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01-12-2018

1) Consider the following statements with respect to Kimberley Process (KP)

1. It is an international certification scheme that regulates trade in rough diamonds.
2. It is a binding agreement that imposes extensive requirements on every member countries.
3. India is the founding member of Kimberley Process.
4. India is the Vice Chair for Kimberly Process (KP) for 2018.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

2) Consider the following statements with respect to Bru refugees in India

1. Large groups of Bru tribes migrated to Tripura after an ethnic clash at Bangladesh in 1997.
2. Bru refugees are not entitled to vote anywhere in India.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

3) "Coastwise 2018-19" is sometimes seen in the news recently. It is a/an

- a. Beach cleaning campaign which ensures plastic free beaches in India
- b. Campaign to promote marine life in the region of Maharashtra

- c. Bilateral naval exercise between India and Mozambique
- d. Initiative of WWF to provide safe zones for Olive-ridley turtles during the weeks of its mass-nesting

4) Consider the following statements

1. India has changed the methodology of its growth calculation from GDP to GVA in 2015.
2. Base year has also been shifted from 2004-05 to 2010-11.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

5) Consider the following statements with respect to conference of Parties (COP-24)

1. It will be held in Katowice, Poland.
2. USA will not participate in the event as it opted out of the Paris deal last year.
3. It will be the first intergovernmental summit to be held fully online.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are incorrect?

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

6) "Heart Attack Rewind" is a mass media campaign launched to eliminate industrially produced trans-fats by which of the following organisations?

- a. Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)
- b. World Health Organisation (WHO)
- c. Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO)

- d. Food Safety & Drug administration department, Tamilnadu

7) "MCA-21" is sometimes seen in the news recently. It is a/an/the

- a. e-governance initiative of Ministry of Company affairs
- b. U.K's fighter jet planned to be bought by the Indian Air Force (IAF)
- c. Set of standards for effective management of tigers in its range countries
- d. Mission to clean Amaravati River by the year 2021

8) Consider the following statements with respect to Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV)

- 1. It is a four-stage launch vehicle with alternating solid and liquid stages.
- 2. India's Chandrayaan-2 Mission is likely to be launched using the PSLV.
- 3. It can carry 5000 kg of payload to Geo Synchronous Transfer Orbit.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are incorrect?

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

9) *Thumri, khayal and Dhrupad* were associated with which of the following art forms?

- a. Dance
- b. Music
- c. Theatre form
- d. Puppet

10) Which of the industries give below does not belong to the eight core Industries of India?

- 1. Crude Oil

- 2. Textile
- 3. Natural Gas
- 4. Pharmaceuticals
- 5. Petroleum Refineries

Select the correct answer using the code given below

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

Answers

1. d

- KP aims to prevent the flow of **conflict diamonds** (rough diamonds used to finance the conflicts and topple the established government), while helping to protect legitimate trade in rough diamonds.
- The **Kimberley Process Certification Scheme (KPCS)** outlines the rules that govern the trade in rough diamonds.
- KP is a **binding agreement** that has developed a set of minimum requirements that each participant must meet.
- India has been appointed as the Kimberly Process (KP) **Vice Chair for 2018 & Chair for 2019**.

2. d

- The Brus, also referred to as the Reangs, are spread across the northeastern states of Tripura, Assam, Manipur, and Mizoram.
- Bru refugees are the tribes who had fled ethnic violence from across nine Assembly seats in **Mizoram** 21 years ago. **Not Bangladesh**.
- Recently, displaced Bru voters lodged in six relief camps in Tripura cast their votes at special booths set up at Kanhmun, a Mizoram village in Mamit district bordering Tripura.

3. b

- '**Coastwise 2018-19**' is a first-of-its-kind initiative hosted by the **mangrove cell of Maharashtra, WWF India and Marine**

life of Mumbai, an organisation working to create awareness about marine life.

- The campaign aims at creating public awareness about essential **marine flora and fauna** of the **Maharashtra region**.

4. a

- The government in 2015 changed the methodology to Gross Value Added (GVA) from the earlier GDP and brought forward the base year for computation to **2011-12** from 2004-05.

5. c

- The United States opted out of the Paris deal last year but continues to be part of discussions as a complete withdrawal – as per terms of the UN convention – takes up to 4 years.*
- The United States cannot officially announce its plan to withdraw from the agreement until November 4, 2019.*

6. a

- The **Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)** has recently launched a new mass media campaign calling for the elimination of industrially produced trans fat in the food supply.
- Called “Heart Attack Rewind”, the 30 second public service announcement (PSA) - the first mass media campaign of its kind – will support FSSAI’s global target of eliminating Trans-fat in India by the year 2022, a year ahead of the global target by the World Health Organization (WHO) for complete elimination of trans fats.

7. a

- MCA-21, an e-governance initiative of the Ministry of Company Affairs was launched in 2006, to allow firms to electronically file their financial results.
- With the shift to the new base year 2011-12 from 2004-05, wherein the CSO did away with Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at factor cost, and adopted the international practice of valuing industry-wise estimates as gross value added (GVA) at basic prices, the **MCA-21 database** also got used in addition to the volume index of Index of Industrial*

Production (IIP) and establishment-based data set of Annual Survey of Industries (ASI).

8. c

- PSLV is a four-stage launch vehicle with alternating solid and liquid stages.
- PSLV has a payload capacity of 1,050 kg for launching into the Geo Synchronous Transfer Orbit and 1,600 kg for the Polar Sun Synchronous Orbit.
- The Chandrayaan-2 mission is planned to be launched to the Moon by a Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV).

9. b

- Thumri, Khayal and Dhrupad were associated with **Hindustani Classical Music**

10. b

- Core Industries of India**

 - Electricity
 - Steel
 - Refinery products
 - Crude oil
 - Coal
 - Cement
 - Natural gas
 - Fertilizers

03-12-2018

1) Consider the following statements with respect to Hornbill Festival

- It is a festival celebrated in the North Eastern state of Nagaland annually.**
- It is being organised by the Ministry of tribal affairs to encourage inter-tribal interaction and to promote cultural heritage of the state.**
- All the tribes of Nagaland take part in this festival.**

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

- 1 only
- 1 and 3 only

- c. 1, 2 and 3
- d. None of the above

2) "Seismic Airgun blasting" is sometimes seen in the news recently. It is a

- a. Process of creating artificial vibrations in laboratories to study and predict the occurrence of earth quakes
- b. Methodology used to produce artificial earth quakes in an enemy country during war period
- c. Technique used to locate oil and gas deposits deep below the ocean floor
- d. Methodology used by poachers to kill a large group of species which have greater International value.

3) Consider the following statements with respect to NITI forum for North East

1. It will be chaired by the Prime Minister and co-chaired by the Vice-chairman of NITI Aayog.
2. All North eastern states take part in this forum except Sikkim.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

4) "Cope India-2018" is sometimes seen in the news recently. It is a

- a. Bilateral naval exercise between India and the U.S.A
- b. Conference organised by the NITI Aayog to discuss major problems in the Indian financial sector
- c. Sports event organised by the Women and child development ministry for children from child care institutions (CCI)
- d. None of the above

5) Consider the following statements

1. Antibiotic resistance encompasses resistance to drugs that treat infections caused by bacteria and parasites.
2. Antimicrobial resistance is a broader term encompasses resistance to drugs that treat infections caused by bacteria, parasites, viruses and fungi.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

6) "Digital Sky Platform" is sometimes seen in the news recently. It is an/the

- a. Microsoft's project to provide free Wi-Fi in the remote areas of India
- b. Ministry of civil aviation's initiative to provide in-flight internet connectivity to passengers
- c. Online portal to register drones and its operators in India
- d. None of the above

7) Consider the following statements with respect to Wildlife Institute of India (WII)

1. It is a statutory organization constituted under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.
2. It is headed by the Prime Minister.
3. It works under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate change.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

8) "VISIONS-2" mission is sometimes seen in the news recently. It is a/the

- NASA's mission to image the Earth's leaky atmosphere
- WHO's upgraded target level to end the AIDS epidemic in the world
- ESA's mission to study the impact of space debris on satellites
- Campaign launched by UN-AIDS to eradicate AIDS completely by the year 2050

9) Consider the following statements with respect to Mekedatu dam project

- The dam is planned to be built across the river Cauvery.
- The dam is planned to be built by the Karnataka Government.
- This project has created a dispute between Karnataka and the Maharashtra Government.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are incorrect?

- 3 only
- 1 and 2 only
- 1 and 3 only
- 2 and 3 only

10) "Hodeidah port" is sometimes seen in the news recently, which is located in which of the following countries?

- Oman
- Yemen
- Ukraine
- Russia

Answers

- b
 - To encourage **inter-tribal interaction and to promote cultural heritage** of Nagaland, **the Government of Nagaland organizes the Hornbill Festival every year** in the first week of December.
 - Organized by the State Tourism and Art & Culture Departments**, Hornbill Festival
- c
 - showcases a mélange of cultural displays under one roof.
 - This festival usually takes place between the 1st and the 7th of December every year in Kohima.
 - All the tribes of Nagaland take part in this festival.**
 - The aim of the festival is to revive and protect the rich culture of Nagaland and display its extravaganza and traditions.
- d
 - Seismic airgun blasting is **used to locate oil and gas deposits deep below the ocean floor**.
 - Vessels tow large arrays of seismic airguns which shoot extremely loud blasts of compressed air through the ocean and miles under the seafloor, which reflect back information about buried oil and gas deposits.
 - Airguns are so loud that they disturb, injure or kill marine life, harm commercial fisheries, and disrupt coastal economies.
 - Recently, the US government took a big step toward opening oil and gas drilling in the Atlantic Ocean by approving seismic airgun tests that experts warn is harmful to dolphins and whales.*
- d
 - NITI forum for North East was constituted to periodically review development status in the North Eastern region.
 - It will be **Chaired by the Vice-Chairman, NITI Aayog and co-chaired by the Minister of state (Independent charge), Ministry, of Development of North Eastern Region.**
 - All North Eastern states **including Sikkim** will take part in this forum.
 - Second meeting of NITI Forum for North East will be held on Dec 4 in Guwahati, Assam.
- d
 - Ex Cope India-18** is the fourth edition in the series of Bilateral Joint exercise held between **Indian Air Force and United States Air Force**, which is conducted in India.

- This is the first time, the exercise is being planned at two Air Force bases, Kalaikunda and Panagarh in India.
 - The aim of exercise is to provide operational exposure and undertake mutual exchange of best practices towards enhancing operational capability.
 - The Cope India exercise is being held after a gap of eight years, with the last one having taken place in 2010.
5. b
- **Antibiotics** are medicines used to prevent and treat **bacterial infections**.
 - Antibiotic resistance occurs when bacteria change in response to the use of these medicines. Bacteria, not humans, become antibiotic resistant.
 - These bacteria may then infect humans and are harder to treat than non-resistant bacteria.
 - **Antimicrobial resistance is a broader term**, encompassing resistance to drugs to treat infections caused by **other microbes as well**, such as **parasites** (e.g. malaria), **viruses** (e.g. HIV) and **fungi** (e.g. Candida).
6. c
- Ministry of civil aviation has started an online portal **Digital Sky** for the purpose of **registration of drones, pilots, and operators** in India.
 - Digital Sky platform is **an online IT platform** developed for handling Unique Identification Numbers (UIN), Unmanned Aerial Operator's Permit (UAOP) applications, permission to fly drones in India.
7. b
- WII was established as an attached office in May, 1982 and has become an Autonomous Institute since 1986.
 - Its mandate is to build capacity through training, education and research in the field of wildlife conservation.
 - WII-society will be **chaired by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate change**.
- National Board for Wild Life (NBWL) is a “Statutory Organization” constituted under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.
 - NBWL is chaired by India’s Prime Minister and its vice chairman is Minister of Environment.
8. a
- **Visualizing Ion Outflow via Neutral Atom Sensing-2 (VISIONS-2)**
 - It is the mission of NASA to launch a sounding rocket to get a closer look at how the Earth's atmosphere is slowly leaking into space.
 - Understanding atmospheric escape on Earth has applications all over the Universe – from predicting which far off planets might be habitable, to piecing together how Mars became the desolate, exposed landscape it is today.
 - A sounding rocket makes brief, targeted flights into space before falling back to Earth just a few minutes later.
9. a
- ‘Mekedatu’, literally ‘Goat’s leap’ in Kannada, is at the confluence of Cauvery and Arkavathi rivers, near Kanakapura which is at a distance of 110 km from Bengaluru.
 - It is being **set up by the Karnataka government**.
 - The dam is planned to be **built across the river Cauvery**.
 - A multi-purpose balancing reservoir project over Mekedatu, was aimed at solving the drinking water problems of Bengaluru and Ramanagar district.
 - The **Tamil Nadu government** has decided to move the Supreme Court against the approval given by the Central Water Commission (CWC) to build a project at Mekedatu, across the river Cauvery.
10. b
- **Hodeidah is a red sea port city located in Yemen held by the rebels**.
 - Rebel held **Hodeidah port** is a key entry point for imports and vital for the flow of humanitarian aid.

- *UN aid chief Mark Lowcock has recently warned that Yemen was “on the brink of a major catastrophe”, as the world body pushes for peace talks in the country.*
- *His comments came after renewed deadly clashes between Houthi rebels and pro-government forces in the Red Sea port city of Hodeidah, vital for the flow of humanitarian aid.*

04-12-2018

1) Consider the following statements with respect to Congo fever

1. The virus is primarily transmitted to people from ticks and livestock animals.
2. There is no vaccine available for either people or animals.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

2) “SHINYUU Maitri-18” is sometimes seen in the news recently. It is a/an

- a. Bilateral air exercise between India and Taiwan
- b. Indo-Japan joint mission to boost cooperation in the nuclear technology
- c. Indo-Taiwan joint mission to boost diplomatic cooperation
- d. Bilateral air exercise between India and Japan

3) Consider the following statements with respect to Drone regulation in India

1. All drones require a Unique Identification Number (UIN) in India.
2. Drones will only be allowed to fly during the day and within the visual line of sight.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

4) Hominid ape fossils were recently discovered in Peninsular India. Consider the following statements about hominids.

1. Apart from humans, apes like Chimpanzee, Gorilla and Gibbon also belong to this family.
2. Within the family humans are far closely related to chimpanzees than any other members.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

5) OSIRIS-REx recently reached its destination Bennu. Consider the following statements regarding this.

1. OSIRIS-Rex is a supposed to study the asteroid and return with sample
2. Bennu is listed on the Sentry Risk Table

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

6) The “Yellow Vest Revolt” is sometimes seen in the news recently. It is occurring in which of the following countries?

- a. Yemen
- b. Ukraine
- c. Venezuela
- d. France

7) Consider the following statements with respect to Alligator gar

1. It is an exotic fish found exclusively in North America.
2. It is carnivorous and kills other fish in the water body it inhabits.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

8) Consider the following statements with respect to GSAT-11

1. It is a 5854 kg satellite planned to be launched in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.
2. It will be the third satellite of ISRO's new family of high-through put communication satellite (HTS) fleet.
3. It will play a vital role in providing broadband services across the country.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

9) "Green Good Deeds Campaign" is sometimes seen in the news recently. It was launched by which of the following ministries?

- a. Ministry of Human Resources and Development
- b. Ministry of New and Renewable Energy
- c. Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate change
- d. Ministry of development of North Eastern region

10) Consider the following statements with respect to National commission for women (NCW)

1. It was set up as a statutory body under the Violence against Women Act, 1990.
2. The Chairperson will be nominated by the Central government.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

Answers

1. c
 - The Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF), commonly known as the Congo fever is a widespread disease caused by a tick-borne virus (Nairovirus) of the Bunyaviridae family.
 - CCHF virus causes severe viral haemorrhagic fever outbreaks, with a case fatality rate of 10–40%.
 - CCHF is **primarily transmitted to human beings from ticks and livestock animals**.
 - Human-to-human transmission can occur resulting from close contact with the blood, secretions, organs or other bodily fluids of infected persons.
 - CCHF is endemic in Africa, the Balkans, the Middle East and Asian countries south of the 50th parallel north – the geographical limit of the principal tick vector.
 - There is **no vaccine available for either people or animals**. Since no vaccine exists either for humans or animals, treatment is currently restricted to supportive care for symptoms.
2. d
 - The **Japanese** Air Self Defence Force (JASDF) is in India for a **bilateral air exercise** SHINYUU Maitri-18 with **Indian** Air Force from 03-07 Dec 18 at A F Station Agra.

- The theme of the exercise is joint Mobility/Humanitarian Assistance & Disaster Relief (HADR) on Transport aircraft.
3. b
- The DGCA has defined five categories of drones:
 1. Nano – Less than or equal to 250 grams.
 2. Micro – Greater than 250 grams and less than or equal to 2 kg
 3. Small – Greater than 2 kg and less than or equal to 25 kg
 4. Medium – Greater than 25 kg and less than or equal to 150 kg
 5. Large – Greater than 150 kg
 - The rules now stipulate that all drones **outside the Nano category** will require a Unique Identification Number (UIN). i.e **except Nano**.
 - The rules also specified that drones will only be allowed to **fly during the day and within the Visual Line of Sight** up to a maximum altitude of 400 feet.
 - The regulations also define No Drone Zones around airports; near the International Borders; Vijay Chowk in Delhi; State secretariat complexes; Strategic locations.
4. b
- **Gibbons does not come under the Homonid family.**
 - Morphological and molecular studies indicate that humans are closely related to chimpanzees, while gorillas are more distant and orangutans more distant still.
5. c
- Sentry has been a highly automated impact prediction system that continually monitors the most current asteroid catalog for possibilities of future impact with Earth.
6. d
- There is a nationwide protest in France over high living costs that led to widespread rioting in Paris and are hurting the economy.
 - The “**yellow vest revolt**” erupted on Nov. 17 and poses a formidable challenge to the French PM Emmanuel Macron.
7. c
- The ‘alligator gar’, which is called so due to its resemblance to the American alligator, particularly the broad snout and long, sharp teeth.
 - It is **carnivorous and kills other fish in the water body it inhabits**.
 - It is an **exotic fish found exclusively in North America**.
 - It can adversely affect the bio-diversity of the water body as it tends to kill other fish for survival.
 - The fish, according to experts, can adapt to water bodies with different levels of salinity and is an ambush predator using stealth and strategy rather than speed to kill other fish.
 - *Recently, the netting of a dead carnivorous fish native to North America in Pavana Dam near Pune has put the state Fisheries department on alert mode as its presence could adversely affect the bio-diversity of the water body.*
8. c
- The 5,854-kg satellite, almost double the biggest one built or launched by ISRO to date, will ride up on **European launch vehicle Ariane 5 ECA from French Guiana**.
 - GSAT-11 is **part of ISRO's new family of high-throughput communication satellite (HTS)** fleet that will drive the country's Internet broadband from space to untouched areas; the broadband domain is now ruled by underground fibre and covers partial and convenient locations.
 - **Already up in space are two HTSs** – GSAT-29 (November 14) and GSAT-19 (June 2017) – while one more is due to join them in the near future.
 - GSAT-11 **will play a vital role in providing broadband services across the country**.
 - It will also provide a platform to demonstrate new generation applications.
9. c
- Green Good Deeds, the societal movement launched by the **Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change** to protect

environment and promote good living in the country.

10. b

- The National Commission for Women was set up as statutory body in January 1992 under the **National Commission for Women Act, 1990**.
- The Commission shall consist of a **Chairperson**, five members and a Member-secretary all **nominated by the Central Government**.

05-12-2018

1) Consider the following statements with respect to India Water Impact Summit-2018

1. It is an annual event where stakeholders develop model solutions for some of the biggest water related problems in the country.
2. It is being jointly organized by the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) and the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

2) Consider the following statements

1. It is surrounded by China in the North and East.
2. The region is inhabited by the Idu Mishmi tribes.
3. It is not a designated Tiger Reserve.

Identify the Wild life Sanctuary which correctly matches with the above characteristics?

- a. Pakke Wildlife Sanctuary
- b. Dibang Wildlife Sanctuary
- c. Kamlang Wildlife Sanctuary
- d. Manas Wildlife Sanctuary

3) India has recently released a discussion paper titled “**3 Essential S's of Climate finance**” on the sidelines of the Climate conference CoP-24. It is released by which of the following ministries?

- a. Ministry of New and Renewable Energy
- b. Ministry of Finance
- c. Ministry of Power
- d. Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate change

4) Consider the following statements with respect to World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)

1. It is a specialized agency of the United Nations (UN).
2. It was established through the WIPO Convention in 1967.
3. Its headquarters is located in Geneva, Switzerland.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

5) The term “**Nearshoring**” is sometimes seen in the news recently. It is related to which one of the following?

- a. Beaching of whales in New Zealand
- b. Alternative method for H1B visas
- c. Oil exploration projects in the areas of continental slope
- d. Method used to renovate Victoria Memorial in Kolkata.

6) Consider the following pairs

1. Mangdechhu project – Nepal
2. Kishanganga project – Jammu & Kashmir

3. Arun hydro power project – Bhutan

Which of the pair(s) given above is/are correct?

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

7) Consider the following statements

- 1. In case of renaming a city, the concerned civic authority, zilla parishad or Panchayat will take the final decision.
- 2. In case of renaming a state, the concerned state cabinet takes the final decision.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

8) Which of the countries given below does not share borders with Ethiopia?

- 1. Somalia
- 2. Kenya
- 3. Eritrea
- 4. Djibouti

Select the correct answer using the code given below

- a. 2 only
- b. 3 only
- c. 4 only
- d. None of the above

9) Consider the following statements with respect to National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)

- 1. It is a statutory and non-constitutional body.

- 2. The Chairman should be a retired judge of the Supreme Court.

- 3. The Chairman and members are appointed by the President on the recommendation of a committee headed by the Prime Minister.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

10) Consider the following statements with respect to Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)

- 1. It was established through the Tehran conference.
- 2. Its headquarters is located in Vienna, Austria.
- 3. Kuwait is the latest country to announce its withdrawal from OPEC from January 2019.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

- a. 2 only
- b. 1 and 2 only
- c. 1, 2 and 3
- d. None of the above

Answers

1. a

- The India Water Impact Summit is an **annual event** where stakeholders get together to **discuss, debate and develop model solutions for some of the biggest water related problems in the country**.
- India Water Impact Summit 2018 is being **jointly organized by the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) and the Centre for Ganga River Basin Management and Studies (cGanga)** from 5-7 December 2018 in New Delhi.

2. b

- The Dibang Wildlife Sanctuary (DWS) — located in the Dibang Valley District and **surrounded by China in the north and east**— mostly extends over the Mishmi Hills.
- DWS is **not a designated tiger reserve** and is the highest site for the 2018 tiger census.
- The region is inhabited by the Idu Mishmi tribe reveres tigers as elder brothers in the local folklore.
- The Idu Mishmi tribe – the sub-tribe of the ethnic Mishmis of Tibet and Arunachal Pradesh — are known to have deep respect for tigers.
- *Researchers from the Wild life Institute of India (WII) have recently found a promising tiger population in the upper reaches of Dibang Valley in Arunachal Pradesh, the highest range in the Indian part of eastern Himalayas.*
- Often believed to occupy only lower altitudes, studies of tigers occupying higher reaches are not very common.
- Their presence at Dibang Valley is the evidence of tiger at the highest altitude in the Indian part of the Eastern Himalayas.
- Researchers claim the tigers spotted in DWS could be genetically different from those found in other parts of Arunachal Pradesh.
- The state has three tiger reserves including the Pakke Tiger Reserve, the Kamlang Tiger Reserve and the Nampdhapa Tiger Reserve.

3. b

- **Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance**, released a Discussion Paper entitled "**3 Essential “S’s of Climate Finance - Scope, Scale and Speed: A Reflection**" on the sidelines of COP 24 to UNFCCC at Katowice, Poland.

4. d

- The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) is one of the **15 specialized agencies of the United Nations**.

- WIPO serves as a global forum for intellectual property services, policy, information and cooperation.
- WIPO's mandate, governing bodies and procedures are set out in the **WIPO Convention, which established WIPO in 1967**.
- WIPO currently has 191 member states, administers 26 international treaties, and is **headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland**.
- *According to the UN's World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO's) World Intellectual Property Indicators 2018 report, the number of patents granted by India shot up by 50% in 2017, keeping up a trend of steep increases.*

5. b

- Nearshoring is an outsourcing model wherein IT firms establish delivery presence in countries and locations **closer to the client geography** and depute employees working in those centres to service clients whenever there is a need.
- Indian information technology (IT) services firms are increasingly looking at nearshoring options to service clients in the US as restrictive visa regulations in the country are making it increasingly difficult for them to depute engineers to this key client geography for meeting client requirements.
- *IT firms are now investing in Canada as getting a visa from Canada is easier than the US. For all practical purposes, you are working in Canada, but can service a client in the US.*

6. a

- India is expected to commission a major hydropower project "Mangdechhu project" in **Bhutan**.
- This project was bagged by the Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd. (BHEL) and it will be implemented on a bilateral basis.
- Arun hydro power project is the run-of-the river type project constructed in **Nepal** at the Arun River.

7. d

- In case of **renaming a street**, the concerned civic **authority, zilla parishad or panchayat**, approves or rejects the proposals.
- If it is to **rename a city**, the concerned **state cabinet takes the decision**.
- In case of **renaming a state**, a state legislature needs to pass a resolution for the same, which is then sent to the Centre.
- The Union cabinet then decides to approve or reject the Constitution Amendment Bill, since it requires amending the Constitution, which both Houses of Parliament need to pass by a special majority.

8. d

- **Ethiopia shares its border with a total of 6 countries: Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan, Eritrea, Kenya, and Djibouti.**
- **The Ethiopian police have taken into custody three Indian officials of crisis-hit IL&FS over non-payment of taxes and workers' salaries even as five Indian employees continue to be in captivity of the unpaid staff in the African nation.**

9. c

- It was established in 1993 under a legislation enacted by the Parliament, namely, the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993. This Act was amended in 2006.
- The **chairman should be a retired chief justice of India**, and members should be serving or retired judges of the Supreme Court, a serving or retired chief justice of a high court.
- The chairman and members are **appointed by the president** on the recommendations of a six-member **committee consisting of the prime minister as its head**, the Speaker of the Lok Sabha, the Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, leaders of the Opposition in both the Houses of Parliament and the Central home minister.

10. a

- The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) is a permanent, intergovernmental Organization, created at the **Baghdad Conference** in 1960 by Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela.

- Its headquarters is located in **Vienna, Austria**.
- **Qatar** has announced its withdrawal from Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) from January 2019 and focus more on the production of natural gas.
- It makes Qatar first Gulf country to leave OPEC bloc of oil-producing countries led by Saudi Arabia.

06-12-2018

1) Consider the following statements with respect to World Customs Organisation (WCO)

1. **It is one of the specialised agencies of the United Nations (UN).**
2. **Its 80th session of policy commission meeting was held in Shanghai, China.**

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

2) "Green Ganga App" was sometimes seen in the news recently, which was developed by which of the following organisations?

- a. Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)
- b. Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)
- c. Central Water Commission (CWC)
- d. National Ganga River Basin Authority

3) Consider the following statements

1. **The right to life under Article 21 will also include the right of witnesses to testify freely in courts.**
2. **The Government of India has implemented the Witness Protection Scheme through the Witness Protection Act (WPA) in 2015.**

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

- a. 1 only
- b. 2 only
- c. Both 1 and 2
- d. Neither 1 nor 2
- c. R. Damodar
- d. R. Cooum

4) Consider the following statements with respect to Geographical Indications (GI) tag

1. GI is a collective intellectual property right, whereas patents and trademarks are owned by an individual or a business entity.
2. “The tradition begins here” is the new tagline introduced for GI in India.
3. Tendu leaf beedi of Odisha has recently been granted a GI tag.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

5) Consider the following statements with respect to Dr.Ambedkar Foundation

1. Its main aim is to carry out programmes for furthering of Dr Ambedkar's ideology and spread his message of social justice to the masses.
2. It is an autonomous body under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

6) “Sisamau drain” was infamous for the pollution it was causing to which of the following rivers?

- a. R. Ganga
- b. R. Yamuna

7) Recently, an agreement on Co-operation and Mutual Assistance in Customs Matters was signed between India and

- a. Morocco
- b. Peru
- c. China
- d. Germany

8) Consider the following statements with respect to Soil Health Card (SHC) Scheme

1. SHC is a printed report containing the status of soil with respect to 12 parameters.
2. SHC will also indicate fertilizer recommendations and soil amendment required for the farm.
3. It is being implemented through the Department of Agriculture & Co-operation under the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

9) “Article 50” was sometimes seen in the news recently. It is associated with which of the following?

- a. BREXIT
- b. Srilankan Constitutional crisis
- c. France Yellow vest revolt
- d. Russia-Ukraine crisis

10) Consider the following statements with respect to River Ganga

1. Alaknanda and Bhagirathi rivers meet at prayag and take the name Ganga afterwards.

2. Penganga, Kali and Gomti are the tributaries of River Ganga.
3. River son is the important Southern bank tributaries of Ganga.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

Answers

1. d

- The World Customs Organization (WCO), established in 1952 as the Customs Co-operation Council (CCC) is an **independent intergovernmental body** whose mission is to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of Customs administrations.
- The three day 80th Session of the Policy Commission Meeting of the WCO is being organised by the Central Board of Customs and Indirect Taxes (CBIC), Government of India in **Mumbai, India**.

2. a

- Green Ganga App, developed by Remote Sensing Centre of **ISRO** was launched during the three-day long India Water Impact Summit 2018.
- Green Ganga App is used for **geo-tagging** of saplings and delineation of plantation boundaries under ongoing Afforestation activities of Namami Gange programme.
- The touch-enabled information kiosk about Namami Gange programme, developed jointly by National Mission for Clean Ganga and ISRO, was also launched.

3. a

- India does not have a witness protection law as of now.
- The **Supreme Court** has recently approved **India's first Witness Protection Scheme**, noting that one of the main reasons for witnesses to turn hostile is that they are not provided appropriate protection by the State.

- It also said that, the approved scheme shall be the 'law' under **Article 141/142 of the Constitution**, until the enactment of suitable Parliamentary and/or State Legislations on the subject.
- The scheme was drawn up by the central government with inputs from 8 states/Union Territories, legal services authorities of five states and open sources including civil society, three high courts as well as from police personnel.
- The scheme was finalised in consultation with National Legal Services Authority (NALSA).

4. a

- The essential difference between GI and other intellectual properties (IP) is that, **GI is a collective intellectual property right** and is thus owned by all the producers within the defined GI territory while the IPs like **patent and trademark are owned by an individual or a business entity**.
- Recently, Minister for Commerce and Industry has unveiled a beautiful tricolour logo that is common for all Geographical Indications (GI) with an equally impressive tagline "**Invaluable treasures of Incredible India**".
- Tendu leaf, a Minor Forest Produce (MFP) used to roll beedi (the poor man's cigarette), is the financial lifeline of the forest tribes of central India.
- After the implementation of GST, 18% GST is levied on Kendu (Tendu) leaf. This has led to a drop in selling price of Kendu leaves.
- The drop in selling price of Kendu leaves has adversely impacted the implementation of social security and welfare schemes for Kendu leaf pluckers, seasonal workers and binding workers engaged in this trade.

5. c

- Dr. Ambedkar Foundation is an **autonomous body functioning under the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment**.
- Its main aim is to carry out programmes and activities for furthering of Dr Ambedkar's ideology and spread his message of social justice to the masses not only in the country but also abroad.

6. a

- Union Minister for Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation has recently said that the government has freed Kanpur from the ill effects of **Sisamau drain** after 128 years, which was **infamous for the pollution it was causing to River Ganga.**

7. b

- An Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the **Republic of Peru** on Co-operation and Mutual Assistance in Customs Matters was signed recently in Mumbai, on the side-lines of the 80th Session of the Policy Commission Meeting of the World Customs Organisations (WCO).
- Recently, an agreement on mutual legal assistance in Civil, Commercial and Criminal Matters was signed between India and Morocco.

8. b

- Soil Health Card (SHC) is a Government of India's scheme **promoted by** the Department of Agriculture & Co-operation under the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare.
- It is being **implemented through the Department of Agriculture of all the State and Union Territory Governments.**

9. a

- Under Article 50 of the Treaty on European Union (TEU), any member State may decide to withdraw from the Union in accordance with its own constitutional requirements.
- The triggering of "**Article 50**" has started the **two-year Brexit process.**
- Recently, Britain Prime Minister Theresa May has insisted that Britain won't revoke Article 50.

10. a

- Dev prayag** is one of the Panch Prayag (five confluences) of Alaknanda River where Alaknanda and Bhagirathi rivers meet and take the name Ganga.

- Pranhita River, one of the major tributaries of R.Godavari is the combined flow of Wainganga, **Penganga**, Wardha.
- River **son** is the important **southern bank tributary.**

07-12-2018

1) Consider the following statements

- According to Indus Water treaty, India got the full rights for utilization of waters of the three Eastern Rivers Ravi, Beas and Satluj.
- Shahpurkandi Dam is planned to be built across the River Satluj.
- Implementation of the Shahpurkandi Dam project would minimise wastage of water to Pakistan.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

- 3 only
- 1 and 2 only
- 1 and 3 only
- 2 and 3 only

2) The term "*Ideate for India*" is sometimes seen in the news recently. It is a/an

- Andhra Pradesh government's initiative to engage people in the policy making process
- National challenge for school students to create solutions for the problems around their communities
- Application software launched by the Government of India to have frequent conversation with its citizens
- Competition for Start-ups to develop innovative solutions for solving burning issues of a city

3) Consider the following statements with respect to Pangolins in India

- It is an herbivore eating only plants.

2. Out of the 8 pangolin species, Indian Pangolins and Chinese Pangolins are found in India.
3. Indian Pangolins are listed under endangered whereas Chinese pangolins were listed under the critically endangered category of IUCN red list.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

- a. 2 only
- b. 2 and 3 only
- c. 1, 2 and 3
- d. None of the above

4) "Seabed 2030" is sometimes seen in the news recently. It is a/an/the

- a. International maritime Organisations (IMO's) project to completely eradicate Derelict Fishing Gears' in the sea bed by 2030
- b. World Maritime University's project to make Oceans plastics free by the year 2030
- c. UN-backed project to create a map of the entire ocean floor by 2030
- d. None of the above

5) Consider the following statements with respect to Exercise Hand-in-Hand

1. It is a bilateral military exercise between India and China held annually.
2. The joint exercise for the year 2018 will be conducted at Chengdu, China.
3. The exercise was skipped for the year 2017 due to the Doklam standoff.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

6) The Siberian city "Yakutsk" is sometimes seen in the news recently for which of the following reasons?

- a. Melting of permafrost in the region due to climate change
- b. First city in the world to give citizenship status to trees in the region
- c. Mass deaths of endangered Siberian tiger due to Canine Distemper Virus (CDV)
- d. First city to ban both single-use and microplastics in the world

7) Consider the following statements

1. It was introduced by the saint-scholar and a social and religious reformer Sankaradeva.
2. It is one among the eight classical dances of India.
3. It was introduced as a powerful medium for propagation of the Vaishnava faith.

Identify the classical dance that matches with the above description?

- a. Bharatnatyam
- b. Kathak
- c. Odissi
- d. Sattriya

8) Consider the following statements

1. Union territories are governed under the administrative control of the President of India.
2. Since, Puducherry is a Union territory with an assembly; the Lieutenant Governor cannot nominate members for the assembly without consulting the ruling party.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

9) Consider the following statements with respect to Global Nutrition Report 2018

1. India is home to the highest number of stunted and wasted children in the world.
2. Districts in North-eastern India have the highest number of stunted children.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

10) Consider the following pairs

1. Stunting – Low height for age
2. Wasting – Low weight for height
3. Overweight – More body fat than is healthy

Which of the pairs(s) given above is/are correctly matched?

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

Answers

1. c

- Indus Waters Treaty was signed between India and Pakistan in 1960 for sharing of Indus waters.
- According to the Treaty, **India got the full rights for utilization of waters of the three Eastern Rivers namely Ravi, Beas and Satluj.**
- Recently, the Union Cabinet has approved implementation of **Shahpurkandi Dam Project, Punjab on river Ravi.**
- Implementation of this project would help minimising some of the water of the River Ravi which at present is going waste through the Madhopur Headworks downstream **to Pakistan.**

2. b

- Recently, India has launched a National Challenge for Youths, "**Ideate for India - Creative Solutions using Technology**", at New Delhi.
- The aim of this National Challenge is to give **school students across the country** a platform and opportunity **to become solution creators for the problems** they see around them and their communities.
- The Challenge has been designed and launched by the National e-Governance Division, **Ministry of Electronics & IT** in collaboration with Intel India, with support from the Department of School Education and Literacy (DoSE&L), Ministry of Human Resource Development.

3. b

- Pangolin is a harmless nocturnal animal with no teeth.
- It is about the size of a civet cat and **lives mainly on ants and termites.**
- All the **eight pangolin species**, four each in Africa and Asia, are threatened.
- Of the **two species found in India**, the **Indian pangolin** (*Manis crassicaudata*) is **endangered** and is found sporadically throughout the Himalayan foothills, the northern plains and **southern India**.
- The Chinese pangolin (*Manis pentadactyla*) is **critically endangered** and is found mostly in the **northeastern states of India** and parts of Southeast Asia.
- *Recently, Malaysia has torched nearly three tonnes of seized scales of endangered pangolins worth \$9m in a bid to deter illegal wildlife trafficking from Africa.*

4. c

- The **U.N.-backed project, called Seabed 2030**, is urging countries and companies to pool data **to create a map of the entire ocean floor by 2030**. The map will be freely available to all.
- The project, launched in 2017 is a collaboration between the Nippon Foundation and GEBCO, a non-profit association of experts, which is already involved in charting the ocean floor.

5. d

- The **annual** bilateral exercise Hand-in-Hand between **India and China** will be held from Dec 11-23 at **Chengdu in China**.
 - The last time the two armies had the joint exercise was in 2016, in Pune, but due to tensions between the two sides over Doklam due to standoff between the armies for more than 70 days, **the armies skipped the 'Hand-in-Hand' exercise in 2017**.
 - The Doklam sector is a strategically important area which is claimed by Bhutan.
6. a
- In Russia's Siberian city of Yakutsk, **one of the coldest on Earth, climate change is causing dangerous melting of the frozen ground, or permafrost, on which the buildings stand**.
 - With a population of about 300,000, Yakutsk is the world's largest city built on permafrost, and it could be especially in danger from the melting.
 - Average temperatures in Yakutsk have risen by 2.5 degrees Celsius over the past decade.
 - The permafrost, a layer of soil cemented together with water that is only stable as long as it stays frozen.
 - Rising summer temperatures can destroy the solid permafrost. As the ice melts, the clay or sand simply sinks together with whatever is on top of it -- a road, a building, and a lake.
 - Permafrost covers almost the whole of "Yakutia" – a northeast Siberian region bordering the Arctic Ocean.
7. d
- The **Sattriya** dance form was introduced in the 15th century A.D by the great Vaishnava saint and **reformer of Assam**, Mahapurusha **Sankaradeva** as a powerful medium for propagation of the **Vaishnava faith**.
8. a
- Recently, the Supreme Court has upheld the induction of three BJP members as MLAs in the Assembly of the Union Territory of Puducherry by the Centre unilaterally without consulting the elected local Congress government.
- The Court further noticed that Union Territories are not States and observed, "These Union Territories, ordinarily, belong to the Union (i.e. the Central Government) and therefore they are called 'Union Territories'. That is why **they are governed under the administrative control of the President of India**.
 - Since Puducherry is a Union Territory, **it is a "property" of the Union government** and **there is no need to consult the local government on nominations**.
9. a
- **India is home to the highest number of stunted** (low height for age) and **wasted** (low weight for height) **children in the world**, according to the Global Nutrition Report 2018 released recently.
 - Districts in **central and Northern India** have the highest number of stunted children.
10. d
- 08-12-2018**
- 1) **"AI 4 All Global Hackathon"** is sometimes seen in the news recently, which is organised by which of the following?
- a. Artificial Intelligence Task force (AITF)
 - b. Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)
 - c. Ministry of Science and Technology
 - d. NITI Aayog
- 2) Consider the following statements with respect to World Food Program (WFP)
1. It is an UN agency focused on hunger alleviation and food security.
 2. It is governed by the WFP Executive Board.
 3. India has been recently approved for its membership to the WFP Executive Board for 2020 and 2021.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

3) Consider the following statements with respect to Aero India 2019

- 1. It is an exhibition show, held annually.
- 2. The logo created for the event is inspired by the indigenous Light Combat Aircraft, Tejas.
- 3. The tagline for Aero India 2019 is “Touch the sky with Glory”

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

4) “Chang’e-4” is sometimes seen in the news recently. It is the

- a. China’s probe to explore the dark side of the Moon
- b. WHO’s campaign to eradicate the stigma associated with AIDS
- c. China’s mission to explore asteroids in the Kuiper Belt
- d. NCERT’s campaign to inculcate gender equality in school students

5) Consider the following statements with respect to Central Zoo Authority (CZA)

- 1. It is a statutory body constituted under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.
- 2. Recognition from the CZA will be necessary for every zoo for its operation.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

6) Consider the following statements with respect to Proxy advisory firms

- 1. Proxy advisory firms will research and dig out information about the company and advise institutional investors to exercise their rights in the company.
- 2. Indian proxy advisory firms are regulated by SEBI, but foreign advisory firms are not regulated in India.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

7) Consider the following statements with respect to Institute of Eminence (IoE)

- 1. IoE status will be granted to both public and private institutions.
- 2. The institutions selected under the scheme will have greater autonomy compared to other higher educational institutions.
- 3. Both public and private institutions selected under the scheme will be granted Rs.1000 crore.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

8) Consider the following statements with respect to Bogibeel Bridge

- 1. It is the second longest rail-road bridge in India after the Dhola-Sadiya bridge that was built across the River Lohit.

- 2. It connects the North and South banks of Brahmaputra.**

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

9) Consider the following statements with respect to Exercise ‘Clean Sea-2018’

- 1. It was conducted by the Indian Navy in collaboration with the International Maritime Organisation (IMO).**
- 2. Its main objective is to fight marine plastic litter through multi-dimensional efforts.**

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

10) Consider the following statements with respect to Measles Disease

- 1. It is a Bacterial disease.**
- 2. It is a human disease and is not known to occur in animals.**
- 3. The disease is preventable through vaccine.**

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

- a. 1 only
- b. 1 and 3 only
- c. 2 and 3 only
- d. None of the above

Answers

1. d

- **NITI Aayog** is now partnering with Perlin – a Singapore-based AI start up - to launch the

‘AI 4 All Global Hackathon’, and is inviting developers, students, start-ups and companies to develop AI applications to make significant positive social and economic impact for India.

- NITI Aayog organized its first hackathon, ‘MoveHack’ in August, on the sidelines of the Global Mobility Summit 2018, with the aim of garnering cutting-edge mobility applications.

2. d

- World Food Programme is **the UN agency** focused on hunger alleviation and food security.
- The **Executive Board is WFP's supreme governing body**.
- Of the Executive Board's 36 States Members, 18 are elected by the Economic and Social Council and 18 by the FAO Council.
- *The FAO Council has recently approved India's membership to the Executive Board of the United Nations World Food Program (WFP) for 2020 and 2021.*

3. a

- Aero India Exhibition is organised for **every two years**.
- The event for the first time has a civil aviation exhibition subsumed into the show that has mainly been defence only so far.
- Aiming to create a brand for ‘Aero India’ the Ministry of Defence this time has come out with a logo and a tagline.
- The **logo is inspired by the indigenous Light Combat Aircraft, Tejas.**
- The tagline for Aero India 2019 is “**The Runway to a Billion Opportunities**”
- “Touch the sky with Glory” is the motto of Indian Air Force (IAF).

4. a

- China has recently launched a probe which is first ever **to explore the dark side of the Moon**, marking another milestone in its ambitious space programme.
- The probe, the **Chang'e-4**, is expected to make the first-ever soft landing on the far side of the Moon.

- Previous spacecraft have seen the far side of the Moon, but none has landed on it.
5. c
- The Central Zoo Authority is a **statutory body** constituted under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.
 - **Every zoo in the country is required to obtain recognition from the Authority for its operation.**
 - *The CZA has blamed the Gujarat Government for illegally operating the Devaliya Safari Park in Junagadh where a forester was killed recently.*
6. c
- According to SEBI, a proxy adviser may be any person who provides advice, through any means, to institutional investors or a shareholder of a company, in relation to the exercise of their rights in the company, including recommendations on public offer or voting recommendation on agenda items.
 - Proxy advisory firms **research and dig out information about the company, its directors, and promoters, and advise institutional investors** – who may have invested in hundreds of companies, and don't have detailed information on all of them – to vote on resolutions put to vote by managements in AGMs.
 - Domestic proxy advisory firms are **regulated by SEBI**.
 - Foreign proxy advisory firms are **not regulated in India** and in most other jurisdictions.
 - An expert panel has been set up by the SEBI to formalise a framework for regulating proxy and corporate governance firms.
7. b
- Each **Public Institution** selected as IoE will be provided financial assistance up to Rs. 1000 Cr over a period of five years.
 - There will be **no financial assistance to the private institutions**.
 - The aim of the scheme is to bring higher educational institutions selected as IoEs in top 500 of world ranking in the next 10 years and in top 100 eventually overtime.
- Institutions shall be selected as IoEs by the Empowered Expert Committee (EEC), constituted for this purpose.
 - *Recently, the Empowered Expert Committee, which is looking into the Institute of Eminence (IOE) matter, has recommended 19 more institutes to the University Grants Commission (UGC) for grant of IoE status.*
8. b
- Bogibeel bridge, **India's longest rail-cum-road**, which connects the **north and south banks of the turbulent Brahmaputra** in the eastern parts of Assam, will be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 25 December.
9. d
- Recently, the **Indian Coast Guard** has conducted the Regional Level **Marine Oil Pollution Response Exercise** titled '**Clean Sea - 2018**' at sea off Port Blair.
10. c
- Measles is a highly contagious, serious disease caused by **a virus**.
 - It is normally passed through direct contact and through the air.
 - Measles is a human disease and **is not known to occur in animals**.
 - The disease is **preventable through** two doses of a safe and effective **vaccine**.
 - *According to a new report published by leading health organisations, the WHO had warned that the number of reported measles cases spiked in 2017, as multiple countries experienced severe and protracted outbreaks of the disease.*

11-12-2018

1) SPYDER, OSA-AK-M was sometimes seen in the news recently. They are

- a. Hand held weapons
- b. Satellite Systems
- c. Cyber-attack softwares
- d. Missile Systems

2) Consider the following statements with respect to Know India Programme (KIP)

1. It is an information repository programme, where the ongoing developments in India on various fields are updated online.
2. It is being implemented by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB).
3. Its main objective is to provide young persons of Overseas Indians an exposure to the country of their origin.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

3) Consider the following statements with respect to Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM)

1. It is a non-permanent and independent body.
2. It was constituted to give economic advice to the Government of India, specifically to the Prime Minister.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

4) Recently, a multi-species aquaculture complex was launched by the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) in which of the following states?

- a. Tamil Nadu
- b. Kerala
- c. Maharashtra
- d. Odisha

5) Consider the following statements with respect to AVIA INDRA 2018

1. It is an Air Force level exercise between India and Russian Federation, held annually.
2. The exercise is unique wherein the foreign participant does not bring its air assets.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

6) Consider the following statements with respect to International Conference on Sustainable Water Management

1. The 1st edition of the conference is being held at Mohali, India.
2. It is being organized by the Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB).
3. The theme of the event is “Sustainable Water Management”.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

7) Consider the following statements

1. India currently has only one functioning aircraft carrier – INS Viraat.
2. INS Vikrant will be the India's second Indigenous Aircraft Carrier (IAC) after INS Viraat.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

- d. Neither 1 nor 2

8) Consider the following statements with respect to Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)

1. It is a political and economic alliance of six countries, all located in Arabian Peninsula.
2. It is headquartered in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.
3. The 39th GCC summit was recently held at Doha, Qatar.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

9) Consider the following statements with respect to Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA)

1. It was set up by an act of Parliament.
2. It is headquartered in Chennai, Tamilnadu.
3. It functions under the Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer's welfare.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

10) Consider the following statements

1. It was built in 1010 A.D and celebrated its Millennium year of existence in 2010.
2. It is one among the UNESCO's world Heritage site.
3. It was known in the inscriptions as Dakshina Meru.

Identify the temple that correctly matches with the above characteristics

- a. The Brihadisvara Temple at Thanjavur
- b. Sri Virupaksha Temple at Hampi
- c. The Airavatesvara Temple at Darasuram
- d. Shore temple at Mahabalipuram

Answers

1. d

- Indian Air Force (IAF) has successfully conducted the **combined guided weapons firing exercise of Surface to Air Missile**.
- This was a first of its kind Exercise undertaken by the Indian Air Force in which firing of four different class of missiles – **AKASH, SPYDER, OSA-AK-M and IGLA** was successfully carried out.
- '**Spyder**', an acquired missile system from Israel, is a short-range, quick reaction surface-to-air missile designed to strike an enemy air target within a very short time.
- **OSA-AK-M** is the IAF's Surface to air missile of Russian origin.

2. a

- The KIP is an important initiative of Government of India for young Indian Diaspora in the age group of **18 to 30 years** with a view to provide them an exposure to the country of their origin so that they can understand it better and more intimately.
- The KIP offers a platform for the **young Indian diaspora to visit India** share their views, expectations and experiences and forge closer bonds with the India of present times.
- It is being organized by the Ministry of External Affairs.

• *Recently, 49th 'Know India Programme' (KIP), being organized by the Ministry of External Affairs in partnership with Andhra Pradesh Government.*

3. c

- PMEAC is a **non-constitutional, non-permanent and independent** body constituted to give economic advice to the

Government of India, specifically to the Prime Minister.

4. b

- Ministry for Commerce & Industry inaugurates the Multi-species Aquaculture Complex, set up by the Marine Products Export Development Authority, at Vallarpadam Island near Kochi, **Kerala**.

5. b

- Ex AVIAINDRA, a service specific **biennial** exercise between **Indian Air Force and Russian Federation Aerospace Force (RFSAF)**.
- The inaugural IAF-RFSAF Ex AVIAINDRA was conducted in 2014.
- AVIAINDRA-2018 is the second in the series of bilateral joint exercise between IAF-RFSAF.
- The exercise is **unique wherein the foreign participant does not bring its air assets**.
- The exercise is planned in two phases.
- In Russia, the IAF pilots flew alongside their Russian counterparts in RFSAF aircraft at Lipetsk from 17 Sep 18 to 28 Sep 18.
- In India, the RFSAF pilots will fly alongside their Indian counterparts in the IAF aircraft at Jodhpur from 10-21 Dec 2018.

6. d

- The **first** International Conference under the aegis of **National Hydrology Project**, Union Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation is being organized by **Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB)** at Indian School of Business (ISB), **Mohali** on the **theme 'Sustainable Water Management'**.

7. d

- India **currently has only one aircraft carrier INS Vikramaditya**, which was the erstwhile Russian Admiral Gorshkov, inducted into service in 2013.
- The country's **first Indigenous Aircraft Carrier (IAC-1)**, to be formally named as **INS Vikrant**.
- Recently, a statement was made that the Navy Headquarters was working on a second

Indigenous Aircraft Carrier or IAC-2, which would give India a fleet of three aircraft carriers.

8. b

- GCC is a political and economic alliance of six countries **in Arabian Peninsula** – Kuwait, Oman, Bahrain, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and UAE.
- It is **headquartered in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia**.
- Its aim is to achieve ever closer union between the energy rich Gulf countries.
- The 39th GCC summit was recently held in **Riyadh, Saudi Arabia**.
- Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, UAE and Egypt have imposed an air, land and sea blockade on Qatar since June 2017 **accusing Qatar of supporting terrorism**.

9. a

- MPEDA was **set up by an act of Parliament**. It was established through the Marine Products Export Development Authority Act, 1972.
- It is **headquartered in Kochi, Kerala**.
- It functions under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry**.

10. a

- The Brihadisvara temple at Tanjavur marks the greatest achievement of the Chola architects.
- Known in the inscriptions as Dakshina Meru**, the construction of this temple was inaugurated by the **Chola King, Rajaraja I**.
- This temple was built in 1010 A.D and celebrated its Millennium year of existence in 2010**.
- Its Unique Architectural Excellence prompted UNESCO to declare this temple as **World Heritage Monument in 1987**.
- Recently, Madras high court has stayed the Art of Living event at the iconic Brihadeeswarar temple – a UNESCO-designated heritage monument in Thanjavur.

12-12-2018

1) Consider the following statements with respect to “ENSURE” portal

1. It aims to connect with direct benefit transfer (DBT) and provide simple, useful and transparent system to the beneficiary.
2. It was developed by National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD).

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

2) Consider the following statements with respect to “Voyager-2” Probe

1. It was launched by National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) in 1977.
2. It was the first human-made object which leaves our Solar System.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

3) Consider the following statements with respect to Agni-V

1. It is an Inter-Continental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) with a range of over 5,000 km and can reach most parts of China.
2. It is powered by three stage solid and liquid propellant engine.
3. It is a part of Integrated Guided Missile Development Program (IGMDP).

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

4) Consider the following statements with respect to Exercise INDRA 2018

1. It is an annual bilateral maritime exercise held between India and Russia.
2. This edition of the exercise would be held in Visakhapatnam and Bay of Bengal.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

5) Consider the following statements with respect to Eco Sensitive Zones (ESZ)

1. They act as a transition zone from areas of high protection to areas involving lesser protection.
2. The width of eco-sensitive zone and type of regulation vary from one area to another.
3. The Environment Protection Act, 1986 does not mention the word “Eco-sensitive Zones”.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

6) Consider the following pairs

1. Heliosheath – a place where the solar wind slows down and begins to interact with the interstellar medium

2. Heliopause – Outermost edge of the Heliosphere
3. Heliosphere – a protective bubble of particles and magnetic fields produced by the Earth

Which of the pair(s) given above is/are correct?

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

7) Consider the following statements with respect to Partner's Forum 2018

1. It is an international conference organised to accelerate the efforts taken to improve the environmental health and to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions.
2. This is the second time India is hosting the Partners' Forum.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

8) 'PCS1x' is sometimes seen in the news recently. It is a/an

- a. Permanent Change of Station services launched by the Ministry of Defence
- b. Accurate Cyclone Predicting Systems launched by the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD)
- c. Port Community System launched by the Indian Ports Association (IPA)
- d. People's Communication Services system launched by the Andhra Pradesh Government

9) Consider the following statements with respect to Kala Utsav

1. It is a national competition, launched in 2015 to promote arts in education.

2. It is an initiative of the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD).

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

10) Consider the following pairs

1. Melghat Tiger Reserve – Maharashtra
2. Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve – Madhya Pradesh
3. Bandhavgarh – Maharashtra

Which of the pair(s) given above is/are incorrectly matched?

- a. 1 only
- b. 1 and 3 only
- c. 2 and 3 only
- d. All of the above

Answers

1. c

- The Agriculture Ministry has recently launched an online portal '**ENSURE**' to connect with direct benefit transfer and provide simple, useful and transparent system to the beneficiary.
- The portal **ENSURE- National Livestock Mission-EDEG** was developed by **NABARD** and operated under the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries.

2. a

- **NASA's Voyager 2** launched in 1977 has become the **second human-made object** in history to reach the edge of our solar system.
- Its twin, **Voyager 1**, crossed this boundary in 2012, but Voyager 2 carries a working instrument that will provide first-of-

its-kind observations of the nature of this gateway into interstellar space.

3. b

- Recently, Agni – V was successfully test fired from a canister on a road mobile launcher from Dr. Abdul Kalam Island, off the coast of Odisha.
- It is India's longest-range ballistic missile which will be inducted into the nuclear arsenal soon.
- It is an Inter-Continental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) with a range of over 5,000 km and can reach most parts of China.
- It is powered by three stage **solid fuelled missiles**. It can carry a payload of 1.5 tonnes.
- It is a part of Integrated Guided Missile Development Program (IGMDP).

4. c

- Exercise INDRA NAVY, an **annual bilateral maritime exercise between Indian Navy and Russian Navy**.
- The 10th edition of exercise INDRA NAVY will be conducted at/off **Visakhapatnam and Bay of Bengal**.
- The primary aim of the exercise is to increase inter-operability amongst the two navies, develop common understanding and procedures for maritime security operations.
- Initiated in 2003, INDRA NAVY exercise has matured over the years with increase in scope, complexity and level of participation.

5. d

- The Environment Protection Act, 1986 **does not mention the word "Eco-sensitive Zones"**.
- The purpose of declaring eco-sensitive zones around protected areas is for creating some kind of 'Shock Absorber' to the protected area.
- They would also act as a **transition zone** from areas of high protection to areas involving lesser protection.
- The width of eco-sensitive zone and type of regulation **vary from one area to another**.

- However, as a general principle width of eco-sensitive zone could go up to 10 kms around a protected area.

- In case of places with sensitive corridors, connectivity and ecologically important patches, crucial for landscape linkage, even area beyond 10 kms width can also be included in the eco-sensitive zone.

6. b

- The **sun (Not Earth)** sends out a constant flow of charged particles called the solar wind, which ultimately travels past all the planets to some three times the distance to Pluto before being impeded by the interstellar medium.
- This forms a giant bubble around the sun and its planets, known as the **heliosphere**.
- The place where the solar wind slows down and begins to interact with the interstellar medium is called the **heliosheath**.
- The heliosheath has a few parts: the termination shock (the innermost part of the boundary), the **heliopause (the outermost part of the boundary)**.

7. b

- The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, will inaugurate the fourth Partners' Forum at New Delhi.
- The Government of India, in association with the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (PMNCH), is hosting a two-day international conference **to improve the health and well-being of women, children and adolescents**.

- The previous conferences were held in Johannesburg, South Africa (2014), New Delhi, India (2010) and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania (2007).
- This is the **second time** India is hosting the Partners' Forum.

8. c

- **Indian Ports Association (IPA)**, under the guidance of Ministry of Shipping launched the Port Community System '**PCSix**'.
- It is a cloud-based technology that offers services like notification, work-flow and track and trace.

- The platform has the potential to revolutionize maritime trade in India and bring it at par with global best practices and pave the way **to improve the Ease of Doing Business world ranking and Logistics Performance Index (LPI) ranks.**

9. c

- “Kala Utsav” (Festival of Arts) **National Competition** was launched in 2015.
- It is an initiative of the Department of School Education and Literacy of the **Ministry of Human Resource Development**.
- Kala Utsav National Competition was launched in 2015 with a view **to promote arts in education** by nurturing and showcasing the artistic talents of school students, children with special needs too will have the opportunity to display their talents.

10. c

- Melghat Tiger Reserve – Maharashtra
- Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve – Maharashtra**
- Bandhavgarh – Madhya Pradesh**

13-12-2018

1) Consider the following statements with respect to draft Space Activities Bill, 2017

- It encourages the participation of private sector agencies in space activities in India.
- In case of any damages caused by space activities of the licensee, the central Government may determine the quantum of liability to be borne by the licensee.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 nor 2

2) Consider the following statements

- M. S. Swaminathan committee has recommended that the MSP should be at

least 50 percent more than the weighted average cost of production.

- Recently, Government has increased the MSP for all mandated Kharif and Rabi crops and other commercial crops with a return of atleast 50 percent over cost of production.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 nor 2

3) Consider the following statements with respect to North East Special Infrastructure Development Scheme (NESIDS)

- It is fully funded by the Central Government.
- One of the objectives of NESIDS is creation of infrastructure in the areas of education and health.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 nor 2

4) Consider the following statements with respect to National Security Guard (NSG)

- It was raised in 1999 following the hijack of Indian Airlines Flight 814 to Kandahar.
- It is equipped with its own dedicated air wing.
- It doesn't have a cadre of its own and dependent on personnel sent on deputation from the army and the CAPF.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

- 3 only

- b. 1 and 3 only
- c. 1, 2 and 3
- d. None of the above

5) Consider the following statements with respect to India's first Deep Submergence Rescue Vehicle (DSRV)

1. It is used to rescue crew members from submarines stranded under water in the high seas.
2. It can be operated up to a depth of 2000 metres.
3. So far, only Russia, USA and UK have the Deep Sea Rescue Systems in place.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

6) Consider the following statements

1. National Security Guard (NSG) does not come under the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF).
2. Currently, the head of all Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) is 100% reserved for IPS officers.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

7) Consider the following statements with respect to Noney Bridge

1. It will be the world's tallest railway bridge after its completion.
2. It will be built by the Eastern Railway.
3. The bridge is being constructed across the valley of river Hooghly.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

8) Consider the following statements with respect to Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration

1. It is legally binding on its member countries.
2. It was adopted recently at an intergovernmental conference held in Brussels, Belgium.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

9) Consider the following pairs with respect to nuclear power plants in India

1. Kaiga – Maharashtra
2. Kakrapar – Gujarat
3. Tarapur – Maharashtra

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

10) "Regulatory Indicators for Sustainable Energy" (RISE) report was released by which of the following?

- a. International Energy Agency
- b. World Bank
- c. The Energy and Resources Institute

d. United Nations Development Programme

Answers

1. c

- The objective of the Space Bill is to facilitate the overall growth of the space activities in India with **higher order of participation of public/ non-governmental/ private sector** stakeholders.
- The Bill provides for establishment of a regulatory mechanism through an appropriate body, by the Central Government for the purpose of authorization and licensing of space activities.
- The provision on liability for damages caused by space activities of licensee, provides for a risk sharing mechanism, by which **the central Government** may determine the quantum of liability to be borne by the licensee.

2. c

- National Commission on Farmers headed by **Dr. M. S. Swaminathan** submitted its report in 2006.
- One of the recommendations of Commission was that **MSP should be at least 50 percent more than the weighted average cost of production**.
- This recommendation was not incorporated in the National policy for Farmers 2007.
- However, **recently Government has increased the MSP** for all Kharif and Rabi crops and **other commercial crops** for the season 2018-19 with a return of atleast 50 percent over cost of production.

3. c

- North East Special Infrastructure Development Schemes (NESIDS), **fully funded by the Government of India**, is taken up to fill up gaps of infrastructure in certain identified sectors of the Region.
- The NESIDS will accord focus on exploitation of the huge tourism potential of the area by way of strengthening related infrastructure and will **also give emphasis on creation of infrastructure of social sectors like health and education**.

4. a

- It is the premier counter terrorist and contingency force in India.
- NSG was raised in 1986 following the **assassination** of former Prime Minister **Indira Gandhi and Operation Blue Star**.
- Recently, a Parliamentary panel has recommended that the Centre **should urgently take steps** to ensure that the National Security Guard (NSG) is equipped with its own **dedicated air wing**.
- The force, which is trained to operate as an elite urban anti-terrorist and anti-hijack force, **doesn't have a cadre of its own** or direct recruitment and is instead **dependent** on personnel sent on **deputation from the army and the central armed police forces** (CAPF).

5. a

- The DSRV can be operated at a **depth of 650 meters** and can hold around 15 people.
- So far, only Russia, USA, **China**, UK and **Singapore** have the Deep Sea Rescue Systems in place.

6. b

- The Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) refers to uniform nomenclature of seven security forces in India under the authority of Ministry of Home Affairs.
- They are the Assam Rifles (AR), Border Security Force (BSF), Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), **National Security Guard (NSG)**, and Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB).
- Currently, the DG rank in CAPFs like the CRPF, CISF, BSF, ITBP, SSB and NSG is “100% reserved for IPS officers.”
- Other positions — Additional DG, Inspector General and Deputy IG — are also mostly reserved for IPS officers.
- Recently, a parliamentary panel has recommended that the post of Director-General and other senior positions in Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) should not be reserved for Indian Police Service officers.

- Recently, a parliamentary panel has suggested that the nature of duty of CAPF are more similar to that of the Armed Forces and it would make more sense to bring more officers from the Armed Forces on deputation.
7. a
- The **Northeast Frontier Railway Construction** Organization has constructed India's tallest pier on its way up to building the **world's tallest railway bridge** at **Noney in Manipur**.
 - The bridge is being constructed across the valley of **river Ijai near Noney, Manipur** with the height of the final pier being 141 metres.
8. d
- The global compact on migration was adopted recently at an intergovernmental conference in **Marrakech, Morocco** by 164 UN Member States.
 - Global compact for migration is **not legally binding** and it fully respects the sovereignty of all States.
9. c
- Kaiga nuclear power plant in **Karnataka** has recently created a world record for the longest uninterrupted operation for 941 days.
 - Kaiga is an indigenously built Pressurised Heavy Water Reactor (PHWR) run by domestic fuel (Uranium).
10. b
- **World Bank** has released its report Regulatory Indicators for Sustainable Energy (RISE) 2018, charting global progress on sustainable energy policies.
 - The report was released on the sidelines of the 24th Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP24).

15-12-2018

1) India has recently revised its guidelines for ground water extraction. Consider the following statements with respect to this

1. The guidelines has introduced the concept of Water Conservation Fee (WCF) for the first time.
2. Agricultural users and Government water supply agencies have been exempted from the requirement of No objection certificates (NOC) under this guidelines.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

2) "Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS)" was sometimes seen in the news recently, is a scheme to

- a. Regulate traffic in large metropolitan cities
- b. Revamp Air Traffic Control setup and standards
- c. Regulate Data traffic for speedy functioning of government websites
- d. Prevent collision between ships

3) Consider the following statements with respect to Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE)

1. It is a statutory body constituted under the Ministry of Power.
2. Its primary objective is to reduce energy intensity of the Indian economy.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

4) Consider the following statements with respect to "Operation Oliva"

1. It is a conservation programme to protect the endangered Olive Ridley sea turtles.

- 2. The exercise was launched by the Indian Coast Guard.**

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

5) Consider the following statements with respect to Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA)

- 1. It was constituted under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
- 2. It is the only agency to issue No Objection Certificates (NOC) for ground water withdrawal in India.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

6) "Piezometer" is an instrument used to measure

- a. Atmospheric pressure
- b. Liquid pressure
- c. Infra-red radiation
- d. Salinity of solutions

7) Consider the following statements with respect to ECO Niwas Samhita which was sometimes seen in the news recently

- 1. It is an online interactive portal to build sustainable and energy efficient homes in the country.
- 2. It was launched by the Ministry of Power.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

- a. 1 only

- b. 2 only
- c. Both 1 and 2
- d. Neither 1 nor 2

8) Consider the following statements with respect to National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)

- 1. It functions as a repository of information on crime and criminals to assist investigators.
- 2. It was constituted based on the recommendations of Santhanam Committee.
- 3. It functions under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are incorrect?

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

9) Consider the following pairs

- 1. Tuna port – Mumbai
- 2. Paradip Port – West Bengal

Which of the pair(s) given above is/are correctly matched?

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

10) Consider the following statements with respect to Food irradiation Technique

- 1. It means exposure of foods to radiation coming from radioactive elements like cobalt, caesium, etc.
- 2. Irradiated foods are safe to eat.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

Answers

1. c

- Ground water extraction in India is regulated by **Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA)** constituted under the **Environment (Protection) Act of 1986**.
- One of the important features of the revised guidelines is the **introduction of the concept of Water Conservation Fee (WCF) for the first time**.
- WCF is the fee charged on extraction of ground water.
- It exempted the requirement of No-Objection Certificate (NOC) for various following fields,
 1. Agricultural users,
 2. Users employing non-energized means to extract water,
 3. Individual households (using less than 1 inch diameter delivery pipe)
 4. Armed Forces Establishments during operational deployment or during mobilization in forward locations.
 5. Strategic and operational infrastructure projects for Armed Forces, Defence and Paramilitary Forces Establishments and
 6. Government water supply agencies.

2. d

- Minister of State for Road Transport & Highways, Shipping and Chemicals & Fertilizers, informed Lok Sabha, that it is proposed to establish a **Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS)** in order to prevent collision between ships /Indian merchant vessels and fishing vessels off the Indian coast.

3. c

- Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) is a **statutory body** constituted through the Energy Conservation Act, 2001 under the **Ministry of Power**.
- It is mandated to implement policy and programmes in the area of energy efficiency and conservation.
- The mission of the BEE is to assist in developing policies and strategies with a thrust on self-regulation and market principles, within the overall framework of the Energy Conservation Act, 2001 **with the primary objective of reducing energy intensity of the Indian economy**.

4. c

- The **Indian Coast Guard** has launched the '**Operation Oliva**' exercise as part of its annual mission to ensure the safe mid-sea sojourn of breeding Olive Ridley sea turtles.
- The Coast Guard has launched an exercise along the serene sea waters of the Gahirmatha marine sanctuary in Odisha **to protect the endangered Olive Ridley sea turtles** during their mating season.

5. a

- Central Ground Water Authority has been constituted under Section 3 (3) of the **Environment (Protection) Act, 1986** to regulate and control development and management of ground water resources in the country.
- CGWA has been regulating ground water development for its sustainable management in the country through measures such as **issue of advisories, public notices and grant of No Objection Certificates (NOC) for ground water withdrawal**.

6. b

- A manometer is a device used for measuring fluid pressure.
- Piezometer is one of the simplest forms of manometers. It can be used for

measuring **moderate pressures of liquids.**

- Piezometers are often placed in boreholes to monitor the pressure or depth of groundwater.

7. b

- Ministry of Power** has launched the **ECO Niwas Samhita 2018, an Energy Conservation Building Code for Residential Buildings** (ECBC-R).
- The Code was launched on the occasion of National Energy Conservation Day 2018.
- Initially, Part-I of the Code has been launched which prescribes minimum standards for building envelope designs with the purpose of designing energy efficient residential buildings.
- The ECBC for commercial buildings is already in place and its updated version was launched in June 2017.
- ECO-NIWAS (Energy CONservation – New Indian Way for Affordable & Sustainable homes)** is an **online interactive portal** for increasing awareness to build sustainable and energy efficient homes in the country.

8. d

- National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) was set-up in 1986 to function as a **repository of information on crime and criminals so as to assist the investigators** in linking crime to the perpetrators, based on the **recommendations of the National Police Commission (1977-1981) and the MHA's Task force (1985)**.
- It functions under the **Ministry of Home Affairs**.

9. d

- Tuna Port – Gujarat
- Paradip Port – Odisha
- Tuna is a satellite port operated by Deendayal Port Trust, formerly known as Kandla Port Trust or KPT.
- The port has been exporting livestock to the Middle-East countries for the last four decades.

- Recently, Gujarat government has **suspends the export of livestock** from Tuna port.

10. c

- Food irradiation is a method of preservation using the irradiation method.
- It means **exposure of foods to radiation coming from radioactive elements like cobalt, caesium, etc.**
- When food is irradiated, insects and microorganisms like bacteria that would have spoilt the food are killed.
- The World Health Organisation (WHO) and the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) have certified that **irradiated food is safe to eat.**

17-12-2018

1) Consider the following statements with respect to National Medical Devices Promotion Council

- It aims to give fillip to the medical device sector which is a sunrise sector.
- It was setup under the Ministry of Health and Family welfare.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 nor 2

2) Consider the following statements with respect to National Supercomputing Mission (NSM)

- It aims to connect national academic and R&D institutions with a grid of high-performance computing facilities.
- It would be implemented jointly by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) and Department of Electronics and Information Technology (DeitY).

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

3) Consider the following statements with respect to Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC)

1. It is an ad-hoc body set up to address a specific issue.
2. To set up a JPC, a motion is passed in one House and supported by the other House.
3. There are twice as many Lok Sabha members as the Rajya Sabha.
4. The committee's members are decided by the Parliament.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

4) Consider the following statements with respect to GSAT-7A

1. It is a communication satellite dedicated for the defence purposes.
2. It will be launched using Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV).

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

5) Recently, which of the following states has brought in a law against the offence of sextortion?

- a. Meghalaya

- b. Uttar Pradesh
- c. Jammu and Kashmir
- d. Kerala

6) Consider the following statements with respect to Women's Entrepreneurship portal (WEP)

1. The platform is a one-stop resource center for future and budding women entrepreneurs.
2. It was launched by the Ministry of commerce and Industry.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

7) Consider the following statements with respect to Rat Hole Mining

1. The technique was primarily used to extract copper.
2. The Supreme Court has banned the 'rat hole mines' of Meghalaya in 2014.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

8) Consider the following statements with respect to Great Indian Bustard

1. It is a state bird of Rajasthan.
2. They have excellent frontal vision and can safeguard itself from predators.
3. It has been listed as critically endangered under the IUCN Red list.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

9) Consider the following statements with respect to Public Accounts Committee (PAC)

1. The members are elected according to the principle of proportional representation by means of single transferable vote.
2. All the members of PAC are elected from Lok Sabha only.
3. A minister cannot be elected as a member of the committee.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are *incorrect*?

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

10) Consider the following statements with respect to Dhubri-Phulbari Bridge

1. It will be built across the River Brahmaputra.
2. It will connect Assam and West Bengal through which, connects the North Eastern states with the rest of the country.
3. It will be the longest river bridge in India after its completion.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

Answers

1. a

- **Ministry of Commerce and Industry** has recently announced setting up of National Medical Devices Promotion Council during WHO Global Forum on Medical Devices.
- It will be *under the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP)*.
- It aims to give *fillip to the medical device sector* which is a sunrise sector.
- It will act as a facilitating and promotion & developmental body for the Indian Medical Devices Industry (MDI).
- 2. c
 - The Mission envisages empowering our national academic and R&D institutions spread over the country by installing a vast supercomputing grid comprising of more than 70 high-performance computing facilities.
 - Two key departments of the Government of India, **DeitY and DST** will be implementing the mission jointly through two leading organizations.
 - These are the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) and the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore.
- 3. d
 - A Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) is set up to examine a particular bill presented before the Parliament, or for the purpose of investigating cases of financial irregularities in any government activity.
 - The JPC, an **ad-hoc body**, is set up for a given period of time and is **aimed at addressing a specific issue**.
 - In order to set up a JPC, **a motion is passed in one House and supported by the other House**.
 - The committee's members are decided by **Parliament**.
 - The number of members can vary. There are **twice as many Lok Sabha members as the Rajya Sabha**.
- 4. c
 - The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is planning to launch a **dedicated**

communication satellite GSAT-7A for defence purposes.

- It will be launched using the **GSLV-MK-II** flight F11.
5. c
- Sextortion refers to sexual exploitation of women by those in positions of authority, having a fiduciary relationship, or a public servant.
 - **Jammu & Kashmir** has become the first State in the country to bring a law to prevent people in power from exploiting subordinates sexually.
6. a
- The upgraded portal of Women Entrepreneurship Platform was recently launched by **NITI Aayog**.
 - The platform is a **one-stop resource centre for future and budding women entrepreneurs**.
 - It acts as a medium for various stakeholders and offer integrated services such as Incubator Support, Mentorship, Funding venues, Compliance etc.
 - It seeks to transform the entrepreneurial ecosystem in the country.
7. d
- Rat hole mining is unique to the state of **Meghalaya** due to the thinness of the **coal** layer and is a cost-effective option to large scale mining due to a lot of overburden (mud and debris waste) being extracted.
 - The **National Green Tribunal** banned the ‘rat hole mines’ of Meghalaya in 2014.
8. c
- The Great Indian Bustard is the state bird of Rajasthan.
 - Several threats — including power lines — are decimating bustard populations.
 - Bustards, with their **poor frontal vision** and **heavy bodies**, cannot manoeuvre away from power cables and charred to death due to collisions with power lines.
- Listed in Schedule I of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, in the CMS Convention and in Appendix I of CITES, as **Critically Endangered** on the IUCN Red List and the National Wildlife Action Plan (2002-2016).
9. a
- At present, PAC consists of 22 members (15 from the **Lok Sabha** and 7 from the **Rajya Sabha**).
 - The members are elected by the Parliament every year from amongst its members according to the principle of **proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote**.
 - The term of office of the members is one year. **A minister cannot be elected as a member** of the committee.
 - Since 1967 a convention has developed whereby the chairman of the committee is selected invariably from the Opposition.
10. b
- It is the new bridge going to be constructed across **Brahmaputra** between Dhubri on North bank and Phulbari on South bank.
 - It will connect **Assam and Meghalaya with the rest of the country**.
 - At present, Dhola-Sadiya bridge over the Brahmaputra (Lohit river) is the longest one in the country.
 - **Once completed, Dhubri-Phulbari will be the longest bridge** in the country beating the length of Dhola-Sadiya Bridge.

18-12-2018

1) Which of the following is/are not a World Heritage Site(s) in India?

1. The Walled city of Jaipur
2. Humayun’s Tomb, Delhi
3. Great Living Chola Temples at Tamilnadu
4. Ajanta and Ellora Caves
5. Monuments Forts of Deccan Sultanate

Select the correct answer using the code given below

- a. 1 only
- b. 1 and 5 only
- c. 2, 3 and 4 only
- d. All of the above

2) Consider the following statements with respect to Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRSs)

- 1. It aims to impart quality education to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled tribe children.
- 2. These schools will be jointly administered by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and Ministry of Tribal affairs.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

3) Consider the following statements with respect to Ishan Vikas Scheme

- 1. Under the programme, selected school children from across the country will be motivated to pursue STEM courses.
- 2. It is coordinated by the University Grants Commission (UGC).

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

4) Consider the following statements with respect to Information Fusion Centre (IFC) for the Indian Ocean Region (IOR)

- 1. It aims to improve maritime domain awareness in the Indian Ocean.

- 2. It will be launched by the Ministry of Defence.
- 3. It has been established at Gurugram, Haryana.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

5) "An-32" transport aircraft was sometimes seen in the news recently. It is the

- a. NASA's Airborne Flying observatory
- b. India's first military flight using blended bio-jet fuel
- c. Israel's aircraft used to destroy enemy country's flight communications
- d. World's first aircraft to incorporate Smart Cockpit technology

6) Consider the following statements with respect to Bhasha Sangam

- 1. It aims at introducing school students to all the 22 Indian Languages of Schedule VIII of the Constitution of India.
- 2. It comes under the Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat programme.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

7) The term "White shipping" is sometimes seen in the news recently. It refers to information about

- a. Commercial Ships
- b. Military vessels
- c. Illegal vessels

- d. Rescue vessels

8) Consider the following statements with respect to Ishan Uday scheme

1. Under the scheme, scholarship will be provided to the students of North East Region.
2. It is administrated by the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE).

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

9) Consider the following statements with respect to Adopt a Heritage Scheme

1. It aims to provide basic amenities to tourists visiting centrally protected monuments.
2. It is an initiative of the Ministry of Tourism in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture and the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI).
3. The scheme will be fully funded by Ministry of Tourism.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

10) Consider the following statements with respect to Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY)

1. It aims to ensure accident insurance coverage to all beneficiaries.
2. It comes under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are incorrect?

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

Answers

1. b

- At present, India has 42 sites listed under **tentative list** which is **prerequisite** condition for inscription as World Heritage Sites.
- In this year, '**The Walled city of Jaipur**' is **under process** for nomination of World Heritage Site.
- The dossier on '**Monuments Forts of Deccan Sultanate**' has been submitted to UNESCO for 2019-20 initiative.

2. d

- Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) for **STs** is an excellent approach for imparting quality education to **Scheduled Tribes** children. This initiative will benefit ST students immensely.
- There will be an **Autonomous Society under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs** similar to Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti to run the EMRSs.
- **Ministry of Tribal Affairs** grants approval for these schools.

3. d

- Under the programme, selected school children from **North Eastern States** are brought in close contact with the IITs, IISERs and NIAS during the vacation period to motivate them to pursue science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) and to facilitate internship opportunities for the engineering college students in various institutes of national importance.
- Ishan Vikas is coordinated by **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Guwahati**.

4. b

- The **Indian Navy** will formally inaugurate the Information Fusion Centre (IFC) for the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).
 - IFC will help in **exchanging information on white shipping** or commercial shipping with countries in region.
 - It is **to improve maritime domain awareness** in the Indian Ocean.
 - The IFC has been established at the Navy's Information Management and Analysis Centre (IMAC) in **Gurugram, which is the single point centre linking all the coastal radar chains** to generate a seamless real-time picture of the nearly 7,500-km coastline.
5. b
- Recently, IAF has flown **India's first military flight using blended bio-jet fuel** on the **An-32 transport aircraft**.
 - The project is a combined effort of IAF, DRDO, Directorate General Aeronautical Quality Assurance (DGAQA) and CSIR-Indian Institute of Petroleum.
6. c
- The **Department of School Education & Literacy** has initiated Bhasha Sangam – A Celebration of Linguistic Diversity which marks the appreciation of the unique symphony of languages of our country.
 - Bhasha Sangam provides an opportunity to schools and educational institution to provide multilingual exposure to students in Indian Languages.
 - The objective is to familiarize every child with simple dialogues in **all the 22 languages** under Schedule VIII of the Constitution of India, taking up one language on each working day, **to enhance linguistic tolerance and promote national integration**.
 - The Bhasha Sangam initiative **under the 'Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat'** aims to make the students aware about the unique cultural, ethnic and linguistic diversity of our country.
7. a
- White shipping information refers to exchange of relevant advance information on the identity and movement of **commercial non-military merchant vessels**.
8. a
- India has signed white shipping agreements with several countries including United States and Singapore and is seeking similar agreement with more countries.
9. b
- Under the Ishan Uday scheme, scholarship is provided to the students having parental income upto Rs. 4.5 lakh per annum, **from the North East Region** for pursuing general degree, technical and professional degree courses including medical and para-medical courses.
 - Ishan Uday Scholarship Scheme is administered by **University Grants Commission (UGC)**.
10. a
- The 'Adopt A Heritage: Apni Dharohar, Apni Pehchaan', scheme is a collaborative effort by **Ministry of Tourism, Ministry of Culture and Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)**, State/UTs Governments.
 - **No fund is given by Ministry of Tourism.**
 - The Project envisages involvement of Private/Public Companies/ Organizations and Individuals to adopt Monuments, Natural Heritage Sites and other Tourist Sites in the country, primarily under CSR.
 - Development of these tourist sites calls for **providing and maintaining basic amenities**.
- **Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY)**, a **Central Sector Scheme**, aims at **correcting regional imbalances in the availability of affordable/ reliable tertiary healthcare services** and also to augment facilities for quality medical education in the country.
 - **Recent approval of AIIMS at Tamilnadu and Telangana will be set up under PMSSY.**
 - **Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana** is a government-backed **accident insurance scheme**.

19-12-2018

1) "Global Gender Gap Report" is released by which of the following organisations?

- World Economic Forum (WEF)
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- World Bank
- International Labour Organisation (ILO)

2) Consider the following statements with respect to Minimum Support Price (MSP)

- MSP is determined for the country as a whole and not region or state-specific.
- Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) approves MSPs for various crops.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are incorrect?

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 nor 2

3) Consider the following statements with respect to Champaran Satyagraha

- It was India's first Civil Disobedience Movement.
- It was launched to protest against the injustice meted out to tenant farmers in Champaran district of Gujarat.
- Rajkumar Shukla made a seminal contribution culminating in the launch of the Champaran Satyagraha in 1917 by Mahatma Gandhi.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

- 3 only
- 1 and 2 only
- 1 and 3 only
- 1, 2 and 3

4) Consider the following statements with respect to Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction

- It is a voluntary and non-binding treaty.
- India is a signatory to the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.
- The Sendai Framework is the successor instrument to the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) 2005-2015

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

- 2 only
- 1 and 3 only
- 2 and 3 only
- 1, 2 and 3

5) The term "Pralay" was sometimes seen in the news recently. It is a

- Indian Air force exercise to demonstrate its heavy airlift capability
- India's newly developed short range ballistic missile
- Web portal launched by Bihar government to fight sexual harassment
- Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB's) mission to increase its strength along the India-Bhutan border

6) Consider the following statements with respect to Venture Capital Funds (VCFs)

- VCF is an investment fund that manages money from different investors seeking to provide capital in start-up that have low growth potential.
- In India, VCFs are regulated by Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- These investments are generally characterized as high-risk/high-return opportunities.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- 3 only
- 1 and 2 only

- c. 1 and 3 only
- d. None of the above

7) “**Eyes-on and Hands-off policy**” was sometimes seen in the news recently, which is associated with which of the following?

- a. Japan’s amendment of its pacifist constitution
- b. India’s policy on online sale of medicines
- c. Policy to protect Sentinelese tribes of India
- d. U.S.A’s policy on migrant children

8) Consider the following statements with respect to “Pheran”

1. It is a traditional attire worn by both men and women of Jammu and Kashmir.
2. Kashmiris consider it as an integral part of their culture and identity.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

9) Consider the following statements with respect to National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA) Project

1. It is a mission mode project under the Digital India Programme (DIP).
2. Ministry of Parliamentary affairs is the nodal ministry for its implementation in all the States/ UTs with Legislatures.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are incorrect?

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

10) Galápagos Islands were sometimes seen in the news recently, which is located in which of the following oceans?

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

Answers

1. a
 - The Global Gender Gap Report is released by **World Economic Forum (WEF)**.
 - India has been ranked 108th in the index, same as 2017.
2. b
 - The **Cabinet Committee of Economic Affairs** announces MSP for various crops at the beginning of each sowing season **based on the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP)**.
3. c
 - It was launched to protest against the injustice meted out to tenant farmers in Champaran district of **Bihar**.
 - Recently, Ministry for Communications has released a Commemorative Postage Stamp on Rajkumar Shukla today at New Delhi.
4. d
5. b
 - Pralay’ is India’s newly developed **surface-to-surface tactical Short Range Ballistic Missile (SRBM)**.
 - Defence scientists are optimistic about the weapon system as it has the capability to outperform China’s Dongfeng 12 and Russia’s 9K720 Iskande tactical missiles.
 - The missile is a derivative of Prithvi Defence Vehicle (PDV) exo-atmospheric interceptor which is capable of destroying enemy weapons at high altitudes.
6. a

- VCF is an investment fund that manages money from different investors seeking to provide capital in start-up and small and medium-size enterprises that have **strong growth potential**.
- According to SEBI, VCF is a fund established in the form of a trust/company including a body corporate and registered with SEBI.
- In India, the VCFs are regulated by the **SEBI**.

7. c

- With regard to Sentinelese tribes, the A&N Administration has adopted an '**eyes-on and hands-off**' policy to ensure that no poachers enter into the island.

8. c

- A pheran is a traditional Kashmiri attire worn by men and women. It resembles a long loose coat or cloak.
- Traditionally made from wool or tweed and worn as protection from the winter, it is now also stitched from cotton for summer.
- Kashmiris consider it an integral part of their culture and identity.
- *On December 11, a government order was passed prohibiting officials from making official visits wearing a pheran and slippers. This was, however, withdrawn recently after public outcry.*

9. d

- It aims to ensure Paperless Assembly or e-Assembly.
- NeVA aims to bring all the legislatures of the country together, in one platform thereby creating a massive data depository without having the complexity of multiple applications.
- The technical support for e-Vidhan is provided by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).

10. a

- As climate change warms the world's oceans, these islands located in the **Pacific Ocean** are crucible.
- Not only do the Galápagos sit at the intersection of three ocean currents, they are in the crosshairs of one of the world's most destructive weather patterns, El Niño, which

causes rapid, extreme ocean heating across the Eastern Pacific tropics.

- Research published in 2014 by more than a dozen climate scientists warned that rising ocean temperatures were making El Niño both more frequent and more intense.
- UNESCO, the United Nations educational and cultural agency, now warns the Galápagos Islands are one of the places most vulnerable to the effects of climate change.

20-12-2018

1) "Beresheet Spacecraft" is sometimes seen in the news recently. Which of the pairs given below matches with the Spacecraft

Developed by - Destination

- a. Israel - Moon
- b. ROSCOSMOS - Asteroid Ceres
- c. Israel - Europa
- d. JAXA – Uranus

2) "Farout" was sometimes seen in the news recently. It is a

- a. New plant species found in the Western Ghats which have anti-carcinogenic capability
- b. Branch of the U.S Armed Forces intended to have control over military operations in outer space
- c. Most distant body ever observed in the Solar System
- d. NASA's sounding rocket to study Earth's leaky atmosphere

3) Consider the following statements with respect to Angel Investors

1. They are affluent individuals who provide capital for a business start-up.
2. Angel investors are under the regulatory control of SEBI.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

- a. 1 only

- b. 2 only
- c. Both 1 and 2
- d. Neither 1 nor 2
- c. Russia
- d. Japan

4) "Strategy for New India @ 75", sometimes seen in the news recently was released by which of the following organisations?

- a. NITI Aayog
- b. Ministry of Finance
- c. Prime Minister's office
- d. World Bank

5) "Colposcope" is a device used to examine

- a. Vagina and cervix
- b. Digestive tract
- c. Teeth and jaws
- d. Larynx

6) Consider the following statements with respect to Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill 2016, which was passed recently in the Lok Sabha

1. The bill restricts a surrogate to be a surrogate mother only once in her lifetime.
2. Singles or those in a homosexual relationship can apply for surrogacy, but only for one child.
3. Foreign nationals will not be allowed to apply for surrogacy in India, making it exclusively for Indian citizens.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

7) "AKARI" is sometimes seen in the news recently, is an infrared satellite developed by which of the following countries?

- a. China
- b. Israel

8) Consider the following statements with respect to "e-Drishti" software

1. It helps commuters to keep track of punctuality of trains.
2. It was launched by Indian Railways.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

9) "Side pocketing" is sometimes seen in the news recently. It refers to

- a. Fraudulent practice followed by mutual fund investors
- b. Separation of distressed assets from other healthier securities
- c. Illegal Commission received by mutual fund brokers to favour one client over others
- d. Diversion of foreign direct investment funds to foreign institutional investor

10) Consider the following statements with respect to Cervical Cancer

1. Cervix is the most common site for cancer in Indian women, followed by breast.
2. More Indian women die of cervical cancer than in any other country.
3. Human Papilloma Virus is the most common cause of cervical cancer.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

- a. 3 only
- b. 1, 2 and 3
- c. 2 and 3 only
- d. None of the above

Answers

1. a

- **Israel** is set to launch the country's first spacecraft to **the moon**.
- If it becomes successful, it will be the first private spacecraft to be launched by Israel and would be the 4th country to land on the moon.
- The spacecraft, called **Beresheet, or Genesis** in Hebrew.
- It will be sent via a Falcon 9 rocket from SpaceX firm.

2. c

- Astronomers have reported the discovery of the **most distant body ever observed in the Solar System**, at 120 astronomical units (AU) from the Sun.
- This has led to the nickname "Farout" for the object, provisionally titled 2018 VG18.
- Farout is also the first known Solar System object that has been detected at a distance that is more than 100 times farther than Earth is from the Sun.

3. c

- An angel investor is **an affluent individual who provides capital for a business start-up**, usually in exchange for ownership equity or convertible debt.
- **They are under the regulatory control of SEBI.**

4. a

- Recently, **NITI Aayog** has unveiled its comprehensive **national Strategy for New India**, which defines clear objectives for 2022-23.

5. a

- A colposcope is an optical instrument designed for the examination of **the vagina and the cervix**, particularly for warning signs of cancer.
- Using the device, abnormal tissue or blood vessel development in the vagina and around the cervix can be identified and tissue samples taken for biopsy, if necessary.
- **The All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS)** recently completed trials on a low-

cost, **pain-free** cervical cancer screening device developed by Duke University.

6. b

- Singles or those in a homosexual relationship **cannot apply** for surrogacy.

7. d

- Akari is an infrared astronomy satellite developed by **Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency**, in cooperation with institutes of Europe and Korea.
- Recently, Japanese scientists have detected evidence of water in 17 asteroids for the first time using data from the infrared satellite AKARI.

8. b

- An '**e-Drishti**' interface has been unveiled **for the Union Railway Minister, Minister of State and Board Members**.
- This software provides summary information on punctuality of trains, details of freight earning, freight loading and passenger earnings.

9. b

- Recently, market regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has allowed mutual funds to create segregated portfolios (or) **side pocket**.
- The new facility, known as side pocketing, involves **separation of distressed or illiquid assets from other healthier securities in a debt mutual fund portfolio**.

10. c

- Cervix is the **second most common site** for cancer in Indian women, **preceded only by breast**.
- **More Indian women die of cervical cancer than in any other country**, and a quarter of the world's cervical cancer burden is in India.
- **HPV is the most common cause of cervical cancer**.
- HPV is associated with more than 80% cervical cancers — not all HPV infections go on to become cancerous.

21-12-2018

1) Consider the following statements with respect to Asiatic Lions

1. Gir National park and its surrounding areas in Gujarat are the only abode of Asiatic Lion.
2. They are listed as critically endangered under the IUCN Red List.
3. Gujarat government has recently launched the “*Asiatic Lion Conservation Project*” to protect and conserve the Asiatic Lions.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

- a. 1 only
- b. 1 and 2 only
- c. 1 and 3 only
- d. None of the above

2) “SDG India Index: Baseline Report 2018” is released by which of the following organisations?

- a. NITI Aayog
- b. Ministry of drinking water and sanitation
- c. The Lancet
- d. National Health Portal of India

3) Consider the following statements with respect to Integrated Government Online Training Programme (iGOT)

1. It will make training inputs available to government servant on site and on flexitime basis.
2. It has been developed by Department of Personnel and Training.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

4) Consider the following statements with respect to Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram(PMJKVK)

1. It is an area development programme implemented in all Minority Concentration Areas (MCAs) of the country.
2. It comes under the ministry of Health and Family affairs.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

5) “J – Curve Effect” in Economics refers to which of the following?

- a. Trade balance of a country worsens following the depreciation of its currency before it improves
- b. Higher tax rates initially increase revenue but after a point further increases in tax rates cause revenue to fall
- c. Inflation increases employment in the short run, but becomes neutral or even negative in the long run
- d. A fall in price level increases the real value of people’s money, making them wealthier including increased spending by them

6) Consider the following statements with respect to “Isotretinoin” drug

1. It is an alternative drug suggested for Oxytocin, which was recently banned in India.
2. It can cause birth defects in progeny, if taken without proper guidance.
3. The Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) has recently approved this drug for commercial use.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

- a. 2 only

- b. 1 and 3 only
- c. 2 and 3 only
- d. 1, 2 and 3

7) Consider the following statements with respect to Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC)

1. The purpose of the Commission is to promote international cooperation and to coordinate programmes in research, services and capacity-building.
2. It is a body with functional autonomy attached with UNESCO.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

8) Consider the following statements with respect to NITI Aayog

1. It is mandated with overseeing the implementation of SDGs in India.
2. It is mandated to promote Competitive and Cooperative Federalism among States and Union Territories (UTs).

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

9) ATAGS, K9 Vajra-T are related to which of the following?

- a. Artilleries
- b. Battle Tanks
- c. Ballistic Missiles
- d. Hand held Rocket launchers

10) Consider the following statements with respect to numbering of National Highways (NH)

1. All East-West highways are numbered with even numbers.
2. Greater the longitude, smaller will be the National Highways (NH) number.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

Answers

1. a
 - At present Gir National Park and Wildlife Sanctuary is the only abode of the Asiatic lion.
 - Asiatic Lions are listed as **endangered** under the IUCN Red List.
 - **The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change**, Government of India has launched the “Asiatic Lion Conservation Project” with an aim to protect and conserve the world’s last ranging free population of Asiatic Lion and its associated ecosystem.
2. a
 - **NITI Aayog** to release SDG India Index: Baseline Report 2018.
 - NITI has developed the SDG India Index, a comprehensive Index to measure progress of States / UTs, through a single measurable Index and the First Baseline Report for 2018, prepared with the support of Global Green Growth Institute and UN in India.
3. c
 - Recently, India has launched the “iGOT” (Integrated Government Online Training Programme) developed by **Department of Personnel and Training**, Ministry of Personnel and Public Grievances & Pensions.
 - It will augment the existing training mechanism with online module-based training coupled with certification.

- This **will make training inputs available to government servant on site and on flexitime basis.**
4. d
- The Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram(PMJVK) earlier known as Multi-sectoral Development Programme (MsDP) comes under the **Ministry of Minority affairs**.
 - It is an area development programme implemented in **identified** Minority Concentration Areas (MCAs) of the country **for the remaining period of 14th Finance Commission**.
 - The MCAs are relatively backward areas having substantial population of minority communities.
5. a
- This refers to a phenomenon wherein the **trade balance of a country worsens following the depreciation of its currency before it improves**.
 - Generally, any depreciation in the value of a currency is expected to improve the economy's overall trade balance by encouraging exports and discouraging imports.
 - However, this may not happen immediately due to some other frictions within the economy.
6. a
- The Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) has **recently issued safety guidelines for Isotretinoin, an oral drug, which is used in the treatment of severe acne.**
 - Isotretinoin capsules were approved by CDSCO in **2002** for the treatment of cystic and conglobate acne, and severe nodular acne unresponsive to antibiotic therapy.
 - Isotretinoin can cause **birth defects in progeny if not taken without proper guidance.**
 - A recent study by WHO has shown an alternative drug – heat-stable "**carbetocin**" – to be as safe and effective as oxytocin in preventing postpartum haemorrhage.
7. c
- The **Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO** (IOC-UNESCO), established in 1960 as a body with functional autonomy **within UNESCO**, is the only competent organization for marine science within the UN system.
 - In order to assist UNESCO and its Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) in achieving the aims of developing new methods of capacity building for the countries on the Indian Ocean Rim (IOR), African countries bordering the Indian and Atlantic Oceans and small island countries, **the Government of India through Ministry of Earth Sciences, had recently established the International Training Centre for Operational Oceanography (ITCOcean) at Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), Hyderabad as a UNESCO Category 2 Centre.**
8. c
- NITI Aayog has **twin mandate**
 - 1. To oversee the implementation of SDGs in the country.
 - 2. To promote Competitive and Cooperative Federalism among States and Union Territories (UTs).
9. a
- The **ATAGS** is a 155mm, 52 calibre gun being indigenously developed by the **Defence Research and Development Organisation** (DRDO).
 - The Army, which has been seeking to accelerate the modernisation of its weaponry, recently inducted its first modern pieces of **artillery** in three decades: **the M777 Ultra-Light Howitzer from the U.S. and the K9 Vajra-T tracked self-propelled artillery gun from South Korea.**
10. b
- All East-West highways now have **odd numbers, starting in the North and increasing in number towards the South.**
 - In other words, the **greater the latitude the smaller the N-H** number and vice-versa i.e. NH-1 in J&K and NH-87 in Tamil Nadu.

- Similarly, all North-South highways now have **even numbers, starting in the East and increasing in number towards the West.**
- In other words, the **greater the longitude the smaller the NH number** and vice-versa i.e. NH-2 in the North-East States of India and NH-68 in Rajasthan & Gujarat.

22-12-2018

1) Consider the following statements with respect to Consumer Protection Bill, 2018 which was passed in the Lok Sabha recently.

1. It seeks to set up a central consumer protection authority (CCPA) to promote, protect and enforce the rights of the consumers.
2. This act has provisions for product liability, whereas the 1986 Act has no such provisions.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

2) Recently the first-ever states' Start-up Ranking 2018 was released by which of the following organisations?

- a. NITI Aayog
- b. Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion
- c. Ministry of Finance
- d. Central Statistical Organisation

3) Consider the following statements with respect to "Sandbox policy" which was sometimes seen in the news recently.

1. It will allow companies to test products in a closed environment, before they are allowed roll out commercially meeting all regulations.
2. Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) is planning a 'sandbox policy' to

support technology developments in financial markets.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

4) Consider the following statements with respect to International Whaling Commission (IWC)

1. It was established in 1946 to conserve and manage the world's whale and cetacean population.
2. It is one among the specialised agencies of United Nation (UN).
3. Recently, Japan withdraws its membership from International Whaling Commission (IWC).

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

5) "Hongyun project" which was sometimes seen in the news recently was developed by which of the following countries?

- a. China
- b. Japan
- c. South Korea
- d. Taiwan

6) Consider the following statements with respect to Himalayan Griffon Vulture

1. It is usually found in the higher ranges of Himalayan range.
2. It was categorised as near threatened under the IUCN Red list.

3. Unlike other vultures, it does not feed on carcasses of animals.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- a. 1 and 2 only
- b. 1 and 3 only
- c. 1, 2 and 3
- d. None of the above

7) "Sadar" festival is celebrated in which of the following cities?

- a. Hyderabad
- b. Bengaluru
- c. Chennai
- d. Guwahati

8) Consider the following statements with respect to Study in India Programme

1. It focuses on attracting foreign students from select 30 plus countries.
2. It comes under the Ministry of Human Resource and Development.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

9) Consider the following statements with respect to Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs)

1. It is a company registered under the Companies Act, 1956.
2. It cannot accept demand deposits.
3. They do not form part of the payment and settlement system and cannot issue cheques drawn on itself.
4. Deposit insurance facility of Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation is also available to depositors of NBFCs, similar to banks.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

10) Consider the following statements with respect to Fall Armyworm

1. It is an invasive pest native to West European countries.
2. Its main target will be Sugarcane but it can also feed on maize, rice and millet.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

Answers

1. c

- **Product liability**
- **1986 Act: No provision.**
- **2018 Bill: Claim for product liability** can be made against manufacturer, service provider, and seller. Compensation can be obtained by proving one of the several specified conditions in the Bill.

2. b

- The **Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP)** announced results of the first ever States' Start-up Ranking 2018 at New Delhi recently.
- DIPP began this exercise from January, 2016.
- Gujarat announced as the best performer in Start-up Ranking 2018.
- Other states ranked top performers were Karnataka, Kerala, Odisha, and Rajasthan.

3. c

- Capital market regulator **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** is planning a sandbox policy to support technology developments in financial markets.
 - It will **allow companies to test products in a closed environment**, a particular geography or among a set of users, before they are allowed roll out commercially meeting all regulations.
 - This will enable the tech companies to work on innovations without regulatory changes.
4. a
- **Japan is recently considering leaving the International Whaling Commission (IWC)** to resume commercial whale hunting.
 - Japan's request for a resumption of commercial whaling was most recently denied at the IWC meeting in September.
5. a
- The Hongyun project, started in September 2016, **aims to build a space-based communications network to provide broadband internet connectivity to users around the world**, especially those in the underserved regions.
 - **China** had recently launched its first communication satellite to provide broadband internet services worldwide in an apparent bid to rival Google and other international firms.
6. a
- It was categorised as **Near Threatened** under the IUCN Red list.
 - **Like other vultures it is a scavenger**, feeding mostly from carcasses of animals, which it finds by soaring over open areas and mountains.
7. a
- The famous "**Sadar**" **festival (Buffalo carnival)** is celebrated at **Hyderabad, Telangana**.
 - Buffaloes from across the country make their presence felt in the congregation.
 - **A recent study finds out the poor conditions cattle in Hyderabad are subjected to by the dairy farmers.**
- **Cattles' are suffering from inadequate clean space, negligent health practices etc.**
8. c
- **MHRD** launched the **Study in India programme** in April 2018 to attract foreign students **from select 30-plus countries**.
 - The programme envisages participation of reputed Indian institutes/universities by way of offering seats for international students at affordable rates, **along with fee waivers** ranging from 100 to 25 per cent to meritorious foreign students.
9. b
- A Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) is a company registered under the Companies Act, 1956.
 - NBFCs lend and make investments and hence their activities are akin to that of banks; however there are a few differences as given below:
 1. NBFC **cannot accept demand deposits**;
 2. NBFCs **do not form part of the payment and settlement system and cannot issue cheques** drawn on itself;
 3. Deposit insurance facility of Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation is **not available to depositors of NBFCs**, unlike in case of banks.
10. d
- Fall Armyworm (FAW), or Spodoptera frugiperda, is an insect that is **native to tropical and subtropical regions of the Americas**. It is a nocturnal pest.
 - It **prefers maize**, but can feed on more than 80 additional species of crops, including rice, sorghum, millet, sugarcane, vegetable crops and cotton.
 - **After Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh, invasive pest Fall Armyworm destroys maize farms in Tamil Nadu recently.**

24-12-2018

- 1) "**Munroe Thuruthu Islands**" are sometimes seen in the news recently. They are located at the confluence of which of the following?

- a. Ashtamudi Lake and the Kallada River
- b. Pulicat Lake and the Swarnamukhi River
- c. Chilika Lake and the Daya River
- d. Vembanadu Lake and the Periyar River

2) Consider the following statements with respect to Pokkali rice

- 1. It is grown in saltwater fields.
- 2. This paddy variety is grown in Kerala and parts of Karnataka.
- 3. Kerala government is demanding Geographical Indication (GI) tag for the pokkali rice.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

3) Sunda Strait, which was sometimes seen in the news recently connects which of the following?

- a. Pacific Ocean with the Indian Ocean
- b. Java Sea with the Sumatra Sea
- c. Celebes Sea with the Banda Sea
- d. Java Sea with the Indian Ocean

4) Consider the following statements with respect to Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS)

- 1. It provides financial support to voluntary organization working for rehabilitation of persons with disabilities.
- 2. It comes under the department of empowerment of persons with disabilities.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

- a. 1 only
- b. 2 only

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

5) Consider the following statements with respect to *SDG India Index* which was released recently by the NITI Aayog

- 1. The index took into account only 13 out of total 17 goals specified by United Nation's as SDGs.
- 2. Kerala and Uttarakhand have emerged as top performing states in this index.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

6) Consider the following statements

- 1. It is a designated Tiger Reserve.
- 2. It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- 3. It is inhabited by the world's largest population of Rhinoceros unicornis.

Identify the National Park that correctly matches with the above description.

- a. Manas Wildlife Sanctuary
- b. Keoladeo National Park
- c. Kaziranga National Park
- d. Nameri National Park

7) "Anak Krakatau" is sometimes seen in the news recently. It is a/an

- a. Volcanic Island
- b. Aircraft carrier ship
- c. Artificial Island
- d. Rescue exercise

8) "Sami People" who are sometimes seen in the news recently, inhabited in which of the following countries?

- a. Australia
- b. South Africa
- c. Norway
- d. Argentina

9) "Death Watch list" was sometimes seen in the news recently. It was released by which of the following?

- a. International Union for Conservation of Nature
- b. International Press Institute
- c. World Wildlife Fund for Nature
- d. Transparency International

10) Match the following

SDG Number - SDG

- | | | |
|-------|---|---|
| 1. 12 | - | a. Responsible Consumption and production |
| 2. 13 | - | b. Climate Action |
| 3. 14 | - | c. Partnership for the Goals |
| 4. 17 | - | d. Life below Water |

Select the correct answer using the code given below

- a. 1-a; 2-b; 3-c; 4-d
- b. 1-a; 2-d; 3-b; 4-c
- c. 1-a; 2-b; 3-d; 4-c
- d. 1-b; 2-a; 3-d; 4-c

Answers

1. a

- Munroe Thuruthu is a string of eight islets at the confluence of the **Ashtamudi Lake and the Kallada River**.
- Munroe Thuruthu, in Kollam district, is slowly going under water, and its fleeing residents join the swelling ranks of climate refugees.

2. a

- Pokkali paddy crop **is grown in saltwater fields**.

- The GI-tagged Pokkali is a **saltwater-tolerant paddy** grown in the coastal fields of Alappuzha, Ernakulam and Thrissur districts.

- **Endemic to central Kerala**, the variety is now grown in only over 5,000 hectares, a drop from over 25,000 hectares a few decades ago, due to high labour cost and poor returns.

3. d

- Sunda Strait connects the **Java Sea with the Indian Ocean** and separates the Indonesian Sumatra Island from the Indonesian Java Island.
- Recently, a powerful tsunami triggered by a volcanic eruption killed at least 222 people and left 800 injured on Indonesia's Sunda Strait.

4. c

5. a

- The SDG India index took into account **13 out of 17 goals** specified by United Nation's as SDGs and left out four goals (12, 13, 14 and 17) because of lack of data at the state level.
- Kerala, **Himachal Pradesh** and Tamil Nadu have emerged as top performing states in Niti Aayog's SDG India index 2018.
- Assam, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh are the worst performing states.

6. c

- **Kaziranga National Park** is a gem of North East India and is situated on the banks of Brahmaputra River.
- Kaziranga is listed as a **World Heritage Site by UNESCO**.
- It is also a **Project Tiger**.
- It has marsh land and big copses of elephant grass forming Kaziranga **an ideal place for the very endangered Indian one-horned Rhinos**.
- **It is inhabited by the world's largest population of one-horned rhinoceroses**.

7. a

- The recent tsunami in Indonesia's sunda strait was thought to be caused by an undersea landslide resulting from volcanic activity on **Anak Krakatau volcano**.

- Anak Krakatau (Child of Krakatau) is a new island that emerged in 1927 from Krakatoa volcano.

8. c

- Norway** is planning to build megawatt Storheia Wind Park in Northwest coast.
- It is part of Europe's largest onshore wind power project.
- United Nations calls to suspend the project because the area is used for **reindeer grazing**, a traditional activity of the **Sami people**.
- The sight and sound of the turbines in the park during winter months, could frighten the animals.

9. b

- According to Death Watch list published by International Press Institute, 78 journalists were killed in 2018.
- IPI's Death Watch lists journalists and media staff who were deliberately targeted because of their profession either because of their reporting or simply because they were journalists as well as those who lost their lives while on assignment.
- IPI is a global network of editors, journalists and media executives who share a common dedication to quality, independent journalism.
- Its headquarters is based in Vienna.

10. c

- The SDG India index took into account **13 out of 17 goals** specified by United Nation's as SDGs and left out four goals (12, 13, 14 and 17) because of lack of data at the state level.

25-12-2018

1. Consider the following statements regarding "Diamond Triangle" of Odisha

- Lalitgiri, Ratnagiri and Udaigiri are collectively called as Diamond Triangle.
- They are known for Kalinga Style Architecture Temples.
- These temples bear the influence of Shakti cult.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are true?

- 1 only
- 1 and 2 only
- 2 and 3
- 1,2 and 3

2. Consider the following statements regarding "National Commission for Safai Karamcharis"

- It is a statutory body created via an act of parliament National Commission for Safai Karamcharis Act, 1993.
- It submit its annual report to the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 nor 2

3. Which of the following organisation/department published India's first "Climate Vulnerability Assessment for the Himalayan Region"?

- Centre for Science and Environment (CSE)
- Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
- Department of Science and Technology
- World Wide Fund for Nature

4. Which of the following bridges are constructed/going to be constructed across the River Brahmaputra?

- Noney Bridge
- Bogibeel Bridge
- Dhola Sadiya Bridge
- Dhubri - Phulbari Bridge

Select the correct code

- 1, 2 and 3

- b. 2, 3 and 4 only
- c. 1,3 and 4 only
- d. 1,2, 3 and 4

5. Consider the following statements regarding Paika Rebellion

- 1. It is an armed rebellion against oppressive zamindars for high rent extraction in the Odisha region.
- 2. They were the landed militia of Khurda rule.
- 3. They fought under the leadership of Kunwar singh.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

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

6. Consider the following statements about appointment of subordinate court judges

- 1. The appointment of district judges in a state are made by the Governor of the State in consultation with the High Court.
- 2. The appointment of judges (other than district judges) are made by the Governor of the State in consultation with the State Public Service Commission and the High Court

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

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

7. Consider the following statements about Agni -IV

- 1. It is a nuclear capable ballistic missile

- 2. It is a strategic Surface-to-air missile with the strike range of 4000 km
- 3. It is a two stage solid propellant missile.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

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

8. Consider the following statements about Polavaram Irrigation Project

- 1. The multipurpose irrigation project in Andhra Pradesh, aims to transfer surplus water from Godavari to Krishna Basin.
- 2. The regulation and development of the project is under Union Government.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

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

9. Consider the following statements about "Aipan"

- 1. It is a traditional folk art in the state of Uttarkhand.
- 2. It consists of white motif geometrical patterns drawn on terracotta basin on floors and walls of a house on ceremonial occasion.

Which of the above statements is/are true?

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

10. Consider the following statements regarding "Kordylewski Clouds"

1. These are mysterious swarms of dust trapped between Inner and Outer Solar systems.
2. According to the recent study, they occupy Langrange points.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

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

Answers

1. a

- Lalitgiri, Ratnagiri and Udaigiri are buddhist heritage sites.
- Recently, lalitgiri musuem was inaugurated.
- Lingaraja temple at Bhubaneswar (11th century), the Jagannath Temple at Puri (12th century) and the great Sun Temple at Konark (13th century) are known for kalinga style architecture temples.

2. b

- NCSK was constituted as a statutory body via an act of parliament National Commission for Safai Karamcharis Act, 1993.
- The act was lapsed in 2004.
- Now, it is a non-statutory body and its tenure is extended from time to time through government resolutions.

3. c

- Climate Vulnerability Assessment for the Indian Himalayan Region Using a Common Framework is a first-of-its-kind report prepared by the Department of Science and Technology.
- According to the report, all the 12 Himalayan states in India are extremely vulnerable to global warming.

4. b

Noney bridge is going to be constructed by the Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) across the river Ijai in the state of Manipur.

5. b

- They fought against British rule which took over the hereditary rent-free lands granted to Paikas.
- The Paikas rose in armed rebellion in 1817 under the leadership of Baxi Jagabandhu.

6. c

7. c

It is a surface-to-surface missile.

8. c

- The project is considered as “lifeline of the State” and has been declared as a national project under the AP Reorganisation Act, 2014.
- As per the act, the central government shall execute the project and obtain all requisite clearances, including forest, environmental and rehabilitation and resettlement.
- The regulation and development of the project is under the control of Union government and accordingly it constituted the Polavaram Project Authority (PPA) for the purpose.

9. c

10. b

These are dust trapped between the competing gravitational fields of Earth and the Moon.

26-12-2018

1) Consider the following statements with respect to Project Tsang-da

1. It was a project initiated by the district administration of Leh.
2. It aims to reduce Carbon-di-oxide (CO₂) emission in a sustainable manner.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

2) Consider the following statements with respect to Gems and Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJPEC)

1. It is the apex body of the gems & jewellery industry in the country.
2. It was set up by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

3) Recently, which of the following countries had legalised medical marijuana?

- a. Vietnam
- b. Singapore
- c. Thailand
- d. Lao PDR

4) Consider the following statements with respect to women's representation in State Assemblies in India

1. Haryana has the highest proportion of women MLAs in India.
2. Nagaland has zero representation of women in its state Assemblies.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

5) "English Channel" which was sometimes seen in the news recently, connects which of the following?

- a. North Sea with the Baltic Sea
- b. Mediterranean Sea with the Atlantic Ocean
- c. Norwegian Sea with the North Sea

- d. North Sea with the Atlantic Ocean

6) Consider the following statements

1. In India, it is being found in all forest types and the exception being the mangroves of Sundarbans.
2. It has been listed as Vulnerable under the IUCN Red list.
3. Its range stretches from the Indus River in the west, the Himalayas in the north, and all the way to the Brahmaputra in the east.

Identify the species using the description given above

- a. Bengal Tiger
- b. Indian Leopard
- c. Black necked stork
- d. Indian Wild Ass

7) "Hope Island" was sometimes seen in the news recently. It is a part of which of the following wildlife sanctuary?

- a. Dachigam Wildlife Sanctuary
- b. Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary
- c. Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary
- d. Manas Wildlife Sanctuary

8) Consider the following statements

1. He is an educationist, freedom fighter and a social reformer.
2. He was posthumously conferred with Bharat Ratna.
3. He founded the English-newspaper, "The Leader" which was published from Allahabad.

Identify the personality who correctly matches with the above description

- a. Madan Mohan Malaviya
- b. Motilal Nehru
- c. Abul Kalam Azad
- d. Pandurang Vaman Kane

9) Consider the following pairs

1. Etalin hydel project – Arunachal Pradesh
2. Lower Demwe hydel project – Assam

Which of the pair(s) given above is/are *incorrectly matched*?

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

10) Chabahar Port, sometimes seen in the news recently, is located in which of the following regions?

- a. Gulf of Aden
- b. Gulf of Oman
- c. Persian Gulf
- d. Sea of Marmara

Answers

1. a
 - **Project Tsang-da**, initiated by the **district administration of Leh** this year, aims at **sustainable waste management** in rural areas of Leh district and city.
2. c
3. c
 - Recently, **Thailand's** legislature agreed to amend the country's drug law to allow the licensed medical use of marijuana, as well as kratom, a locally grown plant traditionally used as a stimulant and painkiller.
 - Thailand is the **first country in Southeast Asia** to take such action, which is also under consideration in neighbouring Malaysia.
 - Recreational use of the drugs remains illegal and subject to prison terms and fines commensurate with the quantities involved.
4. c
 - Women's representation in State Assemblies registered an across-the-board increase in the last 18 years (2001-18) in comparison to the previous 18 years (1983-2000).
 - Today, **Haryana has the highest proportion of women MLAs**, 15% of the total Assembly strength.
 - **Nagaland continues to have zero representation.**
5. d
 - The English Channel is the body of water that separates southern England from northern France and **links the southern part of the North Sea to the Atlantic Ocean**.
 - It is the busiest shipping area in the world.
 - *Recently, English Channel sees an increase in migrants trying to cross over, especially on the day of Christmas.*
 - *Calais, a port city on one end of a Channel tunnel that connects France and England by train, long has been a magnet for migrants fleeing conflict or poverty in Africa and the Mideast.*
6. b
 - In India, the **leopard is found in all forest types**, from tropical rainforests to temperate deciduous and alpine coniferous forests.
 - It is also found in dry scrubs and grasslands, **the only exception being desert and the mangroves of Sundarbans**.
 - It shares its territory with the tiger in 17 states.
 - Its range stretches from the **Indus river in the west, the Himalayas in the north**, and all the way to the lower course of the **Brahmaputra in the east**.
 - *At least 260 leopards were poached in the country between 2015 and 2018, with Uttarakhand accounting for 60 cases and Himachal Pradesh reporting another 49, according to information given to Parliament by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC).*
7. c
 - Greater Flamingoes have recently been spotted on the Coast of Hope Island after a long period.

- **Hope Island is a part of the Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary**, off the coast of Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh.
 - It is relatively a young island, formed from the sediment outflow carried by the waters of the Koringa River, a distributary of the Godavari.
8. a
- Madan Mohan Malaviya was an Indian **educationist, freedom fighter** and the thrice president of Indian National Congress.
 - He was respectfully addressed as 'Mahamana', he was the founder of Banaras Hindu University (BHU) at Varanasi in 1916, which was created under the B.H.U. Act, 1915.
 - He also founded a highly influential English-newspaper, "**The Leader**" which was published from Allahabad.
 - Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya was **posthumously conferred with Bharat Ratna**.

9. b

- Recently, the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) has effectively paved the way for at least two mega hydel power projects in one of India's richest biodiverse zones:
- The Etalin **hydel project to be jointly developed by Jindal Power in Dibang Valley district** and the Arunachal government and the **Lower Demwe hydel project in Lohit district of Arunachal Pradesh**.

10. b

Recently, India Ports Global Limited opened its office and took over operations at the Shaheed Behesti port at Chabahar, Iran.

27-12-2018

1) **"Bimal Jalan Committee"** was sometimes seen in the news recently. It was constituted for which of the following purposes?

- a. To study Special Economic Zone Policy
- b. To regulate Fintech sector
- c. To study the problems faced by start-ups and regulate it

- d. To review Economic Capital Framework of the RBI

2) Consider the following statements with respect to e-commerce in India

1. 100% FDI under automatic route is permitted in marketplace model of e-commerce.
2. FDI is not permitted in inventory based model of e-commerce.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

3) Consider the following statements

1. It is situated in the Upper Gangetic plain falling in the Terai region on the Indo-Nepal border.
2. In 1987, it was brought under the purview of the 'Project Tiger'.
3. It is a part of the Dudhwa Tiger Reserve.
4. It provides connectivity between the tiger habitats of Dudhwa and Kishanpur in India to Nepal.

Identify the wildlife sanctuary that correctly matches with the above description

- a. Katarniaghata Wildlife Sanctuary
- b. Hastinapur Wildlife Sanctuary
- c. Valmiki Wildlife Sanctuary
- d. Palamau Wildlife Sanctuary

4) "Dead zones" in ocean ecology refers to

- a. Hyperoxic regions in the world's oceans
- b. Presence of excess predators' in the region
- c. Ocean current induced high wave region
- d. Hypoxic areas in the world's oceans

5) “**Bonda Paraja**” Tribes were sometimes seen in the news recently. They inhabited which of the following states?

- a. Karnataka
- b. Assam
- c. Tamilnadu
- d. Odisha

6) “**Subash Chandra Garg Committee**” was sometimes seen in the news recently. It is associated with which of the following?

- a. Defence management
- b. New direct tax legislation
- c. Corporate Social Responsibility
- d. Crypto Currencies

7) “**Avangard System**” was sometimes seen in the news recently. It is an/

- a. China’s Space-based communication network
- b. Russia’s hypersonic missile system
- c. Alternative system to function the U.S government shutdown
- d. Japan’s first aircraft carrier developed since World War II

8) Consider the following statements with respect to Black necked stork

- 1. They are invasive bird species, native to Central America.
- 2. They primarily feed on fish, crabs and molluscs.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

9) Consider the following statements with respect to Study in India programme

- 1. Its primary objective is to target foreign students by branding India as an attractive education destination.
- 2. It comes under the Ministry of External affairs.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

10) The term “**Crypto-jacking**” refers to a/

- a. Form of harassment using electronic means
- b. Method of gathering personal information using deceptive e-mails
- c. Blocking of computer’s access unless a ransom is paid
- d. Cyber attack by cybercriminals to mine for crypto currency

Answers

1. d

- Ex-RBI governor **Bimal Jalan** to lead panel **on economic capital framework**.
- The expert panel on RBI’s economic capital framework was formed to address the issue of RBI reserves—one of the sticking points between the central bank and the government.

2. c

- **100% FDI under automatic route is permitted in marketplace model of e-commerce.**
- **FDI is not permitted in inventory-based model of e-commerce.**
- The **inventory-based model** of e-commerce is when the inventory of goods and services is owned by the e-commerce entity and sold to consumers directly.
- The **marketplace model** is when an e-commerce company simply provides an information technology platform in order to

act as a facilitator between the buyer and the seller.

- *The government has recently said that from February 1, 2018, e-commerce companies would be barred from selling products sourced from firms in which they have stake in or control over.*

3. a

- The **Katarniaghāt Wildlife Sanctuary** is situated in the Upper Gangetic plain falling in the Terai of Bahraich district on the Indo-Nepal border.
- In 1987, it was brought under the purview of the '**Project Tiger**'.
- Spread over more than 400 sq km, it is **part of the Dudhwa** Tiger Reserve and provides connectivity between the tiger habitats of **Dudhwa and Kishanpur in India and Nepal**.
- Katarniaghāt is home to a wide range of endangered species, including the rhino, Gangetic dolphin, gharial, swamp deer, tiger, white-backed and long-billed vultures and Hispid hare.

4. d

- Dead zones are low-oxygen, or **hypoxic, areas in the world's oceans** and lakes. Because most organisms need oxygen to live, few organisms can survive in hypoxic conditions. That is why these areas are called dead zones.
- Even slight levels of ocean oxygen loss, or deoxygenation, have big consequences for tiny marine organisms called zooplankton, according to a study.

5. d

- Two Italian tourists were detained by **Odisha police** while they were on their way to the Bonda Hills without a permit.
- Later, the local administration erected a signage mentioning a ban on foreign tourists visiting the **bonda paraja tribe** villages without permission from the Home Department.

6. d

- In December 2017, the government had constituted the second inter-ministerial

committee headed by **Subhash Chandra Garg to study the impact of crypto currencies** and to make recommendations to regulate them.

- Holding crypto currency like Bitcoin is banned in India, but that could change, as the second interdisciplinary committee is in favour of legalising it, with harsh riders.

7. b

- Recently, Russia has successfully tested the "**Avangard system**" – an **intercontinental hypersonic missile system**.
- The hypersonic missile could fly at 20 times the speed of sound and manoeuvre up and down, meaning that it could breach defence systems.
- *The final test comes after U.S. President Donald Trump announced plans to pull out of a key Cold War-era nuclear weapons pact, the three-decade-old Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty (INF).*

8. b

- Black-necked storks are **native to India and are wetland-dependent**.
- Apart from India, they are resident birds of Australia, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Myanmar, Nepal, Papua New Guinea and Sri Lanka.
- They **primarily feed on fish, crabs and molluscs**.
- According to IUCN, they fall under the "**near threatened category**", and the population trend indicates that their number is decreasing.

9. a

Study in India' is an innovative initiative of **Ministry of Human Resource and Development** to attract students from our partner countries in South Asia, South-East Asia, Middle East and Africa to come and experience the very best of academic learning from the top institutions in India.

10. d

- Crypto-jacking is the unauthorized use of someone else's computer to **mine crypto currency**.

- Indian firms faced 2.6 crore cyber threats in July to September 2018, a private firm report says.
- **Crypto-jacking emerged as a fast-growing threat vector with over 24,000 hits on a daily basis.**

28-12-2018

1) Consider the following pairs with respect to Andaman & Nicobar Islands

Old name	-	New name
1. Havelock Island	-	Swaraj Dweep Island
2. Neil Island	-	Shaheed Dweep Island
3. Ross Island	-	Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Island

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

- a. 1 and 3 only
- b. 2 and 3 only
- c. All the three
- d. None

2) Consider the following pairs regarding Volcanoes

1. Dormant – Those that have erupted during the last 10,000 years, but currently in a period of silence
2. Active – Volcanoes that have shown activity in the last 10,000 years

Which of the pair(s) given above is/are incorrectly matched?

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

3) "Mount Etna" was sometimes seen in the news recently, is located in which of the following countries?

- a. Australia

- b. Indonesia
- c. Italy
- d. United States of America

4) What type of musical instrument is an "Idakka", which is widely famous in Kerala?

- a. Reed
- b. Drum
- c. String
- d. None of the above

5) Consider the following statements with respect to National Investigation Agency (NIA)

1. It functions as the Central Counter Terrorism Law Enforcement Agency in India.
2. They are specially equipped and well trained Central Armed Police Force (CAPF) to tackle the various manifestations of terrorism.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

6) "eBuzz K9" was sometimes seen in the news recently. It is a/an/the

- a. Zero emission electric bus launched by the Delhi government
- b. Edible vaccine developed for bees to fight its population decline
- c. United Nation's drone to supply relief materials in war torn Yemen
- d. Sashastra Seema Bal (SSBs) initiative to monitor International Borders

7) Consider the following statements with respect to Angel Tax

1. It is a tax levied on all start-ups.

2. Under the income tax law, all start-ups are eligible to be examined for angel tax exemption.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

8) "Agariyas" inhabited which of the following regions in India?

- a. Nilgiris
- b. Rann of Kutch
- c. Darjeeling
- d. Minicoy Island

9) Consider the following statements

1. Italy is the only nation with active volcanism in all of mainland Europe.
2. Reason for Italy's volcanism is attributed to its close location to the convergent boundary of the Eurasian Plate and the Indo-Australian plate.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

10) Consider the following statements with respect to Ganges River Dolphin

1. It is India's National Aquatic Animal.
2. Rise in salinity, climate change are the potential threats to the Ganges River dolphins.
3. It has been classified as vulnerable under the IUCN Red list.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

Answers

1. c

- Three islands in Andaman and Nicobar - **Ross Island, Neil Island and Havelock Island**- will be renamed as Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Island, Shaheed Dweep and Swaraj Dweep, respectively.
- The renaming of the islands will reportedly take place to mark the 75th year of freedom fighter Subhash Chandra Bose hoisting the national flag at Port Blair.

2. : d

- **Extinct** – Those that are unlikely to erupt again and last erupted over 10,000 years ago
- **Dormant** – Those that have erupted during the last 10,000 years, but currently in a period of silence
- **Active** – Volcanoes that have shown activity in the last 10,000 years

3. c

An earthquake has hit the southern **Italian** island of Sicily, thought to be triggered by eruptions from nearby **Mount Etna**.

4. b

- Idakka is a **wooden drum** with four strings and is about 8 to 8½ inches long.
- It is made from karungali, sandalwood or with wood from the jackfruit tree.
- It is in the shape of an hour-glass, with the two sides resembling the damaru.
- Played with a stick, the pitch of the idakka can be changed by pressing the lacing in the middle.
- **Reed instruments** like the Shehnai, Nadaswaram, etc., have one or two reeds inserted in the hollow beak or tube of the instrument, these vibrate when air is blown into them.

5. a

- **National Security Guard (NSG)** is a federal contingency force comprising of personnel who are highly motivated, **specially equipped and well trained to tackle the various manifestations of terrorism.**
- NIA is a central agency **for investigation of offences related to terrorism** and certain other Acts, which have national ramifications.
- Paramilitary Forces - Assam Rifles (AR), Border Security Force (BSF), Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), Indo Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), National Security Guard (NSG), Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB)

6. a

The **Delhi Government** has initiated the trials of zero emission and noise free Olectra-BYD's 12 Meter electric bus – **eBuzz K9.**

7. d

- **Angel tax:** If a start-up receives funding that is higher than its 'fair market value' from an angel investor (external investor), the investment amount will be considered as its income and 30 per cent tax will be levied.
- The issue is that there is currently no clear-cut way to assess the 'fair market value' of a start-up.
- As per the law, **only start-ups recognised by DIPP** with a valid certificate of recognition **will qualify to be examined for Angel Tax exemption** under the income-tax law.
- Others attract tax overvaluation under Section 56 (2) of Angel Tax.
- *Officials claim that in the upcoming Budget, the government is considering abolishing of this Section.*

8. b

- **Agariyas** are a community of traditional salt farmers inhabited the **Rann of Kutch** region.
- During the monsoon months, the Rann of Kutch is submerged in sea water.

- As the sea water finally begins to recede in October, the Agariyas move in and begin the elaborate process of salt farming.
- YES Bank claims to have developed a first-of-its kind "blended finance facility" for traditional salt farmers in Gujarat's Rann of Kutch.
- It is aimed at facilitating access to mainstream debt finance for women salt farmers, basically for transitioning from energy-inefficient diesel pumps to eco-friendly solar pumps.

9. a

- The location of Italy, close to the convergent boundary of **the African** and Eurasian Plate, makes it have numerous active volcanoes.
- Three of the nation's volcanoes have erupted in the last 100 years namely **Mount Vesuvius, Mount Etna, and Stromboli.**
- Italy is the **only nation** with active volcanism in **all of mainland Europe.**

10. b

- **Rise in salinity** in the water system that makes the Indian Sunderbans has resulted in the decrease of population of the Ganges River Dolphins in the region.
- The rise in sea level, triggered by climate change, is one of the reasons for the increase in salinity of waters of rivers and channels.
- Hydrological modifications like water diversion and commission of large barrages upstream have had a great impact on the salinity profile of the rivers downstream in the Sunderbans.
- Classified as **endangered** by the IUCN Red List, the freshwater species was also once found in different tributaries of the Ganga in West Bengal.

29-12-2018

1) Consider the following statements with respect to International Rice Research Institute (IRRI)

1. It is under the aegis of United Nations (UN).

2. Its headquarters is located in Los Banos, Philippines.
3. IRRI, South Asia Regional Centre (ISARC) will be established in Gurugram, Haryana.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

- a. 2 only
- b. 1 and 2 only
- c. 1 and 3 only
- d. None

2) “Shailesh Nayak Committee” was sometimes seen in the news recently, which was constituted for which of the following purposes?

- a. To review the criminal justice system in India
- b. To monitor bad loans, rising cases of frauds and audits
- c. To review the issues relating to Coastal regulation zone Notification, 2011
- d. To review the regulations pertaining to insurance marketing firms

3) “Biennial Update Report (BUR)” which was sometimes seen in the news recently, is associated with which of the following?

- a. Kigali agreement
- b. United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
- c. World Trade Organisation (WTO)
- d. Convention on biological diversity (CBD)

4) Consider the following statements

1. He was a great social reformer and preached against killing the girl child in infancy.
2. He started the Kuka Movement to free the country a month before the Mutiny of 1857.
3. He advocated boycott of the British merchandise and services.

4. He started a new mass marriage system wherein the marriages were performed with minimal expenditure.
5. His 200th birth anniversary was celebrated recently by the Ministry of Culture.

Identify the personality who correctly matches with the above description

- a. Raja Ram Mohan Roy
- b. Satguru Ram Singh
- c. Gurudev Ravishankar
- d. Atmaram Pandurang

5) “Ultima Thule” which was sometimes seen in the news recently, located in which of the following region?

- a. Kuiper Belt
- b. Saturn ring
- c. Asteroid Belt
- d. Grave yard orbit

6) Consider the following statements with respect to Kashmir Stag

1. It was locally known as dancing deer.
2. It was classified as critically endangered by the IUCN.
3. It is the only sub-species of European red deer in India.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

- a. 2 only
- b. 2 and 3 only
- c. 1, 2 and 3
- d. None

7) Consider the following statements National Investment & Manufacturing Zones (NIMZ)

1. NIMZ are envisaged as large areas of developed land with the requisite ecosystem for promoting world class manufacturing activity.

2. Special Economic Zones (SEZ) were introduced in India in 2000 by replacing NIMZs.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

8) Consider the following statements with respect to High Nitrogen Steel (HNS)

- 1. HNS is non-magnetic and corrosion resistant.
- 2. HNS is used only for defence purposes.
- 3. HNS is expensive than rolled homogenous armour (RHA) steel but has better ballistic performance than RHA.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

- a. 1 only
- b. 2 and 3 only
- c. 1, 2 and 3
- d. None

9) "River Lytein" which was sometimes seen in the news recently, is flowing in which of the following states?

- a. Sikkim
- b. Maharashtra
- c. Meghalaya
- d. Odisha

10) Delta ranking of the Aspirational Districts Programme was recently released by which of the following organisations?

- a. NITI Aayog
- b. Ministry of Housing and Urban affairs
- c. Ministry of Rural development
- d. Jointly by B and C

Answers

1. a

- IRRI is an **independent, non-profit**, research and educational institute, founded in 1960 by the Ford and Rockefeller foundations with support from the Philippine government.
- IRRI headquarters is located in **Los Banos, Philippines**.
- The Prime Minister will dedicate to the nation - International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), South Asia Regional Center (ISARC) at campus of National Seed Research and Training Center (NSRTC) in **Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh**.

2. c

- The Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change constituted a committee in June 2014 under the Chairmanship of Dr. Shailesh Nayak to examine the various issues and concerns of Coastal States/UTs and other stakeholders for recommending appropriate changes in the **CRZ Notification, 2011**.
 • Recently, the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notification, 2018 which was last reviewed and issued in 2011, with periodic amendments to some clauses.

3. b

- India is a Party to the **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change** (UNFCCC).
- Conference of Parties to the UNFCCC in its sixteenth session decided that developing countries, consistent with their capabilities and the level of support provided for reporting, should submit biennial update reports containing updates of national greenhouse gas inventories and information on mitigation actions, needs and support received.
- Biennial Update Reports shall be submitted **every two years**.
- Recently, the Union Cabinet has approved the submission of India's second Biennial Update Report (BUR) to the **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change** towards fulfilment of the reporting obligation under the Convention.

4. b

To commemorate the 200th Birth Anniversary of Sikh philosopher, reformer and freedom fighter, **Satguru Ram Singh**, an International Seminar was inaugurated by the Minister of State for Culture recently in New Delhi.

5. a

- On New Year's Day (Jan. 1), NASA's New Horizons will fly by the distant object Ultima Thule in the **Kuiper Belt**, a realm of icy objects that orbit the sun well beyond the dwarf planet Pluto.
- This Kuiper Belt object was discovered by the Hubble Space Telescope in 2014.
- Ultima Thule will be the farthest world ever explored by humankind.

6. b

- Kashmir stag was locally known as "**hangul**".
- The Dachigam National Park is considered the last undisturbed home of the hangul, a sub-species of the **European red deer**, in Kashmir.
- The animal was classified as '**critically endangered**' by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).
- It is the **only sub-species of red deer in India**.
- Kashmir stag is the state animal of Jammu and Kashmir.

7. a

- National Investment & Manufacturing Zones (NIMZs) are one of the important instruments of National Manufacturing Policy, 2011.
- NIMZs are **envisioned as large areas of developed land with the requisite ecosystem for promoting world class manufacturing activity**.
- The **main objective of Special Economic Zones is promotion of exports, while NIMZs are based on the principle of industrial growth** in partnership with States and focuses on manufacturing growth and employment generation.
- **NIMZs are different from SEZs** in terms of size, level of infrastructure planning,

governance structures related to regulatory procedures, and exit policies.

- So far, three NIMZs namely Prakasam (Andhra Pradesh), Sangareddy (Telangana) and Kalinganagar (Odisha) have been accorded final approval and 13 NIMZs have been accorded in-principle approval.
- Besides these, eight Investment Regions along the Delhi Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC) project have also been declared as NIMZs.

8. a

- Defence Metallurgical Research Laboratory (DMRL), Hyderabad, a premier research laboratory of Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) has developed a technology for production of high nitrogen steel (HNS) for armour applications.
- High Nitrogen Steel (HNS) technology is a step forward towards Army's quest for **lighter and high performance armouring material** compared to the currently used materials.
- HNS is not only tough but also has good strength.
- In addition to being **non magnetic as well as corrosion resistant**, the HNS **cost is about 40 percent less compared to Rolled Homogenous Armour Steel (RHA)**.
- Very few countries in the world have developed this technology of HNS.
- This material has potential for a number of **defence and civil applications** like armouring, mine trawls, oil industries etc.

9. c

Fifteen miners were trapped in the "rat-hole" mine located in **Meghalaya** on December 13 after water from the nearby **Lytein river** gushed into it.

10. a

- **NITI Aayog** releases second Delta Ranking of **Aspirational districts**.
- The ranking details the incremental progress achieved by the districts during June to October this year across six key development sectors.

- Virudhunagar district in Tamil Nadu has shown the most improvement overall, followed by Nuapada district in Odisha, Siddarathnagar in Uttar Pradesh.
- Meanwhile, Nagaland's Kiphire district, Jharkhand's Giridih, Chatra in Jharkhand have shown least improvement.

31-12-2018

1) Consider the following statements

1. President can extend the jurisdiction of a high court to any union territory or exclude the jurisdiction of a high court from any union territory.
2. Tamilnadu and Andaman & Nicobar Islands have common high courts.
3. Delhi is the only Union territory that has a high court of its own.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

2) Consider the following statements with respect to Third Pole

1. It is an imaginary point in the sky where the Earth's axis of rotation, indefinitely extended, intersects the celestial sphere.
2. It is much smaller in area than the North or the South Pole.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

3) Consider the following statements with respect to Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO)

1. It is a not for profit Central Public Sector Enterprise.
2. It functions under the administrative control of Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

4) Consider the following statements with respect to Indian Science Congress (ISC), 2019

1. It is going to be held in Hyderabad, Telangana.
2. The theme for this year's edition is "Reaching the Unreached through Science & Technology".

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

5) Consider the following statements

1. It is the most threatened of the five rhino species in the world.
2. It has been classified as critically endangered under the IUCN Red list.
3. Ujung Kulon National Park located near the Anak Krakatau Volcanic Mountain is home to the world's only habitat of this species.

Identify the correct species that correctly matches with the above description

- a. White Rhino
- b. Javan Rhino
- c. Sumatran Rhino
- d. One horned Rhino

6) Lake Urmia which was sometimes seen in the news recently. It is located in which of the following countries?

- a. Iran
- b. Israel
- c. Russia
- d. Armenia

7) Consider the following statements

1. Deoris and sonowal Kacharis are not classified as Scheduled Tribes in Arunachal Pradesh.
2. Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulation Act, 1873 prohibits possession of land and entry in to Arunachal Pradesh without permit by people not belonging to the state.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

8) Consider the following statements

1. It is formed from the oxbows of river Jhelum.
2. It is the second largest lake in Jammu and Kashmir.
3. It is also known as the Srinagar's Jewel.

Identify the Lake that correctly matches with the above description

- a. Dal Lake
- b. Wular Lake
- c. Pangong Tso
- d. Tso moriri

9) "Swayansidha Scheme" was seen in the news recently. It was launched by which of the following state?

- a. West Bengal

- b. Telangana
- c. Kerala
- d. Jammu and Kashmir

10) Consider the following statements with respect to Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD)

1. CBD is an legally binding international treaty.
2. Submission of national reports is a mandatory obligation on Parties to international treaties, including CBD.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

Answers

1. b

- **The Parliament** can extend the jurisdiction of a high court to any union territory or exclude the jurisdiction of a high court from any union territory.
- **Andhra Pradesh and Telangana are set to have separate high courts** by January, 2019.
- This is in line with the Supreme Court order issued to the centre to bifurcate the common Hyderabad high court for both the States.
- With the creation of the new high court, the country now has 25 high courts.

Common High Courts in India

- Following are the list of High Courts which have jurisdiction over more than 1 State/UT.
- Bombay HC – Goa, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu and Maharashtra
- **Calcutta HC – Andaman & Nicobar Islands and West Bengal**
- Guwahati HC – Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Mizoram and Nagaland.

- Kerala HC – Lakshadweep and Kerala
 - Madras HC – Pondicherry and Tamil Nadu
 - Punjab and Haryana HC – Chandigarh, Punjab and Haryana
 - ***Delhi is the only Union territory that has a high court of its own (since 1966).***
2. b
- Third Pole is in the region which is to the north of India and to the south of China.
 - The Third Pole region ***spreads across the Himalaya-Hindu Kush mountain ranges and the Tibetan Plateau.***
 - It is called the Third Pole because ***it contains the third largest expanse of frozen water on earth.***
 - It is ***much smaller in area than the north or the South Pole,*** but is still enormous.
 - Ten of Asia's largest rivers begin in the third pole.
 - These include the Yellow river and Yangtze River in China, the Irrawaddy River in Myanmar, the Ganges which flows through India and Bangladesh, and the Mekong River that flows through several countries.
 - It has the largest reserve of fresh water outside the two major Polar Regions and its waters sustain life over many thousands of miles.
 - ***The Third Pole is in the news as a warning. Temperatures in the Third Pole region have increased by 1.5 degrees – more than double the global average.***
 - ***If the temperature around the Third Pole continues to rise, they may affect the lives of 1.3 billion people – mostly in India and China.***
 - The north and south ***celestial poles*** are the two ***imaginary points in the sky where the Earth's axis of rotation, indefinitely extended, intersects the celestial sphere.***
 - The north and south celestial poles appear permanently directly overhead to an observer at the Earth's North Pole and South Pole, respectively.
3. c
- Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO) is a Schedule 'C' Miniratna Category II ***Central Public Sector Enterprise***, registered under Section 8 (***Not for Profit motive***) of the Companies Act 2013, (corresponding to Section 25 of the Companies Act, 1956).
 - It is functioning under the Administrative Control of ***Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment***, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities.
 - At present ALIMCO has 5 Auxiliary Production Centres (AAPCs) situated at Bhubaneswar (Orissa), Jabalpur (MP), Bengaluru (Karnataka), Chanalon (Punjab) and a new production unit in Ujjain.
 - ALIMCO will establish its sixth AAPC in Faridabad, Haryana.
4. d
- World's largest science meet 'Indian Science Congress (ISC)-2019' is going to be held from 3rd to 7th January 2019, in ***Jalandhar, Punjab.***
 - The 106th edition of ISC-2019 is based on the theme '***Future India: Science and Technology***'.
5. b
- The recent Tsunami in Indonesia has put the spotlight on the country's most endangered animal species – the javan rhino.
 - Experts warn that if another tsunami were to strike, the only surviving javan rhinos in the world could be killed.
6. a
- Lake Urmia which was situated in the mountains of north-western ***Iran*** was once the largest lake in West Asia.
 - The shrinking of ***Lake Urmia*** is one of the world's worst ecological disasters of recent decades.
 - Urmia is fed by 13 rivers and designated as a site of International importance under the UN convention on wetlands that was signed in the Iranian city of Ramsar in 1971.
 - Iran and UN initiated a joint programme in 2013 funded by Japan to save L.Urmia.

7. c

- Recently, the state government was alleged to be planning to grant permanent resident certificate (PRC) to six indigenous groups that are not classified as Scheduled Tribes in the State.
- These communities are **Deori, Sonowal Kachari**, Moran, Mishing, Adivasi and Gorkha.
- The organisations in AP had pointed out that non-Arunachal Pradesh Scheduled Tribes (Non-APSTs) should not be given PRC or land possession certificates in violation of the **Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulation Act of 1873, which prohibits possession of land and entry without permit by people not belonging to the State.**

8. a

- Dal Lake, situated in the northeast of Srinagar (the capital of Jammu and Kashmir) in Kashmir valley, is one of the most beautiful lakes in India and the **second largest lake** in Jammu and Kashmir.

- The lake is probably of fluvial origin, **formed from the oxbows of river Jhelum.**

- Due to its beauty and attraction, Dal lake is also known as the "**Jewel in crown of Kashmir or Srinagar's Jewel**".

9. a

- **West Bengal's** Swayangsiddha scheme, which encourages girls to report stalking or harassment faced either by them or anyone known to them.
- Swayangsiddha boxes have been set up in schools where girls can put chits (complaints).

10. c

Recently, India submitted its Sixth National Report (NR6) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).