was handed over by Pakistan at the Wagah-Attari border crossing on March 1, 2019.

President Ram Nath Kovind, who is also the Supreme Commander of the armed forces, has approved 132 awards to armed forces personnel and members of paramilitary forces.

These include two Kirti Chakras, one Vir Chakra, 14 Shaurya Chakras, 98 Sena Medals (Gallantry), five Nao Sena Medals (Gallantry), seven Vayu Sena Medals (Gallantry) and five Yudh Seva Medals. Kirti Chakra was posthumously awarded to Sapper Prakash Jadhav. The Army also got eight Shaurya Chakras, 98 Sena Medals (Gallantry) and four Mention-in-Dispatches.

KIRTI CHAKRA

- ***Sapper Prakash Jadhav*** (Posthumous) killed militants in Kashmir while saving his fellow jawans.
- ***Harshpal Singh*** a CRPF deputy commandant, received his fifth gallantry medal for a counter-terror operation in Jammu.

SHAURYA CHAKRA

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| ● Lt Col Ajay Singh Kushwah | ● Major Vibhuti Shankar Dhoundiyal (posthumous) |
| ● Captain Mahesh Kumar Bhure | ● Lance Naik Sandeep Singh (posthumous) |
| ● Sepoy Brajesh Kumar (posthumous) | ● Sepoy Hari Singh (posthumous) |
| ● Rifleman Ajveer Singh Chauhan | ● Rifleman Shive Kumar (posthumous) |
| ● LME Amit Singh Rana | ● CRPF constable Sable Dnyaneshwar Shriram |
| ● SPO Ashiq Hussain Malik (posthumous) | ● J&K police head constable Subash Chander |
| ● Sub Inspector Imran Hussan Tak (posthumous) | |

MISS UNIVERSE 2019

The 26-year old Miss South Africa Zozibini Tunzi was crowned Miss Universe 2019 on December 8, 2019 in Atlanta after beating more than 90 contestants from around the globe in the 68th edition of Miss Universe.

Miss Puerto Rico Madison Sara Anderson Berrios was the first runner-up followed by Miss Mexico Ashley Alvidrez as the second runner-up. It was the third Miss Universe crown for South Africa, with Demi-Leigh Nel-Peters being declared the winner in 2017.

AIFF AWARDS

Indian men's football team captain Sunil Chhetri and women's footballer Ashalata Devi bagged the top honours at the All India Football Federation's AIFF Awards on July 9, 2019. Chhetri was named the men's footballer of the year, while the title in the women's category was won by Ashalata.

The Bengaluru FC and India skipper, who scored a brace in India's loss to Tajikistan in the opening match of the Intercontinental Cup, won the award for the third consecutive year.

Chhetri, with 70 goals for India, is also the second-highest active international scorer — only behind Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo.

Kerala Blaster's Sahal Abdul Samad won the emerging player of the year award in the men's category whereas Manipur's Dangmei Grace won the emerging player of the year in the women's category.

Awards at a Glance

- Best Grassroots Development Programme: Jammu & Kashmir Football Association.
- Best Referee: R. Venkatesh (Tamil Nadu) ● Best Assistant Referee: Joseph Tony from Karnataka
- Emerging Women's Footballer 2018-19: Dangmei Grace (Manipur)
- Emerging Men's Footballer of the Year: Abdul Sahal (Kerala)
- Women's Footballer of the Year: Ashalata Devi ● Men's Footballer of the Year: Sunil Chhetri

SAHITYA AKADEMI AWARDS

The Sahitya Akademi on December 18, 2019 announced its annual literary awards for 2019 for works in 23 languages, including one for Shashi Tharoor's non-fiction book about British rule in India.

The award including Rs. 1 lakh cash, would be presented at a ceremony on February 25, 2020.

'An Era of Darkness : The British Empire in India' by Mr. Throor, who is a Congress MP, was selected in the English category.

The awards honour works of poetry by Dr. Phukan Ch. Basumatry (Bodo), Dr. Nand Kishore Acharya (Hindi), Nilba A. Khandekar (Konkani), Kumar Manish Arvind (Maithili), V. Madhusoodanan Nair (Malayalam), Anuradha Patil (Marathi) and Prof. Peena Madhusudan (Sanskrit).

Novels by Dr. Joysree Goswami Mahanta (Assamese), L. Birmangol Singh (Manipuri), Cho. Dharman (Tamil) and Bandi Narayana Swami (Telugu) were also among the winners.

Books of short stories by Abdul Ahad Hajini (Kashmiri), Tarun Kanti Mishra (Odia), Kripal Kazak (Punjabi), Ramsawroop Kisan (Rajasthani), Kali Charan Hembram (Santhali) and Ishwar Moorjani (Sindhi), an autobiography by Dr. Vijaya (Kannada) and a biography by Prof. Shafey Kidwai (Urdu) were also among the winners.

FIFA AWARD

Lionel Messi won a record-breaking sixth Ballon d'Or on December 2, 2019 after another sublime year for the Argentinian, whose familiar brilliance remained undimmed even through difficult times for club and country.

Four years after his last Ballon d'Or, Messi pulled clear of the five next to the name of Cristiano Ronaldo, and now owns twice as many as Johan Cruyff, Michel Platini and Marco van Basten.

In 54 appearances in 2019, Messi has managed an astonishing 46 goals and 17 assists while for Barcelona alone he hit 41 goals and 15 assists in 44 matches, which included seven doubles and three hat-tricks.

Messi's first season as club captain brought a third consecutive La Liga title and he scored the winner in the game that clinched it, a 1-0 victory over Levante.

He also claimed his sixth Pichichi Trophy as the division's top-scorer, with 36 goals in 34 matches.

Megan Rapinoe completed an unprecedented clean sweep of honours on December 2, 2019 as the trailblazing World Cup star and feminist icon added the Women's Ballon d'Or to her collection of accolades. The 34-year-old striker was the star of the 2019 Women's World Cup, scoring six goals as the United States successfully defended their title. Rapinoe's tournament goals tally earned her the Golden Boot for top-scorer while she was also awarded the Golden Ball for the best player. Rapinoe had already picked up the FIFA's Best Women's Player award in September 2019.

MISSWORLD 2019

Jamaica's Toni-Ann Singh has bagged the Miss World 2019 crown at an annual beauty pageant held in London, with India's Suman Rao becoming second runner-up.

The 23-year-old was declared the winner at a televised event held at ExCeL London on December 14, 2019.

Born to Indo-Caribbean father Bradshaw Singh and African-Caribbean mother Jahrine Bailey, Ms. Singh is a student of women's studies and psychology at Florida State University and she aspires to be a medical doctor.

Ms. Singh was closely followed by France's Ophely Mezino, who was adjudged first runner-up, while India's Suman Rao was declared second runner-up.

Suman Rao is a 20-year-old from Rajasthan, who is pursuing chartered accountancy. She won the Miss India 2019 contest in June 2019.

NITI AAYOG

NITI Aayog (National Institution for Transforming India Aayog) is a policy think-tank of Government of India that replaces Planning Commission and aims to involve the states in economic policy-making in India. It will be providing strategic and technical advice to the central and the state governments i.e by adopting bottom-up approach rather than traditional top-down approach as in planning commission. The Prime Minister heads the Aayog as its chairperson.

Union Government of India had announced formation of NITI Aayog on 1 January 2015.

NITI Aayog would therefore mean:

- A group of people with authority entrusted by the government to formulate/regulate policies concerning transforming India.
- It is a commission to help government in social and economic issues.
- Also it's an Institute of think tank with experts in it.

ORIGIN AND FORMATION

- 1950 : Planning commission was established
- May 29, 2014 : The first IEO (Independent Evaluation Office) assessment report was submitted to Prime Minister Modi on May 29, three days after he was sworn in. According to Ajay Chibber, who heads the IEO, views in the report are based on the views of stakeholders and some Planning Commission members themselves. Planning Commission to be replaced by "control commission"
- August 13, 2014 : Cabinet of Modi govt. scrapped the Planning Commission
- Aug. 15 2014 : Modi mentioned to replace Planning Commission by National Development and Reform Commission(NDRC) on the line of China

MEMBERS THE NITI AAYOG COMPRISES THE FOLLOWING:

1. Prime Minister of India as the Chairperson
2. Governing Council comprising the Chief Ministers of all the States and union territories with legislature and lieutenant governors of other Union Territories
3. Regional Councils will be formed to address specific issues and contingencies impacting more than one state or a region. These will be formed for a specified tenure. The Regional Councils will be convened by the Prime Minister and will be consist of the Chief Ministers of States and Lt. Governors of Union Territories in the region. These will be chaired by the Chairperson of the NITI Aayog or his nominee
4. Experts, specialists and practitioners with relevant domain knowledge as special invitees nominated by the Prime Minister
5. Full-time organizational framework (in addition

to Prime Minister as the Chairperson) comprising

Vice-Chairperson, Members, Part-time members, Ex Officio members, Chief Executive Officer, Secretariat as deemed necessary

PRESENT MEMBERS

The various members of NITI Aayog are:

1. **Chairperson** : Prime Minister Narendra Modi
2. **CEO** : Amibath Kant
3. **Vice Chairperson** : Dr. Rajeev Kumar
4. **Ex-Officio Members** : Amit Shah, Rajnath Singh, Nirmala Sitharaman and Narendra Singh Tomar
5. **Special Invitees** : Nitin Gadkari, Thawar Chand Gehlot, Piyush Goyal and Rao Inderjit Singh
6. **Full-time Members** : Saraswat, Prof Ramesh Chand, Dr. V.K. Paul
7. **Governing Council** : All Chief Ministers and Lieutenant Governors of Union Territories Difference between NITI Aayog and Planning Commission

FINANCIAL CLOUT : NITI Aayog - To be an advisory body, or a think-tank. The powers to allocate funds might be vested in the finance ministry.

Planning Commission - Enjoyed the powers to allocate funds to ministries and state governments

FULL-TIME MEMBERS : NITI Aayog - The number of full-time members could be fewer than Planning Commission

Planning Commission - The last Commission had eight full-time members.

STATES' ROLE : NITI Aayog - State governments are expected to play a more significant role than they did in the Planning Commission.

Planning Commission - States' role was limited to the National Development Council and annual interaction during Plan meetings.

MEMBER SECRETARY : NITI Aayog - To be known at the CEO and to be appointed by the Prime Minister.

Planning Commission - Secretaries or member secretaries were appointment through the usual process.

PART-TIME MEMBERS : NITI Aayog - To have a number of part-time members, depending on the need from time to time.

Planning Commission - Full Planning Commission had no provision for part-time members.

CONSTITUTION : Niti Aayog - Governing Council has state chief ministers and lieutenant governors.

Planning Commission- The commission reported to National Development Council that had state chief ministers and lieutenant governors.

ORGANIZATION : Niti Aayog - New posts of CEO, of secretary rank, and Vice-Chairperson. Will also have five full-time members and two part-time members. Four cabinet ministers will serve as ex-officio members.

Planning Commission - Had deputy chairperson, a member secretary and full-time members.

PARTICIPATION : Niti Aayog- Consulting states while making policy and deciding on funds allocation. Final policy would be a result of that.

Planning Commission- Policy was formed by the commission and states were then consulted about allocation of funds.

ALLOCATION : Niti Aayog- No power to allocate funds

Planning Commission- Had power to decide allocation of government funds for various programmes at national and state levels.

NATURE : Niti Aayog- NITI is a think-tank and does not have the power to impose policies.

Planning Commission- Imposed policies on states and tied allocation of funds with projects it approved.

The NITI Aayog will aim to accomplish the following objectives and opportunities:

- An administration paradigm in which the Government is an "enabler" rather than a "provider of first and last resort."
- Progress from "food security" to focus on a mix of agricultural production, as well as actual returns that farmers get from their produce.
- Ensure that India is an active player in the debates and deliberations on the global commons.
- Ensure that the economically vibrant middle-class

remains engaged, and its potential is fully realized.

- Leverage India's pool of entrepreneurial, scientific and intellectual human capital.
 - Incorporate the significant geo-economic and geo-political strength of the Non-Resident Indian Community.
 - Use urbanization as an opportunity to create a wholesome and secure habitat through the use of modern technology.
 - Use technology to reduce opacity and potential for misadventures in governance.
- The NITI Aayog aims to enable India to better face complex challenges, through the following:
- Leveraging of India's demographic dividend, and realization of the potential of youth, men and women, through education, skill development, elimination of gender bias, and employment
 - Elimination of poverty, and the chance for every Indian to live a life of dignity and self-respect
 - Reddressal of inequalities based on gender bias, caste and economic disparities
 - Integrate villages institutionally into the development process
 - Policy support to more than 50 million small businesses, which are a major source of employment creation
 - Safeguarding of our environmental and ecological assets.



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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● NITI Aayog, January 2015
Full : National Institution for Transforming India
Purpose : Replaced the Planning Commission ● UDAY, November 2015
Full : Ujwal DISCOM Assurance Yojana.
Purpose : Scheme to provide a financial turnaround plan for power distribution companies of states ● Amrut, June 2015
Full : Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation
Purpose: Planning urban renewal ● Hriday, January 2015
Full : Heritage City Development and Augmentation Yojana
Purpose: Development of heritage cities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● JAM, March, 2015
Full : Jan-DhanYojana, Aadhaar and Mobile Numbers
Purpose: Welfare schemes ● PAHAL, November 2014
Full: Pratyaksha Hastaantarit Laabh.
Purpose: Direct benefit transfer of LPG subsidy ● PRAGATI, March 2015
Full : Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation
Purpose: A platform for the Prime Minister to interact with secretaries of Union Government and Chief Secretaries of States ● USTTAD, May 2015
Full: Upgrading the Skills and Training in Traditional Arts/Crafts for Development | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● PRASAD, April 2015
Full : Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spirituality Augmentation Drive
Purpose : Development of 12 pilgrim centres ● Setu, February 2015
Full: Self Employment and Talent Utilisation
Purpose: Providing support to start-ups ● Mudra Bank, April 2015
Full: Micro Units Development and Refinance Agency Bank
Purpose: Giving micro credit to small businesses ● AIM, February 2016
Full: Atal Innovation Mission
Purpose : Promoting innovation |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

- **NAPS, AUGUST 2016**

Full : **National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme**

Purpose : To provide apprenticeship training to over 50 lakh youngsters by 2020 in order to create more jobs. It has budgetary outlay of Rs 10000 crore.

- **PM-YUVA YOJANA, 2016**

Full : **Pradhan Mantri Yuva Udyamita Vikas Abhiyan**

Purpose : To create an enabling ecosystem for Entrepreneurship Development through entrepreneurship education and training across the country in select Institutes of Higher Learning Industrial Training Centers (ITIs) and Entrepreneurship Development Centers (EDCs) for over a period of five years.

- **TIES, MARCH 2016**

Full : **Trade Infrastructure for Export Scheme**

Purpose : To enhance export competitiveness. Various state governments have been requesting for the support of the Central Government to create export infrastructure

- **ATUFS, 2016**

Full : **Amended Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme**

Purpose : There Is a provision of one-time capital subsidy for eligible benchmarked machinery at the rate of 15% for garmenting and technical textiles segments with a cap of Rs. 30 crore and at the rate of 10% for weaving, processing, jute, silk and handloom segments with a cap of Rs. 20 crore.

- **AIM-SETU, 2016**

Full : **Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) including Self-Employment and Talent Utilization (SETU)**

Purpose : To promote a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship. Its objective is to serve as a platform for promotion of world-class Innovation Hubs, Grand Challenges, Start-up businesses and other self-employment activities, particularly in technology driven areas

- **PM-MVY, January 2017**

Full : **Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana**

Purpose : To provide cash incentive of Rs. 5000 to pregnant women for first living child

- **SAUBHAGYA, September, 2017**

Full : **PM Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana**

Purpose : To provide free electricity connections to all households (both APL and poor families) in rural areas and poor families

- **INSPIRE, January 2017**

Full : **Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research**

Purpose : To communicate to the youth population of the country the excitements of creative pursuit of science and attract talent to the study of science at an early stage and build the required critical human resource pool for strengthening and expanding the Science & Technology system and R&D base.

- **SPARSH, November 2017**

Full : **Scholarship for Promotion of Aptitude & Research in Stamps as a Hobby.**

Purpose : It is a pan India scholarship program for school children to increase the reach of Philately

- **UDAN, April 2017**

Full : **Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik**

Purpose : Making air travel affordable and widespread, to boost inclusive national economic development, job growth and air transport infrastructure development of all regions and states of India.

- **ISDSI, 2017**

Full : **Silk Samagra" Integrated Scheme for Development of Silk Industry**

Purpose : To sustain and strengthen the Sericulture activities in the country

- **SAMEEP, November 2017**

Full : **Students and MEA Engagement Program**

Purpose : To take Indian foreign policy and its global engagements to students across country and also to look at diplomacy as a career option.

- **PM- Kisan SAMPADA, 2017**

Full : **Scheme For Agro-Marine Processing And Development Of Agro-Processing Clusters**

Purpose : To supplement agriculture, modernize processing and decrease agri-waste
To give a renewed thrust to the food processing sector in the country

● **POSHAN Abhiyan, March 2018**

Full : **PM's Overarching Scheme for Holistic Nourishment - National Nutrition Mission**

Purpose : To ensure attainment of malnutrition free India by 2022

- To reduce stunting
- To ensure holistic development and adequate nutrition for pregnant women, mothers and children.

● **PM-AASHA, September 2018**

Full : **Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan**

Purpose : Ensuring remunerative prices to the farmers for their produce

● **IMPRESS, August 2018**

Full : **Impactful Policy Research in Social Science**

Purpose : To encourage social science research in policy relevant areas so as to provide vital inputs in policy-formulation, implementation and evaluation

● **SPARC, August 2018**

Full : **Scheme for Promotion of Academic and Research Collaboration**

Purpose : Improving the research ecosystem of India's higher educational institutions by facilitating academic and research collaborations between Indian Institutions and the best institutions in the world

● **LEAP, November 2018**

Full : **Leadership for Academicians Programme**

Purpose : It is a three weeks Flagship leadership development training programme (2 weeks domestic and one week foreign training) for second level academic functionaries in public funded higher education institutions.

● **ARPIT, November 2018**

Full : **Annual Refresher Programme In Teaching**

Purpose : It is a major and unique initiative of online professional development of 15 lakh higher education faculty using the MOOCs platform SWAYAM.

● **SAATHI, April 2018**

Full : **Sustainable and Accelerated Adoption of efficient Textile technologies to Help small Industries**

Purpose : Ministry of Textiles and Ministry of Power jointly launched this initiative in order to sustain and accelerate the adoption of energy efficient textile technologies in the powerloom sector and cost savings due to use of such technology.

● **PRAAPTI, May 2018**

Full : **Payment Ratification And Analysis in Power procurement for bringing Transparency in Invoicing of generators**

Purpose : To bring transparency in power purchase transactions between Generators and Discoms.

● **SATAT Initiative, October, 2018**

Full : **Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation**

Purpose : The initiative is aimed at providing a Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation (SATAT) as a developmental effort that would benefit both vehicle-users as well as farmers and entrepreneurs.

● **SFOORTI, January 2018**

Full : **Smart Freight Operation Optimization & Real Time Information**

Purpose : To help plan traffic flows and optimize freight operations
To help Freight Managers to monitor and manage freight business using Geographic Information System (GIS) views and dashboard.

● **DISHA, October 2018**

Full : **Digital Interaction to Seek Help Anytime (DISHA)- Chatbot**

Purpose : To help domestic as well as foreign travellers by providing prompt assistance for queries that they may have.

● **TARE, March 2018**

Full : **Teacher Associateship for Research Excellence (TARE) scheme**

Purpose : To connect the educators to leading public funded institutions like Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Indian Institute of Science (IISC) or national institutions like CSIR (Council of Scientific and Industrial Research) to pursue research.

● **PM-KUSUM, February 2019**

Full : **Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan**

Purpose : To setting up of 25,750-MW solar capacity by 2022 with the total central financial support of Rs 34,422 crore.

- **PM-SYMS, March 2019**

Full : Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Mandhan Scheme

Purpose : To provide a monthly pension of Rs 3,000 to the unorganized sector workers

- **PM-KMDY, August 2019**

FULL : Pradhan Mantri Kisan Maan Dhan Yojana

Purpose : Providing a minimum pension of Rs 3000 per month, to those who attain 60 years of age.

- **PM-KISAN, February 2019**

FULL : Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi

Purpose : 120 million small and marginal farmers who have less than 2 hectares of landholding will get up to Rs. 6,000 per year as minimum income support.

- **SANKALP, Approved in 2019**

Full : Skills Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood

Purpose : To create convergence among all skill training activities, To improving quality of skill development programs.

- **STRIVE, Approved in 2019**

Full : Skills Strengthening for Industrial Value Enhancement

Purpose : Improving the relevance and efficiency of skills training provided through Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) and apprenticeships.

- **SHREYAS, April 2019**

Full : Scheme for Higher Education Youth in Apprenticeship and Skills

Purpose : SHREYAS is a programme basket comprising the initiatives of three Central Ministries, namely the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship and the Ministry of Labour & Employment viz the National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS), the National Career Service (NCS) and introduction of BA/BSc/BCom (Professional) courses in the higher educational institutions.

- **NISHTHA, August 2019**

Full : National Initiative for School Heads and Teachers Holistic Advancement

Purpose : To build the capacities of around 42 lakh participants including all faculty members, teachers and Heads of Schools at the elementary level in all Government schools, District Institutes of Education and Training (DIETs) and Block Resource Coordinators.

- **NEAT, September 2019**

Full : National Educational Alliance for Technology

Purpose : To bring all the startups providing one-stop access to these technological solutions on a single platform and use their expertise to help disadvantaged communities.

- **STRIDE, July 2019**

Full : Scheme to strengthen research projects in Colleges and Universities

Purpose : To provide support to research projects that are socially relevant, locally need-based, nationally important and globally significant.

- **PM-Ji-Van, February 2019**

Full : Pradhan Mantri Jaiw Indhan- Vatavaran Anukool fasal awashesh Nivaran

Purpose : aims at providing financial support to Integrated Bioethanol Projects using lignocellulosic biomass and other renewable feedstock.

- **DEEP, April 2019**

Full : Discovery of Efficient Electricity Price

Purpose : It is portal for medium term (1-5 years) purchase of power.

- **NIRVIK, September 2019**

Full : Export Credit Insurance Scheme (ECIS) called NIRVIK.

Purpose : To ease the lending process and enhance loan availability for exporters.

- **UMMD, September 2019**

Full : Unique Methods of Management and treatment of Inherited Disorders

Purpose : To help people who cannot afford expensive care for genetic disorders

UNION BUDGET : 2020-21

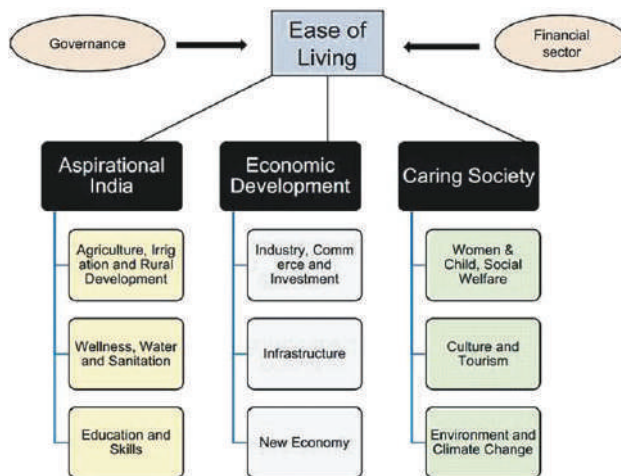
Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on 1 February 2020 presented the Union Budget 2020-21 in the Lok Sabha. This is the second budget after Narendra Modi led National Democratic Alliance returned to power for a second term. This year's Union Budget centres around three ideas — Aspirational India, Economic development, and A Caring Society. This was the longest Budget speech by any finance minister. Sitharaman, 60, broke her own record of a 2-hour-17-minute-long maiden Budget speech in July 2019. Peppered with a Kashmiri poem, Tamil couplets, the 2020 speech went on for over 2 hours and 30 minutes.

In a bid to revive the economic growth that slumped to a six-year low of 4.5 per cent in July-September quarter, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman slashed income tax for individuals, abolished dividend tax for companies and announced record spending in agriculture and infrastructure sectors. The government also announced a sale of government stake in the country's largest insurer, Life Insurance Corporation (LIC). While presenting her second budget, Sitharaman said this budget was aimed at boosting incomes and enhancing purchasing power, stressing that the economy's fundamentals were strong and inflation was well contained.

Taxation

Aimed at spurring consumption demand and offering some relief to taxpayers, especially from the middle class, Budget 2020 has proposed a new tax regime slashing income tax rates and rejigging income tax slabs to reduce total tax payable by individuals. As announced in the new tax regime, 70 tax exemptions will be removed but the income between Rs 5 lakh and Rs 7.5 lakh will be taxed at 10% down from current 20%, income between Rs 7.5 lakh and Rs 10 lakh will be taxed at 15% down from current 20%, and income between Rs 10 lakh and Rs 12.5 lakh will be taxed at 20% down from current 30%. Income between Rs 12.5 lakh and Rs 15 lakh will be taxed at 25% down from current 30%. Incomes above Rs 15 lakh in a financial year will continue to be taxed at 30%.

- Budget 2020 has offered the taxpayers the option to choose between the existing income tax regime (which allows availing existing income tax exemptions and deductions) and a new tax regime with slashed income tax rates and new income tax slabs but no tax exemptions and deductions.
- Dividend Distribution Tax (DDT) abolished; Companies will not be required to pay DDT; dividend to be taxed only at the hands of recipients, at applicable rates.
- Cash reward system envisaged to incentivise customers to seek invoice.
- 15% concessional tax rate for new power generation companies.
- Tax on cooperative societies reduced to 22% without exemptions.



CENTRAL GOVT EXPENDITURE

Budget Estimates for 2020-21 (in ₹ crore)

Heads	Amount	Heads	Amount
Pension	2,10,682	Interest	7,08,203
Defence	3,23,053	IT and Telecom	59,349
Major Subsidies	2,27,794	Planning and Statistics	6,094
Agriculture and Allied Activities	1,54,775	Rural Development	1,44,817
Commerce & Industry	27,227	Scientific Departments	30023
Development of North East	3,049	Social Welfare	53,876
Education	99,312	Tax Administration	1,52,962
Energy	42,725	Transfer to States	2,00,447
External Affairs	17,347	Transport	1,69,637
Finance	41,829	Union Territories	52,864
Health	67,484	Urban Development	50,040
Home Affairs	1,14,387	Others	84,256
		Grand Total	30,42,230

- 100% tax concession to sovereign wealth funds on investment in infrastructure projects.
- Tax on Cooperative societies to be reduced to 22 per cent plus surcharge and cess, as against 30 per cent at present.
- To end tax harassment, new taxpayer charter to be instituted. Tax harassment will not be tolerated, says FM.
- Proposes to amend Companies Act to bring criminal liability in certain areas.
- To amend I-T Act to allow faceless appeals.
- To launch new direct tax dispute settlement scheme -- Vivaad se Vishwaas scheme.
- Interest and penalty will be waived for those who wish to pay the disputed amount till March 31.
- Government to look at ensuring that contracts are honoured.

- Proposes new National Policy on Official Statistics to improve data collection and dissemination with the help of technology.
- Rules of origin requirements in Customs Act to be reviewed, to ensure FTAs are aligned with the conscious direction of our policy: FM
- Aadhaar-based verification of taxpayers is being introduced to weed out dummy or non-existent units; instant online allotment of PAN on the basis of Aadhaar.
- Registration of charity institutions to be made completely electronic, donations made to be pre-filled in IT return form to claim exemptions for donations easily.

Taxable income slabs	Tax rates
Up to Rs. 5 lakh	Nil
Rs. 5 lakh to Rs. 7.5 lakh	10%
Rs. 7.5 lakh to Rs. 10 lakh	15%
Rs. 10 lakh to Rs. 12.5 lakh	20%
Rs. 12.5 lakh to Rs. 15 lakh	25%
Rs. 15 lakh and above	30%

Indirect Tax :

- Customs duty raised on footwear to 35% from 25% and on furniture goods to 25% from 20%.
- Excise duty proposed to be raised on Cigarettes and other tobacco products, no change made in the duty rates of bidis.
- Basic customs duty on imports of news print and light-weight coated paper reduced from 10% to 5%.
- Customs duty rates revised on electric vehicles and parts of mobiles.
- 5% health cess to be imposed on the imports of medical devices, except those exempt from BCD.
- Lower customs duty on certain inputs and raw materials like fuse, chemicals, and plastics.
- Higher customs duty on certain goods like auto-parts, chemicals, etc. which are also being made domestically.

Housing :

- Tax holiday for affordable housing extended by 1 year.
- Additional deduction up to Rs. 1.5 lakhs for interest paid on loans taken for an affordable house extended till 31st March 2021.

Investment :

- Govt plans to sell part of its holding in Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) by way of Initial Public Offering.
- Certain specified categories of government securities will be open fully for NRIs, apart from being open to domestic investors
- FPI limit in corporate bonds raised to 15% from 9%.
- Government doubles divestment target for the next fiscal at Rs 2.1 lakh crore.
- Expand Exchange Traded Fund by floating a Debt ETF, consisting primarily of govt. securities.

Startups & MSME :

- Tax burden on employees due to tax on ESOPs to be deferred by five years or till they leave the company or when they sell, whichever is earliest.

- New Simplified return for GST from April 2020
- Start-ups with turnover up to Rs. 100 crore to enjoy 100% deduction for 3 consecutive assessment years out of 10 years.
- Turnover threshold for audit of MSMEs to be increased from Rs 1 crore to Rs 5 crore, to those businesses which carry out less than 5% of their business in cash.
- App-based invoice financing loans product to be launched, to obviate problem of delayed payments and cash flow mismatches for MSMEs.
- Amendments to be made to enable NBFCs to extend invoice financing to MSMEs.

Fiscal numbers & allocations :

- FY20 fiscal deficit revised to 3.8% from 3.3% in the current fiscal. For FY21, fiscal target seen at 3.5%.
- Deviation of 0.5%, consistent with Section 4(3) of FRBM Act.
- Net market borrowing for FY20 at Rs 4.99 lakh crore; For FY21 it's pegged at Rs 5.36 lakh crore.
- Nominal GDP growth for 2020-21 estimated at 10%.
- Receipts for 2020-21 estimated at Rs 22.46 lakh crore. Expenditure at Rs 30.42 lakh crore.
- Defence gets Rs 3.37 lakh crore as the defence budget
- Rs 2.83 lakh crore to be allocated for the 16 Action Points; Rs 1.6 lakh crore allocated to agriculture and irrigation; Rs 1.23 lakh crore for Rural development and Panchayati Raj.
- Rs 4,400 crore for clean air; Rs 53,700 crore for ST schemes; Rs 85,000 crore for SC, OBCs schemes; Rs 28,600 for women specific schemes; Rs 9,500 crore for senior citizen schemes.
- Rs 30,757 crore rupees for Union Territory of J&K; Rs 5,958 crore rupees for Union Territory of Ladakh.

Banking :

- To help bank depositors, government increases depositor insurance to Rs 5 lakh from current Rs 1 lakh.
- Encourage PSBs to approach capital markets for fund raising.
- Banking Regulation Act to be amended to strengthen Cooperative banks.

Jobs :

- National recruitment agency: New common entrance test for non-gazetted government jobs and public sector banks.
- Special bridge courses to be designed by the Ministries of Health, and Skill Development: To fulfill the demand for teachers, nurses, para-medical staff and care-givers abroad.
- Urban local bodies to provide internships for young engineers for a period of up to one year.

Infrastructure :

- 5 new Smart cities to be set up via PPP model.
- Rs 1.7 lakh crore allocated to transportation.
- 100 more airports to be set up by 2024 to support UDAN scheme.
- Accelerated development of highways will be undertaken; Delhi-Mumbai expressway and two other projects to be completed by 2023. Chennai-Bengaluru Expressway to be started.

- NHAH to monetize 12 lots of highway bundles of over 6,000 km before 2024.
- Young engineers and management graduates will be roped in for infrastructure projects under Project Preparation Facility.
- About Rs 22,000 crore already provided for supporting National Infrastructure Pipeline.
- Investment Clearance Cell to set up through a portal, will provide end-to-end facilitation, support and information on land banks
- National Logistics Policy will soon be released, creating single window e-logistics market.

Railways :

- Large solar power capacity to be set up alongside rail tracks, on land owned by Railways
- More Tejas-like trains for tourists.
- 150 new train to be introduced on PPP basis; Four stations will be also be redevelopment with the help of PPP.
- Rs 18,600 crore worth Bengaluru suburban transport project launched; 20% equity will be provided be the Centre.

Telecom :

- Rs 6,000 crore for BharatNet programme; Fibre to Home connections under BharatNet will be provided to 1 lakh gram panchayats this year itself
- New policy for private sector to build Data Centre Parks.

Tourism :

- 5 archaeology sites to be developed for world-class museums: Rakhigarhi (Haryana); Hastinapur (Uttar Pradesh); Shivsagar (Assam); Dholavira (Gujarat); Adichanallur (Tamil Nadu)
- Rs 2,500 crore for tourism promotion.
- An Indian Institute of Heritage and Conservation under Ministry of Culture proposed; with the status of a deemed University.
- 4 more museums from across the country to be taken up for renovation and re-curation.
- Rs.3150 crore proposed for Ministry of Culture for 2020-21.
- Maritime museum to be set up at Lothal- the Harappan age maritime site near Ahmedabad, by Ministry of Shipping.

Energy :

- Expansion of National Gas Grid from 16,200 km to 27,000 km along with reforms to deepen gas markets, enable ease of transactions and transparent price discovery
- Rs 22,000 crore allocated to power and renewable energy.
- FM urges all states and UTs to replace conventional energy meters by pre-paid smart meters in 3 years, this will give consumers the freedom to choose supplier and rate as per their requirements.
- Advise to shut thermal plants if they don't meet emission norms.

Education :

- Rs 99,300 crore allocated for education sector, Rs 3,000 crore rupees for skill development

- External commercial borrowings and FDI to be leveraged to improve the education system.
- A medical college to be attached to a district hospital in PPP mode, viability gap funding to be set up for setting up such medical colleges.
- US-like SAT exam to be held in African and Asian countries for benchmarking foreign candidates who wish to Study In India
- Degree-level full-fledged online education programme to be offered by institutes in top 100 in National Institutional Ranking Framework
- New Education Policy to be announced soon.
- To bring in equivalence in the skill sets of the workforce and employers' standards.
- 150 higher educational institutions to start apprenticeship embedded degree/diploma courses by March 2021.
- To launch 2 new National science scheme
- National Police University and National Forensic Science University proposed for policing science, forensic science, and cyber-forensics.

Agriculture :

- Agriculture market needs to be liberalised; govt proposes to handhold farmers, says FM
- Comprehensive measures for 100 water-stressed districts being proposed
- PM KUSUM scheme will be expanded to 20 lakh farmers.
- Government will help 20 lakh farmers for setting up solar pumps; Farm market will be liberalized.
- Another 15 lakh farmers to be helped to solarize their grid-connected pump sets.
- Scheme to enable farmers to set up solar power generation capacity on their fallow/barren lands and to sell it to the grid.
- Supporting states to focus on one product for one district so as to make way for Horticulture to gain momentum.
- Change in incentive scheme for chemical fertilisers. We will encourage balanced use of all fertilizers, a necessary step to change the incentive regime which encourages excessive use of chemical fertilizer
- Krishi UDAN scheme for agricultural exports on international and national routes. This will also improve value realization in North East and tribal districts.
- Railways will set up Kisan Rail through PPP arrangement, for transportation of perishable goods.
- For better marketing and export, supporting states will focus on one product for one district, so that high focus is given at district level for horticulture to gain momentum
- Zero Budget farming focus of the government.
- MGNREGS to be used to develop fodder farm.
- Jaivik Kheti Portal – online national organic products market to be strengthened.

Livestock :

- Milk processing capacity to be doubled to 108 tonne from 53 tonne by 2025.
- Artificial insemination to be increased to 70% from the present 30%.

- MNREGS to be dovetailed to develop fodder farms.
- Foot and Mouth Disease, Brucellosis in cattle and Peste Des Petits ruminants (PPR) in sheep and goat to be eliminated by 2025.
- Deen Dayal Antyodaya Yojana – 0.5 crore households mobilized with 58 lakh SHGs for poverty alleviation.

Village Storage Scheme :

- Will further expand on SHGs for alleviation of poverty.
- To be run by the SHGs to provide farmers a good holding capacity and reduce their logistics cost.
- Women, SHGs to regain their position as Dhaanya Lakshmi.
- NABARD to map and geo-tag agri-warehouses, cold storages, reefer van facilities, etc.
- Warehousing in line with Warehouse Development and Regulatory Authority (WDRA) norms:
- Viability Gap Funding for setting up such efficient warehouses at the block/taluk level.
- Food Corporation of India (FCI) and Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) to undertake such warehouse building.
- Financing on Negotiable Warehousing Receipts (e-NWR) to be integrated with e-NAM.
- State governments who undertake implementation of model laws (issued by the Central government) to be encouraged.

Fisheries :

- Framework for development, management and conservation of marine fishery resources to be put in place.
- Fish production to be raised to 200 lakh tonnes by 2022-23
- Youth and fishery extension work to be enabled by rural youth as Sagar Mitras, forming 500 fish farmer producing organizations.

Healthcare :

- Rs 69,000 crore allocated to healthcare sector.
- Rs. 6400 crore (out of Rs. 69,000 crore) for PM Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY):
- Indradhanush immunization plan expanded to cover 12 new diseases,.
- Viability gap funding window to be set up to cover hospitals, with priority given to aspirational districts that don't have hospitals empanelled under Ayushman Bharat.
- Propose Rs 35,600 crore nutrition-related plan.
- Jan Aushadhi Kendra Scheme to offer 2000 medicines and 300 surgicals in all districts by 2024.
- Over 6 lakh anganwadi workers have been equipped with smartphones to upload the nutrition status of 10 crore households.
- Nominal health cess on import of medical equipment to be introduced to encourage domestic industry and generate resources for health services.
- A new scheme to provide higher insurance cover, reduced premium for small exporters and simplified procedure for claims
- Targeting diseases with an appropriately designed preventive regime using Machine Learning and AI.

Union Budget 2020-21

Redefining Railways

Five Major Measures

- Setting up a large solar power capacity alongside rail tracks
- 150 passenger trains to be run through PPP mode along with station re-development
- More Tejas type trains to connect iconic tourist destinations
- High speed train between Mumbai to Ahmedabad to be actively pursued
- 148 km long Bengaluru suburban transport project at a cost of ₹18600 crore

Sanitation :

- Rs 3.6 lakh crore allocated to water sanitation and pipeline project; Rs 12,300 crore for Swachh Bharat.
- Our government is committed to Open Defecation Free country, in order to sustain ODF behaviour and to ensure no one is left behind.

Other announcements :

- Provision of Rs 8,000 crore over five years for Quantum Technologies and it's applications.
- GIFT City to have an International Bullion Exchange, enabling better price discovery of gold
- India will host G20 Presidency in 2022, Rs 100 crore to be allocated for making preparations for this historic occasion, where India will drive global economic agenda
- This is the Budget to boost income and purchasing power of Indians, says Sitharaman.
- This Budget is woven around three prominent themes: Aspirational India; Economic Development for All; A Caring Society
- Proliferation of technologies such as analytics, machine learning, Artificial Intelligence, bioinformatics and number of people in productive age group at its highest, point out two cross-cutting developments.
- Govt wants to improve the life of the people through Rs 100 lakh crore infrastructure pipeline projects.
- GST has resulted in efficiency gains in transport and logistics sector, inspector raj has vanished, it has benefitted MSME Consumers who have got a annual benefit of Rs 1 lakh crore by GST.
- 6 million new taxpayers have been added.
- Average household now saves nearly 4% more on the monthly basis after implementation of GST.
- GST resulted in Rs 1 lakh crore gains to consumers, removed inspector raj and helped transport sector.
- India uplifted 271 million people out of poverty.
- India is now 5th largest economy in world.
- Central Govt debt reduced to 48.7% of GDP from 52.2 per cent in March 2014
- 7.4% growth surpassed in 2014-19 with average inflation of 4.5%.
- Centre's debt down from 52.2% in 2014 to 48.7% in 2019

MCQs ON UNION BUDGET : 2020-21

1. Which of the following statements is not correct regarding the Union Budget 2020-21, presented in Parliament by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on 1 February 2020?
 - (1) This was the longest Budget speech by any finance minister
 - (2) It introduced a new optional personal income tax system
 - (3) It focused on raising the purchasing power by increasing income tax rates and boosting manufacturing
 - (4) All of the above given as options
2. Which of the following is not the theme of Union Budget 2020-21?
 - (1) Aspirational India
 - (2) Economic development for all
 - (3) Developing a caring society
 - (4) Inclusive and substantial development
3. With reference to the income tax slabs of Union Budget 2020-21, which of the following statements is/are correct?
 - (1) 70 tax exemptions will be removed
 - (2) Income between Rs 5 lakh and Rs 7.5 lakh will be taxed at 10%
 - (3) Income between Rs 12.5 lakh and Rs 15 lakh will be taxed at 30%
 - (4) Income between Rs 10 lakh and Rs 12.5 lakh will be taxed at 20%
4. Which of the following statements is correct regarding the taxation related announcements made in Union Budget 2020-21?
 - (1) It introduced the dividend distribution tax (DDT)
 - (2) It announced 10% concessional tax rate for new power generation companies.
 - (3) It announced reduction in Tax on cooperative societies to 20% without exemptions.
 - (4) It announced 100% tax concession to sovereign wealth funds on investment in infrastructure projects
5. In the Union Budget 2020-21, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman promised to double farmers' income, pegging the agricultural credit target at Rs ____ for fiscal 2020-21.
 - (1) Rs. 10 lakh crore (2) Rs. 12 lakh crore
 - (3) Rs. 15 lakh crore (4) Rs. 18 lakh crore
 - (5) Rs. 20 lakh crore
6. Which of the following agriculture-related announcements was made in the Union Budget 2020-21?
 - (1) Ministry of Agriculture will set up Kisan Rail in public-private partnership (PPP) mode
 - (2) Krishi Udaan will be launched by Civil Aviation Ministry to transport agri-products
 - (3) The government will promote one horticulture crop in one district on cooperative basis
 - (4) All of the above given as options
7. Which of the following statements was/were made by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, while presenting the Union Budget 2020-21 in Parliament on 1 February 2020?
 - (1) Between 2006-2016, 468 million are out of poverty
 - (2) India has moved on from over 4 per cent growth in 1950s to 6.4 per cent to 2014-19 period
 - (3) A total of 90 lakh new taxpayers and 105 crore e-way bills have been generated under GST
 - (4) Central government debt reduced to 48.7 per cent of GDP in 2019 from 52.2 per cent
8. Consider the following statements regarding allocations made in Union Budget 2020-21 and select the correct answer:
 - (1) Rs 78,000 crores for allocated for the healthcare sector
 - (2) Rs 122,300 crore allocated for education in FY21
 - (3) Allocation for Swachh Bharat Mission for 2020-21 stands at Rs 12,300 crore
 - (4) All of the above given as options
9. Which of the following announcements was/were made in Union Budget 2020-21?
 - (1) National Textile Mission to be launched with a proposed Rs 1,480 crore
 - (2) allocation
 - (3) To boost infrastructure, 14,000 km of economic corridor will be set up
 - (4) Chennai-Madurai expressway will be started
 - (5) 1050 WiFi facilities have been commissioned at railway stations
10. The Union Budget 2020-21 announced to develop which of the following archeological sites as iconic sites with on-site museums?
 - (1) Lothal
 - (2) Banawali
 - (3) Ropar
 - (4) Shivsagar

ANSWERS

1. (3)	2. (4)	3. (3)	4. (4)	5. (3)
6. (2)	7. (4)	8. (3)	9. (1)	10. (4)

EXPLANATIONS

1. (3) With the economy hitting a six-year low GDP growth, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman presented the Budget 2020 on 1 February 2020 that focused on raising the purchasing power by cutting income tax rates and boosting rural income.
 - The budget introduced a new optional personal income tax system and announced multi-billion dollar farm, infra and healthcare package to revive growth in the country.
2. (4) The Union Budget 2020-21 centres around three ideas — Aspirational India, Economic development, and A Caring Society.
 - The theme "Aspirational India" will cover Programs and plans related to agriculture, irrigation and Rural Development, Wellness water And Sanitation, Education & Skills
3. (3) Budget 2020 has proposed a new tax regime by slashing income tax rates and rejigging the income tax slabs to reduce total tax payable by individuals.
 - 70 tax exemptions will be removed but the income between Rs 5 lakh and Rs 7.5 lakh will be taxed at 10% down from current 20%.
 - Income between Rs 10 lakh and Rs 12.5 lakh will be taxed at 20% down from current 30%.
 - Income between Rs 12.5 lakh and Rs 15 lakh will be taxed at 25% down from current 30%.
4. (4) The Union Budget 2020-21 made the following taxation related announcements:
 - Dividend Distribution Tax (DDT) abolished; Companies will not be required to pay DDT; dividend to be taxed only at the hands of recipients, at applicable rates.
 - Cash reward system envisaged to incentivise customers to seek invoice.
 - 15% concessional tax rate for new power generation companies.
 - Tax on cooperative societies reduced to 22% without exemptions.
 - 100% tax concession to sovereign wealth funds on investment in infrastructure projects
5. (3) In the Union Budget 2020-21, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman promised to double farmers' income, pegging the agricultural credit target at Rs 15 lakh crore for fiscal 2020-21.
 - She also announced other schemes for farmers like Kisan Rail and Krishi Udaan in her budget speech in Parliament.
6. (2) The Union Budget 2020-21 announced that Indian Railways will set up Kisan Rail in public-private partnership (PPP) mode for cold supply chain to transport perishable goods.
 - It added that Krishi Udaan will be launched by Civil Aviation Ministry to transport agri-products to national as well international destinations.
7. (4) According to the Union Budget 2020-21,
 - Between 2006-2016, 271 million people went out of poverty in India.
 - India has moved on from over 4 per cent growth in 1950s to 7.4 per cent to 2014-19 period,
 - Total of 60 lakh new taxpayers and 105 crore e-way bills generated under GST
 - Average household now saves 4 percent of monthly spend due to reduced GST rates
 - Central government debt reduced to 48.7 per cent of GDP in 2019 from 52.2 per cent
8. (3) According to the announcements made in Union Budget 2020-21, the following allocations have been made:
 - Agri-credit target for the year 2020-21 has been set at Rs 15 lakh crore
 - Rs 69,000 crores for allocated for the healthcare sector
 - Education and training: Rs 99,300 crore allocated for education in FY21
 - Allocation for Swachh Bharat Mission for 2020-21 stands at Rs 12,300 crore
9. (1) The following announcements were made in Union Budget 2020-21:
 - National Textile Mission will be launched with a proposed Rs 1,480 crore allocation
 - To boost infrastructure, Sitharaman says 9,000 km of economic corridor will be set up.
 - Chennai-Bengaluru expressway will also be started.
 - Delhi-Mumbai expressway to be completed By 2023
 - 550 WiFi facilities have been commissioned at railway stations. 1 lakh gram panchayats will get optical fibre link
 - An allocation of Rs 6,000 crore will be provided for BharatNet scheme
10. (4) The Union Budget 2020-21 announced to develop the following five archaeological sites as iconic sites with on-site museums:
 - Haryana : Rakhigarhi
 - UP : Hastinapur
 - Assam : Shivsagar
 - Gujarat : Dholavira
 - Tamil Nadu : Adichanallur

□□□

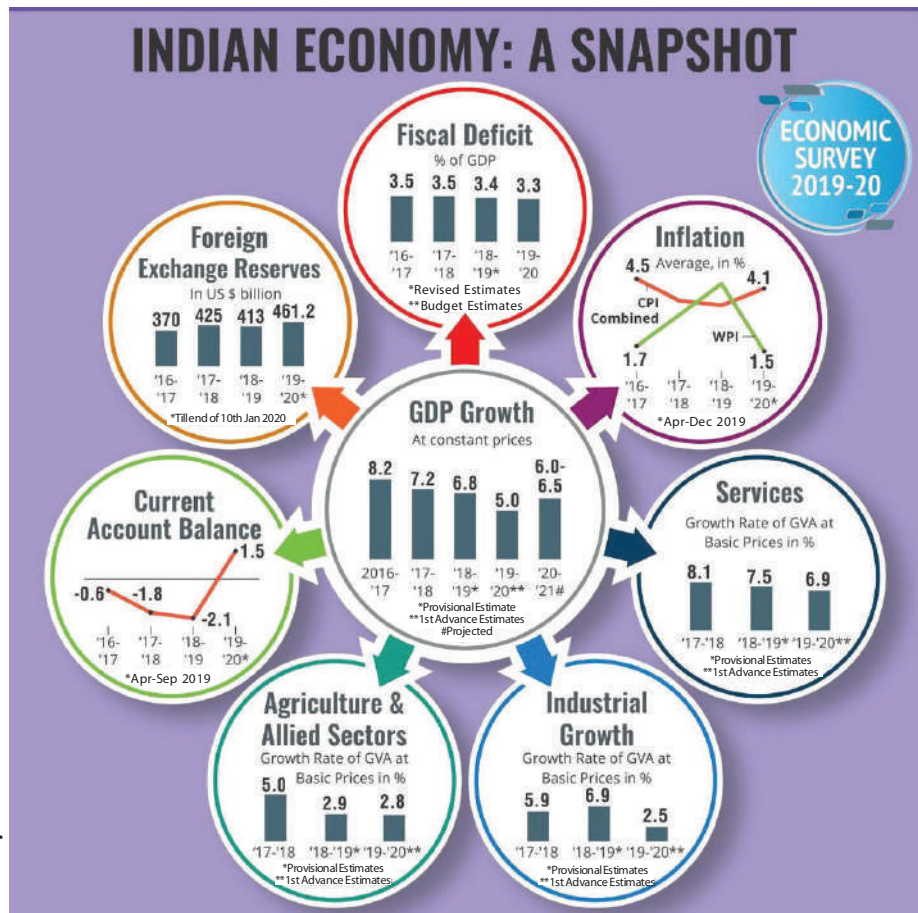
ECONOMIC SURVEY : 2019-20

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman tabled the Economic Survey of India 2020 in the Parliament on 31 January 2020. Authored by India's Chief Economic Adviser Krishnamurthy Subramanian, the Economic Survey, came at a time when the country was facing the worst economic slowdown in a decade. The theme of the 2020 Survey is wealth creation, said CEA Subramanian, adding that it was key to India becoming a \$5 trillion economy by 2025. It pegged GDP growth in 2020-21 at 6 to 6.5 per cent. Industrial growth was estimated at 2.5% and Agriculture at 2.8%. The survey highlighted the fact that 2.62 crore new jobs were created in rural and urban areas between 2011-12 and 2017-18. It said that in 2019-20 tax collections are expected to be lower than the estimates.

Wealth Creation : Invisible Hand Supported by Hand of Trust

The Survey records that ideas of wealth creation are deeply rooted in India's old and rich tradition from Kautilya's Arthashastra to Thiruvalluvar's Thirukural, which emphasizes ethical wealth creation as a noble human pursuit. It talks about the need to bring openness in the market for the creation of wealth through increased investment. In light of this, the survey points towards an Invisible Hand that is supported by the Hand of Trust. It presents an amalgamation of old and new; old in terms of ancient Indian tradition and new suggests the use of FinTech in Indian Public Sector Banks. It calls for strengthening this invisible hand through :

- Equal opportunities for new entrants
- Fair competition & ease doing business
- Trade for job creation
- Scaling up of the banking sector
- Introduction of the idea of trust as a public good
- India witnessed a GDP growth of 4.8% in the first half of 2019-20 amidst weakened global trade and demand
- Growth of Agriculture and allied activities & Public administration, defence, and other services' was



higher in the first half of 2019-20 in comparison to second half 2018-19.

- Current Account Deficit (CAD) contracted to 1.5% of GDP in H1 of 2019-20
- Remarkable Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and increase of foreign exchange reserves
- Headline inflation mounted from 3.3% in the first half of 2019-20 to 7.35% in December 2019-20 due to food inflation rise
- Survey predicts 5% GDP growth for 2019-20 overall based on CSO's first Advance Estimates
- Revenue Receipts registered higher growth in H1 of 2019-20
- Gross GST monthly collections crossed Rs 1 lakh crore for five times in 2019-20 till December 2019

GDP Growth in 2020-21 : The Economic Survey 2020 has projected the country's economic growth at 6-6.5% for the next fiscal year starting April 1. The growth in 2020-21 compares to a projected 5 percent expansion in 2019-20.

Entrepreneurship and Wealth Creation

- The Survey calls for the creation of wealth through:
- Entrepreneurship of the working class

- Pro-business policies to test the power of competitive markets
- Elimination of policies that weaken the markets
- Integration of Assemble in India into Make in India
- Scaling up of the banking sector
- Privatization to foster efficiency

Targeting Ease of Doing Business : India was ranked at 63rd position in World Bank's Doing Business 2019 rankings, a jump of 79 positions from 142nd rank in 2014. However, the economy is still trailing in several parameters such as Ease of Starting Business, Paying Taxes, Registering Property and Enforcing Contracts. The Economic Survey calls for close coordination between the Logistics Divisions of Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Union Ministry of Shipping, Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs and the port authorities. There are some sectors that require a more focused approach such as the tourism sector, manufacturing sector and others.

State of the Economy

- India's GDP growth decreased to 4.8 % in H1 of 2019-20 from 6.2% in 2018-19, without a weak environment for global manufacturing, trade and demand.
- World Economic Outlook (WEO) published by IMF has estimated the global output to grow at 2.9 % in 2019, declining from 3.6 % in 2018 and 3.8 % in 2017
- Ease of monetary policy with the repo rate having been cut by RBI by 110 basis points.
- Insolvency resolution process under Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) and easing of credit, particularly for the stressed real estate and Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) sectors and various other factors are going to be helpful in the near future.
- Reform is needed to make the economy strong for 2021.

Fiscal Developments

- The fiscal policy 2019-20 was characterized by sluggish growth in Tax revenue relative to the budget estimates.
- The Medium Term Fiscal Policy (MFTP) Statement presented with the Budget 2019-20, pegged the fiscal deficit target for 2019-20 at 3.3 per cent of GDP, which will reduce and attain the targeted level of 3 per cent of GDP in 2020-21, and continue at the same level in 2021-22
- The Central government debt was expected to continue with debt reaching 46.2 per cent of GDP and 44.4 per cent of GDP in 2020-21 and 2021-22, respectively.

External Sector

- In the first half of 2019-20, India's external sector gained further stability witnessing improvement in Balance of Payments (BoP) position.

- Current account deficit (CAD) reduced from 2.1% in 2018-19 to 1.5% of GDP in H1 of 2019-20.
- Foreign reserves of US\$ 461.2 bn as per 10th January 2020 is shown in the data.
- At Global trade level, global trade is estimated to grow at 1.0% after having peaked in 2017 at 5.7%. It is estimated to recover to 2.9% in 2020 with recovery in global economic activity.
- India's merchandise trade balance showed improvement from 2009-14 to 2014-19. The reason estimated is the decline of in crude prices in 2016-17.
- India's top five partners in trade are USA, China, UAE, Saudi Arabia and Hong Kong this fiscal year as well.

Monetary Management and Financial Intermediation

- The repo rate was cut by 110 basis points in four consecutive Monetary Policy Committee meetings in the financial year due to reduced growth and lower inflation rate.
- The Gross Non Performing Advances ratio of Scheduled Commercial Banks has remained unchanged at 9.3 % between March and September 2019 and increased slightly for the NBFC from 6.1% to 6.3%.
- Nifty 50 and S&P BSE Sensex indices reached record high closing of 12,355 and 41,952 respectively during 2019-20 as on 16 January 2020.
- Prices and Inflation
- Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation enhanced from 3.7 per cent in 2018-19 to 4.1 per cent in 2019-20.
- WPI inflation fell from 4.7 per cent in 2018-19 to 1.5 per cent during 2019-20.
- Food inflation is showing an upward trend mainly backed by rising vegetables, fruits and pulses prices.

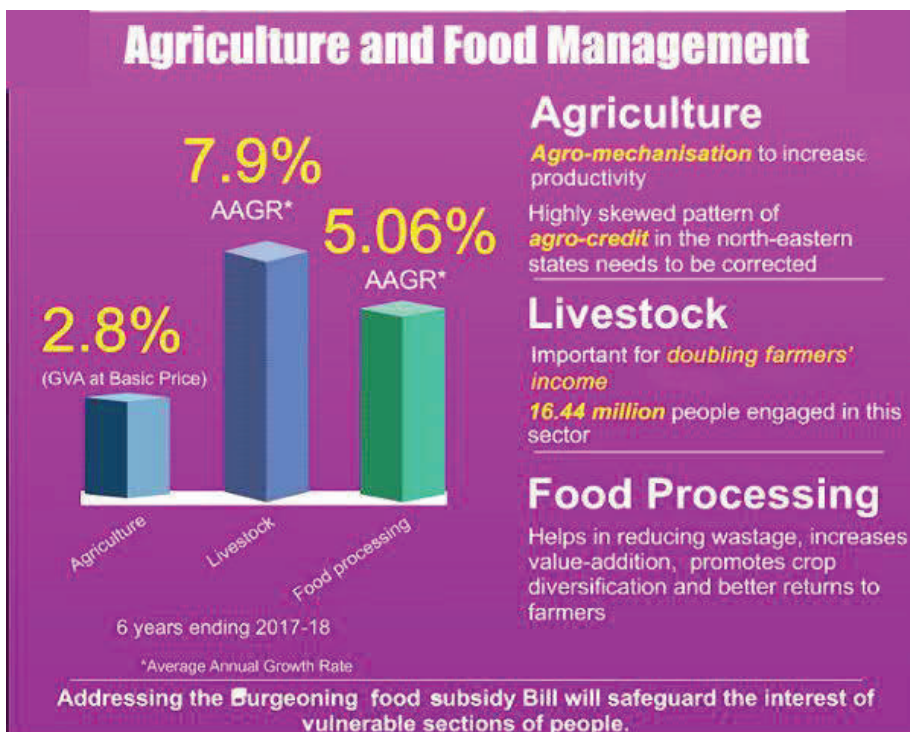
Sustainable Development and Climate Change

- India is moving forward on the path of implementation of SDG through well-designed initiatives
 - Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Chandigarh are the highest rankers and Assam, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh come under the category of Aspirants category
 - India hosted COP-14 of UNCCD which adopted the Delhi Declaration with theme "Investing in Land and Unlocking Opportunities"
 - Forest and tree cover of India is increasing and it reached 80.73 million hectare which is 24.56 % of the geographical area of the country.
 - India is an enabler of International Solar Alliance.
- #### **Agriculture and Food Management**
- The share of agriculture and allied sectors in the total Gross Value Added (GVA) of the country has been continuously declining and Basic Prices for 2019-20 from 'Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing' sector is estimated to grow by 2.8 %
 - Largest Proportion of Indian population depends directly or indirectly on agriculture for employment opportunities as compared to any other sector.

- Food Processing Industries sector have an average Annual Growth Rate (AAGR) of around 5.06 %.

Industry and Infrastructure

- The industrial sector as per Index of Industrial Production (IIP) registered a growth of 0.6 per cent in 2019-20 (April-November) as compared to 5.0 % during 2018-19 (April-November).
- Fertilizer sector achieved a growth of 4.0 % during 2019-20 (April-November) as compared to 1.3 per cent during 2018-19 (April-November).
- Steel sector achieved a growth of 5.2 % during 2019-20 (April-November) as compared to 3.6 % during 2018-19 (April-November).



Agriculture

Agro-mechanisation to increase productivity

Highly skewed pattern of **agro-credit** in the north-eastern states needs to be corrected

Livestock

Important for **doubling farmers' income**

16.44 million people engaged in this sector

Food Processing

Helps in reducing wastage, increases value-addition, promotes crop diversification and better returns to farmers

- Total telephone connections in India touched 119.43 crore as on September 30, 2019.
- The installed capacity of power generation has increased to 3, 64,960 MW as on October 31, 2019 from 3, 56,100 MW as on March 31, 2019.
- Report of the Task Force on National Infrastructure Pipeline released on 31.12.2019 has projected total infrastructure investment of Rs. 102 lakh crore during the period FY 2020 to 2025 in India.

Services Sector

- The services sector accounts for about 55 per cent of the economy and gross value added (GVA) growth, according to the Economic Survey 2019-20 tabled in Parliament on Friday by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.
- The sector accounts for two-thirds of total foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows into India and about 38 per cent of India's exports.
- The survey said the services sector saw 33 per cent jump in the gross FDI equity inflows during April to September 2019, touching 17.58 billion dollars.
- This was driven by strong inflows into sub-sectors such as information and broadcasting, air transport, telecommunications, consultancy services, and hotel and tourism.
- Services exports have outperformed goods exports in the recent years, due to which India's share in world's commercial services exports has risen steadily over the past decade to reach 3.5 per cent in 2018, twice the share in world's merchandise exports at 1.7 per cent.
- Within the services sector, tourism services are a major engine of growth, contributing to GDP, foreign exchange earnings and employment.

- However, growth in foreign exchange earnings slowed in 2018 and 2019 in line with global trends.
- Gross Value Added growth of the services sector reduced in 2019-20 as suggested by various high-frequency indicators and sectoral data such as air passenger traffic, port and shipping freight traffic, bank credit etc.
- FDI into services sector has witnessed a recovery in early 2019-20.

Social Infrastructure, Employment and Human Development

- Social services expenditure (health, education and others) by the Centre and States as a proportion of GDP increased from 6.2 % in 2014-15 to 7.7 % in 2019-20.
- India's ranking in Human Development Index improved to 129 in 2018 from 130 in 2017 with 1.34 % average annual HDI growth,
- The share of regular wage/salaried employees has increased by 5% from 18 % in 2011-12 to 23 % in 2017-18.
- A jump of around 2.62 crore new jobs with 1.21 crore in rural areas and 1.39 crore in urban areas in this category.
- Access to health services inter-alia through Ayushman Bharat and Mission Indradhanush across the country has improved.
- Mission Indradhanush has helped in vaccinate 3.39 crore children and 87.18 lakh pregnant women of 680 districts across the country.
- A 10 Year Rural Sanitation Strategy (2019-2029) launched to focus on sanitation under Swachh Bharat Mission.

MCQs ON ECONOMIC SURVEY

1. Which of the following is the theme of Economic Survey 2019-2020, presented in Parliament by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on 31 January 2020?
 - (1) Wealth creation
 - (2) Financial Inclusion
 - (3) Women empowerment
 - (4) 10 Trillion Economy
2. Which of the following statements is correct regarding the Economic Survey 2019-2020, presented in Parliament on 31 January 2020?
 - a. In 2019-20, Centre's fiscal deficit was budgeted at Rs. 7.04 lakh crore (3.3 per cent of GDP), as compared to Rs. 6.49 lakh crore (3.4 per cent of GDP) in 2018-19.
 - b. Economic slowdown since 2017 has been due to the lagged effect of reduced investment from 2016. Select the correct answer using the codes given below :
 - (1) Only a (2) Only b
 - (3) Both a and b (4) Neither a nor b
3. With reference to the Economic Survey 2019-20, which of the following statements is/are correct?
 - a. The Survey suggests that the government must systematically examine areas of needless intervention and undermining of markets.
 - b. It argues that there should be no Government intervention in market and the government should shift to complete Laissez faire policy. Select the correct answer using the codes given below :
 - (1) Both a and b (2) Only b
 - (3) Neither a nor b (4) Only a
4. The Economic Survey 2019-20 projects economic growth at ____ in the fiscal year beginning April 1, 2020.
 - (1) 4.8-5.3% (2) 5.4-5.9%
 - (3) 6.0-6.5% (4) 6.5-7.0%
5. Which of the following statements is not correct regarding the Economic Survey 2019-20?
 - (1) Ayushman Bharat has set up 28,005 Health & Wellness Centres as of 14 January 2020
 - (2) 2.6 crore jobs have been created in urban and rural areas between 2011-12 and 2017-18
 - (3) Currently, India has the second-largest emerging Green Bond Market after China
 - (4) In the formal sector, there has been a 18.2 % cumulative annual growth rate of new firms in 2014-18, compared to 3.8 % in 2006-2014
6. According to the Economic Survey 2019-20, to achieve a Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of USD 5 trillion by 2024 – 25, how much does India need to spend over these years on infrastructure?
 - (1) \$1.1 trillion (2) \$1.4 trillion
 - (3) \$1.75 trillion (4) 1.90 trillion
7. With reference to the Economic Survey 2019-20, which of the following statements is/are correct?
 - (1) Affordability of vegetarian Thalys improved 29 percent from 2006-07 to 2019-20
 - (2) States/UTs showing an increase in forest cover are Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh
 - (3) The share of regular wage/salaried employees has increased from 18 percent in 2011-12 to almost 33 percent in 2017 – 2018
 - (4) The percentage of waste processing has increased to around 30% from 18%
8. According to the Economic Survey 2019-20, how many well-paid jobs can be created by India by 2025?
 - (1) 1 crore jobs
 - (2) 2.5 crore jobs
 - (3) 4 crore jobs
 - (4) 5 crore jobs
9. Which of the following observations has not been made by the Economic Survey 2019-20?
 - (1) India's GDP growth is both overestimated as well as underestimated.
 - (2) Government interventions like debt waiver or food subsidies end up creating distortions in the functioning of the free market
 - (3) There are tentative signs of bottoming out of slowdown in manufacturing activity and global trade
 - (4) All of the above given as options
10. The Economic Survey 2019-20 said that
 - a. The fiscal deficit target may have to be relaxed for the current year.
 - b. India's foreign reserves are comfortably placed at USD 561.2 billion as on 10 January 2020.
 - c. Employee stock ownership plans (ESOPs) should be provided to public sector bank employees to enable them to become owners in the banks.
 Select the correct answer using the codes given below :
 - (1) Both a and c (2) Only b
 - (3) Both b and c (4) Only a