



IAS PARLIAMENT
Information is a Blessing
A Shankar IAS Academy Initiative

MONTHLY PRESTORMING

FEBRUARY 2019

Shankar IAS Academy™
Door No 18, New Plot No 259 /109,
AL Block, 4th Avenue, Shanthi Colony,
Annanagar, Chennai - 600040.

INDEX

01-02-2019.....	3
02-02-2019	5
04-02-2019	8
05-02-2019	11
06-02-2019	14
07-02-2019.....	17
08-02-2019	20
09-02-2019	24
11-02-2019.....	27
12-02-2019.....	29
13-02-2019.....	32
14-02-2019.....	35
15-02-2019	38
16-02-2019.....	41
18-02-2019.....	44
19-02-2019.....	48
20-02-2019	52
21-02-2019	55
22-02-2019.....	58
23-02-2019.....	61
25-02-2019.....	64
26-02-2019.....	67
27-02-2019.....	70
28-02-2019	73

01-02-2019

1) "Project 75-I" sometimes seen in the news recently, is associated with which of the following?

- a. Fighter aircrafts
- b. Helicopters
- c. Submarines
- d. Armoured Fighting Vehicles

2) Consider the following statements with respect to Strategic Partnership (SP) model in Defence acquisition

1. It intends to encourage broader participation of the private sector in the manufacture of defence platforms in India.
2. Only four segments have been identified for acquisition under this Strategic Partnership (SP) route.

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 Annual Financial Statement

1. It is not only necessary, but also compulsory.
2. Though both the Houses of Parliament discuss the Budget, only Lok Sabha votes on it.
3. Vote-On-Account covers only the expenditure to be incurred.

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

4) Which one of the following best describes the term "*Interchange Fee*" sometimes seen in the news?

- a. The amount charged from the customers' for using other banks' ATM services after a certain limit
- b. The amount charged by the agency to convert foreign currency into a local currency
- c. The amount paid by the issuing bank to the acquiring bank when the customer of the issuer bank uses the latter's ATM
- d. None of the above

5) Consider the following statements with respect to International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics

1. It is an international non-profit organization that undertakes scientific research for development.
2. Its headquarters is located in Manila, Philippines.

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

6) "*Brumadinho dam*" sometimes seen in the news recently, is located in which of the following countries?

- a. Columbia
- b. Afghanistan
- c. Australia
- d. Brazil

7) "*Naresh Chandra Task force*" is associated with which of the following?

- a. Defence management
- b. Issues with Start-ups
- c. Regulate Fin-tech sector
- d. None of the above

8) The term “Aber” sometimes seen in the news recently, refers to a

- Local term for hangul deer
- Common currency for UAE and Saudi Arabia
- Disputed Island between China and Taiwan
- Mountain in Atacama Desert

9) Consider the following statements with respect to VAJRA Scheme

- It aims to reverse the brain drain process in India.
- It comes under the Ministry of Human Resource Development.

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

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

10) Central African Republic (CAR), sometimes seen in the news recently is bordered by which of the following?

- Kenya
- Congo
- Sudan
- Atlantic Ocean

Select the correct answer using the code given below

- 2 and 3 only
- 1, 2 and 3 only
- 1, 2, 3 and 4 only
- None

Answers

1. c

- The Defence Acquisitions Council (DAC) has recently approved the indigenous construction of six submarines worth 40,000 crore rupees under **project 75(India)**.

- It will provide a major boost to submarine design and manufacturing ecosystem in India through the transfer of design, equipment technology and skill sets.

2. c

- Ministry of Defence's ambitious Strategic Partnership (SP) model aims to provide a significant fillip to the Government's '**Make in India**' programme.

- It envisages indigenous manufacturing of major defence platforms by an **Indian Strategic Partner**, who will collaborate with foreign OEM to set up production facilities in the country.

- The model has a long term vision of promoting India as a manufacturing hub for defence equipment through transfer of niche technologies and higher Indigenous Content thereby enhancing self-sufficiency for meeting the future requirements of the Armed Forces.

- It intends to institutionalise a transparent, objective and functional mechanism to **encourage broader participation of the private sector**, in addition to DPSUs / OFB, in the manufacture of defence platforms and equipment such as aircraft, submarines, helicopters and armoured vehicles.

- The following four segments have been identified for acquisition under Strategic Partnership (SP) route:

- Fighter Aircraft
- Helicopters
- Submarines
- Armoured Fighting Vehicles (AFVs) / Main Battle Tanks (MBTs).

3. d

- Under Article 112 of the Constitution, a Statement of Receipts and Payments (estimated) has to be tabled in the Parliament **for every financial year**.

- If the Budget is not passed within the announced date, Article 116 of the Constitution empowers the Lok Sabha to pass the Vote-On-Account, a document which covers only the expenditure incurred.

- A "vote-on-account" **only deals with the expenditure in Government's budget**,

while an “interim budget” includes both expenditure and receipts.

4. c

- Interchange fee is the amount paid by the issuing bank to the acquiring bank when the customer of the issuer bank uses the latter's ATM.
- Increasing maintenance cost is forcing Indian Public Sector Banks to shut down ATMs, but doing so will only add to their woes as they will consequently incur higher interchange fee.
- This is because they are the biggest issuers of debit cards and cardholders will now be forced to use other banks' ATMs.

5. b

- It is headquartered in Patancheru (Hyderabad, **Telangana, India**).

6. d

- The Brumadinho dam disaster has occurred recently, when a tailings dam at an iron ore mine in Brumadinho, Minas Gerais, **Brazil** suffered a catastrophic failure.
- Global turmoil in the iron ore market followed by this disaster may have come as a **blessing for India's ore mining and pellet-making companies**.

7. a

- In June 2011, government of India had announced setting up a high-powered task force headed by Naresh Chandra, to review the **defense management** in the country and make suggestions for implementation of major defense projects.

8. b

- The central banks of the **UAE and Saudi Arabia** have launched a common **digital currency** called "**Aber**", which will be used in financial settlements between the two countries **through Blockchains and Distributed Ledgers technologies**.

9. d

- The Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB), a statutory body of the Department of Science and Technology (DST) launched the ‘Visiting Advanced Joint Research (VAJRA) Faculty Scheme’.

- It aims to connect the Indian academic and research and development (R&D) systems to the best of global science and scientists for a sustained international collaborative research.
- It is a dedicated program exclusively for overseas scientists and academicians with emphasis on Non-resident Indians (NRI) and Persons of Indian Origin (PIO) / Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) **to work as adjunct / visiting faculty for a specific period of time in Indian Public funded academic and research institutions**.

10. a

- *The United Nations Security Council has recently adopted a resolution to extend sanctions against the Central African Republic (CAR) for another year.*
- CAR is a landlocked country in **Central Africa**.
- It is bordered by Chad to the north, **Sudan** to the northeast, South Sudan to the east, the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the south, the Republic of the **Congo** to the southwest and Cameroon to the west.

02-02-2019

1) Consider the following statements with respect to Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN)

1. Under this scheme, farmers having cultivable land up to 5 hectares will be provided income support at the onset of every harvest year.
2. Funded by the Government of India, this income support will be transferred directly into the bank accounts of beneficiaries.

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) INSTEX Channel sometimes seen in the news recently, is a

- a. Payment channel with Iran to circumvent U.S sanctions
- b. Passage that connects South China Sea with East China Sea
- c. Route to divert investments in Stock exchanges based on algorithms
- d. World's busiest shipping traffic channel located in Red sea

3) "CAR – TTherapy", sometimes seen in the news recently, treats which of the following diseases?

- a. Tuberculosis
- b. Cancer
- c. AIDS
- d. None of the above

4) Consider the following statements with respect to Railguns sometimes seen in the news

- 1. It uses electricity instead of gunpowder to launch projectiles.
- 2. It eliminates the need to store explosives aboard warships.
- 3. United States has recently developed the world's first ship-mounted electromagnetic Rail gun.

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

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

5) Consider the following statements with respect to Pradhan Mantri Shram-Yogi Maandhan

- 1. It is a mega pension scheme for the unorganised sector workers with yearly income up to Rs. 50,000.

- 2. It will provide beneficiaries, an assured monthly pension from the age of 60 years.

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

6) Consider the following statements with respect to Fiscal Deficit (FD)

- 1. It is the difference between the Revenue Receipts plus Non-debt Capital Receipts (NDCR) and the total expenditure.
- 2. It is reflective of the total borrowing requirements of 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

7) The GoI has recently announced that a committee will be constituted to complete the task of identifying De-Notified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Communities which are not yet formally classified, under which of the following organisations?

- a. Ministry of Tribal affairs
- b. Department of Social Justice
- c. National Human Rights Commission
- d. NITI Aayog

8) The Renke Commission and the Idate Commission sometimes seen in the news recently is associated with which of the following?

- a. De-notified and Nomadic tribes
- b. 4R approach in Banking
- c. Artificial Intelligence

d. Disaster Response

9) Consider the following statements with respect to *Rashtriya Kamdhenu Aayog*

1. It aims to upscale sustainable genetic up-gradation of cow resources and to enhance production and productivity of cows.
2. It will look after effective implementation of laws and welfare schemes for cows.

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 *Rashtriya Gokul Mission*

1. It aims to conserve and develop indigenous breeds of cattle.
2. It is run by the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare.

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

- Under this programme, vulnerable landholding farmer families, having cultivable land up to **2 hectares**, will be provided direct income support at the rate of Rs. 6,000 per year.
- This income support will be transferred **directly into the bank accounts** of beneficiary farmers, in three equal instalments of Rs. 2,000 each.

- This programme will be **funded by Government of India**.

- Around 12 crore small and marginal farmer families are expected to benefit from this.

2. a

- **Germany, France and the UK** has set up a payment channel with Iran called INSTEX, to help continue trade and circumvent US sanctions.

3. b

- An 11-year-old has become the first patient to receive CAR-T therapy (immunotherapy) that uses the body's own cells to fight cancer.
- CAR-T is a personalized form of **cancer treatment**.
- CAR-T involves removing immune cells and modifying them in a laboratory so they can recognize cancer cells.
- Immunotherapy is treatment that uses your body's own immune system to help fight cancer.
- First, the patient has blood removed and the white blood cells are separated out, with the rest of the blood being returned to the patient.
- A harmless virus is used to insert genes into T-cells, a special type of immune cell.
- These genes cause the T-cells to add a hook on to their surface, known as a chimeric antigen receptor (CAR).
- These engineered CAR-T cells - programmed to recognize and destroy the patient's cancer cells - are multiplied in huge numbers and then infused back into the patient.

4. b

- The world's first ship-mounted electromagnetic railgun which is developed by the **Chinese Navy** and can strike targets more than 200 km away at seven times the speed of sound was tested in January 2018 and will be ready for deployment by 2025.
- It **use electricity instead of gunpowder to launch projectiles, and therefore, eliminates the need to store explosives aboard warships**.
- Railguns have long been touted as one of the future technologies of warfare, with the ability

to launch projectiles at Mach 6 - or, more than 4,500 miles per hour.

- The Chinese railgun is believed to be capable of launching projectiles at nearly 5,600 miles per hour.
- Because the missile is fired using **kinetic energy, this eliminates the risks associated with keeping explosives on a ship.**
- U.S had a similar project until last year but scrapped its programme citing concerns about the colossal amount of power required to fire them.

5. a

- Government of India in its recent interim budget proposes to launch a mega pension yojana namely '**Pradhan Mantri Shram-Yogi Maandhan**' for the **unorganised sector workers** with **monthly** income upto Rs. 15,000.
- This pension yojana shall provide them an assured monthly pension of Rs. 3,000 from the age of 60 years on a monthly contribution of a small affordable amount during their working age.
- The Government will deposit equal matching share in the pension account of the worker every month.

6. c

- Fiscal deficit for 2019-20 has been pegged at 3.4% of GDP.
- Target of 3% of fiscal deficit to be achieved by 2020-21.
- Fiscal deficit brought down to 3.4% in 2018-19 RE from almost 6% seven years ago.

7. d

- The GoI will setup a Committee under **NITI Aayog** to complete the task of identifying De-notified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic communities not yet formally classified.
- The Government will also set-up a Welfare Development Board under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment specifically for the purpose of implementing welfare and development programmes for De-notified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic communities.

- The Board shall ensure that special strategies are designed and implemented to serve these hard to-reach communities.

8. a

- The GoI will setup a Committee under **NITI Aayog** to complete the task of identifying De-notified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic communities not yet formally classified.
- The Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic communities move from place to place in search of a livelihood.
- These communities are hard to reach, less visible, and therefore, frequently left-out.
- The **Renke Commission and the Idate Commission** has done commendable work to identify and list these communities.

9. c

- **Rashtriya Kamdhenu Aayog** aims to upscale sustainable genetic upgradation of cow resources and to enhance production and productivity of cows.
- The Aayog will also look after effective implementation of laws and welfare schemes for cows.

10. c

- The Budget for the year 2019-20 has increased the allocation for Rashtriya Gokul Mission to Rs. 750 crore.
- It is a scheme, run by the **Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare** aims to conserve and develop **indigenous breeds of cattle**.

04-02-2019

1) Consider the following statements with respect to **Know My India Programme**

1. It is an initiative for Diaspora engagement which familiarizes Indian-origin youth with their Indian roots and contemporary India.
2. It is initiated by 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
- 2) Consider the following statements with respect to Bharat Rang Mahotsav (BRM)**
1. It is an annual International theatre festival of India.
 2. It is being organized by the National School of Drama (NSD).
- 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) Which of the following states has recently became the first State to set up a price monitoring and research unit (PMRU) to track violation of prices of essential drugs and medical devices under the Drugs Price Control Order (DPCO)?**
- a. Kerala
 - b. Tamilnadu
 - c. Odisha
 - d. West Bengal
- 4) Consider the following statements**
1. India has 28 species of turtles, of which 20 are found in Assam.
 2. The black softshell turtle widely found along Indian coast is listed as critically endangered under the IUCN Red list.
- 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 Government e-Marketplace (GeM)**
1. It aims to enhance transparency, efficiency and speed in public procurement.
 2. In its Interim Budget 2019-20, GoI has decided to restrict this platform to only public sector enterprises which have annual net profit of over Rs. 50,00 crore.
- 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) “Lao-Ong Mo” is a post-harvest festival celebrated by which of the following tribes?**
- a. Mundas
 - b. Bhil
 - c. Konyak Naga
 - d. Lepchas
- 7) Consider the following statements with respect to Group of Monuments at Hampi**
1. It is located in the Tungabhadra basin, Karnataka.
 2. Hampi was the last capital of the last great Hindu Kingdom of Vijayanagar.
 3. It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- Which of the statement(s) given above is/are incorrect?
- a. 2 only
 - b. 2 and 3 only
 - c. 1, 2 and 3
 - d. None

8) Consider the following statements with respect to Battle of Chausa

1. It was fought between Sher Shah Suri and the Mughal Emperor Humayun in 1539.
2. At the end of this battle, Humayun left India and went into exile.

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) Rivers Devika and Tawi flows in which of the following states?

- a. Karnataka
- b. Jammu and Kashmir
- c. Meghalaya
- d. Gujarat

10) Pobitora wildlife Sanctuary is located in which of the following states?

- a. Assam
- b. Arunachal Pradesh
- c. Meghalaya
- d. Mizoram

Answers

1. d

- Know My India Programme is a unique programme initiated by the **National Foundation for Communal Harmony (NFCH)** to bring together financially assisted children of the Foundation from different States/Regions of the country to promote oneness, fraternity and national integration.
- The NFCH is an autonomous organization under the administrative control of the **Ministry of Home Affairs**.

- The main objective of the Foundation is to provide assistance to the children / youth rendered orphan / destitute **in communal, caste, ethnic or terrorist violence** for their rehabilitation besides promoting communal harmony and national integration through various activities.

- **Know India Programme (KIP)** is a flagship initiative for Diaspora engagement which familiarizes Indian-origin youth (18-30 years) with their Indian roots and contemporary India, through a three-week orientation programme organised by the **Ministry of External Affairs**.

2. c

- Bharat Rang Mahotsav (BRM), the **annual** international theatre festival of India is organized by the **National School of Drama (NSD)**, was established two decades ago to stimulate the growth and development of theatre across India.
- Originally a national festival showcasing the work of the most creative theatre workers in India, BRM has evolved to international scope, hosting theatre groups from around the world, and is now the **largest theatre festival of Asia**.
- *20th Bharat Rang Mahotsav was recently inaugurated in New Delhi.*

3. a

- **Kerala** has become the first State to set up a price monitoring and research unit (PMRU) to track violation of prices of essential drugs and medical devices under the Drugs Price Control Order (DPCO).

4. a

- The **black softshell turtle** (*Nilssonia nigricans*) figures in the International Union for Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) Red List as "**extinct in the wild**".
- But a few temple ponds in Assam and Bangladesh are bringing these turtles back from the brink.
- Being received the divine protection for many years, the rarest of India's 28 turtle species is back where it belongs (in the wild).

- Recently, 35 hand-reared turtle hatchlings, including 16 black softshells, in the Haduk Beel (wetland) of Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary.
5. a
- Through budget 2019-20, Government e-Marketplace (GeM) is now being extended to **all CPSEs**.
6. c
- “**Lao-Ong Mo**” is a post-harvest festival of the **Konyak Naga** tribe inhabiting the district of Mon, **Nagaland**, running along the Myanmar border.
7. d
- The austere, grandiose site of Hampi was the **last capital of the last great Hindu Kingdom of Vijayanagar**.
 - Group of Monuments at Hampi, a UNESCO World Heritage Site is located in the **Tungabhadra basin** in Bellary District, Central Karnataka.
8. a
- **Battle of Chausa** was fought between Humayun and Sher Shah Suri in 1539.
 - The Mughal forces under Humayun were defeated by Sher Shah. Humayun narrowly escaped.
 - **Battle of Kannauj** in which, Mughal forces once again clashed with Sher Shah in May 1540.
 - This time Humayun was decisively defeated by Sher Shah.
 - Humayun left India and went into exile. He remained in exile for the next 15 years.
9. b
- Recently, Prime Minister has laid foundation stone of the project aimed at reducing pollution of Rivers Devika & Tawi flows in Jammu and Kashmir, under the National River Conservation Plan (NRCP).
 - This project is scheduled for completion by March 2021.
10. a
- Recently, 35 hand-reared turtle hatchlings, including 16 black softshells, in the Haduk Beel (wetland) of Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary.

05-02-2019

1) Consider the following statements with respect to **VISION 2030**, sometimes seen in the news recently.

1. It expresses government's vision for the next two decades, listing thereby ten most important dimensions in 2030.
2. It was launched by the NITI Aayog.

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 **Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) framework**

1. It is imposed on banks whose capital, asset quality, profitability and/or leverage do not meet pre-specified thresholds.
2. It is applicable only to commercial banks and not extended to co-operative banks, non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) and FMs.

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) **“Periodic Labour Force Survey”**, sometimes seen in the news recently, was prepared by which of the following?

- a. Labour Bureau
- b. Society for Labour and Development
- c. NITI Aayog
- d. National Sample Survey Office

4) Senkaku Islands or the Daiyu Islands sometimes seen in the news recently, is located in which of the following?

- a. South China Sea
- b. Pacific Ocean
- c. Sea of Japan
- d. East China Sea

5) Consider the following statements with respect to World Wetlands Day

1. It was celebrated every year to commemorate the adoption of the Convention on Wetlands in the Iranian city of Ramsar, located on the shores of the Caspian Sea.
2. The theme for the year 2019 is 'Wetlands and Climate Change'.

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) "Pink Sarathi Initiative" sometimes seen in the news recently, is going to be launched in which of the following cities?

- a. Chennai
- b. Bengaluru
- c. Mumbai
- d. Kolkata

7) "Miyako strait" sometimes seen in the news recently, separates which of the following two Islands?

- a. Miyako and Osumi
- b. Borneo and Sulawesi
- c. Miyako and Okinawa
- d. Chukchi Peninsula and Cape Prince of Wales

8) Asian Infrastructure Finance 2019 report is released by which of the following?

- a. Asian Development Bank
- b. New Development Bank
- c. Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank
- d. None of the above

9) Shekatkar Committee sometimes seen in the news recently, is associated with?

- a. Rebalancing defence expenditure
- b. Universal Health Coverage
- c. Reservation of women in legislative bodies
- d. None of the above

10) Consider the following pairs

1. Varahi hydel project – Telangana
2. Kiru Hydroelectric project – Maharashtra

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

Answers

1. d

- The **Government** has recently unveiled its vision for the **next decade**, listing thereby ten most important dimensions in 2030.
- This comprehensive ten-dimensional Vision will create an India where poverty, malnutrition, littering and illiteracy would be a matter of the past.
- The vision was presented by the Indian Finance Minister during his **Budget speech** recently in Parliament.

2. c

- The RBI has specified certain regulatory trigger points, as a part of PCA Framework for

initiation of certain structured and discretionary actions in respect of banks hitting such trigger points.

- Under the revised PCA framework: Capital, Asset quality and Profitability continue to be the key areas for monitoring.
- Indicators to be tracked for Capital, asset quality and profitability would be CRAR/ **Common Equity Tier I ratio**, Net NPA ratio (NNPA) and Return on Assets (RoA) respectively.
- **Leverage would be monitored additionally** as part of the PCA framework.
- The PCA framework is applicable **only** to commercial banks and **not extended to** co-operative banks, non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) and FMs.

3. d

- The **National Sample Survey Office's** Periodic Labour Force Survey showed that India's labour force participation rate, which is the proportion of the population working or seeking jobs, fell to 49.8% in 2017-'18 from 55.9% in 2011-'12.

4. d



- At the heart of the dispute between the **China and Japan** are eight uninhabited islands and rocks in the **East China Sea**.
- The Japanese call them **Senkaku**, and designate them as sovereign territory.

- On the contrary, China also claimed these islands and named them as **Diaoyu Islands**.
- Currently, these Islands are administered by Japan.
- *Recently, large ships of the Japanese Coast Guard keep a tight round-the-clock vigil on this group of Islands.*
- *Their mission is to ensure that Japan maintains its hold over these small but strategically significant islands in the East China Sea.*

5. c

- World Wetlands Day is celebrated every year on 2 February.
- This day marks the date of the adoption of the Convention on Wetlands on 2 February 1971, in the Iranian city of Ramsar on the shores of the **Caspian Sea**.
- The theme for 2019 is '**Wetlands and Climate Change**'.

6. b

- The Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) will soon have a fleet of 25 **Pink Sarathi** vehicles on the city's roads **to attend to the complaints of women passengers** travelling in its buses.
- The vehicles were procured under the Central government's Nirbhaya scheme.

7. c



- The 250 km wide passageway **Miyako Strait** between the **Miyako and Okinawa**

islands is seen as a major choke-point through which China's People's Liberation Army Navy can channel into the West Pacific, dominated by the U.S. Navy.

- Recently, large ships of the Japanese Coast Guard keep a tight round-the-clock vigil on this group of Islands.
- Their mission is to ensure that Japan maintains its hold over these small but strategically significant islands in the **East China Sea**.

8. c

9. a

- The Committee of Experts (CoE) constituted by the Ministry of Defence under the chairmanship of Lt. Gen (Retd) DB **Shekatkar** to recommend measures to **enhance combat capability and rebalance defence expenditure** of the armed forces, submitted its report in December 2016.

10. d

- Recently, PM has laid the foundation stone of 624 MW **Kiru Hydroelectric project** in Kishtwar, **Jammu Kashmir**.
- It is a run of river project across River Chenab and once completed, the project will generate 2272 Million Units of electricity annually.
- PM has also inaugurated the 9 MW **Dah Hydroelectric project**.
- Located in Dah near village Datang, this project is a run-of-the-river scheme, by **Jammu & Kashmir State Power Development Corporation Limited**.
- Tremors of light intensity were experienced in villages in the vicinity of **Varahi hydroelectric project** in Hosanagar and Thirthahalli taluks of Shivamogga district, **Karnataka**.

06-02-2019

1) Consider the following statements with respect to **Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan**

1. It envisages school education as a continuum from pre-school to senior secondary level and aims to ensure

inclusive and equitable quality education at all levels.

2. It subsumes three erstwhile Schemes of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) and Teacher Education (TE).

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 **Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana (RVY)**

1. It will provide physical aids and assisted-living devices for senior citizens belonging to BPL category.
2. It is being implemented through the Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation (ALIMCO).

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 **Pre-Departure Orientation Training (PDOT) Programme**

1. It provides requisite Pre-Departure Orientation and aims to enhance the soft skills of potential emigrants.
2. The Ministry of External Affairs in collaboration with Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship is conducting the programme.
3. National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) is the implementing agency for this programme.

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

- a. 2 only

- b. 3 only
- c. 2 and 3 only
- d. None

4) Consider the following statements with respect to employment of women in Indian mines

1. The Mines Act, 1952 prohibited the employment of women in any part of a mine.
2. Recently, the Ministry of Mines has issued a notification, easing the restrictions and allowed women to work in mines.

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 GSAT-31

1. It is an imaging satellite meant exclusively for military purposes.
2. It was launched using Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) C-45.

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 Pravasi Kaushal Vikas Yojana

1. It aims to enable a large number of youths to take up industry-relevant skill training that will help them in securing a better livelihood in India.
2. The scheme has been implemented by National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC).

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 Earthquake swarm

1. It is a series of low magnitude earthquakes without a discernible main shock.
2. It occurs over a period of time ranging from days, weeks to even months.

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) Global Crisis of Nuclear Waste Report sometimes seen in the news recently, was published by which of the following agencies?

- a. Atomic Energy Commission
- b. International Energy Agency
- c. International Atomic Energy Agency
- d. Green Peace

9) Consider the following statements with respect to President's address to the Parliament

1. Originally, the Constitution required the President to address both Houses of Parliament at the commencement of every session.
2. The speech will be drafted by the President's Secretariat Office.

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. Arabithittu WLS – Karnataka
2. Tungareshwar WLS – Telangana
3. Thane Creek Flamingo WLS – Maharashtra

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

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

Answers

1. c

- Department of School Education and Literacy has launched an Integrated Scheme for School Education called **Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan**.
- It subsumes three erstwhile Centrally Sponsored Schemes of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) and Teacher Education (TE).
- The new integrated scheme envisages school education as a continuum from pre-school to senior secondary level.

2. c

- The Ministry of **Social Justice and Empowerment** has introduced a scheme for providing physical aids and Assisted Living Devices for Senior Citizens belonging to BPL category named “Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana (RVY)” on 1st April, 2017.
- It provides Senior Citizens, belonging to BPL category and suffering from age related disabilities/ infirmities, with such physical aids and assisted living devices which can restore near normalcy in their bodily functions.
- The Scheme is being implemented through the **“Artificial Limbs Manufacturing**

Corporation (ALIMCO)”, a Public Sector Undertaking under the Ministry of SJ&E, as the sole Implementing Agency.

3. d

- PDOT Programme provides requisite Pre-Departure Orientation (PDO) with regard to language, culture, do's and don'ts in the destination country and aims to enhance the soft skills of potential emigrants.
- The **Ministry of External Affairs** (MEA) in collaboration with **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship** (MSDE) is conducting the PDOT programme under the **Pravasi Kaushal Vikas Yojna** (PKVY).
- The **National Skill Development Corporation** (NSDC) is the implementing agency for this programme.

4. d

- Recently, the **Ministry of Labour** has **lifted the time bar** on the employment of women in mines across the country.
- Previously Section 46 of the Mines Act, 1952 prohibited the employment of any women in any part of a mine which is below-ground and on ground, **except between 6 a.m. and 7 p.m.**

5. d

- India's **telecommunication satellite**, GSAT-31 was successfully launched on February 06, 2019 from Kourou launch base, **French Guiana** by **Ariane-5 VA-247**.
- The satellite provides Indian mainland and island coverage.
- With a mission life of around 15 years, GSAT-31 will be used for supporting VSAT networks, Television uplinks, Digital Satellite News Gathering, DTH-television services, cellular backhaul connectivity and many such applications.

6. b

- Pravasi Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PKVY) is aimed at **providing suitable skill sets for those seeking employment abroad** by training them in different trades and also imparting soft skills.

- PKVY is a skill development initiative by the Ministry of External Affairs.
- The MEA and the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) had signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for its implementation.
- The scheme will be implemented by **National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC)** through its training partners in consultation with Ministry of External Affairs and Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.

7. c

- Earthquake swarm is a series of many (sometimes thousands) **low magnitude earthquakes without a discernible main shock**.
- They occur in a localised region and over a period of time ranging from **days, weeks to even months**, without a clear sequence of foreshocks, main quakes and aftershocks.
- When seismic energy piles up inside the Earth and is released in small amounts from certain points, such a series of earthquakes can occur.
- Sometimes, these are also accompanied by acoustic or sound emissions.
- Dahanu town in Maharashtra's Palghar district has been hit by some 30 low-intensity earthquakes since November 2018.*
- Palghar was rocked by a series of minor earthquakes (6 tremors) on a single day recently.*
- The magnitudes of the quakes ranged between 3 and 4.1 on the Richter scale.*
- Many aftershocks of lesser magnitude have also been observed in the area.*
- Data collected so far point to an "earthquake swarm".*

8. d

- The **Global Crisis of Nuclear Waste** is a report published by **Greenpeace France** in January 2019.
- An analysis of waste storage facilities in **seven countries** with nuclear power revealed that **several were near saturation**.

9. a

- Article 87(1) originally required the President to address both Houses of Parliament at the commencement of **every session**.
- The Constitution (**First Amendment**) Act, 1951, **amended** this provision.
- Article 87(1) says: "At the commencement of the first session after each general election to the House of the People and at the commencement of the first session of each year the President shall address both Houses of Parliament assembled together and inform Parliament of the causes of its summons."
- The President's Address is the statement of policy of the Government and as such is **drafted by the Government**.
- It is not the President but the Government which is responsible for the contents of the Address.

10. c

- The Mumbai-Ahmadabad high speed (Bullet) train corridor project was accorded wildlife clearance recently.
- The project will consume lands from the **Thane Creek Flamingo (TCF) Wildlife Sanctuary, Maharashtra**.
- Apart from the creek, the project also involves diverting forestland and non-forestland from the Sanjay Gandhi National Park which houses leopards and the **Tungareshwar Wildlife Sanctuary, Maharashtra**.
- Sri Chamarajendra Zoological Gardens in Mysuru has successfully translocated 52 spotted deer that were in surplus in its collection to **Arabitthittu wildlife sanctuary in Karnataka**.

07-02-2019

- Consider the following statements with respect to Agri-Market Infrastructure Fund (AMIF)
 - It is a corpus of Rs. 2,000 crore under the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD).
 - It was created for the development and up-gradation of agricultural marketing infrastructure in rural and regulated wholesale 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

2) Consider the following statements with respect to *Darwaza Band -Part 2' campaign*

1. It was launched by Swachh Bharat Mission Grameen across the country.
2. It focuses on sustaining the open defecation free status of villages across the country.
3. It has been supported by the World Bank.

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

3) Consider the following statements with respect to North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)

1. It is an alliance of 29 countries only from North America and Europe.
2. The fundamental role of NATO is to safeguard the freedom and security of its member countries by political and military means.

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) The Report on Social Protection for Children sometimes seen in the news recently, is released jointly by

- a. UNESCO and World Bank
- b. UNICEF and ILO
- c. World Bank and WEF
- d. UN and Amnesty International

5) Consider the following statements with respect to Rebate of State Levies (RoSL) Scheme

1. It is a subsidy scheme which involves refund of taxes and levies paid by exporters.
2. Currently, it is applicable only to exporters of apparels and made-ups.

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 Indo-Saracenic architecture

1. It is a revival architectural style used by British architects in India in the 19th century.
2. The Madras High Court buildings are an example of this style.

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) "Exercise RAHAT" sometimes seen in the news recently, is associated with

- a. Oil spillage
- b. Rehabilitation of Naxal
- c. Humanitarian assistance
- d. Protection of threatened species

8) Consider the following statements with respect to Merchandise Export Incentive Scheme (MEIS)

1. Under the Scheme, the government gives incentives to exporters' equivalent to a certain percentage of their export value.
2. It is being implemented 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

9) Which of the following product(s) does not have a GI tag?

1. Rasagola
2. Silao Khaja
3. Rajamudi rice
4. Tirupathi Laddu
5. Kangra Paintings

Select the correct answer using the code given below

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

10) Consider the following statements with respect to National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation (NMDFC)

1. It is a not for profit company established under the companies act 1956.
2. It works under the aegis of Ministry of Finance.

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 Cabinet Committee of Economic Affairs recently gave its approval for the creation of a corpus of Rs. 2000 crore for Agri-Market Infrastructure Fund (AMIF) to be created with NABARD for development and upgradation of agricultural marketing infrastructure in Gramin Agricultural Markets and Regulated Wholesale Markets.*

2. d

- *The Swachh Bharat Mission Grameen* has recently launched the Part two of Darwaza Band campaign which focuses on **sustaining the open defecation free status** of villages across the country.
- The 'Darwaza Band- Part 2' campaign has been supported by the **World Bank** and is being rolled out **countrywide** immediately after the launch.

3. c

- The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) is an alliance of 29 countries from North America and Europe committed to fulfilling the goals of the North Atlantic Treaty signed on 4 April 1949.
- In accordance with the Treaty, the fundamental role of NATO is to safeguard the freedom and security of its member countries by political and military means.
- Macedonia has recently signed an accord to join NATO to become the 30th member of the US-led alliance.
- The Macedonia-NATO accord follows a deal with Greece ending a 27-year-old dispute over Macedonia's name.
- ***The accord must now be ratified by allied governments.***

4. b

- India is second only to sub-Saharan Africa in how many poor children live in the country, states a joint report on Social Protection for Children released by **UNICEF and**

International Labour Organization (ILO).

5. b

- The RoSL, a scheme under which exporters can claim refunds from the Centre for all the levies and duties they pay at the **State level**, is extended **only to exporters of apparel and made-ups**.
- *With India's eligibility to extend direct sops to exporters coming under the World Trade Organisation (WTO) scanner, the government is examining the industry's suggestion of expanding the scope and coverage of the Rebate of State Levies (RoSL).*
- *RoSL Scheme does not flout global trade rules as it involves refund of taxes and levies paid by exporters, and is not a subsidy scheme like Merchandise Export Incentive Scheme (MEIS).*

6. c

7. c

- 'EXERCISE RAHAT' is a Joint Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief Exercise.
- It was conducted by the Jaipur based Sapta Shakti Command on behalf of Indian Army.
- The Joint exercise in coordination with NDMA is being conducted to synergise efforts for humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations.

8. c

- At present, bulk of the incentives to exporters is under the popular MEIS wherein the government gives incentives to exporters' equivalent to a certain percentage of their export value **in the form of duty credit scrips** that can be used to pay customs duties and are freely transferable.
- But with the WTO now ruling that since India's per capita Gross National Income is over \$1,000 it is no longer eligible to give direct subsidies such as the ones offered under MEIS, such schemes have to be phased out.
- Since the government is not keen on giving more direct export subsidies such as the one given under the MEIS, the ROSL becomes more relevant.

9. a

- Geographical Indications Registry at Chennai has recently granted GI tag to Silao Khaja, the traditional delicacy of Nalanda district, **Bihar**.
- Rajamudi is a traditional red rice variety of Old Mysore region, which was patronised by the "royals" (and hence the nomenclature).
- There is a serious effort on to secure GI tag for the 'royal rice'.
- If all goes as planned, Rajamudi will join the league of Basmati and get a Geographical Indication (GI) tag in recognition of its unique qualities.

10. a

- The National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation (NMDFC) is a not for profit company under the companies act 1956.
- It works under the aegis of Ministry of **Minority Affairs**.
- It is a National Level Apex Body for the benefit of Minorities as defined under the National Commission for Minorities Act 1992.
- The prime mandate of NMDFC is to provide concessional finance to the Minorities for self-employment/ income generation activities.
- The notified Minorities in India are Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists & Parsis and Jain.
- Under NMDFC program, preference is given to Artisans & Women.

08-02-2019

1) Consider the following statements with respect to Atal Bhujal Yojana

1. It is a pan-Indian program aimed at sustainable ground water management through community participation.
2. The funding pattern is 50:50 between Government of India and World Bank.

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) “*International Intellectual Property Index*” was recently released by which of the following?

- a. World Bank
- b. World Economic Forum
- c. World Intellectual Property Organisation
- d. US Chambers of Commerce

3) Consider the following statements with respect to Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)

- 1. States cannot deny entry to the CBI to probe cases referred by the Constitutional courts.
- 2. Withdrawal of consent to CBI by a state government can be effected prospectively and not retrospectively.

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 Ocean Rim Association (IORA)

- 1. It is an Inter-governmental International organisation.
- 2. All sovereign States of the Indian Ocean Rim are eligible for membership of the association.
- 3. India is the current Chair of IORA.

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

5) “*Water Conservation Fee*” sometimes seen in the news recently is?

- a. The amount charged for the use of ground water
- b. The amount charged from the exporters of water intensive crops
- c. The incentive given to consumers who follow water conservation measures
- d. None of the above

6) Consider the following statements with respect to e-NAM portal

- 1. It is a pan-Indian electronic trading portal which seeks to replace the existing APMC market through a virtual platform.
- 2. This portal only supports intra-state trade and does not support inter-state transactions.

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 Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) treaty

- 1. It is a treaty among UN member countries that prohibited development, testing and possession of conventional as well as nuclear missiles.
- 2. The treaty did not cover sea based or air launched missiles.
- 3. Recently, U.S.A has decided to withdraw from the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) treaty.

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

8) "Ekkalam" is an aerophone musical instrument mainly used in which of the following states?

- Gujarat
- Tamilnadu
- Odisha
- West Bengal

9) Consider the following statements with respect to Ratoon cropping

- It is a form of cultivation in which a second crop is allowed to grow from the remains of one already harvested.
- Ratooning can be used endlessly as the yield and quality increases after each cycle.

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

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

10) Consider the following statements with respect to Tornado

- It is a violent, whirling windstorm that moves in funnel fashion, with the broad end of the funnel scraping dark clouds in the sky and the narrow end, touching the earth.
- Tornadoes occur only in the United States of America.

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

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

Answers

1. b

- Atal Bhujal Yojana (ABHY) aimed at sustainable ground water management with **community participation** in **select** over-exploited and ground water stressed areas in **seven States** (Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh).
- ABHY is designed as a Central Sector Scheme with a total outlay of Rs. 6,000 Crore and is proposed to be implemented with World Bank assistance.
- The funding pattern is **50:50** between Government of India and World Bank.
- India has climbed eight places to rank 36th in the latest **annual International IP Index** released by the **US Chambers of Commerce**.
- In 2018 International Intellectual Property Index, India was ranked 44 out of 50 countries.
- The CBI, which functions under the provisions of the Delhi Special Police Establishment (DSPE) Act, 1946, can probe offences in a state with prior approval of the state government concerned.
- Further, **Constitutional courts** can also entrust any case or class of case for investigation in exercise of inherent jurisdiction **even without the consent** of the respective **state government**.
- Further, in the cases which are referred by the **Constitutional courts**, the **entry of CBI cannot be denied** by that state as these do not require the consent of the state.
- Withdrawal of consent, if any, by a state government can be effected **prospectively and not retrospectively**.
- It is an **Intergovernmental organization** which was established on 1997.
- It is a dynamic organisation of 22 Member States and 9 Dialogue Partners.

- All sovereign States of the Indian Ocean Rim are eligible for membership of the Association.
 - India is a member.
 - IORA's apex body is the Council of Foreign Ministers (COM) which meets annually.
 - The **Republic of South Africa assumed the role of chair** for 2017-2019.
 - The meeting of Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) Cluster Group on Disaster Risk Management (DRM) to strengthen cooperation in disaster response concluded recently.
5. a
- Ground water extraction in India is regulated by **Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA)** constituted under the **Environment (Protection) Act of 1986**.
 - Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) under Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation had recently notified revised guidelines to regulate and control ground water extraction in India, **which was proposed to be effective from 01.06.2019**.
 - As per these revised guidelines, Water Conservation Fee (WCF) would be **levied for use of ground water** depending on the category of area, type of industry and quantum of ground water withdrawal.
6. d
- e-NAM (National Agriculture Market) is a pan-Indian electronic trading (e-trading) portal which seeks to **network** the existing physical regulated wholesale market (known as APMC market) through a virtual platform to create a unified national market for agricultural commodities.
 - *Inter State trade of agricultural produce in wholesale mandis through National Agriculture Market (e-NAM) platform is gathering pace in recent times.*
7. c
- Under the INF Treaty, the **United States and Soviet Union** agreed to ban all **land-based ballistic and cruise missiles** with ranges between 500 and 5,500 kilometres.
 - The ban applied to missiles with both **nuclear and conventional** warheads, but it **did not apply to sea-based or air-delivered missiles**.
 - The U.S. has recently decided to withdraw from the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) treaty with Russia.
 - The U.S.'s unilateral withdrawal from a nuclear treaty threatens to trigger a new arms race.
8. b
- The ekkalam is an aerophone instrument mainly used in **Tamil Nadu**, India.
 - It is made of brass or copper. It consists of four valves that are fastened to each other, with a bell at one end.
 - This instrument produces sound by vibration of air injected by the player, altering the pitch by changing the lip tension and the power of air flow.
 - It is played in temple festivals or celebrations.
 - It is usually played along with a drum or with another ekkalam.
9. a
- Ratoon cropping is a form of cultivation in which **a second crop is allowed to grow from the remains of one already harvested**.
 - It is also called **stubble cropping** as the new plants grow from the stubble of the harvested crop.
 - Sugarcane, pineapple and banana are crops in which this method is practised.
 - Ratooning **cannot be used endlessly** as the yield and quality decrease after each cycle.
 - In sugarcane, for example, two or three ratooning crops are possible. After which fresh planting has to be done.
 - Rice ratooning is also possible if adequate water is available for the second crop.
10. a
- A tornado is a violent, whirling windstorm that moves in funnel fashion, with the broad end of the funnel scraping dark clouds in the sky and the narrow end, touching the earth.

- The wind speeds are tremendous, usually about 177 kilometres per hour but sometimes touching 480 kilometres per hour or more.
- The violently rotating winds blow down almost everything in their path, and a powerful updraft of air inside the funnel can suck up large objects and carry them long distances.
- Tornadoes can happen practically **anywhere in the world** but they occur mostly in the United States.

09-02-2019

1) Consider the following statements with respect to CUTLASS EXPRESS – 19

1. It is a maritime exercise between Indian Navy and Mauritius Navy.
2. The aim of the exercise was to progress inter-operability for the purpose of interdicting illegal maritime activity in the Western Indian Ocean.

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 Convention on Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS)

1. It is an environmental treaty under the aegis of United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).
2. India has been a Party to the CMS since its inception.
3. 13th Conference of Parties (COP) of the Convention is going to be hosted by Russia in 2020.

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) Consider the following statements with respect to Central Asian Flyway (CAF)

1. It covers a large continental area of Asia between the Pacific and Indian Ocean and the associated island chains.
2. Indian sub-continent is a part of the Central Asian Flyway (CAF).

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) cVIGIL app is an initiative of which of the following agencies?

- a. Election Commission of India
- b. Central Vigilance Commission
- c. Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs
- d. Food Safety and Standards Authority of India

5) Consider the following statements with respect to Solid Fuel Ducted Ramjet (SFDR) propulsion technology

1. It is an indigenous technology jointly developed by the ISRO and DRDO.
2. This technology uses the air as an oxidizer thus eliminates the need for a propellant.

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) Which of the following birds/animals can be spotted in India?

1. Amur Falcons

2. Bar headed Gheese
3. Black necked cranes
4. Marine turtles
5. Dugongs
6. Humpbacked Whales

Select the correct answer using the code given below

- a. 1, 3, 4 and 5 only
- b. 1, 2, 3 and 5 only
- c. 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 only
- d. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6

7) Consider the following statements

1. HeliNa is an indigenously developed air-to-land version of Nag missile.
2. Nag missile is one of the five missile systems developed by DRDO under the Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme (IGMDP).

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 Mera aspataal initiative

1. It captures patient feedback for the services received at the hospital through user-friendly multiple channels.
2. It is an initiative launched by 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

9) Albendazole is a medication used for the treatment of which of the following?

- a. Seasonal Influenza
- b. Tuberculosis
- c. Worm infestations
- d. None of the above

10) Consider the following statements with respect to Competition Commission of India (CCI)

1. It is a statutory body.
2. It is responsible for enforcing the Competition Act, 2002 throughout India.

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

- INS Trikand, a front-line warship of the **Indian Navy**, participated in a **multinational training exercise** 'CUTLASS EXPRESS – 19' held from 27 Jan to 06 Feb 19.

- The aim of the exercise was to improve law enforcement capacity, promote regional security and progress inter-operability between the armed forces of the participating nations for the purpose of interdicting illegal maritime activity in the **Western Indian Ocean**.

2. b

- The **13th Conference of Parties (COP)** of the Convention on the conservation of migratory species of wild animals (CMS), an environmental treaty under the aegis of **United Nations Environment Programme**, is going to be hosted by India during 15th to

22nd February, 2020 at **Gandhinagar in Gujarat.**

- CMS, also referred to as the **Bonn Convention** provides a global platform for the conservation and sustainable use of migratory animals and their habitats and brings together the States through which migratory animals pass, the Range States, and lays the legal foundation for internationally coordinated conservation measures throughout a migratory range.
- **India has been a Party to the CMS since 1983** when the convention entered into force.
- The Conference of Parties (COP) is the decision-making organ of this convention.
- India has also signed non legally binding MOU with CMS on the conservation and management of Siberian Cranes (1998), Marine Turtles (2007), Dugongs (2008) and Raptors (2016).

3. b

- The **Indian sub-continent** is also **part** of the major bird flyway network, i.e, the **Central Asian Flyway (CAF)** that covers areas between the **Arctic and Indian Oceans**, and covers at least 279 populations of 182 migratory water bird species, including 29 globally threatened species.
- India has also launched the **National Action Plan for conservation of migratory species** under the Central Asian Flyway.

4. a

- Election Commission of India (ECI) has recently conducted a 2-day intensive Training-cum-Workshop on the use of Information & Communication Technology for the conduct of General Elections 2019.
- One of the important applications for which training was imparted to all States and UTs was **cVIGIL**.
- cVIGIL App provides time-stamped, evidence based proof of Model Code of Conduct / Expenditure Violation, having live photo/video with auto location data.
- Any citizen can lodge a complaint through Mobile App.
- Flying Squads then investigate the matter and the Returning Officer takes the decision.

- ECI has also launched a **Voter Verification and Information Programme (VVIP)** for citizens for verifications of their names, new registrations, and changes in the voter details and corrections in the Voter Id Cards for the upcoming General Elections 2019 during the workshop.

5. d

- The SFDR technology was jointly developed by **India (DRDO) and Russia**.
- The ramjet propulsion system used in the SFDR acts as an oxidizer and the **solid propellant** reacts as air flows through a solid propellant duct.
- Unlike conventional rockets that carry propellant and oxidizer, Ramjet uses the air as an oxidizer just like a jet engine. Therefore the weight of the fuel required is eliminated.
- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully flight tested the second indigenously developed 'Solid Fuel Ducted Ramjet (SFDR)' propulsion based missile system from ITR, Chandipur, Odisha recently.
- The success of SFDR propulsion technology will pave the way for the development of long-range air-to-air missiles in the country.

6. d

- India is temporary home to several migratory animals and birds.
- The important among these include **Amur Falcons, Bar headed Gheese, Black necked cranes, Marine turtles, Dugongs, Humpbacked Whales**, etc.

7. c

- HeliNa is an **air-to-land version** of **Nag missile**, which is one of the five missile systems developed by DRDO under the Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme (**IGMDP**).
- India, successfully flight tested the **indigenously developed** and modified anti-tank missile HeliNa, guided from a defence facility off Odisha coast paving the way for its actual launch from helicopter.

8. d

- Mera aspatal (My Hospital) is a **Ministry of Health**, Government of India initiative **to capture patient feedback for the services received at the hospital** through user-friendly multiple channels such as Short Message Service (SMS), Outbound Dialling (OBD) mobile application and web portal.
- The patient can submit the feedback in seven different languages on mobile app and web portal; for the hospitals visited in last 7 days.
- It will help the government to take appropriate decisions for enhancing the quality of healthcare delivery across public facilities which will improve the patient's experience.

9. c

10. b

- Competition Commission of India is a **statutory body** of the Government of India, responsible for enforcing the **Competition Act, 2002** throughout India (except J&K) and to prevent activities that have an adverse effect on competition.

11-02-2019

1) One Astronomical unit correspond to the distance between

- a. Sun and Moon
- b. Moon and Earth
- c. Earth and Sun
- d. None of the above

2) Which of the following actions are carried out by Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)?

1. To help eliminate hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition
2. Make agriculture, forestry and fisheries more productive and sustainable
3. Reduce rural poverty
4. Increase the resilience of livelihoods to threats and crises

Select the correct answer using the code given below

- a. 1, 2 and 3 only

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

3) Consider the following statements regarding "Hydro Seismicity",

- a. It is a phenomenon of occurrence of multiple tremors under water caused by the slow movement of tectonic plates.
- b. It is caused by the emergence of geothermally heated groundwater that rises from the Earth's crust
- c. It refers to rise in groundwater pressure released in earthquake swarms due to entering of heavy rainfall in small fractures in rocks
- d. It refers to an induced earthquake caused by hydraulic fracturing.

4) Open Acreages Licensing Policy is related to

- a. Exploration of Hydrocarbons
- b. Land acquisition under UDAN
- c. National Highway Development
- d. Swachh Bharat

5) Consider the following statements about Akshaya Patra Foundations

1. It is a non-profit organisation
2. It is an implementing partner of Mid-Day Meal Scheme

Which of the above statements is/are true?

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

6) Which of the following statements about "Kaleswaram Project" is true?

- a. It is a part of Mission Bhagiratha implemented by Telangana to provide piped drinking water to every household

- b. It is an irrigation project implemented by Maharashtra to provide water supply in drought hit Vidarbha region
- c. It is an irrigation project implemented in Telangana to utilize water from Godavari River
- d. It is a part of Polavaram multi-purpose irrigation project implemented by Andhra Pradesh.

7) Consider the following statements regarding “*Sampoorna Bima Gram Yojana*”

- 1. It is implemented by Ministry of Communication.
- 2. Its objective is to provide internet connectivity to villages by establishing optical fibre network

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

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

8) Consider the following statements regarding Kanger Ghati National Park

- 1. It is located near Jagdalpur in the Bastar region of Chhattisgarh.
- 2. It is known for Hill Myna.
- 3. It is located in the catchment area of Godavari River.

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

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

9) Consider the following statements about Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM)

- 1. It is an exclusively Asian-European forum.

- 2. The discussions that happen in the forum are non-binding
- 3. Ulaanbaatar declaration was aimed to prevent drug trafficking.

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. All of the above

10) Consider the following statements

- 1. Algae can be used to generate bio-fuels
- 2. Fungi are natural bio-indicators
- 3. Anthrax is caused by bacteria.

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

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

Answers

1. c
 - As the distance between the Earth and the Sun varies during Earth's revolution and with improving technology affording better measurements, the definition of an AU by the International Astronomical Union (IAU) has varied with time.
 - The latest definition was adopted in a meeting of the IAU in 2012, when members voted to make the AU an exact 149,597,870,700 mt, which is the average mean distance between the Earth and the Sun when viewed from the Earth.
2. d
3. c
 - In “hydro-seismicity” water from heavy rainfall enters small fractures in rocks, which raises the pressure.

- The pressure built up due to the rise in ground water is released in earthquake swarms.
 - It is estimated that with every 10 meter rise in groundwater pore pressure increases by 1 bar.
4. a
5. c
6. c
7. a
• Its objective is to give rural people affordable life insurance services.
8. d
9. a
• **Ulaanbaatar declaration** resolved to fight against terrorism.
10. d

12-02-2019

1) Consider the following statements with respect to Gateway of India

1. It is an arch monument built during 20th century.
2. It was erected to commemorate the Indian soldiers who lost their lives fighting for the British Army during the World War I.
3. It is built in Indo-Saracenic style.

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

2) Consider the following statements with respect to World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS)

1. It is the annual flagship event organised by NITI Aayog.
2. WSDS 2019 will focus on the theme, 'Attaining the 2030 Agenda: Delivering on our Promise'.

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 Swachh Shakti-2019

1. It is a national event attended by women Panches and Sarpanches from across the country.
2. The First edition of the event Swachh Shakthi will be held in Kurukshetra, Haryana.
3. It is being organized by the Ministry of Women and Child Development in association with the Govt. of Haryana.

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

4) *Blue Flame Revolution* sometimes seen in the news recently, is associated with which of the following?

- a. Nuclear Energy
- b. Clean cooking fuel
- c. Fishing and its allied sectors
- d. Offshore oil production

5) Consider the following statements with respect to Cultural Heritage Youth Leadership Programme (CHYLP)

1. It envisaged enriching awareness of Indian culture amongst the youth in order to promote fondness for India's rich cultural heritage.
2. Currently, it is being implemented by the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT).

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

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

6) DD Arunprabha, a dedicated 24x7 Doordarshan satellite channel was launched recently for which of the following states?

- Jammu and Kashmir
- Arunachal Pradesh
- Chhattisgarh
- Uttarakhand

7) Every Finance Commission has a special theme. What is the special theme of the Fifteenth Finance Commission?

- Health and Education
- GST Restructuring
- Poverty and Unemployment
- Global warming and Climate Change

8) Consider the following statements with respect to e-office Project

- It is a mission mode project under the National e-Governance Plan.**
- It seeks to replace the physical files and documents with an efficient electronic system.**
- It is being implemented by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG).**

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

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

9) Dard Aryan tribes sometimes seen in the news recently, inhabit which of the following states?

- Jammu and Kashmir
- Odisha
- Chhattisgarh
- Arunachal Pradesh

10) Consider the following statements

- India is the second largest producer of silk after China.**
- India is the largest consumer of silk.**

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

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

Answers

1. c

- The Maharashtra government has recently initiated a plan to clean, restore and beautify the iconic Gateway of India in South Mumbai.*
- The Gateway of India is an arch monument built during the 20th century.
- The iconic structure, which overlooks the Arabian Sea, was erected to commemorate the visit of **King George V and Queen Mary** at Apollo Bunder to Mumbai.
- The foundation stone of the monument was laid on March 31, 1913 and its construction was completed in 1924.
- It is built in **Indo-Saracenic style**.
- India Gate** which stands at the centre of New Delhi commemorates the 70,000 Indian soldiers who lost their lives fighting for the British Army during the World War I.
- The memorial bears the names of more than 13,516 British and Indian soldiers killed in the North-western Frontier in the Afghan war of 1919.

2. b

- The World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS) is the **annual** flagship event of **The Energy and Resources Institute**(TERI).
- WSDS 2019 will focus on the theme, '**Attaining the 2030 Agenda: Delivering on our Promise**'.
- The “mega themes” to be addressed during the event are clean oceans, climate finance, energy transitions, mobility and sustainable agriculture.

3. a

- Swachh Shakti-2019 is a **national event** which aims to bring in to focus the leadership role played by rural women in Swachh Bharat Mission.
- Women **Sarpanches and Panches** from **all over the country** will be attending the event.
- The Ministry of **Drinking Water and Sanitation** in association with the **Govt. of Haryana** is organizing the Swachh Shakti-2019.
- Best practices from grass root level in the rural areas for Swachh Bharat will be shared by them.
- The event will showcase the achievements of Swachh Bharat and the recently conducted Swachh Sunder Shauchalay, (neat and clean toilet) - a unique and first of its kind in the world campaign.

4. b

- Recently, Prime Minister of India has declared that a ‘Blue Flame Revolution’ is under-way.
- LPG coverage has reached more than 90% percent, from 55% five years ago.
- The Union Minister for petroleum and Natural gas has recently stated that, “In addition to the general development of the hydrocarbon industry, we have also focused on improving the ease of living of the common people by enhancing access to clean cooking fuel which we have called the **Blue Flame Revolution**”.

5. a

- The scheme for Cultural Heritage Youth Leadership Programme (CHYLP)

envisaged **enriching awareness of Indian culture**and heritage amongst the youth in order to promote, understand and develop fondness for India’s rich cultural heritage, **with a view to develop appropriate leadership qualities amongst youth**.

- The focus of the programme was to be on less privileged children residing in **backward areas** by interacting with them in **vernacular languages** for their better understanding.
- **Intermittently** programme was given to **Centre for Cultural Resources and Training (CCRT)**, an autonomous organization working under the purview of Ministry of Culture.

6. b

- A New dedicated DD Channel, for **Arunachal Pradesh - DD Arun Prabha** was launched by PM at IG Park, Itanagar.
- The channel will be the 24th channel operated by Doordarshan.
- Through this channel news of even remote places in the state will reach the people.

7. a

- Every Finance Commission has a special theme.
- ‘GST Restructuring’ was the special theme of the Thirteenth Finance Commission headed by Shri Vijay L. Kelkar.
- **Health and Education** would be a special theme of the **Fifteenth Finance Commission** headed by Shri Nand Kishore Singh.

8. d

- The e-Office is a **Mission Mode Project under the National e-Governance Plan** and is being implemented by the **Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances** (DARPG) to improve efficiency in Government Process and Service Delivery Mechanism.
- The e-Office is a Digital Workplace Solution that **replaces the physical files and documents with an efficient electronic system**.

9. a

- Dard Aryans Tribes inhabit Dha, Hanu, Beema, Darchik and Garkone villages in **Leh and Kargil** districts and are together called the Aryan valley.
- The people of this region have unique physical features, social life, ethnic culture and language.
- Researchers believe that the 'Aryans of Ladakh' or the 'Brokpas' are descendants of Alexander's army and had come to the region over 2,000 years ago.
- *A delegation of the Dard Aryans recently submitted their charter of demands to Minister of State for Tribal Affairs.*

10. c

13-02-2019

1) Consider the following statements with respect to Tangkhul Naga tribes

1. Tangkhul Naga is an indigenous tribal community inhabiting ukhrul district of Manipur.
2. Luira Phanit is a harvesting festival celebrated by these tribes.

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) Zoologists have recently discovered a new species called "Crying Snake" in which of the following?

- a. Kerala
- b. Rajasthan
- c. Arunachal Pradesh
- d. Andaman & Nicobar Islands

3) Consider the following statements with respect to Cholesterol

1. Cholesterol is a waxy, fat-like substance produced in the liver.
2. High density Lipoprotein (HDL) cholesterol and Low density Lipoprotein (LDL) cholesterol are the two main types of cholesterol.
3. High HDL levels reduce the risk for heart disease.

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

4) Consider the following statements with respect to "PCSK9 protein"

1. PCSK9 protein reduces the low density lipoprotein (LDL) cholesterol in blood.
2. PCSK9 inhibitors are monoclonal antibodies (MABs) which dramatically increase LDL cholesterol levels by fight against the PCSK9 protein.

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) A report was released recently titled: "*India – Spearheading Climate Solutions*". Consider the following statements in this regard

1. The report comprises of guidelines that have to be followed by all stakeholders to combat and adapt to climate change.
2. It was released by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate change.

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
- d. 1, 2, 3 and 4

6) "e-Cocoon" Application was recently launched by which of the following?

- a. Ministry of Textiles
- b. Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- c. Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers welfare
- d. Agricultural Products Export Development Authority

7) Consider the following statements with respect to Small Grants Program (SGP)

1. It provides both financial and technical support to communities and Civil Society Organizations to meet the overall objective of global environmental benefits secured through community-based initiatives and actions.
2. It is implemented by UNDP on behalf of the GEF (Global Environment Facility) partnership.

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) In which of the following areas, space technology can be used?

1. Island development and security
2. Border Surveillance
3. Communication and Navigation
4. GIS and Operations Planning System

Select the correct answer using the code given below

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

9) "AMAN-19" sometimes seen in the news recently, is a multinational maritime exercise hosted by which of the following countries?

- a. Pakistan
- b. Saudi Arabia
- c. India
- d. Jointly by A and B

10) Match the following

- | | | |
|----------------|---|----------------------|
| 1. Sela pass | - | a. Uttarakhand |
| 2. Khardung La | - | b. Arunachal Pradesh |
| 3. Sin La | - | c. Jammu and Kashmir |

Select the correct answer using the code given below

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

Answers

1. d

- The Tangkhul-Naga tribe came to Manipur, Nagaland, Assam and Arunachal Pradesh **from China** through Myanmar, entering their present habitats in successive waves of immigration from 9th to 11th century BC.
- Most of them live in **Manipur's** Ukhrul district in North East India.
- Luira phanit is a **seed sowing** festival celebrated by the Tangkhul Naga tribes.

2. c

- A new species of '**crying' snake** has been discovered in **Lepa-Rada district of Arunachal Pradesh**.
- "The name for this keelback was suggested because of a dark spot under its eyes looking

like a black tear that interrupts a white stripe running along the upper jaw to the back of its head and beyond.

- *The discovery of the non-venomous crying keelback, whose zoological name is **Hebius lacrima**, has been published in Zootaxa, the New Zealand-based scientific mega-journal for animal taxonomy.*
3. d
- Cholesterol is a waxy, fat-like substance produced in the **liver**.
 - High density Lipoprotein (HDL) cholesterol and Low density Lipoprotein (LDL) cholesterol are the two main types of cholesterol.
 - **LDL** cholesterol is considered the “**bad**” cholesterol, because it contributes to fatty build-ups in arteries (atherosclerosis).
 - This condition narrows the arteries and increases the risk for heart attack, stroke and peripheral artery disease, or PAD.
 - **HDL** cholesterol can be thought of as the “**good**” cholesterol. (So, in the case of HDL cholesterol, higher levels are actually better).
 - Experts believe that HDL acts as a scavenger, carrying LDL (bad) cholesterol away from the arteries and back to the liver, where the LDL is broken down and passed from the body.

4. d
- Proprotein convertase subtilisin/kexin type 9 (**PCSK9**) binds to low-density lipoprotein receptors (LDL receptors), which stops LDL being removed from the blood, leading to an **increase** in blood levels of LDL.
 - The PCSK9 inhibitor blocks the PCSK9, resulting in **more LDL receptors** available to remove LDL from the blood, which produces in a **decrease in LDL** blood levels.

5. b
- Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change released a publication recently in New Delhi on climate actions in India titled “**India – Spearheading Climate Solutions**”.
 - This publication mentions the key actions **India has taken** under various sectors towards combating and adapting to climate change.

6. a

- **Ministry of Textiles** has launched a mobile application for quality certification in silkworm seed sector.
- The app will be used by the Seed Analysts and Seed Officers nominated under Central Seed Act for system and product certification through real time reporting.

7. c

- Small Grants Program (SGP) is implemented by **UNDP** on behalf of the GEF (Global Environment Facility) partnership.
- SGP provides **financial and technical support** to communities and Civil Society Organizations to meet the overall objective of global environmental benefits secured through community-based initiatives and actions.
- Through a decentralized, national-level delivery mechanism, SGP finances community-led initiatives to address global environmental issues.
- The Program is specifically designed to mobilize bottom-up actions by empowering local civil society organizations, and poor and vulnerable communities, including women and Indigenous Peoples.

8. d

- Union Government has formed a Task Force for identifying areas for use of space technology in improving border management.
- Details of the areas identified for use of space technology by the task force are as under:-
 1. Island development and security
 2. Border Surveillance
 3. Communication and Navigation
 4. GIS and Operations Planning System
 5. Border Infrastructure Monitoring

9. a

- A five-day multinational exercise hosted by **Pakistan**’s navy has kicked off near the southern port city of Karachi as part of efforts to enhance cooperation combating pirates, terrorists and smugglers.
- Representatives from the navies of 45 nations, including the United States, Britain and Japan,

are participating in the exercise titled “Aman” or peace, which began Friday in the Northern Arabian Sea.

- Pakistan has been hosting the exercise since 2007 but has never invited arch rival neighbouring India.
10. d
- The foundation stone for Sela Tunnel Project was laid recently.
 - **Sela Pass** also called as Se La is the high-altitude mountain pass located in Tawang District of **Arunachal Pradesh**.
 - It has an elevation of 4170 m (13,700 ft) connects the Buddhist city of Tawang Town to Tezpur and Guwahati.
 - It is the main road connecting Tawang with the rest of India.
 - The Sela Lake also known as Paradise Lake is located near to the pass.
 - It is usually open throughout the year unless landslides or snow require the pass to be shut down temporarily.

14-02-2019

1) Consider the following statements with respect to National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (NCSK)

1. It is a statutory body.
2. It works under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
3. NCSK is mandated to monitor the implementation of the Prohibition of employment as manual scavengers and their rehabilitation Act, 2013.

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

2) e-AUSHADHI portal which intended for increased transparency was launched recently by which of the following agencies?

- a. Ministry of AYUSH
- b. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- c. Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers
- d. Government of Haryana

3) Consider the following statements with respect to National Security Act (NSA)

1. It allows preventive detention for months, if authorities are satisfied that a person is a threat to national security or law and order.
2. It applies to the entirety of India, except Jammu and Kashmir.

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 Battle of Sinhagad

1. It was fought between the Marathas and the British on the fort of Sinhagad in 1670 AD.
2. Tanaji Malusare, the commander of Mughal Empire played a major role in this battle and died after being seriously wounded during the battle.

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 Taj Trapezium Zone (TTZ)

1. It is a defined area around the Taj Mahal to protect the monument from pollution.
2. It comprises over 40 protected monuments including three World Heritage Sites: Agra Fort, India Gate and the Fatehpur Sikri.
3. TTZ is so named since it is located around the Taj Mahal and is shaped like a trapezoid.

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) Global Fund sometimes seen in the news recently, is a partnership organization, designed to accelerate the end of which of the following as epidemics?

- a. AIDS
- b. Tuberculosis
- c. Malaria
- d. All of the above

7) "Factsheet Child Marriages 2019" is a report published recently by which of the following agencies?

- a. UNICEF
- b. Bachpan Bachao Andolan
- c. National Human Rights Commission
- d. Ministry of Women and Child Development

8) Consider the following statements with respect to Small Farmers Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC)

1. It is an autonomous society working under the administrative control of Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare.

2. It is mandated to mobilize farmers into groups, called Farmers Producers Organisations (FPOs) and link these institutions to the market, for better returns.

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 Board for Wildlife (NBWL)

1. The standing committee of the NBWL is chaired by the Union minister for Environment and Forest.
2. In India, NBWL is responsible for allowing forest land in protected areas to be diverted for industries.

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) "Pashtuns" sometimes seen in the news recently, inhabits which of the following countries?

- a. Syria
- b. Israel
- c. Azerbaijan
- d. None of the above

Answers

1. c

- The National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (NCSK) was established **as a statutory body** in the year 1994 as per the provisions of the NCSK Act 1993 initially for the period of 3 years.

- Later the validity of the Act was initially extended up to 31.3.2002 and thereafter up to 29.2.2004.
 - The **NCSK Act ceased to have effect from 29.2.2004.**
 - After that the tenure of the NCSK has been extended as a **non-statutory body** from time to time.
 - The tenure of the present Commission is up to 31.3.2019.
 - *The Union Cabinet has recently approved the proposal for Extension of tenure of the National Commission for Safai Karmacharis (NCSK) beyond 31.3.2019 for three years.*
2. a
- To increase transparency and accountability, the **Ministry of AYUSH** has recently launched the **e-AUSHADHI portal** for **online licensing** of Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani and Homoeopathy drugs and related matters.
 - **AUSHADHI** was an acronym for **Ayurveda, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy Automated Drug Help Initiative.**
3. c
- The National Security Act is a stringent law that **allows preventive detention for months**, if authorities are satisfied that a person is a threat to national security or law and order.
 - The person does not need to be charged during this period of detention.
 - The goal is to prevent the individual from committing a crime.
 - It applies to the **entirety of India, except Jammu and Kashmir.**
4. d
- The Battle of Sinhagad was fought between Tanaji Malusare, a commander of **Maratha** ruler Shivaji Maharaj and Udaybhan Rathod, fort keeper under Jai Singh I who was a **Mughal** Army Chief in 1670 on the fort of Sinhagad near the city of Pune, Maharashtra, India.
- Tanaji Malusare, the brave **Maratha** warrior played a major role during the Battle of Sinhagad in 1670 AD.
 - Malusare died in 1670 after being seriously wounded in the Sinhagad battle.
 - It is Tanaji Malusare after whom Shivaji is said to have renamed Kondhana fort to Sinhagad Fort (Lion's fort).
5. c
- Taj Trapezium Zone (TTZ) is a defined area of 10,400 sq km around the Taj Mahal to protect the monument from pollution.
 - The TTZ comprises over 40 protected monuments including three World Heritage Sites the **Taj Mahal**, Agra Fort and Fatehpur Sikri.
 - TTZ is so named since it is located around the Taj Mahal and is shaped like a **trapezoid**.
6. d
- The Global Fund is a 21st-century partnership organization designed to accelerate the end of **AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria** as epidemics.
 - Founded in 2002, the Global Fund is a partnership between **governments, civil society, the private sector and people affected by the diseases.**
 - **India is in a sustained partnership with the Global Fund** to fight against AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM) since 2002 as recipient as well as donor.
 - The Global Fund raises funds in multiyear cycles known as Replenishments and is preparing for sixth voluntary replenishment conference to mobilize needed resources to scale up life-saving programs over 2020-22.
 - A high level preparatory meeting for the **sixth replenishment conference** of the Global Fund is **hosted by India** recently in New Delhi.
7. a
- United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) has recently released a new report '**Factsheet Child Marriages 2019**'.

- It has stated that although child marriages in India have declined, a few states like Bihar, West Bengal and Rajasthan continue to carry on with the harmful practice and there is nearly 40 per cent prevalence in these states.

8. c

- SFAC is a registered society set up under the Societies Registration Act XXI of 1860 under the administrative control of Department of Agriculture Cooperation and Farmers Welfare, **Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare**.
- Its mandate is to link farmers to **investment, technology and markets**.
- SFAC is mandated by the M/o Agriculture to mobilize farmers into groups, called Farmers Producers Organisations (FPOs) and link these institutions to the market, for better returns.
- These bodies are member owner grass root institutions, which provide collective bargaining powers to small and marginal farmers.
- SFAC proposes to establish a Kisan Mandi – as an additional marketing channel/platform to link FPOs and farmers Growers Association to wholesale and retail consumers for direct sale of fruits & vegetables for the benefits of farmers and consumers in Delhi & NCR.*

9. c

- National Board for Wildlife (NBWL) is a statutory Board constituted in 2003 under Section 5 of the **Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972**.
- The NBWL is chaired by the Hon'ble **Prime Minister**.
- The **Standing Committee** of the NBWL is chaired by **Union Environment Minister**.
- A Standing Committee of the NBWL is charged with deliberating on the merits of projects that come to it for scrutiny.
- National Board for Wildlife (NBWL) has been charged with allowing forest land in Protected Areas to be diverted for industry.

10. d

- Pashtuns mainly live in **Pakistan and Afghanistan**.

- Pashtun people are Afghanistan's largest ethnic group and are also the second-largest ethnicity in Pakistan.
- Pashtuns are united by the **Pashto** language, which is a member of the **Indo-Iranian** language family, although many also speak Dari (Persian) or Urdu.
- They are also known as "**Pathans**".

15-02-2019

1) Consider the following statements with respect to Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-Dhan (PM- SYM) Scheme

- Under the Scheme, the beneficiary should not be an income tax payer.
- It is implemented through Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC).

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

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

2) Anoop Satpathy committee sometimes seen in the news recently, was constituted to review and recommend which of the following?

- Methodology for fixation of National Minimum Wage
- Measures to reorient disinvestment policy of India
- Suggestions to avoid future bank frauds in India
- Guidelines to combat reducing glacier cover over Himalayas

3) Consider the following statements with respect to Nord Stream-2 Project

- It is an expansion of Russia's existing Nord Stream gas pipeline to Germany across the Caspian Sea.
- U.S.A is opposing the project citing the increase in Russian gas supply to

Europe would increase Moscow's leverage over European countries.

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

4) "World Employment and Social Outlook" is an annual report published by which of the following organisations?

- a. World Bank
- b. International Labour Organisation
- c. International Organisation of Employers
- d. Oxfam International

5) Green New Deal (GND) sometimes seen in the news recently, is associated with which of the following countries?

- a. U.S.A
- b. France
- c. Germany
- d. U.K

6) Spirit and Opportunity rovers sometimes seen in the news recently, are associated with which of the following?

- a. NASA and MOON
- b. ESA and JUPITER
- c. JAXA and RYUGU
- d. NASA and MARS

7) Consider the following statements with respect to Sambar deer

1. It is large in size and endemic to Indian subcontinent.
2. It has been protected under schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.

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) Kattaikkuttu is a rural theatre form, practiced in which of the following states?

- a. Tamil Nadu
- b. Telangana
- c. Odisha
- d. Rajasthan

9) Which of the following is/are not the features of Indus Valley Civilisation (IVC)

1. Use of Pottery wheels
2. Undeciphered script
3. Proper town planning
4. Domestication of animals
5. Use of standard weights and measurements

Select the correct answer using the code given below

- a. 4 only
- b. 4 and 5 only
- c. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5
- d. None

10) Consider the following pairs

1. Pahari Dam – Madhya Pradesh
2. Kawal Tiger Reserve – Andhra Pradesh

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

Answers

1. c

- PM-SYM is a voluntary and contributory pension scheme on a 50:50 basis (contribution shall be made by the beneficiary and the matching contribution by the Central Government).
- The unorganised workers whose monthly income is Rs 15,000/- per month or less and belong to the entry age group of 18-40 years are eligible for the scheme.
- They should not be covered under New Pension Scheme (NPS), Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) scheme or Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO).
- Further, he/she **should not be an income tax payer**.
- Each subscriber under the PM-SYM, shall receive minimum assured pension of Rs 3000/- per month after attaining the age of 60 years.
- It will be a Central Sector Scheme **administered** by the Ministry of Labour and Employment and **implemented** through **Life Insurance Corporation of India** and CSCs.
- LIC will be the Pension Fund Manager and responsible for Pension pay out.

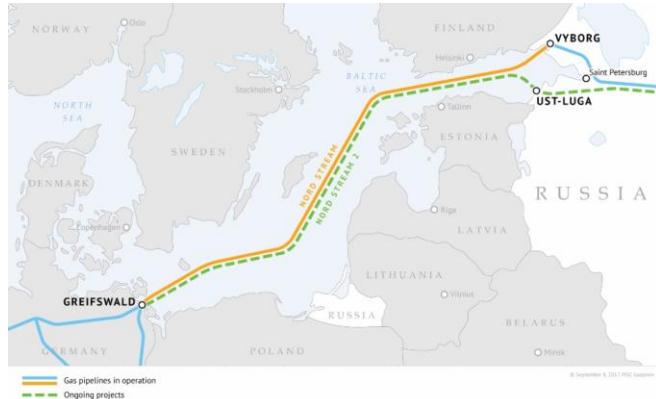
2. a

- The Ministry of Labour and Employment had constituted an expert committee, under the Chairmanship Dr. **Anoop Satpathy** to review and recommend methodology for fixation of **National Minimum Wage** (NMW).
- *The Expert Committee has submitted its report recently.*

3. a

- Nord Stream 2 is an expansion of Russia's existing Nord Stream gas pipeline to Germany across the **Baltic Sea**.
- The U.S says the new pipeline, and the resultant increase in Russian gas supply to Europe, would increase Moscow's leverage over European Countries.

- It would also make Russia richer, and as a result, more aggressive.



4. b

- **World Employment and Social Outlook** is an annual report published by **International Labour Organisation (ILO)**, a UN agency.
- Global unemployment levels fell one percentile to a steady 5 per cent in 2018, the lowest figures since the economic crisis that wreaked havoc on labour markets, the International Labour Organization said in its recent report **World Employment and Social Outlook Trends 2019**.

5. a

- U.S has recently proposed the **Green New Deal (GND)** to address both climate change and economic inequality.
- The Green New Deal "is a four-part programme for moving America quickly out of crisis into a secure, sustainable future."
- The resolution was introduced in the House and Senate recently.

6. d

- **Spirit and Opportunity** were identical, golf-cart-sized, solar-powered rovers.
- Spirit landed at Gusev Crater on January 4, 2004; Opportunity followed, landing on the opposite side of **Mars** at Meridiani Planum on January 24.
- Contact with Spirit was lost in March 2010, and the mission was declared over on May 25, 2011.

- Opportunity continued to roam Mars — and sent out its last signals on June 10, 2018, when the most intense dust storm in recorded Martian history encrusted its solar panels, and damaged critical components.
- **NASA has recently announced the end of the Opportunity rover's mission.**

7. d

- The sambar deer is a large deer native to the Indian subcontinent, **southern China**, and **Southeast Asia**.
- It has been listed as **Vulnerable** on the IUCN Red List.
- Sambar is a protected animal under schedule **three** of Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.

8. a

9. d

10. d

16-02-2019

1) Consider the following statements with respect to Most Favoured Nation (MFN) status

1. It is a non-discriminatory trade policy to discourage exclusive trading privileges among WTO countries.
2. India had recently revoked the Most Favoured Nation (MFN) status bestowed on Pakistan in 1996.
3. Pakistan had revoked the MFN status granted to India, after the Pakistan School massacre in 2014.

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

2) LADIS Portal sometimes seen in the news recently, was launched by which of the following agencies?

- a. Inland Waterways Authority of India

- b. National Commission on Agriculture
- c. Ministry of Women and Child Development
- d. Delhi Police Department

3) Consider the following statements with respect to Right to Information Act, 2005

1. It mandates that, a Chief Information Commissioner should be a person belonging to Public service, of any Government for more than 20 years.
2. Matters related to Collegium and judicial appointments of Supreme Court comes within the ambit of Right to Information Act, 2005.

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 Exercise Vayu Shakti-2019

1. It is an air exercise between India and France.
2. It will be conducted once in three years.

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) In which of the following conditions, corals cannot survive?

1. No Sunlight
2. Fresh water
3. Estuaries
4. Cold water

Select the correct answer using the code given below

- a. 2 and 3 only
- b. 2 and 4 only
- c. 1, 2 and 4 only
- d. 1, 2, 3 and 4
- c. 1, 2 and 3
- d. None

6) Consider the following statements with respect to CITES

1. It is an International agreement between governments for preventing species extinction due to International Wildlife trade.
2. All Species that are listed under IUCN Red List are protected under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

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

7) Resolution 1267 sometimes seen in the news recently, is associated with which of the following?

- a. United Nation Security Council
- b. United Nation General Assembly
- c. International Court of Justice
- d. None of the above

8) Consider the following statements with respect to International Court of Justice (ICJ)

1. It is an intergovernmental International tribunal.
2. It is located in Hague, Netherlands.
3. India is not a party to the ICJ statute.

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

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

9) Great Barrier Reef sometimes seen in the news recently is located in which of the following?

- a. Tasman Sea
- b. Timor Sea
- c. Arafura Sea
- d. Coral Sea

10) issoh is a ritual of burning grasslands, practised in some parts of which of the following regions?

- a. Punjab
- b. Arunachal Pradesh
- c. Himachal Pradesh
- d. Andaman and Nicobar Islands

Answers

1. b

- India had recently revoked the Most Favoured Nation (MFN) status bestowed on Pakistan in 1996.
- While the term MFN suggests special preference for the country given MFN status, it actually means it would be **treated equally as all others**.
- According to the World Trade Organisation rules, countries cannot normally discriminate between their trading partners.
- If one country is granted a trade concession such as, for example, lower import duties, then all WTO members must be extended the same concessions.
- This principle is known as the Most Favoured Nation treatment.
- Despite repeated promises, Pakistan **has never granted MFN status to India**.

2. a

- To ensure optimum use of National Waterways, the **Inland Waterways**

Authority of India (IWA) launched a new portal **LADIS – Least Available Depth Information System** recently.

- LADIS will ensure that real-time data on least available depths is disseminated for ship/barge and cargo owners so that they can undertake transportation on NWs in a more planned way.
- An assured depth of waterway is required for seamless movement of vessels.
- If real time information is made available regarding LADs in stretches of various NWs, it will help transporters by guiding them on the suitability of time of movement.

3. d

- According to RTI Act, 2005, the Chief Information Commissioner and Information Commissioners shall be **persons of eminence in public life** with wide knowledge and experience in law, science and technology, social service, management, journalism, mass media or administration and governance.
- *In its recent judgment the SC had stated that “official bias” in favour of bureaucrats and government employees was evident from the very beginning of the process for appointment of Chief Information Commissioners and Information Commissioners.*
- *In fact, the selection committee, which shortlists candidates for appointment, is itself composed of government employees.*
- **The apex court directed the government to look beyond bureaucrats and appoint professionals from “all walks of life”.**
- The Supreme Court also lauded the role of the Right to Information (RTI) Act as an “integral part of any vibrant democracy.”
- But the **apex court itself has refused to come within the ambit of the information transparency law** for the past one decade.
- The court has firmly resisted back-to-back decisions of the Central Information Commission (CIC) and the Delhi High Court to open up to the RTI regime as far as the issues of **Collegium and judicial appointments are concerned**.

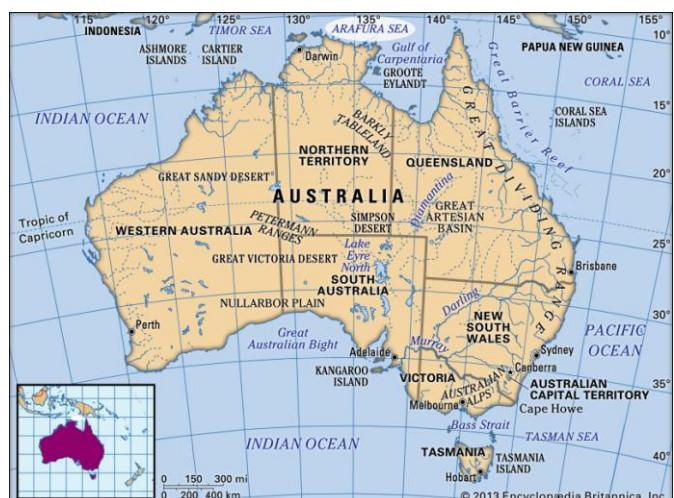
- In fact, the appeal filed by the Supreme Court against public disclosure under RTI has been pending in the Supreme Court since 2010.

4. b

- **Indian Air Force** is set to demonstrate its full combat and fire capabilities during the 7th edition of the **Fire Power Demonstration (FPD)** ‘Exercise Vayu Shakti-2019’ in the Pokharan firing range close to Indo-Pak border in Rajasthan to be held on 16 February, 2019.
- Akash missile firing, gun firing from Advanced Light Helicopter and MiG 29’s air-to-ground role will be demonstrated in the exercise.
- First conducted at Tilpat range in Delhi in July 1953, **it is held once in three years**.

5. a

- Deep sea corals, also known as **cold-water corals don't require Sunlight**.
- Corals need saltwater to survive and require a certain balance in the ratio of salt to water.
- This is why corals don't live in areas where rivers drain fresh water into the ocean (“**estuaries**”).
- *Highly polluted dirty water from a flood crisis in northern Australia has spread to parts of the Great Barrier Reef, placing it under severe stress.*
- *Scientists warned that this could starve corals of light and provide fodder for the predatory crown-of-thorns starfish.*



6. b

- A recent study published in the journal Science has discovered that **28% of Species listed under IUCN Red list are not protected by** the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (**CITES**), the primary international framework for preventing species extinction due to international wildlife trade.
- **CITES is an international agreement between governments.**

7. a

- In the wake of terrorist attack in Pulwama, the Chinese foreign ministry has made it clear that it would not support India's efforts to persuade the **1267 Committee** of the **UN Security Council** to list Mazood Azhar as a global terrorist.

8. a

- International Court of Justice is the **principal judicial organ of the United Nations (UN)**.
- It was established by the United Nations Charter, which was signed in 1945 in San Francisco (United States), and began work in 1946 in the Peace Palace, **The Hague (Netherlands)**.
- **All Members of the United Nations are ipso facto parties to the Statute of the International Court of Justice.**

9. d

- The Great Barrier Reef is located in the **Coral Sea** and stretches along the state of Queensland on Australia's north-eastern coastline.
- **Highly polluted dirty water from the recent flood crisis in northern Australia has spread to parts of the Great Barrier Reef, placing it under severe stress.**
- **Scientists have warned that this could starve corals of light and provide fodder for the predatory crown-of-thorns starfish.**

10. d

- **Chowra** is an 8 sq.km. Island on the **Andaman sea**, part of the **Nicobar archipelago**.
- And on it live 1,350 people, the **Nicobarese islanders** of Chowra.

- The grasslands were burnt every year by these islanders.
- This ritual, called *issoh*, helped regenerate the grass they needed to thatch their houses before the monsoon.
- The 2004 tsunami washed away almost every traditional house on Chowra island.
- Further rehabilitation efforts have forced the islanders into nuclear housing units and **devastated the grasslands**.
- As the grasslands diminished, so did the cultural practices like *issoh* diminished.

18-02-2019

1) Consider the following statements with respect to Black Bucks

1. Normally, female blackbucks do not possess horns.
2. It has been listed as least concerned in IUCN Red list.
3. Stray dogs and barbed wires are threatening its survival.

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

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

2) Which of the following is/are not the causal factor(s) of glacial melting in Hindu Kush-Himalayan (HKH) glaciers?

- Air Pollution
- Deforestation
- Global Warming
- Land-use changes
- Increase in Snow fall

Select the correct answer using the code given below

- 5 only
- 4 and 5 only

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

3) Which one of the following best describes the term “Glacial Lakes” sometimes seen in news recently?

- a. They are formed when a glacier erodes the land, and then melts within the hole it has created
- b. They are formed when a wide meander from the main stem of a glacial river is cut off, creating a free-standing body of water
- c. They are formed when water from the melted glaciers gets stored in a depressed land surface
- d. They are formed due to a difference in temperature, resulting in creation of isolated ice blocks over water bodies

4) SPHEREx mission sometimes seen in the news recently is _____

- a. NASA's Space Telescope
- b. ISS's airborne Earth Observatory
- c. China's mission to study stellar flare
- d. None of the above

5) Consider the following statements

1. The United Nations General Assembly and UNESCO have decided to celebrate 2019 as the “International Year of the Periodic Table of Chemical Elements (IYPT2019)”.
2. It has been proclaimed so, to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the discovery of periodic system by Dmitri Ivanovich Mendeleev.

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) Abohar Wildlife Sanctuary (AWS) sometimes seen in the news recently is located in which of the following states?

- a. Punjab
- b. Uttar Pradesh
- c. Rajasthan
- d. Telangana

7) Consider the following statements with respect to Hindu Kush Himalayas (HKH)

1. It is one of the greatest mountain systems in the world covered across eight countries including China and Thailand.
2. The glaciers of HKH feed to of the world's most important river systems, including the Yellow and Mekong.

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 Kelps

1. Kelps are plants that look similar to brown algae.
2. They thrive in cold, nutrient-rich waters.

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 Pangolin

1. It is the most trafficked reptiles in the world.

2. Indian Pangolin – one among the eight pangolin species found across the world is listed as critically endangered under the IUCN Red list.

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) Through which of the following processes energy can be extracted from wastes?

1. Incineration
2. Gasification
3. Pyrolysis
4. Anaerobic digestion

Select the correct answer using the code given below

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

Answers

1. d

- Blackbuck hunting and poaching are prohibited in India as per **Schedule I** of the Wildlife Protection Act of 1972.
- Blackbucks used to cover the entire subcontinent of India except for the Western coast, but as the human population kept growing, their numbers began plummeting.
- The most striking feature of blackbucks is the long, spiralling horns of the adult male which have ridges from the base to almost the tips. **Females do not possess horns.**
- **Stray cattle and dogs, barbed ‘cobra’ wire** and changed land use patterns spell trouble for the majestic Punjab’s State animal: Black Buck, which has been listed as **least concern** under the IUCN Red list.

2. a

- The International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), an intergovernmental organisation focussed on environmental and social change in Hindu Kush Himalaya (HKH), released the findings of a report.
- It suggests **Global warming** as the primary reason for glacial melt in the HKH region.
- It also says the melting could accelerate because of **increased air pollution**.
- Air pollution from the Indo-Gangetic Plains also deposits black carbon and dust on the glaciers, hastening the thaw.
- In general, **deforestation, land-use changes, changes in precipitation and decrease in snowfall** could also impact the rate of glacial retreat.

3. a

- The most worrying outcome of glacial shrinking and retreat is the increase in the formation and size of glacial lakes.
- **Glacial lakes are formed when a glacier erodes the land, and then melts within the hole it has created.**
- This in turn could **lead to glacial lake outburst floods (GLOF)** when there is an avalanche or an earthquake.
- Satellite data shows that the number of such lakes in the Hindu Kush-Himalayan region grew to 4,260 in a decade from 3,350 in 1990.

4. a

- **NASA** will launch a new **space telescope** in 2023 that could provide a glimpse of the first moments in the history of the universe, and explore how common are the ingredients for life in our galaxy’s planetary systems.
- The Spectro-Photometer for the History of the Universe, Epoch of Reionization and Ices Explorer (**SPHEREx**) mission is a planned two-year mission funded at USD 242 million, according to NASA.
- SPHEREx will survey the sky in optical as well as near-infrared light which, though not visible to the human eye, serves as a powerful tool for answering cosmic questions.

5. c

- 1869 is considered as the year of discovery of the Periodic System by **Dmitri Mendeleev**.
- 2019 will be the **150th anniversary** of the Periodic Table of Chemical Elements and has therefore been proclaimed the "International Year of the Periodic Table of Chemical Elements (IYPT2019)" by the **United Nations General Assembly and UNESCO**.

6. a

- In 2019, so far, as many as eight blackbucks have died in the *Abohar Wildlife Sanctuary (AWS)*, and a majority of them succumbed to their injuries, caused by **barbed wires** while trying to escape from **stray dogs**.

7. b

- The Hindu Kush Himalaya (HKH) spread over 3,500 kilometres from **Afghanistan in the west to Myanmar in the east**.
- The HKH is one of the greatest mountain systems in the world, covering eight countries: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, **China**, India, Myanmar, Nepal and Pakistan.
- The glaciers feed 10 of the world's most important river systems, including the Ganges, Indus, **Yellow, Mekong** and the Irrawaddy.

8. b

- Kelp Forests are underwater ecosystems formed in **shallow water** by the dense growth of several different species known as kelps.
- Kelps are actually extremely large **brown algae**, although they look like plants.
- They thrive in cold, nutrient-rich waters.
- Kelp attaches to the seafloor and eventually grows to the water's surface and relies on sunlight to generate food and energy.
- Kelps live further from the tropics than coral reefs, mangrove forests, and warm-water seagrass beds, so kelp forests do not overlap with those systems.
- *Climate change could lead to declines of underwater kelp forests through impacts on their micro biome.*

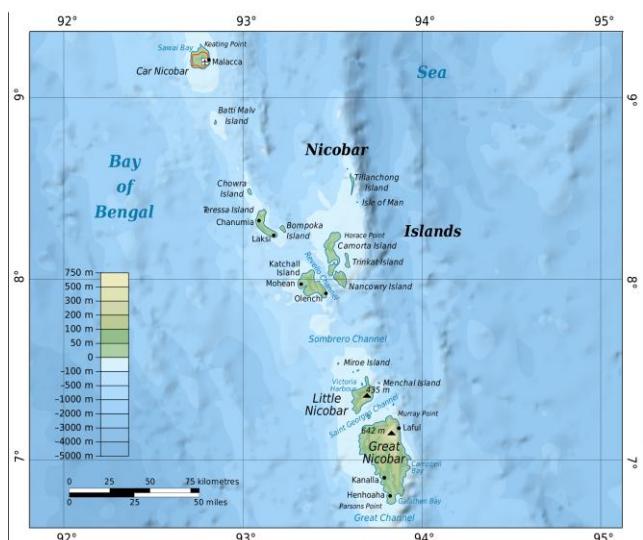
- It was predicted that ocean warming and acidification can change microbes on the kelp surface, leading to disease and potentially putting fisheries at risk.

9. d

- Though many think of them as reptiles, pangolins are actually **mammals**.
- They are the most trafficked mammal in the world.
- There are **eight pangolin species** – four each in Africa and Asia (**two of them are in India**).
- Indian Pangolin one among the eight pangolin species is listed under the endangered category of IUCN Red list.
- Obsession for its supposedly medicinal scales in China is believed to have made the ant-eating Chinese Pangolin, one of the two species found in South Asia, extinct in India.

10. d

- Waste to Energy (WTE), is a term that is used to describe various technologies that convert **non-recyclable waste into usable forms of energy** including heat, fuels and electricity.
- WTE can occur through a number of processes such as **incineration, gasification, pyrolysis, anaerobic digestion, and landfill gas recovery**.



19-02-2019

1) Consider the following statements with respect to *Price Monitoring and Research Unit (PMRU)* sometimes seen in the news

1. It was proposed by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA).
2. It aims to track violation of prices of essential drugs and medical devices under the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO).
3. It will functions under the direct supervision of Drug Controller General of India (DGCI).

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

2) Consider the following statements with respect to *Tagore award for Cultural Harmony*

1. It is awarded annually and carries an amount of Rs.1 Crore.
2. This award is open to all persons regardless of nationality, race, language, caste, creed or gender.
3. Ministry of culture will select the awardees and recommend it to the President who will confer the award to the recipients.

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

3) Consider the following statements with respect to *Jacob Diamond*

1. It is almost double the size of Kohinoor Diamond.
2. It is now in possession with the Government of India.
3. It was found in India in 1884 and was secretly transported to England to avoid heavy duties then in place for raw diamonds.

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

4) *CyPAD* sometimes seen in the news recently is a/an

- a. Initiative of IMD to process and detect Cyclones with a lesser forecasting time
- b. LPG gas cylinder awareness programme among PM-ujjwala beneficiaries
- c. Cyber-crime awareness and detection centre inaugurated in Delhi
- d. Cycle campaign organized by the Ministry of Environment to promote cycling among youths

5) Consider the following statements with respect to *Investigation Tracking System for Sexual Offences (ITSSO)*

1. It is an online module available for both citizens and law enforcement agencies.
2. It will allow States to undertake real-time monitoring and management for completion of investigation in rape cases in 2 months.
3. It was launched by the Ministry of Home affairs.

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

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

6) Consider the following statements with respect to *Safe City Project*

1. It aims to provide universal accessibility for differently-able persons in the areas of environment, transport and Information & communication ecosystem.
2. It is a centrally sponsored scheme with Centre and state contributing the funds in 60:40 ratio.

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) *Magnitude of Substance Use in India Report* sometimes seen in the news recently was released by National Drug Dependence Treatment Centre (NDDTC) of the AIIMS in collaboration with?

- a. NITI Aayog
- b. Ministry of Home affairs
- c. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- d. Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

8) Consider the following statements with respect to *Safe City Implementation Monitoring (SCIM) portal*

1. It will facilitate online tracking of deployment of assets and infrastructure created under the Safe City projects.
2. It has been developed by the Ministry of Home 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

9) Consider the following statements with respect to *Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJVK)*

1. It aims at improving socio-economic conditions of the minorities and to reduce imbalances in the identified minority concentration areas.
2. It will be implemented as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme during the remaining period of 14th Finance Commission.

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 *Great Indian Hornbill*

1. It is endemic to Andaman & Nicobar Islands.
2. Disintegration of their habitats for agriculture actually turned out to be beneficial for their population.

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. a

- **Kerala** has become the **first State** to set up a price monitoring and research unit (PMRU) to track violation of prices of essential drugs and medical devices under the **Drugs Price Control Order (DPCO)**.
- After Kerala, it is now the turn of **Punjab and Gujarat** to have PMRU, set up by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority in collaboration with the Department of Health and State Drug Controller.

- The **National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA)** had proposed such a system for the States and the Union Territories five years ago.
 - PMRU is aimed at monitoring the notified prices of medicines, detection of violation of the provisions of DPCO, pricing compliance and ensuring availability of medicines, among other objectives.
 - PMRU's will function under the direct supervision of **State drug controller**.
2. b
- Tagore Award for Cultural Harmony was instituted by the Government of India from 2012 recognizing the contributions made by Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore to humanity at large with his works and ideas, as part of the Commemoration of his **150th Birth Anniversary in 2012**, for promoting values of Cultural Harmony.
 - It is awarded **annually** and carries an amount of Rs. **One Crore** (convertible to foreign currency), a citation in a Scroll, a Plaque as well as an exquisite traditional handicraft / handloom item.
 - A **committee** which selects the awardee comprises of **Prime Minister of India, Chief Justice of India, Leader of Opposition and two eminent personalities**.
 - The Award is **open to all persons** regardless of nationality, race, language, caste, creed or gender.
 - *The President of India had recently presented the Tagore Award for Cultural Harmony for the years 2014, 2015 and 2016 to Shri Rajkumar Singhajit Singh, Chhayanaut (a cultural organization of Bangladesh) and Shri Ram Vanji Sutar respectively.*
3. b
- Originally known as Victoria Diamond, Jacob diamond was found in **Kimberly mines in South Africa** in 1884 and was secretly transported to England to avoid heavy duties then in place for raw diamonds.
 - It is **almost double the size of Kohinoor Diamond** (in the present shape).
- The finished gem, with 58 facets, weighing 185.75 carats was stunningly beautiful, in its cut, clarity and colour. (**Kohinoor weighed only 105.6 carats**).
 - It is a part of Nizam of Hyderabad's jewellery collection which was **purchased in 1995 by the Government of India** at a cost of Rs. 218 Crore.
 - *Recently, it was kept in the exhibition of rare collection of Nizam's jewels and jewellery at National Museum, New Delhi.*
4. c
- To better equip the country in the fight against cybercrime, Union Home Ministry has recently inaugurated a national cyber forensic lab and the **Delhi Police's cybercrime unit 'Cyber Protection Awareness and Detection Centre (CyPAD)'**.
 - The CyPAD is a modern, comprehensive facility that aims to provide cyber investigation, cyber forensics, cyber safety and security-related services to the **citizens** as well as to **police units** and agencies of Delhi.
 - It is the **first** cybercrime awareness and detection centre opened in the country.
5. a
- The Investigation Tracking System for Sexual Offences (ITSSO) is meant for **Law Enforcement Agencies** in the country.
 - ITSSO is an **online module** available to law enforcement agencies at all levels- National, State, District and Police Station
 - It allows State to undertake real-time monitoring and management for completion of investigation in rape cases in 2 months.
 - It leverages the existing CCTNS data base, which covers nearly 15000 police stations in the country.

Background

- The Criminal Law Amendment in April 2018 prescribes stringent penal provisions including death penalty for rape of a girl below the age of 12 years.
- For swift administration of justice in such cases, the Act also inter-alia mandates completion of investigation and trials within 2 months.

- To enhance women safety in the country, Government has formulated a multi-pronged action plan and initiated a series of measures.
 - ITSSO is one of such measures developed by MHA towards Smart Policing.
6. b
- In order to **instil sense of security in women** in metro cities, Government has identified eight cities for implementation of Safe City projects in first phase at a cost of Rs.2,919 crore.
 - The cities are Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Chennai, Delhi, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Lucknow & Mumbai.
 - The project will be implemented under the **Nirbhaya Fund scheme** as a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme** with Centre and state contributing the funds in the **60:40 ratio**.
 - It involves creation of on-ground assets, resources & behaviour change programs for safety of women.
7. d
- National Drug Dependence Treatment Centre (NDDTC) of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi has submitted its Report "**Magnitude of Substance Use in India**" sponsored by the **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment** to Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment recently.
8. c
- In order to facilitate States to monitor and manage the Safe City projects and avoid duplication on ground, an online **Safe City Implementation Monitoring (SCIM) portal** has been developed by **Ministry of Home Affairs**.
 - SCIM will facilitate online tracking of deployment of assets and infrastructure created under the Safe City projects.
 - SCIM facilitates an evidence based online monitoring system.
 - Details on assets and infrastructure are captured along with latitude and longitude using GPS for greater transparency.
9. c
- SCIM also creates a digital repository of assets, infrastructure and social outreach programs, as well as best practices achieved in each City.
10. c
- The erstwhile Multi-sectoral Development Programme (MsDP), a centrally sponsored scheme has been restructured and renamed as Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram.
 - The restructured Programme will be implemented during the remaining period of **14th Finance Commission** i.e. up to 2019-20 as a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme**.
 - The PMJVK aims at improving socio-economic conditions of the minorities and providing basic amenities to them for improving quality of life of the people and reducing imbalances in the identified minority concentration areas.
 - The projects to be taken up under PMJVK would be related to creation of infrastructure mainly in the sectors of **education, health and skill development**, besides innovative schemes for improving the socio-economic and living conditions of minority communities and other communities living in the catchment area.

- Scientists found that the Bengal floricans in Terai use not just the protected grasslands but the agricultural fields, too.
- Floricans need alternating patches of short and tall grass to thrive.
- Till several decades ago, the large herbivores of the terai such as rhinoceroses and swamp deer would help in creating these perfect habitats by clearing those grasslands.
- But now there are fewer mega-herbivores left.
- So this could be triggering this movement of floricans into fields in search of short grass.
- This suggests that conserving these cultivated areas could be as important as protecting the grasslands where these birds breed.

20-02-2019

1) Wallace Smith Broecker was renowned for popularising which of the following terms?

- a. Crypto Currency
- b. Global Warming
- c. Biodiversity
- d. Artificial Intelligence

2) Consider the following statements with respect to Guru Ravidas

1. He is the 8th Sikh guru and was the youngest of the 10 Gurus.
2. Some of his poems were included in the Adi Granth, the sacred scripture of Sikhism.

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 National Rural Economic Transformation Project (NRETP)

1. It is a project under the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM).
2. It will be implemented through loan assistance from the World Bank.

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) Nyaya Bandhu App was recently launched by which of the following?

- a. National Human Rights Commission
- b. Ministry of Panchayat Raj
- c. Government of Assam
- d. None of the above

5) Consider the following statements with respect to SWAYATT Initiative

1. It is an initiative to promote Start-ups, Women and Youth advantage through eTransactions on Government e Marketplace (GeM).
2. It was launched by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

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

6) Recently, Ministry of Commerce and Industry had issued a notification with respect to start-ups. Consider the following statements in this regard

1. An entity will be considered as a Start-up up to a period of ten years from the date of incorporation and registration.

- 2. An entity will be considered as a Start-up, if its turnover for any of the financial years since incorporation and registration has not exceeded Rs. 100 crore.**

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) Startup Runway sometimes seen in the news recently, is an initiative of which of the following?

- a. Department of economic affairs
- b. Government e-market place
- c. Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade
- d. NITI Aayog

8) Consider the following statements with respect to National Tourism Advisory Council (NTAC)

1. It is a statutory body established through National Tourism Development Act 2003.
2. It was initially established for a tenure of 3 years and was later extended indefinitely.

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) Pro bono legal services sometimes seen in the news recently, means?

- a. Digitisation of all documents and legal services in judiciary
- b. Free legal aid for litigants who are unable to afford it

- c. Supreme Court's advices to President on constitutional matters
- d. Working of courts during vacation to adjudicate important cases

10) SAFAR Mobile App sometimes seen in the news recently was launched by which of the following?

- a. Ministry of Textiles
- b. Ministry of Civil aviation
- c. Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- d. Ministry of Environment and Forest

Answers

1. b

- Wallace Smith Broecker raised early alarms about climate change and popularised the term "**global warming**" has died recently.
- He brought "global warming" into common use with a 1975 article that correctly predicted rising carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere would lead to warming.
- His term was a break with tradition. Earlier studies of human impact on climate had called it "**inadvertent climate modification**".
- This was because while many scientists accepted that human activities could cause climate change; they did not know **what the direction of change might be**.

2. b

- Guru Ravidas, a North Indian mystic poet of the **bhakti movement**.
- While the exact year of his birth is not known, it is believed that the saint was born in 1377 C.E.
- Guru Ravidas Jayanti is celebrated on Magh Purnima, which is the full moon day in the Hindu calendar month of Magha.
- Some 40 of the poems attributed to Ravidas were included in the Adi Granth ("First Volume"), the sacred scripture of Sikhism.

3. c

- The Union Cabinet has recently approved the Implementation of an Externally Aided Project

namely “National Rural Economic Transformation Project (NRETP) under the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission (**DAY-NRLM**) through loan assistance (IBRD Credit) from **World Bank**.

- The technical assistance provided by NRETP and the higher level interventions facilitated by the project will **enhance the livelihoods promotion and access to finance** and scale-up initiatives on digital finance and **livelihood interventions**.

4. d

- Department of Justice, Ministry of law and Justice** has recently launched two new mobile apps, **Tele Law and Nyaya Bandhu**, that seek to offer easy access to justice and free legal advice across the country.

5. d

- SWAYATT is an initiative to promote Start-ups, Women and Youth Advantage Through eTransactions on Government e Marketplace (GeM).
- It will bring together the key stakeholders within the Indian entrepreneurial ecosystem to Government e-Marketplace the national procurement portal.

6. c

- A recent notification issued by the government **widened the definition of start-ups** to benefit a larger number of innovators and protect them from the tax.
- Now an entity will be considered as a Start-up up to a period of **ten years** from the date of incorporation and registration in place of the **earlier duration of 7 years**.
- Similarly, an entity will continue to be recognised as a Start-ups, if its turnover for any of the financial years since incorporation and registration has **not exceeded Rs. 100 crore** in place of **Rs. 25 crore earlier**.

7. b

- StartUp Runway is a unique concept initiated by **Government e-Marketplace (GeM)** in association with **Start -up India** to promote entrepreneurship through innovation.
- This program is an **opportunity for agile and lean Startups** to reach out to the

universe of Government Buyers by offering products and services that are unique in concept, design, process and functionality through StartUp Runway corner.

- DPIIT (Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade) certified Startups are invited to offer their products/services for procurement on Government e Marketplace (GeM).

8. d

- The National Tourism Advisory Council (NTAC) serves as a **think tank** of the Ministry of Tourism.
- The present NTAC was constituted on 20th October, **2016** under the **Chairmanship of the Minister of Tourism** with tenure of **3 years**.
- The committee constitutes important Ministries, individual experts in the field of travel and tourism management and Ex-officio members from the industry associations.

9. b

10. c

- Union Minister for Commerce and Industry has launched the SAFAR Mobile App.
- This app will help to gauge the actual issues faced by transporters on the road.
- The app tracks the incidence of a number of parameters faced by transporters and automatically records the location of the issue.
- Transporters, truck drivers, and general public may use the app for reporting their logistics issues to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- The app is available in 8 languages.
- SAFAR (System of Air Quality Weather Forecasting and Research)** is also a mobile application software.
- But, it was launched by the **Ministry of Earth Science (MoES)**.

21-02-2019

1) Consider the following statements with respect to *Operation Digital Board*

1. Under the initiative, all classrooms of Government Schools in India will be equipped with digital boards in the next five years.
2. Department of School Education is the sole implementing agency for this 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

2) *Digidhan Mitra*, a Chatbot launched recently was designed and developed by which of the following agencies?

- a. Department of Electronics
- b. National Informatics Centre
- c. Election Commission of India
- d. Central Board of Direct Taxes

3) Consider the following statements with respect to *Technology Incubation and Development of Entrepreneurs 2.0 (TIDE-2.0) Scheme*

1. It provides financial as well as technical support to incubators engaged in supporting ICT start-ups using emerging technologies.
2. It is implemented 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

4) Consider the following statements with respect to “*Festival of India event*” which was held recently

1. It is a month-long festival celebrated by the Government of India to familiarise the younger generations with the cultural diversity of India.
2. It is organised by the Ministry of Culture in association with Government of Odisha.

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) The indelible ink that we used in our elections to prevent double voting was designed and developed by?

- a. Bharat Electronics Limited
- b. National Physical Laboratory
- c. Indian Institute of Chemical Biology
- d. Mysore Paints and Varnish Limited

6) Consider the following statements with respect to Swine flu

1. It requires swine as an intermediate carrier to affect a person.
2. Bedaquiline is the World Health Organisation (WHO) recommended medicine to treat Swine flu in India.

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

7) Consider the following statements with respect to Sea Squirts

1. It is a round, palm-sized animal migrated based on the pollution of its habitat.
2. It could help measure plastic pollution as it can filter tiny particles from the ocean and store them in its soft tissue.

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) United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) proclaimed “2019” as the International Year of

- a. Camelids
- b. Plant Health
- c. Indigenous languages
- d. Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture

9) Hodeidah, Saleef, and Ras Issa ports sometimes seen in the news were located in which of the following?

- a. Red Sea
- b. Persian Gulf
- c. Indian Ocean
- d. Mediterranean Sea

10) Consider the following events

1. Rabindranath Tagore renounced his knighthood.
2. Gandhi gave up the title of Kaiser-i-Hind, bestowed by the British for his work during the Boer War.

The two events described above were to protest against which of the following events?

- a. Rowlatt Act
- b. Partition of Bengal

- c. Vernacular Press Act
- d. Jallianwala Bagh Massacre

Answers

1. d

- The Ministry of Human Resource Development has recently launched the **Operation Digital Board (ODB)** to leverage technology in order to boost quality education in the country.
- It was launched on the lines of **Operation Blackboard** to provide better digital education in schools.
- Under the initiative ODB, the digital board will be introduced all over the country in *government and government aided schools from class 9th onwards* as well as in *higher education institutions* in the *next three years*.
- **University Grants Commission (UGC)** will be the implementing agency for Operation Digital Board in **Higher Education Institutions (HEIs)**.

2. b

- Designed and developed by **National Informatics Centre (NIC)**, the **AI based Digidhan Mitra** enables a text & voice based conversation with the user, mining the Digidhan Portal, to give customized information in graphical, tabular and textual format.
- It provides bank wise transactions details as well as growth pattern of various modes of transactions like BHIM, IMPS, Cards etc. in tabular as well as graphical form.

3. a

- **Department of Electronics and Information Technology (DeitY)** is implementing a scheme titled “Technology Incubation and Development of Entrepreneurs (TIDE)”.
- It aims to assist institutions of higher learning to strengthen their Technology Incubation Centres and enable young entrepreneurs to initiate technology start-up companies for commercial exploitation of technologies developed by them.

- The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology has launched the TIDE 2.0 Scheme recently at the VIVID 2019 event.
 - TIDE 2.0 has been devised to promote the momentum into the tech entrepreneurship landscape.
 - The Scheme provides **financial and technical support** to incubators engaged in supporting ICT startups using emerging technologies such as **IoT, AI, Block-chain, Robotics** etc. in seven pre-identified areas of societal relevance.
4. d
- In Nepal, a month-long '**Festival of India**' has recently begun in Kathmandu.
 - It aims at familiarising the **new generation of Nepal** about the similarities between the Himalayan nation and India.
 - The event is organised by the Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre, Embassy of India, Kathmandu and is **supported by the Ministry of Culture**, Government of India.

5. b

- The indelible ink, a heady mix of chemicals, dyes, aromatic materials and silver nitrate, is a singular commodity that is exclusively used in state-run elections from local bodies to the Indian Parliament.
- **Mysore Paints and Varnish Limited (MPVL) is the sole supplier** of indelible ink for election purposes since 1962.
- MPVL is paying royalty annually to the state-run National Research Development Corporation (NRDC) for licensing the chemical formula **developed by the Delhi-based National Physical Laboratory (NPL)**.

6. c

- The name Swine flu has persisted **even though the virus has long bypassed the need for swine as an intermediate carrier**.
- H1N1 is a self-limiting viral, **air-borne disease spread from person to person**, through large droplets generated due to coughing and sneezing, indirect contact by touching a contaminated object or surface and

close contact, including handshaking, hugging and kissing.

- Complications do not generally arise out of swine flu. However, the elderly and ailing are susceptible to complications.
- In order to tackle the menace, the Drug Controller General of India has been asked to coordinate with drug manufacturers and monitor the availability of **OSELTAMIVIR**, the medicine recommended by **WHO**, in various states.

7. b

- Israeli researchers have recently found that **Ascidians** – round, palm-sized animals also known as Sea Squirts can thrive in dirty industrial areas and pristine waters alike, allowing them to detect and analyze waste and its impact in various regions..
- Sea squirts are primarily **sessile** (permanently fixed to a surface), potato-shaped organisms found in all seas, from the intertidal zone to the greatest depths.
- It just sit in one place all their life and filter the water, like a pump.
- These rubbery sea creatures with an irritating habit of clinging to ships and invading beaches **could help measure plastic pollution** as it can filter tiny particles from the ocean and store them in its soft tissue.
- They can give a picture of what the whole reef, the whole ecosystem felt during its life.

8. c

- In 2016, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution proclaiming 2019 as the **International Year of Indigenous Languages**.
- International Mother Language Day is celebrated every year on the 21st of February to promote linguistic and cultural diversity and multilingualism.
- Since 2019 is also the International Year of Indigenous Languages, the theme of this year's Mother Language Day is **Indigenous Languages as a factor in development, peace and reconciliation**.
- 2024 – International Year of Camelids

- 2022 – International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture
- 2020 – International Year of Plant Health
- 2019 – International Year of Indigenous Languages

9. a

- Yemen's government and Houthi rebels have agreed on phase one of a mutual pullback of forces from the key city of **Hodeidah**.
- The deal on the first phase has been finalised and they have agreed in principle for the second phase.
- Under phase one, forces from both sides will withdraw from the ports of **Hodeidah, Saleef, and Ras Issa**.
- A pullback from Hodeidah was part of December's ceasefire between Iranian-backed Houthi rebels and the Saudi-supported Yemeni forces.



10. d

- The entire nation was stunned after the Jallianwala Bagh Massacre in 1919.
- Rabindranath Tagore renounced his knighthood in protest.
- Gandhi gave up the title of Kaiser-i-Hind, bestowed by the British for his work during the Boer War.

22-02-2019

1) Consider the following statements with respect to Assam Rifles

1. It is one of the central armed police forces and is the leading counter-insurgency force in the Northwest India.
2. They can arrest anyone and search a place without warrant in the border districts of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Nagaland and Mizoram.

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

1. Shahpur-Kanti dam is built across the River Sutlej.
2. River Ujh is a tributary of the River Ravi.

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 HOPE Portal which was launched recently

1. It is an online platform established to digitalize and simplify the accreditation process in Indian health care sector.
2. It aims to extend benefits associated with Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) and Ayushman Bharat scheme to small scale hospitals across India.

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

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

4) Consider the following statements with respect to *Drone Olympics*

1. It was conducted as a part of International Drone Expo – 2019.
2. It is being organized by the Ministry of Defence.

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 Quality Council of India (QCI)

1. QCI was set up jointly by the Government of India and the Indian Industry.
2. It is a non-profit autonomous organization under the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade.

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

6) *Padayani* is a ritual theatre art form of which of the following states?

- a. Gujarat
- b. Maharashtra
- c. Kerala
- d. Andhra Pradesh

7) Consider the following statements with respect to National Accreditation Board for Hospitals and Healthcare Organizations (NABH)

1. It is a constituent board of Quality Council of India, set up to establish and

operate accreditation programme for healthcare organisations in India.

2. It works under the Ministry of Health and Family welfare.

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 International Mobile Equipment Identity (IMEI)

1. It is a unique 15-digit number assigned to every mobile phone.
2. Dual SIM mobile phones will have two IMEI numbers, one for each SIM slot.
3. With the help of the IMEI, the mobile network can identify and prevent stolen phones from being used.

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

9) *India's Trillion-Dollar Digital Economy Report* is released by which of the following?

- a. Ministry of Finance
- b. Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- c. International Telecommunication Union
- d. Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology

10) Which of the following is/are located on either side of the equator?

1. River Congo
2. Galapagos Islands
3. Ecuador

4. Venezuela

Select the correct answer using the code given below

- a. All except 4
- b. All except 2 and 4
- c. All except 3 and 4
- d. All of the above

Answers

1. b

- The Assam Rifles, one of the central armed police forces is the leading counter-insurgency force in the **Northeast**. It also guards the sensitive India-Myanmar border.
- Assam Rifles personnel have been empowered by the central government to **arrest anyone and search a place without warrant** in the border districts of **Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Nagaland and Mizoram**.
- The Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, which is operational in some parts of the Northeast, also gives similar powers to the Army operating in the region.
- Earlier, Assam Rifles was making arrests only in areas where the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act was in effect.

2. b

- As per the Indus Waters Treaty, signed between India and Pakistan in 1960, India has full rights to utilise the waters of the **Ravi, the Beas and the Satluj** rivers, while the waters of the **Indus, the Chenab and the Jhelum** belongs to Pakistan.
- A dam was started construction at **Shahpur-Kanti** on the **River Ravi**.
- The project aims to minimise the wastage of water that now goes to Pakistan through the Madhopur Headworks downstream.
- The **Ujh Project** in Kathua, **Jammu and Kashmir**, aims to irrigate about 30,000 hectares and produce 300 MW electricity from the waters of the **Ujh, a tributary of the Ravi**.

3. d

- The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has mandated hospitals to ensure a quality healthcare ecosystem through **National Accreditation Board for Hospitals and Healthcare Organizations (NABH) Entry-Level Certification Process**.

- In order to extend benefits associated with IRDAI and Ayushman Bharat scheme to small scale hospitals across India, the government has digitalized and simplified the NABH accreditation process.

- The revised process is driven through a new portal called **HOPE - Healthcare Organizations' Platform for entry-level-certification**.

- It focuses to promote quality at nascent stages by enrolling a wide range of hospitals across the country including healthcare organizations (HCOs) and small healthcare organizations (SHCOs).

4. b

- '**Drone Olympics**' held under the **Aero-India 2019** event that held recently in Bengaluru, was organized by the **Ministry of Defence**.

- It aims to encourage the UAV industry to connect with potential buyers and business partners in the country and also provide an opportunity to the Armed Forces to assess the capabilities of UAVs, the role of which is ever-increasing in the defence sectors, making them the ideal platform for intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance, electronic warfare and strike missions.

5. d

- **Quality Council of India (QCI)** was set up in 1997 **jointly by the Government of India and the Indian Industry** represented by the three premier industry associations i.e. Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM), Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), to establish and operate national accreditation structure and promote quality through National Quality Campaign.

- The **Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion**, now known as DPIIT, Ministry of

Commerce & Industry, is the nodal ministry for QCI.

6. c

- **Padayani** is a ritual theatre art form related to the Goddess temples in the Central Travancore regions of **Kerala**.
- Performed at night in the temple premises, the rituals of Padayani are a symbolic act for pleasing the Goddess Bhadrakali whose fury remains unabated even after her victory over the mythical demon, Darikan.

7. a

- The National Accreditation Board for Hospitals and Healthcare Organizations (NABH), a constituent body of Quality Council of India (QCI), **handling global accreditation in Indian healthcare sector** under **Ministry of Commerce and Industry**.

8. d

- IMEI or ‘International Mobile Equipment Identity’ is a unique **15-digit** number assigned to every mobile phone.
- IMEI is associated with a SIM slot, so dual SIM phones will have two IMEI numbers.
- Similarly, tablets with cellular connectivity will also have IMEI number.
- With the help of the IMEI, the mobile network can identify and prevent stolen phones from being used.
- When a mobile phone gets stolen, the user has to submit his/her IMEI number to the network operator.
- They will immediately add it to a database called the **Central Equipment Identity Register (CEIR)** and forward it to all network operators.
- This will block your mobile and prevent anyone else from using it.
- Even if the robber changes the SIM card, he/she will still not be able to use it.

9. d

- **India's Trillion-Dollar Digital economy** is a new report released by **Ministry for Electronics and Information Technology** (MEITY).

- The report finds that India can create up to \$1 trillion of economic value from the digital economy in 2025, with about half of the opportunity originating in new digital ecosystems that can spring up in diverse sectors of the economy.
- Currently, India's digital economy generates about \$200 billion of economic value.

10. a

- **River Congo** is the only river to cross the equator twice.
- The **Galapagos Islands**, part of the Republic of Ecuador, are an archipelago of volcanic islands distributed on **either side of the equator** in the Pacific Ocean.

23-02-2019

1) Consider the following statements with respect to Indus Waters Treaty

1. Under the treaty, all the waters of rivers, Ravi, Chenab and Beas were allocated to India for exclusive use.
2. The treaty has no provision for either country to unilaterally walk out of the pact.

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 Seoul Peace Prize

1. It was awarded biennially to reflect the wishes of the people of Korea and to crystallize their desire for ever-lasting peace on earth.
2. It was initially established to commemorate the success of the 24th Olympic Games held in Seoul, Republic of Korea.

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 Financial Action Task Force (FATF)

- 1. It is one of the 15 specialised agencies of United Nations (UN).
- 2. Recently, FATF had listed Pakistan under its 'Black list' category.

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 Repurpose Cooking Oil (RUCO) Initiative

- 1. It aims to collect and convert the used cooking oil into bio-fuel.
- 2. It was launched by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).

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) ImTeCHO Mobile App, which significantly improves maternal health, is an initiative of which of the following states?

- a. Gujarat
- b. Tamilnadu
- c. Kerala

- d. Odisha

6) Consider the following statements

- 1. No two recognised political parties can have the same symbol.
- 2. A party that loses its recognition as a state party or national party loses its symbol immediately.

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) Attukal Pongala is a famous festival celebrated in which of the following states?

- a. Telangana
- b. Tamilnadu
- c. Kerala
- d. Maharashtra

8) Consider the following statements with respect to National Informatics Centre (NIC)

- 1. It is a premiere S&T institution of the Government of India providing nationwide ICT infrastructure to support e-Governance services and various initiatives of Digital India.
- 2. It functions under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.

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

9) According to the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, which of the following animals cannot be

hunted by any person except under some provisions provided by law?

1. Leopard
2. Nilgiri Tahr
3. Pygmy Hog
4. Black Buck

Select the correct answer using the code given below

- a. All except 1
- b. All except 2
- c. All except 1 and 4
- d. All of the above

10) Consider the following statements

1. In India, there are two species of flamingos: Greater and Lesser Flamingo.
2. Greater Flamingos are widespread in India and they migrate to South India during winter.

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 Indus Water Treaty (IWT) is about sharing of water of six rivers — Indus, Chenab, Jhelum, Beas, Ravi and Sutlej — between India and Pakistan.
 - The water-sharing formula is governed by a treaty the two countries signed in 1960 under the leadership of the then Prime Minister of India, Jawaharlal Nehru, and Pakistan President, Ayub Khan.
 - The deal was brokered by the World Bank after nine years of negotiation.
 - Under the treaty, India has control over water flowing in the eastern rivers — **Beas, Ravi and Sutlej**, while Pakistan has control over the western rivers of **Indus, Chenab and Jhelum**.
2. c
 - The wording of the treaty has no provision for either country to unilaterally walk out of the pact.
 - Article XII of the IWT says, “The provisions of this Treaty shall continue in force until terminated by a duly ratified treaty concluded for that purpose between the **two governments**.”
3. d
 - Set up in 1990, the Seoul Peace Prize is **biennially** awarded to personalities to commemorate the success of the **24th Summer Olympic Games** held in Seoul.
 - The prize was established to reflect the wishes of the Korean people and to emphasise on their desire for **everlasting peace on earth**.
4. c
 - The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) is **an inter-governmental body** established in 1989 by the Ministers of its Member jurisdictions.
 - The objectives of the FATF are to set standards and promote effective implementation of legal, regulatory and operational measures for combating money laundering, terrorist financing and other related threats to the integrity of the international financial system.
 - *Financial Action Task Force (FATF) has recently decided to continue Pakistan in the ‘grey list’, despite New Delhi’s push to blacklist the neighbour over terror funding.*
5. a
 - The **Food Safety and Standards Authority of India** (FSSAI) has launched the **Repurpose Cooking Oil (RUCO) initiative** to collect and convert used **cooking oil into bio-fuel**.
 - *Recently, Dehradun-based Indian Institute of Petroleum has successfully finished a pilot test to convert used cooking oil into bio-aviation turbine fuel (Bio-ATF), which can be blended with conventional ATF and used as aircraft fuel.*

- ImTeCHO or Innovative mobile-phone Technology for Community Health Operations is an initiative of the **Department of Health and Family Welfare, Government of Gujarat** and is being implemented within existing primary health care system and centered on front line health workers.
- ImTeCHO is an innovative mobile phone application to improve performance of ASHAs through better supervision, support and motivation for increasing coverage of proven maternal, newborn and child health interventions among resource-poor settings in India.

6. d

- Two or more recognised political parties can have the same symbol **provided they are not contenders in the same State or Union Territory.**
- **A party that loses its recognition doesn't lose its symbol immediately.**
- A party that is unrecognised in the present election but was a recognised national or state party in not earlier than six years from the date of notification of the election can be allotted its reserved symbol.
- The extension in the use of symbol doesn't mean the extension of other facilities provided to recognised parties like free time on Doordarshah/AIR, free supply of copies of electoral rolls and so on.

7. c

- Attukal Pongala is one of the largest religious congregations of women.
- Preparing ‘pongala’ (a sweet offering) is considered an auspicious all-women ritual as part of the annual festival of the Attukal Bhagavathy Temple, which is popularly known as the “Women’s Sabarimala”.
- As per the locals, the Pongala festival commemorates the hospitality accorded by women in the locality to **Kannagi**, the heroine of the Tamil epic Silappadikaram while she was on her way to Kodungallur in Kerala, after destroying Madurai city to avenge the injustice to her husband Kovalan.
- In 2009, the Pongala ritual had made it to the Guinness Book of World Records for being the

largest religious gathering of women on a single day when over 25 lakh women took part.

8. d

- National Informatics Centre (NIC) was established in 1976, and has since emerged as a “prime builder” of e-Government / e-Governance applications up to the grassroots level as well as a promoter of digital opportunities for sustainable development.
- It provides nationwide ICT infrastructure to support **e-Governance services and various initiatives of Digital India.**
- It functions under the Ministry of **Electronics and Information Technology.**

9. d

- All of these are protected under schedule-I of Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.

10. c

- In India there are two species of flamingos
- 1. Greater Flamingo – Phoenicopterus rosus
- 2. Lesser Flamingo – Phoeniconaias minor
- The Greater Flamingos are widespread in India, and they migrate to South India during winter and spend their time in large reservoirs and mud flats.
- *First-ever count of flamingos is being undertaken by Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) in collaboration with NGOs and local birdwatchers across the country.*
- *‘Flamingo Count’ will be conducted in two phases at a pan-India level.*

25-02-2019

1. According to National Tiger conservation Authority, Nauradehi Wildlife Sanctuary would be the suitable place for re-introduction of Cheetah, because

1. Its forests are very dense.
2. The prey density for cheetahs is in abundance

Choose the correct alternative

- a. 1 only

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

2. Consider the following statements regarding Raja Ram Mohan Roy

1. He was a staunch supporter of monotheism.
2. He is against the orthodox Hindu rituals and idol worship.
3. His first book was named "Tuhfat al-muwahhidin".

Which of the above is/are correctly matched?

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

3. Consider the following statements regarding Rutland Island.

1. It is one of the coral islands in Lakshwadeep.
2. Jangil tribes are the indigenous peoples who occupy these Islands.

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

- a. 1 only
- b. 2 only
- c. Both 1 & 2
- d. All of the above

4. Which of the following is/are incorrect about Financial action task force (FATF) ?

1. It has developed an international standard for combating of money laundering and the financing of terrorism and also the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.
2. Organisation of Islamic Co-operation is also a member of FATF.
3. FATF is associated with group of G-20 nations.

Select the correct code

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

5. Consider the following statements about Ease of Living index 2018

1. It is released by UN-Habitat .
2. It is to measure the liveability in both rural and urban areas across nations.
3. It tends to an evidence-based approach

Which of the above statements is/are true?

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

6. Which of the following is/are correctly matched

Isotopes	Purpose
1. Cobalt-60 disorders	- Thyroid
2. Iodine (I-131) cancer	- Detection of
3. Phosphorus (P-32)	- Reduction of bone pain

Select the correct code

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

7. Consider the following statements about Indian Council of Cultural relations

1. The President of the council shall be appointed by the President of India and shall hold office for three years.
2. It is an autonomous organisation under Ministry of Culture.

Which of the above statements is/are true?

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

8. Consider the following statements regarding forest fires in India

- 1. Northeastern states have reported the highest number of forest fire incidents in the country.
- 2. Pine trees have contributed to forest fires in Western Himalayan states.
- 3. In central states, harvesting of mahua flowers and extraction of tendu leaves result in wildfires.

Which of the above statements is/are true?

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

9. Which of the following is correct about Tokyo 2020 medal project?

- a. A project to obtain more medals in Tokyo Olympics by Indian youth
- b. A project under Ministry of Sports & Youth Affairs
- c. A project to use scrap metals in the manufacture of medals
- d. A project to boost participation of Indian citizens in manufacturing medals

10. Consider the following statements about Mechi River.

- 1. It is a trans-boundary River between India and Bangladesh.
- 2. It is a tributary of Mahananda River.

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

- a. 1 only

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

Answers

- 1. b
 - Nauradehi was found to be the most suitable area for the cheetahs as its forests are not very dense to restrict the fast movement of Cheetahs.
- 2. d
- 3. b
 - It is located in Andaman
- 4. c
 - Gulf Co-operation Council, not Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, is a member of FATF.
 - It is associated with G7 Nations.
- 5. b
 - The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) launched a set of 'Ease of Living' standards that combines these various facets of urban living.
- 6. d
- 7. a
 - It is under the Ministry of External Affairs.
 -
- 8. d
 - Northeastern states have reported the highest number of forest fire incidents in the country due to Shifting Cultivation.
 - Pine trees have contributed to forest fires in Western Himalayan states as the needles of pine trees can easily catch fire.
 - In central states, harvesting of mahua flowers for making local wine and extraction of tendu leaves for making bidis result in wildfires.
- 9. c
- 10. b
 - It runs between India and Nepal

26-02-2019

1) Consider the following statements with respect to Rail Drishti

1. It is a dashboard that brings information from various sources on a single platform.
2. It will be available only to railway employees.
3. It was launched by the Ministry of Railways.

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

2) Consider the following statements with respect to Chagos Islands

1. It officially belongs to the United States of America.
2. It is located in the Pacific Ocean.

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 Nirbhay Cruise Missile

1. It is India's first indigenously designed long-range sub-sonic cruise missile.
2. It has a range of 295 kilometres and can carry nuclear warheads of up to 300 kg.
3. It is designed and developed by DRDO in collaboration with Russia.

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

4) As per the National Survey on Extent and Pattern of Substance Use in India, consider the following statements:

1. Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana accounts for the highest number of people with opioid use problems.
2. In terms of percentage of the population affected, the highest proportions of opioid users are concentrated in parts of the Northeast.

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) Hayabusa 2 sometimes seen in the news recently is associated with which of the following?

- a. Eros
- b. Bennu
- c. Ryugu
- d. Itokawa

6) Consider the following statements with respect to National Action Plan – Viral Hepatitis

1. It aims to eliminate hepatitis by 2030.
2. It was launched by Ministry Health & Family Welfare.

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 Global Digital Health Partnership Summit

1. It is a global intergovernmental meeting on digital health which aims to promote safe use of technology by the children and youths.
2. 4th Global Digital Health Partnership Summit is hosted by the Ministry of Home 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

8) Which of the following factors is/are *not* the cause(s) for the decline of insect population?

1. Deforestation
2. Climate change
3. Use of pesticides
4. Intensive farming

Select the correct answer using the code given below

- a. 4 only
- b. 3 and 4 only
- c. 1, 2, 3 and 4
- d. None

9) Consider the following statements with respect to Global Digital Health Partnership (GDHP)

1. It is an international collaboration of governments, government agencies and multinational organisations.
2. It is dedicated to improve the health and well-being of their citizens through the best use of evidence-based digital technologies.

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) *Diego Garcia* is a U.S. military base located in which of the following?

- a. Hawaai
- b. Maluku Islands
- c. Chagos archipelago
- d. Galapagos Islands

Answers

1. c

- *Ministry of Railways* has recently launched the *Rail Drishti* dashboard, encompassing all the digitisation efforts in Indian Railways and promoting transparency and accountability.
- It brings *information from various sources on a single platform* and gives access to key statistics and parameters to *every citizen of the country*.

2. d

- The *United Kingdom (U.K)* must return the *Chagos Islands* to Mauritius "as rapidly as possible," the United Nations' highest court International Court of Justice ruled recently, branding its occupation of the *Indian Ocean archipelago* illegal.



3. a

- *Nirbhay* is India's first indigenously designed long-range **sub-sonic** cruise missile.

- Equivalent to the famous American Tomahawk missile, Nirbhay missile is a **two-stage missile** which carries nuclear warheads of up to 300 kg at a speed of 0.6 -0.7 Mach.
 - India had developed the Brahmos supersonic cruise missile with Russia but it had to go alone for developing the Nirbhay, which has a **range of 1,000 kilometres**.
 - *This is because of the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR), which forbids its signatory countries from assisting or providing technology to any other country developing a cruise missile with a range of 300 kilometres or more.*
 - The range of Brahmos has thus been capped at 295 kilometres, just under the limit set by MTCR.
4. c
- As per the National Survey on Extent and Pattern of Substance Use in India, 2.06% of the population use opioids in any of 3 forms — opium, heroin and pharmaceutical opioids (which includes a variety of medications).
 - The most commonly used is heroin is (1.14%), followed by pharmaceutical opioids (0.96%) and opium (0.52%).
 - Of an estimated 77 lakh problem opioid users (dependent or harmful use), more than half are concentrated in just a few states.
 - **Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Delhi, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat account for the highest number of people with opioid use problems.**
 - However, **in terms of percentage of the population affected, the highest proportions are concentrated in parts of the Northeast** (Mizoram, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Manipur) along with Punjab, Haryana and Delhi.
5. c
- Hayabusa 2 is a Japanese probe sent to collect samples from an asteroid for clues about the origin of life and the solar system.
 - It fired a bullet into the surface of the **Ryugu** asteroid.
- The Ryugu asteroid is thought to contain relatively large amounts of organic matter and water from some 4.6 billion years ago when the solar system was born.
 - It was launched in December 2014 and is scheduled to return to the Earth with its samples in 2020.
 - The probe will observe the surface of the asteroid with its camera and sensing equipment.
6. c
- **National Action Plan – Viral Hepatitis** was launched by Union Ministry **Health & Family Welfare**.
7. d
- Global Digital Health Partnership Summit is a global intergovernmental meeting on digital health.
 - GDHP aims to improve the health and well-being of citizens through the best use of evidence-based digital technologies.
 - It is being hosted by the Ministry of **Health and Family Welfare** in collaboration with **World Health Organization (WHO)** and the **Global Digital Health Partnership (GDHP)**.
8. d
- Habitat change is the biggest cause of insect population decline and extinction threat.
 - **Deforestation** and changes in our land use, including **urban development** and **intensive farming**, cause significant losses and fragmentation of pollinator-friendly habitats.
 - **Pollution** and the widespread use of **pesticides** in commercial agriculture are cited as the next big reasons.
 - Pesticides can be harmful to insects that visit the plants.
 - **Climate change** also drives the extinction of insects in some regions.
9. d
- The Global Digital Health Partnership (GDHP) is an international collaboration of governments, government agencies and multinational organisations dedicated to

improving the health and well-being of their citizens through the best use of evidence-based digital technologies.

- Governments are making significant investments to harness the power of technology and foster innovation and public-private partnerships that support high quality, sustainable health and care for all.
 - The GDHP facilitates global collaboration and co-operation in the implementation of digital health services.
10. c
- Britain must give Mauritius control of the **Chagos Archipelago** in the Indian Ocean, the ICJ has said recently.
 - The **Chagos Islands are home to the US military base of Diego Garcia**, under lease from the United Kingdom since the 1960s.

27-02-2019

1) Consider the following statements with respect to Bringing Green Revolution in Eastern India (BGREI) programme

1. It aims to address the constraints limiting the productivity of rice based cropping systems in eastern India including Assam.
2. It is now a sub-scheme of Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana.
3. National Rice Research Institute (NRRI) is the nodal agency for planning, implementation and monitoring of this programme.

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

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

2) Consider the following statements with respect to Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism (CCIT)

1. It was proposed by India in 1996.

2. It was ratified by U.N countries and came in to force since 2013.

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 Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) Framework

1. It is applicable only to Public Sector Banks and not extended to Private Sector Banks.
2. All banks kept under PCA are subjected to both mandatory and discretionary restrictions.

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) Formjacking sometimes seen in the news recently is?

- a. A type of hacking technique that steals classified, sensitive government data
- b. A type of hacking that targets retail websites and steal online shopper's details
- c. A type of harassment where attacker harasses a victim using electronic communication
- d. None of the above

5) VISION-2040 sometimes seen in the news recently, is related with which of the following sectors?

- a. Aviation
- b. Mines
- c. Agriculture
- d. Atomic Energy

6) Consider the following statements with respect to Quick Reach Surface-to-Air missiles (QRSAM)

1. It was developed by DRDO, India, in collaboration with Israel's IAI.
2. It has been developed by India to replace the 'Akash' missile defence 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

7) Consider the following statements

1. It is also called as Silent Disaster.
2. They occur during the pre-monsoon summer season.
3. They are more frequent over the Indo-Gangetic plains of India.

Identify the disaster that correctly matches with the above description

- a. Hailstorms
- b. Heat waves
- c. Blizzards
- d. Droughts

8) Consider the following statements with respect to Sampriti Exercise

1. It is a joint military exercise between India and Nepal.
2. It will be held alternatively in both countries.
3. Sampriti 2019 will be held in Nadia, West Bengal.

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

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

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

9) Consider the following statements with respect to *Mirage 2000 jet*

1. It is a multirole, single-engine fourth-generation fighter jet manufactured by United Kingdom.
2. It was used by India since Kargil war, 1999.

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) *WhatsFarzi* is an app launched by IIIT-Delhi students for which of the following purposes?

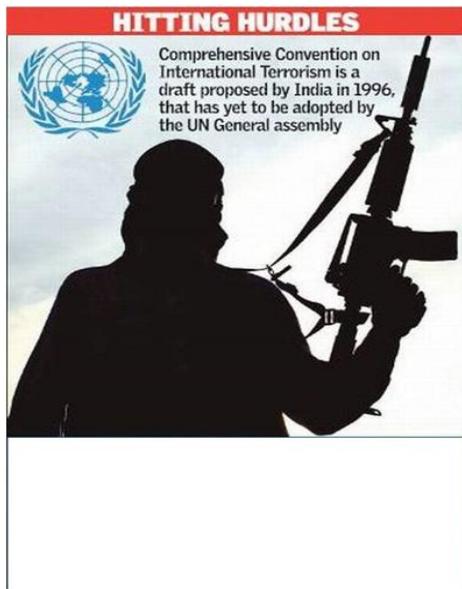
- a. To detect fake news
- b. To protect endangered species
- c. To link farmers with end consumers
- d. To help students to overcome suicidal thoughts

Answers

1. c

- The programme of "Bringing Green Revolution to Eastern India (BGREI)" was launched in 2010-11 to address the constraints limiting the productivity of "**rice based cropping systems**" in eastern India comprising seven (7) States namely; **Assam**, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Odisha, Eastern Uttar Pradesh (Purvanchal) and West Bengal.
- The programme is now a sub-scheme of **Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana**.
- **National Rice Research Institute (NRRI)** is the nodal agency for planning, implementation and monitoring of BGREI programme.

2. a



HITTING HURDLES

Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism is a draft proposed by India in 1996, that has yet to be adopted by the UN General assembly

What does it call for?

- ① **Universal definition of terrorism:** No good terrorist or bad terrorist
- ② Ban on all groups regardless of country of operation, cut off access to fund and safe havens
- ③ Prosecution of all groups, including cross-border groups
- ④ Amending domestic laws to make cross-border terror an extraditable offence

Why has CCIT been blocked?

- ① **US+allies:** Concerns over definitions of terrorism, including acts by US soldiers in international interventions without UN mandate
- ② **Latin American countries:** Concerns over international humanitarian laws and HR being ignored
- ③ **OIC:** Concerns that convention will be used to target Pakistan, and restrict rights of self-determination groups in Palestine, Kashmir etc

- Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism (CCIT) is a **draft proposed by India in 1996** that has **yet to be adopted** by the UN General Assembly.
- Recently, the Vice President of India has stressed that, the UN must conclude the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism (CCIT) with greater urgency and should not delay the process over semantics.

3. d

- Under the revised PCA framework: **Capital, Asset quality and Profitability** continue to be the key areas for monitoring.
- Indicators to be tracked for Capital, asset quality and profitability would be CRAR/ **Common Equity Tier I ratio**, Net NPA ratio (NNPA) and Return on Assets (RoA) respectively.
- **Leverage** would be monitored additionally as part of the PCA framework.
- There are two types of restrictions, **mandatory and discretionary** under PCA.
- Restrictions on dividend, branch expansion, director's compensation, are mandatory while discretionary restrictions could include curbs on lending and deposit.
- Based on each trigger point, the banks have to follow a **mandatory action plan**.

- The rationale for classifying the rule-based action points into "mandatory" and "discretionary" is that some of the actions are essential to restore the financial health of banks **while other actions will be taken at the discretion of RBI depending upon the profile of each bank.**

4. b

- Formjacking is a new hacking technique that targets online shoppers.
- Formjacking attacks are essentially a virtual ATM skimming technique under which cyber criminals target website of a retailer by injecting malicious codes.
- These codes give away access to online shoppers' payment details including sensitive card details.

5. a

- **Ministry of Civil Aviation** has launched the document **VISION2040** at the **Global Aviation Summit 2019** that held recently.

6. b

- India has successfully tested the indigenously developed Quick Reaction Surface-to-Air (QRSAM) **short range** missile recently.
- It was **indigenously** developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
- QRSAM has a capability of engaging multiple targets.
- The missile has a range between 25-30 Kms, and has been designed to be a quick reaction missile; it involves an all- weather weapon system capable of tracking and firing.
- This missile has been developed by India **to replace the 'Akash' missile** defence system, and has 360-degree coverage, light weight, high mobility and shorter second reaction time as compared to 'Akash'.

7. b

- Heat wave is a period of abnormally high temperatures, more than the normal maximum temperature that occurs during the pre-monsoon (April to June) summer season.

- Heat -waves typically occur between March to June, and in some rare cases even extend till July.
- Heat waves are more frequent over the Indo-Gangetic plains of India.
- Heat wave is also called a “**Silent Disaster**” as it develops slowly and kills and injures humans and animals nationwide.

8. b

- Exercise Sampriti-2019 is an important bilateral defence cooperation endeavour between **India and Bangladesh** and this will be the **eighth** edition of the exercise which is **hosted alternately by both countries**.
- Sampriti-2019 will be conducted at **Tangail, Bangladesh** from 02 March to 15 March 2019.

9. b

- Recently, Indian Air Force Mirage 2000 fighters were used to destroy the Jaish-e-Mohammad camps at Balakot along the Line of Control.
- It is a **French multirole, single-engine fourth-generation fighter jet**.
- It is manufactured by **Dassault Aviation**.
- It gained prominence after their remarkable success rate in the **1999 Kargil war**.
- It has a maximum climbing speed of 60,000 feet per minute and is designed for all weather penetration at low altitude.

10. a

- The students of Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology (IIIT), Delhi have developed an app called **WhatsFarzi**(roughly be translated as whatsfake).
- The app will track content on the internet and check it with authentic websites to curb spread of misinformation otherwise known as fake news.

28-02-2019

1) Consider the following statements with respect to Yuva Sahakar Scheme

1. It was launched by National Co-operative Development Corporation (NCDC).
2. The scheme has special incentives for cooperatives of North Eastern region, Aspirational Districts and also cooperatives of women/SC/ST/PwD members.

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 SHREYAS scheme

1. It aims to provide industry apprenticeship opportunities, primarily for technical graduates to improve their employability of students.
2. It is a programme basket comprising the initiatives of Ministry of Human Resource, Ministry of Skill Development and NITI Aayog.

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 SATAT scheme

1. It is an initiative aimed at providing sustainable alternative towards affordable transportation.
2. It was launched by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.

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 Van Dhan Scheme

1. It is an initiative for targeting livelihood generation for tribals by harnessing non-timber forest produce.
2. It was launched by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and TRIFED.

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) The term *Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam* which means “the whole world is one big family”, is found in which of the following texts?

- a. Mundaka Upanishad
- b. Maha Upanishad
- c. Mandukya Upanishad
- d. Chandogya Upanishad

6) Consider the following statements with respect to Drug Price Regulation in India

1. Essential Medicines listed under the National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM) would automatically come under price control.
2. National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) can also cap the price of non-scheduled drugs.

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 Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize

1. It is an annual award presented only to women.
2. The Prize is given each year for outstanding contributions to Science and 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

8) The Scheme of the *Forest Rights Act, 2006*, is in tune with which of the following covenants?

1. UN Universal Declaration on Human Rights
2. UN Convention concerning Indigenous and Tribal populations
3. UN Declaration on Rights of Indigenous People
4. UN Convention on Biological Diversity
5. Rio Declaration on Environment and Development

Select the correct answer using the code given below

- a. All except 1
- b. All except 1 and 4
- c. All except 4 and 5
- d. All of the above

9) Consider the following pairs

1. Bandipur National Park – Karnataka
2. Phen Wildlife Sanctuary – Madhya Pradesh

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) Which of the following railway zones was recently announced by the Centre as a new zone for Indian Railways?

- a. East Coast Railway Zone
- b. Konkan Railway Zone
- c. South Coast Railway Zone
- d. East Central Railway Zone

Answers

1. c

- National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) has introduced Yuva Sahakar-Cooperative Enterprise Support and Innovation Scheme.
- This is a youth friendly scheme which will attract youths to cooperative business ventures.
- The scheme will be linked to Rs.1000 crore Cooperative Start-up and Innovation Fund (CSIF).
- The scheme envisages 2% less than the applicable rate of interest on term loan for the project cost up to Rs 3 crore including 2 years moratorium on payment of principal.
- The scheme has special incentive for cooperatives of North Eastern region, Aspirational Districts and cooperatives with women/SC/ST/PwD members.
- All types of cooperatives in operation for at least 1 year are eligible.

2. d

- SHREYAS – **Scheme for Higher Education Youth for Apprenticeship and Skills.**
- SHREYAS is a programme conceived for students in degree courses, **primarily non-technical**, with a view to introduce employable skills into their learning, promote apprenticeship as integral to education and also amalgamate employment facilitating efforts of the Government into the education

system so that clear pathways towards employment opportunities are available to students during and after their graduation.

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

3. a

- SATAT is an initiative by Ministry of **Petroleum and Natural Gas**.
- It is aimed at providing a **Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation** (SATAT)
- It will promote the use of Compressed Bio-Gas (CBG) production plants and make available CBG in the market for use in automotive fuels.
- It will be launched in association with PSU oil marketing companies, which invites potential entrepreneurs to set up CBG plants.
- It would benefit vehicle-users, farmers and entrepreneurs.

4. c

- **Van Dhan Scheme** is an initiative for targeting livelihood generation for tribals by harnessing non-timber forest produce.
- Under the scheme, 10 Self Help Groups of 30 Tribal gatherers are being trained and provided with working capital to add value to the products, which they collect from the Jungle.
- It also aims at build upon the traditional knowledge & skill sets of tribals by adding technology & IT for value addition.
- It also focussed on setting-up of tribal community owned Van Dhan Vikas Kendras in predominantly forested tribal districts.

5. b

- The **Maha Upanishad** is a Sanskrit text and is one of the minor Upanishads of Hinduism.

The text is classified as a **Vaishnava** Upanishad.

- It is notable for its teaching of “**Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam**”, or “the world is one family”.

6. d

- Para 19 powers** which NPPA can exercise for setting the price cap of scheduled and **non-scheduled drugs** was transferred to Standing Committee on Affordable Medicines and Health Products (SCAMHP) housed in the NITI Aayog.



WATCHDOG ON A LEASH

■ Current ■ Change

Essential medicines automatically fall under price control

Essential medicines delinked from price control

Health ministry prepares the list of essential medicines, DoP incorporates it into Schedule 1, NPPA fixes the prices

NITI Aayog panel to be recommending body to NPPA on pricing



NPPA fixes prices for medicines on the non-scheduled list

The new panel to be recommending body on pricing

NPPA exercises Para 19 powers in public interest

The new committee may encompass Para 19 powers

7. b

- The award is named after the founder Director of the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) India, the late Dr (Sir) Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar and is known as the ‘Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar (SSB) Prize for Science and Technology’.
- The Prize is given each year for outstanding contributions to **science and technology**.

- Any citizen of India** engaged in research in any field of science and technologies up to the age of 45 are eligible.

8. d

Global outlook

According to the Centre's application before the Supreme Court, the scheme of the Forest Rights Act, 2006, is in tune with several international covenants

1 UN Universal Declaration on Human Rights

Recognises the equal rights of the human family. India is a signatory

2 UN Convention Concerning Indigenous and Tribal Populations

Seeks to protect ownership rights of populations over lands they traditionally occupy. Ratified by India



3 UN Declaration on Rights of Indigenous People

Mandates to protect the rights of indigenous people to lands, territories and resources which they traditionally own, occupy and use. India is a signatory

4 UN Convention on Biological Diversity

Advocates preservation of indigenous knowledge and practices. India is a party

5 Rio Declaration on Environment and Development

Proclaims indigenous people have a vital role in environmental management

9. c

- Phen Wildlife Sanctuary is a popular buffer zone of Kanha national park, **Madhya Pradesh**.
- It lies in Southern region of Kanha tiger reserve, close to Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh state borders.
- It was declared as a wildlife sanctuary in year 1983 by Government of Madhya Pradesh.

- The Fauna at this sanctuary mainly consists of the Tiger, Leopard, Wild boar, Cheetal, Sambar etc.
- 10. c
- The Centre has recently announced the creation of a separate railway zone in Andhra Pradesh with headquarters at **Visakhapatnam**.
- A separate railway zone was one of the key promises made to Andhra Pradesh in the bifurcation act.
- The new zone named as **South Coast Railway (SCoR) Zone**.
- “As per item 8 of Schedule 13 (Infrastructure) of the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014, Indian Railways was required to examine establishing a new railway zone in the Successor State of Andhra Pradesh.