



IAS PARLIAMENT

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A Shankar IAS Academy Initiative

MONTHLY PRESTORMING

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Shankar IAS Academy™

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01-01-2019

1) Consider the following statements with respect to Photo-DNA Technology

1. It is a technology developed and owned by Google.
2. It is used exclusively to identify child exploitation images and should not be used for any other purposes.

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 Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA)

1. Under AFSPA, security forces have the powers to conduct operations anywhere and arrest anyone without any prior notice.
2. AFSPA is being effective in the whole of Nagaland.

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

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

3) Consider the following statements

1. In India, Ancient Monument means any structure which is of archaeological or artistic interest and has been in existence for not less than 1000 years.
2. In 2016 and 2017, no new monuments were included in the list of sites of monuments of national importance.

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 Ujjwala Sanitary Napkins initiative

1. It is an initiative of Odisha government.
2. The funding for the scheme will be shared equally by the central and state 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

5) "B V R Mohan Reddy Committee" was sometimes seen in the news recently, which is associated with which of the following?

- a. To suggest a roadmap to completely eliminate ragging in Indian colleges
- b. To suggest a plan for expansion in engineering education
- c. To suggest a roadmap to close the skill gap in India
- d. To protect the wetlands in the densely populated urban areas

6) Consider the following statements with respect to Bhima Koregaon Battle

1. It was fought between Peshwa Sambhaji and the English East India Company (EIC).
2. Mahars, who were once part of Maratha army, fought against Marathas in this 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

7) "Velakali" is a traditional martial dance form performed in which of the following states?

- a. Tamilnadu
- b. Kerala
- c. Karnataka
- d. Andhra Pradesh

8) In India, monuments will be declared as of "National Importance" by which of the following agencies?

- a. National Monuments Authority
- b. National Commission for Cultural and Heritage Sites
- c. Archaeological Survey of India
- d. Concerned State governments

9) Consider the following statements with respect to Rhesus Macaque

- 1. It is endemic to Eastern Himalayas.
- 2. It has been listed under critically endangered category of 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) Consider the following statements with respect to Rheum

- 1. It is a thin, watery mucus that is discharged from the nose, eyes or mouth.
- 2. Rheum discharged from the mouth is called 'gound'.

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

- **PhotoDNA is a technology developed and owned by Microsoft.**
- It is **mainly used to prevent child pornography** from being uploaded on the web and is free to use.
- The **company has restricted the use of this software beyond this purpose in all countries.**
- The software creates a unique digital signature of any image and then compares it to other photos to find a similar one.
- **Recently, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) sent an official request to social media platforms to use Microsoft's PhotoDNA for purposes of investigation in regular criminal cases.**

2. c

- The Centre had recently extended the Armed Forces Special Powers Act in Nagaland for six more months, contending that the **whole state** is in such "disturbed and dangerous condition" that the use of armed forces in aid of civil power is necessary.
- Under AFSPA, **security forces have the powers to conduct operations anywhere and arrest anyone without any prior notice.**

3. b

- According to the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958, an "Ancient Monument means any structure, erection or monument, or any tumulus or place of interment, or any cave, rock-sculpture, inscription or monolith which is of historical, archaeological or artistic interest and which has been in existence for not less than **100 years.**"
- Monuments are declared protected and of national importance by the **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI).**



- In **2016 and 2017, no new monument was included in the list** of sites of national importance.
 - The last monument to be included in the list, in 2015, was the Vishnu Temple in Nadavayal in Kerala's Wayanad district.
 - In 2018, ASI declared 6 monuments to be of national importance.
4. d
- The Ujjwala Sanitary Napkins initiative has been launched by three oil marketing companies (OMCs) – **IOCL, BPCL and HPCL**.
 - The mission, which forms part of the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative of **OMCs in Odisha**.
 - The three companies will set up 100 manufacturing units at the Common Service Centres (CSCs).
5. b
- With more than half the engineering seats falling vacant every year, a government committee, headed by IIT-Hyderabad chairman **B V R Mohan Reddy**, has advised the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) **to stop setting up new colleges from 2020** and review the creation of new capacity every two years after that.
 - The committee was asked to come up with a medium and short-term perspective plan for **expansion in engineering education**.
6. b
- It was the **last of the Anglo-Maratha battle** that took place on **1 January 1818** in Bhima, Koregaon between the troops of Maratha Ruler **Baji Rao Peshwa II** and the **British East India Company (EIC)**.
 - The **Mahars**, though untouchables, had been valued for their military skills for centuries and **formed a significant portion of Shivaji's army**.
 - However under the Peshwas they were ill-treated and lost their military glory.
 - In the battle, the **EIC represented by majority of Mahar soldiers** successfully resisted Peshwa troops in which Peshwa lost 600 of his soldiers after which he withdrew and gave up plans to attack Pune.
7. b
- British constructed a tower to commemorate this victory.
 - **Velakali** a stylised, martial dance of **Kerala** blends movements and postures of Kathakali and Kalaripayattu was originated in Ambalappuzha.
8. c
- The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (AMASR) Act, 1958 authorised **the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)** to declare a monument to be of national importance by issuing a notification in the Gazette of India.
 - Thereafter, activities relating to preservation and conservation of monuments were to be undertaken.
 - National Monument Authority (NMA) does not have any provision to declare monument/site as of national importance.
9. d
- It has been found in **Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Thailand, Viet Nam**.
 - It has been listed under **Least Concern** Category of IUCN Red list.
10. a
- Rheum is a thin, watery mucus that is discharged from the **nose, eyes or mouth**.
 - Rheum discharged **from the eyes is called 'gound'**.
 - Gound has a very important job – it gathers foreign particles like dust, pollen, blood cells, skin cells, etc., which have entered the eye and escorts them out.
 - When a person is awake, blinking causes the gound to be carried away with the moisture produced by the tear glands in the eyes.



- However, in the absence of blinking during sleep, gound dries up and accumulates in the corners of the eyes, forming 'crusties'.
- 'Crusties', 'sleep boogers' or 'sandman's dust' are the many names given to the dry, flakey matter that we find in the corners of our eyes when we wake up in the morning.
- They are the dried-up form of what is scientifically known as 'rheum'.

02-01-2019

1) Consider the following statements

- 1. Rajasthan was the first State in the country to fix a minimum educational qualification for contesting elections to the Panchayati Raj Institutions.**
- 2. The Rajasthan government has recently abolished the condition of a minimum educational qualification to contest local body elections.**

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

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

2) "Samwad with Students" is an initiative launched recently by which of the following organisations?

- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)
- Prime Minister's Office (PMO)
- Indian Army
- Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

3) What is/are the most likely benefits of Regional Comprehensive Economic Cooperation (RCEP) Agreement for India?

- 1. Provide market access for India's goods and services exports.**
- 2. Encourage greater investments and technology into India.**

- 3. It may lead to a surge of Indian exports into China with very limited access for Chinese exports to the Indian market.**
- 4. Facilitate India's MSMEs to effectively integrate into the regional value and supply chains.**

Select the correct answer using the code given below

- 1 only
- 1 and 2 only
- 1, 2 and 4 only
- 1, 2, 3 and 4

4) Consider the following statements with respect to UNESCO

- 1. It was co-founded by the U.S after World War II to foster peace.**
- 2. Its headquarters is located in Geneva, Switzerland.**
- 3. Recently, the US and Israel have officially quit the UNESCO.**

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

5) "Madhav Gadgil Committee" was sometimes seen in the news recently, was associated with which of the following?

- Eastern Himalayas
- Western Ghats
- Aravalli Mountain
- Coastal Zone Regulation

6) "Agreement on the Prohibition of Attack against Nuclear installations" was sometimes seen in the news recently. It is an agreement signed between which of the following two countries?

- Israel and Palestine



- b. North Korea and South Korea
- c. India and Pakistan
- d. USA and Cuba

7) Consider the following statements

1. It is a mammal that can survive at an altitude up to 5,000 metres.
2. It has been found in the Himalayan regions of India, Nepal, and Pakistan and on the Qinghai-Tibetan Plateau of China.
3. They also hibernate for more than six months during the wintertime.
4. It has been listed under the least concern category of IUCN Red list.

Identify the species that correctly matches with the above description

- a. Reindeer
- b. Himalayan Marmot
- c. Hangul
- d. Snow Leopard

8) Consider the following statements with respect to Bio-toilets used in Indian railways

1. Inoculum is the bacteria used for bio-toilets to decompose waste.
2. The bacteria used in bio-toilets are currently being generated by the Indian Railways.
3. The bacteria used in bio-toilets have very short expiry period, Once opened, it has to be utilised within two days.

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

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

9) The term “Inflation Targeting” in economics refers to

- a. A special technique used during periods of high inflation whereby financial statements are adjusted according to price indexes
- b. An inflationary situation, where wages presses prices up and prices pulls wages up
- c. The excess of total government spending above the national income
- d. The Central bank’s monetary policy strategy to realise the objective of a stable rate of inflation

10) Consider the following pairs

1. Pong Dam wildlife sanctuary – Himachal Pradesh
2. Sanjay Gandhi National Park – 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. c

- The Rajasthan Panchayati Raj (amendment) Bill, 2015, made Class X mandatory for contesting municipal elections and for contesting zila parishad or panchayat samiti elections.
- To contest the sarpanch elections, an aspirant from the general category must have passed Class VIII and a SC/ST aspirant must have passed Class V.
- It has also made a functional toilet mandatory in the house of a contestant.
- By this, Rajasthan became the **first State in the country** to fix a minimum educational qualification for contesting elections to the Panchayati Raj Institutions.
- The Rajasthan government recently **abolished the condition** of a minimum educational qualification to contest local body elections.

2. a



- As part of the enhanced outreach programme of **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)**, a new platform named “Samwad with Students” (SwS) was launched in Bengaluru recently.
 - Through the SwS initiative, ISRO aims to **constantly engage youngsters** across India to capture their scientific temperament.
3. c
- The Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), which is a proposed Free Trade Agreement between ten ASEAN member states and their six Free Trade Agreement (FTA) partners namely India, Australia, China, Japan, New Zealand and Republic of Korea, is expected to **provide market access for India’s goods and services exports** and **encourage greater investments and technology into India**. It would also **facilitate India’s MSMEs to effectively integrate into the regional value and supply chains**.
 - In 2018, NITI Aayog has warned that, China’s capacity overhangs in most sectors and if RCEP signed, it may lead to a surge of imports into India with very limited access for Indian exports to the Chinese market.
4. b
- UNESCO was **co-founded by the U.S.** after World War II to foster peace.
 - Its headquarters is located in the **Place de Fontenoy, Paris**.
 - Recently, the **United States and Israel officially quit** the U.N.’s educational, scientific and cultural agency with the close of 2018.
 - The countries had announced their decisions in 2017 of withdrawing from the agency, accusing it of bias against Israel.
5. b
- Over 56,000 km of ecologically sensitive areas in the Western Ghats could not be earmarked as ‘no-go’ zones due to State governments’ ‘insensitivity’, a parliamentary panel has recently stated.
 - The panel had examined issues regarding the categorisation of Western Ghats parts as Ecologically Sensitive Areas (ESAs) as per the recommendations of two different committees led by **Madhav Gadgil and K. Kasturirangan**.
- “Insensitivity towards ecology of Western Ghats was making the six States of Western Ghats vulnerable to floods and landslides,” it noted.
6. c
- **India and Pakistan** has recently exchanged the list of nuclear installations and facilities covered under the **Agreement on the Prohibition of Attack against Nuclear installations between them**.
 - Under the 1988 agreement, the two countries inform each other of nuclear installations and facilities on the first of January every year.
7. b
- Researchers have sequenced the first complete genome of the Himalayan marmot, which may help better explain how the mammals survive at altitudes of up to 5,000 metres.
 - Marmots are found in the **Himalayan regions of India, Nepal, and Pakistan and on the Qinghai-Tibetan Plateau of China**, where many of them face extreme cold, little oxygen, and few other resources.
 - As one of the highest-altitude-dwelling mammals, the Himalayan marmot is chronically exposed to cold temperature, hypoxia, and intense UV radiation.
 - They also **hibernate for more than six months** during the wintertime.
8. c
- The Railway Convention Committee (RCC), in its latest report has in particular sought a foolproof mechanism for the effective use and management of the bacteria meant to be used in the bio-toilets.
 - The bacteria **Inoculum** required for use in the bio-toilets to decompose human waste is currently being **generated by the Railways** at its in-house plant in Moti Bagh, Nagpur, and is **also procured from DRDO**, Gwalior.
 - The committee detected a major problem with the bacteria inoculums – it’s **short expiry date**.



- Once it is opened, it has to be utilised **within two days**, and the Railways is apparently not able to do so, rendering it ineffective.
- It has sought a foolproof mechanism for the effective use and management of the bacteria meant to be used in bio-toilets.

9. d

- The announcement of an official target range for inflation is known as inflation targeting.
- It is done by the **Central Bank** in an economy as a **part of their monetary policy to realise the objective of a stable rate of inflation**.
- India commenced inflation targeting “formally” in February 2015 when an agreement between the GoI and the RBI was signed related to it – The Agreement on Monetary Policy Framework.

10. c

- An ambitious eco-tourism project is all set to take wing in **pong dam wildlife sanctuary in Himachal Pradesh**.

03-01-2019

1) Consider the following statements with respect to swap ratios

1. It is the exchange rate at which the currencies are accepted between two countries with Currency Swap Agreement.
2. The swap ratios are based on stock prices.

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

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

2) An expert committee under SEBI Chairman U K Sinha is set up to examine the solutions for?

- a. Sustainability of MSMEs

- b. Increasing Gross NPAs
- c. Round Tripping
- d. FPI exodus

3) Consider the following statements about Shola forest-grassland ecosystem

1. It is a Tropical Montane Forest.
2. It is characterised by patches of forest of stunted evergreen shola trees in the hill slopes and grasslands on valleys.
3. They are native to Southern Western Ghats.
4. Nilgiri Tahr is endemic to the region.

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

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

4) Consider the following statements with respect to World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA)

1. It is an international independent agency funded equally by the sport movement and governments of the world.
2. Its primary activities include monitoring of the World Anti-Doping Code (Code).
3. Pursuant to the terms of the Brazzaville Declaration, the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) was established.

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

5) “Asia Reassurance Initiative Act (ARIA)” was sometimes seen in the news



recently was enacted by which of the following countries?

- China
- France
- India
- United States of America

6) Consider the following statements with respect to National Health Authority

- It will dissolve and replace the existing society “National Health Agency”.
- It aims to efficiently implement Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay SanraksHan Abhiyan (PM-AASHA).
- It will be an attached office under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.

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

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

7) “Global Stocktake Process” was sometimes seen in the news recently, is associated with which of the following?

- Paris Agreement
- Kigali Agreement
- Brazilia declaration
- United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

8) Consider the following statements with respect to Cinereous vulture

- It is one of the heaviest and largest raptors in the world.
- It is classified as least concern in the IUCN Red list.
- It migrates from the mountainous regions of Europe and Asia to India during summer.

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

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

9) “Io” was sometimes seen in the news recently. Consider the following statements with respect to Io

- It is one of the moons of planet Saturn.
- It is the most volcanically active world in the Solar System.
- Its extreme volcanic activity is due to the tug-of-war between Jupiter’s gravity and its moons Europa and Ganymede’s gravity.

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

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

10) “Moynagiri rice” is an indigenous rice variety of which of the following states?

- Assam
- Maharashtra
- Telangana
- Tamilnadu

Answers

1. b

- When a company pays for an acquisition by issuing its own shares to the shareholders of the target company, this is known as a share swap.
- The number of shares to be issued in lieu of their existing holdings in the target company is called the swap ratio.
- The swap ratios are based on stock prices.



- It is determined by valuing the target company after looking into metrics such as its revenues and profits, as well as its market price.
2. a
- The panel was setup to suggest long-term solutions for the economic and financial sustainability of the MSME sector
 - The eight-member committee will also examine the factors impacting credit flow to MSMEs.
 - The report will be submitted by the end of June 2019.
3. c
- Shola forest-grassland ecosystem is characterised by patches of forest of stunted evergreen shola trees in the valleys and grasslands on hill slopes.
4. b
- WADA's key activities include scientific research, education, development of anti-doping capacities, and **monitoring of the World Anti-Doping Code (Code)** – the document harmonizing anti-doping policies in all sports and all countries.
 - The First World Conference on Doping in Sport held, in Lausanne, Switzerland, on February 2-4, 1999, produced the Lausanne Declaration on Doping in Sport.
 - Pursuant to the terms of the **Lausanne Declaration**, the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) was established on November 10, 1999, in Lausanne to promote and coordinate the fight against doping in sport internationally.
 - *The WADA has recently said that Russian authorities had failed to provide access to laboratory doping data by their year-end deadline and it will consider sanctions against the Russian Anti-Doping Agency (RUSADA).*
 - *RUSADA was stripped of its accreditation in 2015 after a WADA-commissioned report found evidence of widespread **state-sponsored doping** in Russian athletics.*
 - *But it was conditionally – and controversially – reinstated in September.*
- The **Brazzaville declaration** was signed to promote better management and conservation world's largest tropical peatlands Cuvette Centrale region in Congo basin from unregulated land use and prevent its drainage and degradation.
5. d
- On the final day of 2018, U.S. President signed into law the **Asia Reassurance Initiative Act (ARIA)**.
 - The act establishes a multifaceted U.S. strategy to **increase U.S. security, economic interests, and values in the Indo-Pacific region.**
 - It allocates a budget of \$1.5 billion over a five-year period **to enhance cooperation with America's strategic regional allies in the region.**
6. c
- The Union Cabinet has recently approved the restructuring of existing National Health Agency as "National Health Authority" for better implementation of **Pradhan Mantri - Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY)**.
 - With this approval, the existing society **"National Health Agency" has been dissolved and will be replaced by National Health Authority** as an **attached office to Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.**
7. a
- Article 14 of the **Paris Agreement** requires the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA) to periodically take stock of the implementation of the Paris Agreement and to assess collective progress towards achieving the purpose of the Agreement and its long-term goals. This process is called the global stocktake.
 - The global stocktake shall be conducted in a comprehensive and facilitative manner, considering mitigation, adaptation and the means of implementation and support, and in the light of equity and the best available science.
 - The CMA will undertake the **first global stocktake in 2023 and every five years**



thereafter, unless otherwise decided by the CMA.

8. a

- It is one of the **heaviest and largest raptors in the world**.
- It is classified as “**Near Threatened**” in IUCN Red list of threatened species.
- It is listed in Appendix II in CITES listings.
- Its geographical range expands from European countries (such as Portugal, Spain, Croatia, Serbia etc), Middle East countries (Turkey, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia etc), Central Asia (Russia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Iran etc), Asia (India, Afghanistan, Myanmar, Korea, Vietnam).
- This species has a moderately small population which appears to be suffering an ongoing decline in its Asiatic strongholds, despite the fact that in parts of Europe numbers are now increasing.
- It generally occupies forest, shrubland and grassland.
- It is usually **during the winter**, it migrates from the mountainous regions of Europe and Asia to warmer places, including India.
- The species was recently spotted in the state of Jharkhand for the first time in the region.

9. c

- Jupiter's rocky moon Io is the **most volcanically active world in the solar system**, with hundreds of volcanoes, some erupting lava fountains dozens of miles (or kilometers) high.
- Io's remarkable volcanic activity is the result of a **tug-of-war between Jupiter's** powerful gravity and smaller but precisely timed pulls from two neighboring moons that orbit farther from Jupiter – **Europa and Ganymede**.
- **NASA's solar-powered Juno spacecraft has recently beamed back new images of volcanic plume on Jupiter's moon Io, captured during the mission's 17th flyby of the gas giant.**

10. a

- Till the 1990s, **moynagiri rice** — an **indigenous rice variety of lower**

Assam known for its exceptional **taste and medicinal properties** — was found abundantly, before it started disappearing.

- At one point, the northeast had about 30,000 varieties of tholua (indigenous) paddy. Now, many have gone extinct.
- Green Revolution and the focus on the mono crop led contributed to the decline.

04-01-2019

1) Consider the following statements

- 1. The retirement age of a judge of a High Court is 65.**
- 2. A Bill, which sought to increase the retirement age of High Court judges needs to be ratified by at least 50% of the states.**

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

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 & 2
- Neither 1 nor 2

2) Consider the following statements about Clause 6 of Assam Accord

- 1. It was inserted to protect, preserve and promote the culture and heritage of the “Assamese people”.**
- 2. It provides complete constitutional, legislative and administrative safeguards to protect their socio-political rights.**

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

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 & 2
- Neither 1 nor 2

3) “Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI)” was published by which of the following organisations?



- UN Environment Programme (UNEP)
- Conservation International
- UN framework convention on climate change (UNFCCC)
- German watch

4) "Forest Reference Level (FRL) Report" was sometimes seen in the news recently, is associated with which of the following?

- UN forum on Forests
- Project Tiger
- UN convention to combat desertification
- REDD+

5) Consider the following statements with respect to Change-4 Mission

- It is China's mission to explore the dark side of the Moon.
- Since the moon's revolution cycle is the same as its rotation cycle, one half of the moon will never expose to sunlight, resulted in the dark zone of Moon.
- With this mission, China has now joined U.S, Russia, EU and India who have made a soft landing on the moon.

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

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

6) "World Development Report" was released by which of the following organisations?

- International Monetary Fund
- World Bank
- World Economic Forum
- Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

7) Consider the following statements with respect to Kadaknath Chicken

- It was also known as Kali Masi Chicken, traditionally reared by Jhabua adivasi communities of Odisha.
- Its feathers, flesh and even bones are black in colour.
- It was granted Geographical Indication (GI) tag in 2018.

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

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

8) "The Von Karman Crater" was sometimes seen in the news recently, is located in which of the following?

- Mount Etna
- The Moon
- Anak Krakatoa
- Ultima Thule

9) Consider the following statements with respect to Western Disturbances

- It originates over the Mediterranean Sea, Caspian Sea and Black Sea and move eastwards across north India.
- They are brought into India by the easterly jet stream.

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

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

10) "Astana Declaration" is related to which of the following?

- Road safety



- b. Reduction of HFCs
- c. Trans-boundary air pollution in South Asia
- d. Primary Health Care

by **Germanwatch** and Climate Action Network Europe.

Answers

1. b

- The retirement age of Supreme Court judges is 65 and of High Court judges is 62.
- Those provisions of the Constitution which are related to the federal structure of the polity can be amended by a special majority of the Parliament and also with the consent of half of the state legislatures by a simple majority.
- The following provisions can be amended in this way:
 1. Election of the President and its manner.
 2. Extent of the executive power of the Union and the states.
 3. Supreme Court and high courts.
 4. Distribution of legislative powers between the Union and the states.
 5. Any of the lists in the Seventh Schedule.
 6. Representation of states in Parliament.
 7. Power of Parliament to amend the Constitution and its procedure (Article 368)

2. a

- Clause 6 reads: "Constitutional, legislative and administrative safeguards, **as may be appropriate, shall be provided** to protect, preserve and promote the cultural, social, linguistic identity and heritage of the Assamese people."
- However Clause 6 of the Assam Accord **has not been fully implemented** even almost 35 years after the Accord was signed.
- So the Cabinet recently approved the setting up of a High Level Committee to suggest constitutional, legislative and administrative safeguards as envisaged in Clause 6 of the Assam Accord.

3. d

- The **Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI)** is an annual publication

4. d

- A national forest reference (emission) level (FRL) is one of the elements to be developed by developing country Parties implementing **REDD+** activities.
- As a first step towards accessing the potential fund flows under REDD+, countries are required to set a baseline level of greenhouse emissions being emitted due to deforestation or prevented from escaping into the atmosphere by conserving and growing forests. This is referred to as the Forest Reference Level or FRL.
- *Recently, UNFCCC has raised doubts over India's claim of increase in forest cover, citing lack of transparency in India's FRL report.*

5. a

- Change-4 is a Chinese space probe landed on the dark side of the Moon.
- Since the moon's revolution cycle is the same as its rotation cycle, the same side always faces Earth.
- The other face, **most of which cannot be seen from Earth, is called the far side or "dark side" of the Moon**, not because it is dark, but because most of it is uncharted.
- This is the first-ever **soft landing** on the dark side of the Moon.
- With this mission, China has now joined the **U.S. and the former USSR** as the only countries to have made a **"soft landing"** on the moon.

6. b

- The **World Development Report (WDR)** is an annual report published since 1978 by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) or **World Bank**.
- *The recently released **World Development Report (WDR) 2019: the Changing Nature of Work**, studies how the nature of work is changing as a result of advances in technology today.*

7. c



- Kadaknath or **Kali Masi** (flowl with black flash) is a unique breed of chicken that is **completely black in colour**.
 - It is completely black with black legs, beak, tongue, comb and wattles.
 - Apart from its meat, its **bones and most organs are also black in colour**.
 - The chicken, traditionally reared by **Jhabua's adivasi communities of Madhya Pradesh**, was granted a **Geographical Indication (GI) tag** by the government registry **last year**.
8. b
- The Chinese probe **Change-4** which has a lander and a rover, touched down at a targeted area near the **Moon's South Pole** in **the Von Karman Crater**.
9. a
- According to IMD glossary, western disturbance is a weather disturbances noticed as cyclonic circulation/trough in the mid and lower tropospheric levels or as a low pressure area on the surface, which occur in middle latitude westerlies.
 - It originates over the **Mediterranean Sea, Caspian Sea and Black Sea** and move eastwards across north India.
 - The western cyclonic disturbances which enter the Indian subcontinent from the west and the northwest during the winter months are brought into India by the **westerly jet stream**.
 - An increase in the prevailing night temperature generally indicates an advance in the arrival of these cyclones disturbances.
10. d
- In October 2018, at Astana, Kazakhstan, world leaders declared their commitment to **'Primary Health Care'**.
 - This declaration reaffirms the historic 1978 Declaration of Alma-Ata.
 - Alma-Ata Declaration was the first declaration which identified Primary Health Care as a key to the attainment of the goal of Health for All.
 - The Astana Declaration aims to meet all people's health needs across the life course.

- This would be through comprehensive preventive, promotive, curative, rehabilitative services and palliative care.

05-01-2019

1) Consider the following statements with respect to Attorney General for India (AG)

- 1. He/She must be qualified to be appointed a judge of the Supreme Court.**
- 2. He/She is debarred from private legal practice.**
- 3. He/She has the right to speak and to take part in proceedings in any committee of the parliament, even though he/she may not be a member of that committee.**

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

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

2) Consider the following statements

- 1. She was probably the modern India's first woman teacher.**
- 2. She along with her husband founded the first girl's school in Pune.**
- 3. She had set up "Balhatya Pratibandhak Griha" to prevent female infanticide and killing of widows and pregnant rape victims.**

Identify the personality who correctly matches with the above description

- Mary Meleod Bethune
- Savitribai Phule
- Pandita Ramabai Sarasvati
- Begum Rokeya

3) The "X-Calibur instrument" sometimes seen in the news recently, is used for which of the following purposes?



- a. To detect Cosmic X-rays
 - b. To study Atmospheric neutrinos
 - c. To diagnose Xerophthalmia disease
 - d. To measure internal diameter of artilleries
- c. Both 1 and 2
 - d. Neither 1 nor 2

4) Consider the following statements with respect to Silica

1. It is an odourless and a non-irritant compound.
2. Exposure to large amounts of silica dust can cause silicosis disease, which is incurable.

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) "Yutu 2" was sometimes seen in the news recently. It is a/an

- a. Lunar rover of China's Change-4 mission
- b. Russia's mission to safeguard its cities from melting of permafrost
- c. China's non-nuclear weapon, dubbed as the Mother of All Bombs
- d. Updated version of USA's brain mimicking Super computer

6) Consider the following statements with respect to Drugs (Prices Control) Amendment Order, 2019

1. It exempted new drugs patented under the Indian Patent Act from the price control order for five years.
2. It was issued by the Ministry of Health and Family welfare.

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

- a. 1 only
- b. 2 only

7) The term "Petroglyphs" was sometimes seen in the news recently. It refers to

- a. Carvings made on rocks
- b. Handicrafts made of pebble
- c. Sculptures made of rocks
- d. Bacteria lives under rocks in extreme weather condition

8) Consider the following statements with respect to Swachh Survekshan 2019

1. It is the fourth edition of the annual cleanliness survey of both urban and rural India.
2. It was launched by the Ministry of Housing and Urban 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) The term "Orphan drugs" were sometimes seen in the news recently. It refers to

- a. Drugs that are used to treat rare genetic disorders
- b. Drugs, for which the patent expires and is allowed to replicate its chemical formula
- c. Drugs that are manufactured for research purposes and abandoned after its testing
- d. Drugs for which the pre-determined date expires and is no longer be used for medical purposes

10) Identify the ports, which are located in the western coast of India

- a. Kandla Port, Haldia Port, Dighi Port
- b. Kandla Port, Dighi Port, Marmagoa Port



- c. Krishnapatnam Port, Dighi port, Nhava Sheva port
- d. Ennore port, Haldia port, Krishnapatnam Port

Answers

1. a

- He/She has the right to speak and to take part in the proceedings of both the Houses of Parliament or their joint sitting and **any committee of the Parliament of which he may be named a member**, but without a right to vote.
- The Attorney General is not a full-time counsel for the Government. He/She does not fall in the category of government servants.
- Further, **he/she is not debarred from private legal practice.**

2. b

- *Recently, Maharashtra government has announced that a state-of-the-art skill development centre for women will be built at Naigaon in Satara district, named after social reformer Savitribai Phule, marking her 186th birth anniversary.*

3. a

- US scientists have successfully launched a telescope - The **X-Calibur instrument** from Antarctica which analyses **X-rays arriving from distant neutron stars, black holes and other exotic celestial bodies.**
- The instrument is carried aloft on a helium balloon intended to reach an altitude of 130,000 feet.

4. c

- Silicosis is a form of occupational lung disease caused by **inhalation of crystalline silica dust.**
- Silicosis is a progressive interstitial **lung disease**, characterized by shortness of breath, cough, fever and bluish skin.
- It occurs most commonly as an occupational disease of people working in the quarrying, manufacturing and building construction industries.

- Exposure to large amounts of free silica can go unnoticed because silica is **odourless, non-irritant** and does not cause any immediate health effects.

5. a

- China has named the **lunar rover**, successfully deployed recently to carry out a string of experiments on the far side of the moon, as **'Yutu-2'**.

6. a

- The Drugs (Prices Control) Amendment Order, 2019, by the **Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers** exempts "a manufacturer producing a new drug patented under the Indian Patent Act, 1970, for a **period of five years** from the date of commencement of its commercial marketing by the manufacturer in the country.
- The provisions of DPCO 2013 shall not apply to drugs for treating orphan diseases (i.e) **Orphan drugs to treat orphan diseases as decided by the Ministry of Health and Family welfare are exempted from price control.**

7. a

- **Petroglyphs** are images created by removing part of a rock surface by incising, picking, **carving**, or abrading, as a form of rock art.
- Andhra Pradesh's second largest petroglyph site, containing about 80 petroglyphs, has been discovered at Mekala Benchi, a spot near Aspari town, north of the Kurnool-Ballari highway in Kurnool district.
- These **petroglyphs, or rock carvings**, underscore Kurnool's importance as a major site of Neolithic settlements in south India.

8. b

- Ministry of Housing and Urban affairs had recently launched the Swachh Survekshan 2019 covering 4,237 **towns and cities** in the country.
- This digital and paperless survey is the fourth edition of the annual cleanliness survey of **"Urban India"**.
- It is being conducted by an independent third party.



9. a

- According to the **Drugs (Prices Control) Amendment Order, 2019**, any drug maker who has brought in an innovative patented drug will be exempt from the price control regulations for five years since the start of commercial marketing of the product in India.
- This includes '**orphan drugs**' used to treat **rare genetic disorders**.
- *Experts have observed that not bringing orphan drugs into price control will significantly impact patients, as the treatment [involving such drugs] typically costs crores and lack of price control will have a detrimental effect on affordability.*

10. b

07-01-2019

1) Consider the following statements about Kurile Islands

1. It is an island archipelago in the Pacific Ocean, lying between Russia and Japan.
2. It is of volcanic origin.
3. It comes under the jurisdiction of Japan.

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

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

2) Consider the following statements regarding Dynamic Pricing Policy

1. This means that the prices fuels are changed daily by the Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) based on the movement of international crude oil prices.
2. It is beneficial to both OMCs and the consumers.

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

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

3) Consider the following statements about Border Roads Organisation (BRO)

1. It is engaged in road construction along inaccessible regions in the border areas.
2. It is staffed by personnel from Indian Army, Military Police etc.
3. It functions under the Ministry of Defence.

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

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

4) "MP Bezbaruah committee" was sometimes seen in the news recently. It was constituted for which of the following purposes?

- a. Issues with Start-ups
- b. Implementation of Assam Accord
- c. Review dynamic pricing policy
- d. Investigate Meghalaya mine crisis

5) Consider the following statements with respect to Agasthyarkoodam peak

1. It is the second highest peak south of satpura range.
2. It is located within the Shendurney wildlife sanctuary.

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 Mercury

1. It is the only metal to be liquid at room temperature.
2. It mixes with the environment due to both natural and anthropogenic activity.

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) “Financial Stability Report (FSR)” was published by which of the following organisations?

- a. World Bank
- b. World Economic Forum
- c. International Monetary Fund
- d. None of the above

8) Consider the following statements with respect to Cyclone Pabuk

1. It originated over the Andaman Sea and its neighbourhood.
2. The name Pabuk was given by Bangladesh.

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) “Mapping and Review Exercise of Child Care Institutions Report” was released recently by which of the following?

- a. Bachpan Bachao Andolan

- b. Ministry of Women and Child Development
- c. National Center for Missing and Exploited Children
- d. None of the above

10) Consider the following statements with respect to Phuti masjid

1. It was built by Sarfaraz Khan, the nawab of Murshidabad.
2. It is renowned for its construction which was completed in 5 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

Answers

1. b

- The Kuriles are an archipelago of some 56 islands spanning about 1,800 km from Japan’s Hokkaido to Russia’s Kamchatka.



- All of them are under Russian jurisdiction but Japan claims the two large southernmost



islands, Etorofu and Kunashiri, and two others, Shikotan and Habomai, as its 'northern territories'.]

- These islands were occupied by the Soviet Union in August 1945, after which the entire Japanese population, numbering less than 20,000, was evicted.
- Despite the passage of over 70 years, this dispute has defied solution and prevented the conclusion of a Russo-Japanese peace treaty.

2. c

3. d

4. b

- The government has notified a High-Level Committee for implementation of Clause six of the Assam Accord.
- The nine-member committee, comprising of eminent Assamese persons from different fields, is headed by former bureaucrat **MP Bezbaruah**.
- The committee will examine the effectiveness of actions since 1985 to implement Clause 6 of the Assam Accord.

5. d

- Agasthyarkoodam is the **second highest peak in Kerala** at 1,868 metres in the **Neyyar Wildlife Sanctuary**, Thiruvananthapuram.
- The peak is named after a mythical Hindu sage Agasthya.
- **Kerala's Kani tribe** has claimed that they have been traditionally worshipping the idol of Agasthya Muni atop the hill and it was customary for women not to go near the idol.
- *Last year, the Kerala High Court had ruled that no gender-based restrictions can be imposed on those who intend to trek Agasthyarkoodam, and lifted the unofficial ban on the entry of women to the peak.*

6. c

- Mercury is a **heavy metal** that is predominant in the environment.
- It mixes with the environment due to **both natural** (e.g. volcanic activity) and **anthropogenic** (e.g. electrical appliances such as mercury lamps) activity.

- It is the **only metal to be liquid** at room temperature.

7. d

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** is releasing the **Financial Stability Report bi-annually**.
- The **Global Financial Stability Report (GFSR)** is a semi-annual report by the **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** that assesses the stability of global financial markets and emerging-market financing.
- It is released twice per year, in April and October.

8. d

- Pabuk originated over the **Gulf of Thailand and its neighbourhood**.
- Pabuk is a name given by **Laos** and means a 'big fresh water fish'.
- *The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued an Orange alert for the Andaman Islands as cyclonic storm Pabuk is moving north-northwestwards.*

9. b

- Ministry of Women and Child Development recently released a report titled 'Mapping and Review Exercise of Child Care Institutions'.

10. a

- It was built by **Sarfaraz Khan, the nawab of Murshidabad**.
- Phuti masjid is quite large with four cupolas at the corners.
- Only two of its five planned domes were completed. As the builder died soon after construction began, **the mosque was never completed**.
- And so the name Phuti Masjid, or **broken mosque**. It is also known rather morbidly as Fouti Masjid. '**Fout**' means **death**, and the name was apparently given after the builder's death.

08-01-2019

1) Consider the following statements regarding Vote on Account



1. It only represents the expenditure side of the government's budget.
2. No direct tax proposals can be made via vote on account.
3. It is also called as an Interim Budget.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are *not correct*?

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

2) Consider the following statements about Neutron Stars

1. Neutron stars are typically objects of very small radius composed predominantly of neutrons.
2. Neutron stars are formed by same process as that of a Black hole.

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 organizations receives the "Exhibitor of the Year Award" at the 106th Indian Science Congress held recently?

- a. Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)
- b. Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR)
- c. National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS)
- d. Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)

4) Consider the following statements

1. In the Shreya Singhal v. Union of India case, the Supreme Court had capped the reservation at 50%.

2. Indian Constitution does not provide for reservation on the basis of economic criteria.

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

5) "INS Kohassa" is sometimes seen in the news recently. It is a/an

- a. Ballistic missile submarine
- b. Amphibious transport dock
- c. Indian Navy's air base
- d. None of the above

6) Consider the following statements

1. It is contiguous to the protected areas of Nagarhole and Bandipur of Karnataka on the north-east and Mudumalai of Tamilnadu on the south-east.
2. It is an integral part of the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve.
3. It is the second largest wildlife sanctuary in Kerala.

Identify the wildlife sanctuary that correctly matches with the above description

- a. Nilgris wildlife sanctuary
- b. Wayanad wildlife sanctuary
- c. Mukurthi wildlife sanctuary
- d. Thekkady Wildlife Sanctuary

7) Consider the following statements with respect to Blue bottle Jelly fish

1. They are known as bluebottles for their transparent bluish appearance.
2. Bluebottle stings are painful but typically not life-threatening.

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



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

8) Consider the following statements with respect to Raisina Dialogue

1. It is a multilateral conference committed to address the most challenging issues faced by Asian Countries.
2. The theme of the Dialogue this year is “A World Reorder: New Geometries; Fluid Partnerships; Uncertain Outcomes”.
3. The conference will be hosted by the Centre for Asian Strategic Studies in collaboration with the Ministry of External Affairs.

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

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

9) Consider the following statements with respect to a River

1. It originates on Ranchi plateau in Jharkhand and joins the Son River.
2. Mandal Dam is being built across that River.
3. It meanders through the northern part of Betla National Park.

Identify the river that correctly matches with the above description

- R. Lytein
- R. Subarnarekha
- R. North Koel
- R. Barakar

10) Consider the following statements with respect to Gabon

1. It is a landlocked country, located in East Africa.
2. It is bordered by Cameroon, Republic of Congo and Equatorial Guinea.

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

- Budget has to be approved by Parliament before the commencement of the new financial year.
- But the discussion and passing of Budget generally goes beyond the current financial year.
- So a special provision called “Vote on Account” is used, where the government obtains the vote of **Lok Sabha** to withdraw money from CFI to keep the money flowing for the government’s day to day functions, until the Budget is passed. (**Article 116**)
- e.g Salary to government employees, loan interest payments, subsidies, pension payments etc.
- It is also used in the years where Lok Sabha elections are due.
- But here vote on account is also presented along with minor policy changes, as it would be improper for the outgoing government to impose major budgetary constraints on its successor.
- Such a measure that includes both short term expenditure and income part is called an Interim Budget.

2. c

3. d

- The **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** pavilion received



‘Exhibitor of the Year Award’ at 106th Indian Science Congress held at Lovely Professional University (LPU), Phagwara, Punjab.

4. a

- *The Union Cabinet has recently approved a Constitution Amendment Bill to provide 10% reservation to the economically backward sections in the general category.*
- The quota will be over and above the existing 50% reservation to the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes and the Other Backward Classes (OBC).
- A nine-judge Constitutional Bench of the Supreme Court had, in the **Indira Sawhney case**, capped reservation at 50%.
- The constitutional amendment bill would be required as the **constitution does not provide for reservation on the ground of economic conditions.**
- The amendment bill will envisages amendment to Articles 15 and 16 of the Constitution.

5. c

- The **Indian Navy’s air base, INS Kohassa**, will be commissioned by Navy Chief Admiral Sunil Lanba on January 24, 2019.
- This will be India’s fourth air base and the third naval air facility in the archipelago, which are closer to Southeast Asia than to the Indian mainland, overlooking key sea lanes of communication and strategic choke points.

6. b

- *With the rise in mercury in the Nilgiri Biosphere, the seasonal migration of wild animals from wildlife sanctuaries in Karnataka and Tamil Nadu to the Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary (WWS) has begun.*

7. c

- *Highly venomous jellyfish have stung more than three thousand people on Australia’s northeastern shores in just a few days that has led to the closure of several beaches in Australia.*
- The bluebottle is also referred to as the **Indo-Pacific Portuguese man o’ war (also known as bluebottles for their**

transparent bluish appearance) and is a related, but distinct species to those found around the Atlantic.

- They are not "true" jellyfish, but belong to a group of organisms known as **siphonophores**.
- Bluebottle stings are **painful but typically not life-threatening** and can be treated with ice or hot water.
- Unusually strong winds pushed the jellyfish colonies close to shore.

8. b

- The fourth edition of the Raisina Dialogue will be held in New Delhi.
- **Ministry of External Affairs in partnership with Observer Research Foundation (ORF)** is organizing the flagship annual **geopolitical and geostrategic** conference.
- The theme of the Dialogue this year is "**A World Reorder: New Geometries; Fluid Partnerships; Uncertain Outcomes**".
- The discussions will seek to address issues arising from ongoing global transitions and changes to the world order, triggered by unique leaders, innovative partnerships and new technologies.

9. c

- *Recently, PM Modi has laid the foundation stone for the revival of North Koel (Mandal Dam) project.*

10. b

- **Gabon** is a country on the west **coast** of Central Africa.
- Located on the equator, Gabon is bordered by Equatorial Guinea to the northwest, Cameroon to the north, the Republic of the Congo on the east and south, and the **Gulf of Guinea to the west.**

09-01-2019

1) “Nandan Nilekani committee” is sometimes seen in the news recently. It was constituted for which of the following purposes?

- a. To assess digitisation of payments



- b. To review issues with Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) scheme
- c. To examine issues with biometrics-based Aadhaar Programme
- d. None of the above

2) NASA's probe Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS) has recently discovered a new planet. Which of the following are *not* the criteria to designate a celestial body as a full-sized planet?

- 1. It has to be perfectly spherical.
- 2. It has sufficient mass to assume hydrostatic equilibrium.
- 3. It has cleared the neighbourhood around its orbit.
- 4. It has to reside within a zone of other similarly-sized objects.

Select the correct answer using the code given below

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

3) Consider the following statements with respect to Debenture Redemption Reserve (DRR)

- 1. It is a provision mandating both listed and unlisted companies to set aside 25 per cent of their profits for protection of bond investors in case of a default.
- 2. SEBI has recently scrapped the requirement of Debenture Redemption Reserve (DRR).

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 "Global Report on Trafficking in persons 2018" is released recently by which of the following organisations?

- a. Anti-slavery International
- b. UN Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
- c. International Organization for Migration (IMO)
- d. None of the above

5) Consider the following statements with respect to Leptospirosis

- 1. It is a bacterial disease that affects both humans and animals.
- 2. Human to human transmission of Leptospirosis occurs very rarely.

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) "Global Economic Prospects Report" is released by which of the following organisations?

- a. World Bank
- b. International Monetary Fund
- c. World Economic Forum
- d. None of the above

7) Consider the following statements with respect to Tea tribes

- 1. They are notified scheduled tribe community, inhabited the state of Assam.
- 2. They are entitled with the same benefits that are granted to Scheduled Tribes in other states.

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) "Irisin" hormone sometimes seen in the news recently is generated by

- a. Pancreas
- b. Muscle tissue
- c. Pituitary gland
- d. Hypothalamus

9) Consider the following statements with respect to Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd (NPCIL)

1. It is a Public Sector Enterprise.
2. It is responsible for design, construction, commissioning and operation of nuclear power reactors in India.
3. It comes under the administrative control of the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE).

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

10) Consider the following statements with respect to Jal Charcha

1. It is a weekly magazine issued by the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation.
2. It is a first of its kind initiative by the ministry to bring best practices in water sector to the national stage.

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

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

Answers

1. a

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has recently announced formation of a high-level panel to **assess digitisation of payments in the country**.
- The Committee on Deepening of Digital Payments will be chaired by **Nandan Nilekani**.
- The committee will review the existing status of digitisation of payments in the country and assess the current levels of digital payments in financial inclusion.

2. b

- A planet is a celestial body that
 1. Is in orbit around the Sun.
 2. Has sufficient mass for its self-gravity to overcome rigid body forces so that it assumes a hydrostatic equilibrium (nearly round) shape.
 3. Has cleared the neighbourhood around its orbit.
- **A body need not be perfectly spherical to be called a planet.**
- For example, the rotation of a body can slightly distort the shape so that it is not perfectly spherical.
- Earth, for example, has a slightly greater diameter measured at the equator than measured at the poles.
- Pluto now falls into the dwarf planet category on account of its size and the fact that **it resides within a zone of other similarly-sized objects** known as the transneptunian region.
- *NASA's probe Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS) discovers a new planet.*
- *The planet, named HD 21749b, orbits a bright, nearby dwarf star about 53 light years away, in the constellation Reticulum, and appears to have the longest orbital period of the three planets so far identified by TESS.*

3. a

- The **finance ministry has rejected the Securities and Exchange Board of**



India's (**SEBI's**) **proposal** to do away with the requirement of the debenture redemption reserve (DRR).

- DRR is a provision mandating both listed and unlisted companies **to set aside 25 per cent of their profits for protection of bond investors in case of a default.**
 - Financial institutions such as banks and non-banking financial companies are, however, exempted from this requirement if funds are raised through a private placement.
4. b
- The 2018 UN Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC) *Global Report on Trafficking in Persons* is the fourth of its kind mandated by the General Assembly through the 2010 United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons.
 - *Trafficking victims from South Asian countries including India are detected in many parts of Europe, according to a new UN report that said human trafficking has taken "horrific dimensions" with children accounting for a third of those being trafficked.*
5. c
- Leptospirosis is a **bacterial disease** that affects **both humans and animals.**
 - Humans become infected through direct contact with the urine of infected animals or with a urine-contaminated environment.
 - The bacteria enter the body through cuts or abrasions on the skin, or through the mucous membranes of the mouth, nose and eyes.
 - **Person-to-person transmission is rare.**
6. a
- Global Economic Prospects is a **World Bank Group** flagship report that examines global economic developments and prospects, with a special focus on emerging market and developing economies.
 - It is issued twice a year, in January and June.
7. d
- *Centre has recently approved the proposal to notify Six Communities from Assam as Scheduled Tribes.*
- *The communities are Koch-Rajbongshis, 36 Tea Tribes, Tai Ahoms, Morans, Motoks and Chutiyas.*
 - *These communities are at present listed as other backward classes (OBCs).*
 - As per the information made available by the National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC), there is **no single community described as "Tea Tribe"** in the Central list of OBCs for the State of Assam.
 - However, there are as many as 96 castes in the Central List of OBCs for the State of Assam falling under the description "**Tea Garden Labourers, Tea Garden Tribes, Ex-Tea Garden labourers & Ex-Tea Garden Tribes**".
8. b
- Irisin is a hormone generated by **muscle tissue** that is carried around the body in the bloodstream.
 - Irisin generated during physical exercise can help counter the loss of memory caused by Alzheimer's as well as delay the onset of the most common type of dementia, according to a study.
 - Researchers at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ), established a link between levels of Irisin and the development of the Alzheimer's disease.
9. d
10. d
- **Ministry of Water Resources**, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation has released the inaugural issue of the **monthly magazine Jal Charcha** – in New Delhi recently.
 - *Jal Charcha* is the **third magazine** being published by the Ministry.
 - The first is *Namami Gange* by National Mission for Clean Ganga and second is *Jalansh* by Central Water Commission.
 - The magazine is also an effort to bring best practices in water sector to the national stage and move ahead in the direction of creating water consciousness in the minds of the people of the country.



10-01-2019

1) Consider the following statements with respect to “Web- Wonder Women” Campaign

1. It aims to recognise successful women entrepreneurs in India and motivate young girls to embrace entrepreneurship as a career option.
2. It was launched by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).

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 Tokenisation services

1. It is the process of providing unique alternate code, known as tokens in place of the actual card details.
2. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has recently permitted authorised networks to offer card tokenisation services.

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

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

3) Consider the following statements

1. The first specification of Scheduled Tribes in relation to a particular State or Union territory is by a notified Order of the President, after consultation with the State Government / UT concerned.
2. Any subsequent inclusion in or exclusion from and other modifications in the list of Scheduled Tribes can be made only through an amending Act of Parliament.

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) *Parivara* and *Talawara* communities sometimes seen in the news recently, inhabited which of the following states?

- a. Madhya Pradesh
- b. Gujarat
- c. West Bengal
- d. Karnataka

5) “NATPOLREX-VII” is sometimes seen in the news recently. It refers to

- a. National Polar Residence index launched by each Arctic Council members
- b. National Level Pollution Response Exercise conducted by the Indian Navy
- c. National Pollution Review exercise conducted by the Central Pollution Control Board
- d. None of the above

6) Consider the following statements with respect to *Development of North East Circuit Tourism project*

1. It will be implemented under Swadesh Darshan Scheme of Ministry of Tourism.
2. This is the first Swadesh Darshan project of Union Tourism Ministry in the state of Meghalaya.

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) Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare has recently released recombinant Enzyme-linked immune sorbent assay (ELISA) kits for which of the following diseases?

- Celiac disease
- Type 1 diabetes
- Rheumatoid arthritis
- Equine Infectious Anaemia

8) Consider the following statements with respect to Jaitapur Nuclear Power plant

- It was planned to be established at Madhya Pradesh.
- It will be established with the cooperation of Russia.
- It consists of 6 European Pressurised Reactors (EPR) of 1650 MW each.

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

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

9) Consider the following statements with respect to Glanders disease

- It is caused by bacterium and has zoonotic potential.
- It mainly affects equines including horses, donkeys and mules.

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

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

10) "Umiam Lake" is located in which of the following states?

- Maharashtra
- Kerala

- Jammu and Kashmir
- Meghalaya

Answers

1. d

- The **Ministry of Women and Child Development**, Government of India, has launched an online campaign, '#www: Web-WonderWomen'.
- The Campaign aims to **discover and celebrate** the exceptional **achievements of women**, who have been driving positive agenda of **social change via social media**.

2. c

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has permitted authorised card payment networks to offer card tokenisation services to any third party requesting it.
- Tokenisation acts as an additional layer of security as **it masks sensitive card data** such as the 16-digit account number, expiration date and security code.
- It creates a set of numbers that is used to substitute your card information.
- This ensures that your card information is not disclosed to the website or merchant you are transacting with.

3. c

4. d

- On the basis of recommendation of State of **Karnataka, it is proposed** to amend Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950 relating to Karnataka to grant Scheduled Tribe status to and to include the communities, namely "**Parivara and Talawara** as Synonyms of '**Nayaka**' and "**Siddi**" community of Dharwad and Belagavi districts along with existing 'Siddi' community of Uttar Kannada district in the list of Scheduled Tribes of Karnataka.
- This will fulfill the long term demand of 'Parivara' and 'Talawara' communities for granting Scheduled Tribes status in the State of Karnataka.

5. d



- The seventh edition of the **National Level Pollution Response Exercise (NATPOLREX-VII)** conducted by the **Indian Coast Guard** held in the Arabian Sea near Mumbai.
6. c
- The Chief Minister of Meghalaya recently inaugurated the project “**Development of North East Circuit: Umiam (Lake View) - U Lum Sohpetbneng- Mawdiangdiang - Orchid Lake Resort**” implemented under Swadesh Darshan Scheme of Ministry of Tourism, Government of India.
 - This is the **first Swadesh Darshan project** of Union Tourism Ministry in the **state of Meghalaya**.
7. d
- Union Ministry for Agriculture & Farmers Welfare has recently released recombinant Enzyme-linked immune sorbent assay (ELISA) kits: one for **Glanders** and other for **Equine Infectious Anaemia**.
 - Both these diseases are notifiable diseases in India and require special diagnosis for control and eradication in the country.
 - Equine infectious anaemia (EIA) is a chronic, debilitating and persistent infectious disease of equines caused by a retrovirus.
 - It is an OIE notifiable disease. **NRCE has also developed recombinant p26 protein-based ELISA as an alternative to Coggin’s test.**
 - This technology will provide sustainable and homogeneous source of antigen and harmonized protocol to ensure regular surveillance of EIA.
8. a
- The JNPP project is proposed to be setup in Ratnagiri district of **Maharashtra**.
 - It will be established with the cooperation of **France**.
9. c
- Union Ministry for Agriculture & Farmers Welfare has recently released recombinant Enzyme-linked immune sorbent assay (ELISA) kits: one for **Glanders** and other for **Equine Infectious Anaemia**.
- Glanders is a fatal infectious and notifiable disease of **equines including horses, donkeys and mules**.
 - The disease is caused by a **bacterium** known as *Burkholderia mallei* and has **zoonotic potential**.
 - The organism is also considered as potential bio-weapon and categorized under ‘Tier 1 Select Agent’.
 - After continuous research efforts of more than eight years, National Research Centre on Equines (NRCE) has been able to develop a recombinant Hcp1 antigen ELISA as an alternate to complement-fixation test (CFT).
10. d
- The Chief Minister of Meghalaya recently inaugurated the project “**Development of North East Circuit: Umiam (Lake View) - U Lum Sohpetbneng- Mawdiangdiang - Orchid Lake Resort**” implemented under Swadesh Darshan Scheme of Ministry of Tourism, Government of India.
 - This is the **first Swadesh Darshan project** of Union Tourism Ministry in the **state of Meghalaya**.

11-01-2019

1) Consider the following statements with respect to Tax Inspectors without Borders (TIWB) Programme

- 1. It facilitates the transfer of tax audit knowledge and skills to developing country tax administrations.**
- 2. It is jointly launched by UNDP and OECD.**
- 3. India is not a part of this programme.**

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

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



2) “Umesh Sinha Committee” sometimes seen in the news recently was constituted for which of the following purposes?

- To study the impact of e-commerce on retail vendors
- To suggest changes to Representation of Peoples Act, 1951
- To review the working of University Grants Commission
- None of the above

3) Consider the following statements with respect to National Clean Air Programme (NCAP)

- It will be a mid-term, 10 year action plan with 2019 as the first year.
- It aims to reduce Particulate Matter (PM) pollution by 20-30% across India, atleast by 2024.
- 2018 is considered as the base year for this programme.

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

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

4) Consider the following statements

- An amendment to a fundamental right coming under Part III does not require ratification by the legislatures of one half of the States.
- Principle of equality is one of the foremost basic features of the Constitution.

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

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

5) Consider the following statements

- Tons and Giri rivers are the tributaries of River Yamuna.
- Renukaji Dam Project is proposed to be constructed on the river Giri in Himachal Pradesh.

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

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

6) Consider the following statements with respect to Kharai Camels

- They are a unique breed of camel found only in Kutch.
- They depend on mangroves for their food.
- Industrialisation stands to be the biggest threat for its existence.

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

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

7) Consider the following statements with respect to Container Corporation of India (CONCOR)

- It is a Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) company, incorporated under the Companies Act.
- It comes under the Ministry of railways.

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

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



8) Consider the following pairs

1. Hubble Telescope – U.S.A
2. Kepler Telescope – U.S.A
3. CHIME Telescope – Canada

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

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

9) Consider the following statements with respect to *Swaziland*

1. It is a landlocked country fully bordered by South Africa.
2. It was formerly called as Eswatini.

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 Indus Food 2019

1. It is India's export-focussed Food & Beverage products trade fair.
2. It is the second edition of the event that held annually.
3. This year's theme is 'World Food Supermarket'.

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

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

Answers

1. b

- The TIWB initiative intended to support developing countries to strengthen national tax administrations through building audit capacity and to share this knowledge with other countries.
- It is jointly launched by **UNDP and OECD**.
- *The Union Cabinet has recently approved the Signing of Terms of Reference (TOR) governing the engagement of the designated Indian Expert to provide tax assistance to Swaziland (now known as Eswatini) under the Tax Inspectors without Borders Programme between India and Eswatini.*
- *India being a global leader in this respect has a very important role to play in South-South Cooperation in tax matters.*

2. b

- A Committee was constituted under the chairmanship of Sr. Deputy Election Commissioner Sh. **Umesh Sinha**.
- It was constituted to **review and suggest modifications and changes in the provisions of the Section 126 and other sections of the Representation of the People Act 1951**, provisions of Model Code of Conduct and any other ECI instruction in this regard.
- It has submitted its report recently.

3. d

- The Centre has launched the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) to reduce particulate matter (PM) pollution by 20-30% in **at least 102 cities** by 2024.
- This is **not a pan-India, but a city-specific programme**.
- The NCAP will be a mid-term, **five-year action plan** with 2019 as the first year.
- For achieving the NCAP targets, the cities will have to calculate the reduction in pollution keeping **2017's** average annual PM levels as the base year.

4. c

- The proviso to Article 368 makes it clear that when a Constitution amendment of a



fundamental right is in question, the Bill concerned need not be sent to the States' Legislative Assemblies for ratification.

- Only Constitution amendments which affect the Centre-State relations or division of powers in a federal structure require subsequent ratification by the States' Legislatures before the Presidential assent.
- **Fundamental Rights and Directive Principles of State Policy** can be amended by a special majority of parliament and does not require consent of states.
- From the various judgements, the following have emerged as basic features of the Constitution or elements / components / ingredients of the 'basic structure' of the constitution:
 1. Supremacy of the Constitution
 2. Sovereign, democratic and republican nature of the Indian polity
 3. Secular character of the Constitution
 4. Separation of powers between the legislature, the executive and the judiciary
 5. Federal character of the Constitution
 6. Unity and integrity of the nation
 7. Welfare state (socio-economic justice)
 8. Judicial review
 9. Freedom and dignity of the individual
 10. Parliamentary system
 11. Rule of law
 12. Harmony and balance between Fundamental Rights and Directive Principles
 13. **Principle of equality**
 14. Free and fair elections
 15. Independence of Judiciary
 16. Limited power of Parliament to amend the Constitution
 17. Effective access to justice
 18. Principles (or essence) underlying fundamental rights.
 19. Powers of the Supreme Court under Articles 32, 136, 141 and 142

20. Powers of the High Courts' under Articles 226 and 227.

5. d

- Three storage projects are proposed to be constructed on the river **Yamuna and two of its tributaries - Tons and Giri** in the hilly regions of Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh of Upper Yamuna Basin.
- These include Lakhwar project on river Yamuna in Uttarakhand, Kishau on river Tons in Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh and **Renukaji on river Giri in Himachal Pradesh**.
- *An agreement for Renukaji Dam Multipurpose Project will be signed among six states - Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Delhi, Rajasthan and Uttarakhand.*

6. d

- The Kharai is a unique breed of camel found **only in Kutch**, which **feeds on mangroves**.
- Salt-making **industries** operating in the area are threatening its food supply and existence.

7. c

- CONCOR is a Navratna **Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) under the Indian Ministry of Railways** incorporated under the **Companies Act**.
- The maiden coastal voyage of SSL Mumbai, a vessel of Container Corporation of India (Concor) was recently flagged off from Kandla Port to Tuticorin via Mangalore and Cochin.
- This is a **unique example of multi-modal logistics** solution through **integrated rail and coastal movement**.
- This modal shift in the logistics chain was an important beginning that would help to bring down logistics costs and make Indian goods more competitive in the global markets in the very near future.

8. b

- *Scientists have recently detected the second repeating **fast radio burst (FRB)** ever recorded, a discovery that may help determine the origin of these mysterious signals which have been linked with advanced alien technology in the past.*



- The discovery of this extragalactic signal was made through the Canadian Hydrogen Intensity Mapping Experiment (CHIME), an interferometric radio telescope in the Dominion Radio Astrophysical Observatory in **British Columbia, Canada. (It is not a space telescope)**

9. d

- **Eswatini erstwhile known as Swaziland** is bordered by **Mozambique to its northeast** and South Africa to its north, west and south.
- The Union Cabinet has recently approved the Signing of Terms of Reference (TOR) governing the engagement of the designated Indian Expert to provide tax assistance to Swaziland (now known as Eswatini) under the Tax Inspectors without Borders Programme between India and Eswatini.

10. d

- INDUS FOOD-II with the theme of **'World Food Supermarket'** will be held on 14th and 15th January, 2019, at India Expo Mart, Greater Noida.
- Organized **annually**, Indusfood is India's official, export-focussed F&B Trade fair showcasing the country's best line-up of food & agri products to global buyers.

12-01-2019

1) Consider the following statements with respect to Partnership Summit 2019

1. It is a global platform for dialogue, debate, deliberation and engagement among Indian and global leaders on terrorism.
2. It is being organized 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

2) Consider the following statements with respect to Women of India Organic Festival

1. It aims to celebrate and promote women farmers and entrepreneurs in the organic sector from the remotest parts of India.
2. It has been held annually in New Delhi since 2015.
3. It is being organized by the Ministry of Women and Child Development.

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) Sinho Commission report sometimes seen in the news recently is associated with which of the following?

- a. Cabotage law in India
- b. Economically Backward Class welfare
- c. De-nationalization of banks in India
- d. Impact of Gig economy in India

4) Consider the following statements

1. Harappan Civilisation was a Bronze Age civilisation mainly in the northwestern regions of the Indian subcontinent.
2. Rakhigarhi is one of the most prominent sites of the Harappan civilization located in Haryana, India.

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

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

5) Arrange the following hills from East to West direction



1. Khasi Hills
2. Jaintia Hills
3. Garo Hills

Select the correct answer using the code given below

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

6) *H S Bedi Report* sometimes seen in the news recently, is associated with which of the following?

- a. Anti-sikh riots
- b. Doubling farmers income by 2022
- c. Gujarat fake encounters
- d. None of the above

7) *Rethi-Moraghat elephant corridor* links which of the following?

- a. Rajaji National park with Betla Tiger Reserve
- b. Silent Valley National park with Periyar Tiger Reserve
- c. Nokrek National park with Kaziranga Tiger Reserve
- d. Gorumura National Park with Buxa Tiger Reserve

8) Consider the following statements

1. It is a ritual dance drama from Kerala.
2. It found a place in the UNESCO's intangible heritage list in 2010.
3. It is based on the mythological tale of a battle between the goddess Kali and the demon Darika.

Identify the art form that correctly matches with the above description

- a. Kathakali
- b. Mohiniyaattam
- c. Mudi yettu

- d. Paavakoothu

9) The term "*Adjournment Sine Die*" in refers to

- a. Terminating a sitting of Parliament for an indefinite period
- b. Dissolution of the house, thereby ending the very life of the House
- c. Suspending the work in a sitting of Parliament for a specified time
- d. The period spanning between the prorogation of a House and its reassembly in a new session

10) The temperature of human body is regulated by which of the following?

- a. Epinephrine
- b. Hypothalamus
- c. Thymus
- d. Norepinephrine

Answers

1. d

- The Partnership Summit is a global platform for dialogue, debate, deliberation and engagement among Indian and global leaders **on economic policy and growth trends in India**.
- It is being organized by the **Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, Ministry of Commerce & Industry**, Government of India, State Government of Maharashtra and Confederation of Indian Industry.
- *The 25th edition of Partnership Summit 2019 will be held from 13 January, 2019.*

2. d

- The **Ministry of Women and Child Development** is organizing the three-day 6th 'Women of India Organic Festival' from tomorrow at Leisure Valley, Sector-10, Chandigarh, to celebrate and promote **women farmers and entrepreneurs in the organic sector** from the remotest parts of India.



- The Women of India Organic Festival has been **held annually in New Delhi since 2015**.
3. b
- The committee headed by chairman Maj. Gen. (Retd.) S.R. Sinho was constituted **to suggest criteria for identification for economically backward classes** as well as recommend welfare measures and quantum of reservation in education and Government employment to the extent as appropriate.
 - The **Sinho Commission report of 2010**, has been cited by the Centre as the basis for its legislation to grant 10 per cent reservation to the Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) mainly among upper castes.
4. c
- Near-complete skeletal remains of a young male and female have recently been discovered at an archaeological site in **Rakhigarhi village in Haryana**.
 - Rakhigarhi was one of the most prominent sites of the Harappan civilisation.
5. b
- Under North East Circuit of Swadesh Darshan Scheme, the Ministry of Tourism has recently sanctioned the project '**Development of West Khasi Hills (Nongkhaw- Krem Tirot - Khudoi & Kohmang Falls – Khri River- Mawthadraishan, Shillong), Jaintia Hills (Krang Suri Falls-Shyrmang- Iooksi), Garo Hills (Nokrek Reserve, Katta Beel, Siju Caves)**' in Meghalaya.
6. c
- The Special Task Force (STF) headed by Justice H S Bedi (retired) was asked to monitor the investigation of 17 **encounter cases in Gujarat** between 2002 and 2006.
 - *The Supreme Court has recently directed that a copy of Justice Bedi's report should be given to the petitioners.*
7. d
- The **Rethi-Moraghat elephant corridor**, which links **Gorumara National Park with Buxa Tiger Reserve**, was crucial to elephant movement.
- In December 2018, while studying the **Rethi-Moraghat elephant corridor** in the region, experts from the Wildlife Trust of India (WTI) and others have discovered that elephants of north Bengal have been consuming plastic.
8. c
- Mudi yettu is a glorious **ritual dance** performed in Kaali Temples across **Kerala**, predominantly in Central Kerala (Ernakulam and Kottayam), celebrating the triumph of **Goddess Kaali over the demon Darikan**.
 - *Mudi yettu* found a place in **UNESCO's Representative list of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity** in 2010.
9. a
- Adjournment sine die means **terminating a sitting of Parliament for an indefinite period**.
 - In other words, when the House is adjourned without naming a day for reassembly, it is called adjournment sine die.
 - The power of adjournment as well as adjournment sine die lies with the presiding officer of the House
 - An **adjournment** suspends the work in a sitting for a **specified time**, which may be hours, days or weeks.
 - The period spanning between the prorogation of a House and its reassembly in a new session is called '**recess**'.
10. b
- The body maintains a constant temperature of around 37 degrees C because enzymes, the catalysts vital to body chemistry, function best at around this temperature.
 - The temperature is regulated by the **hypothalamus**, which lies within the brain.
 - If the body heats up through exercise or illness, the hypothalamus promotes sweating because evaporation of sweat cools the body.
 - If body temperature falls, the hypothalamus sets in motion the mechanism for shivering since shivering produces heat.



14-01-2019

1) Consider the following statements with respect to India-Central Asia Dialogue that held recently

1. It is the first ever India-Central Asia Dialogue.
2. It is being held in Samarkand, Kazakhstan.
3. Afghanistan is also participating in the dialogue.

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

2) Consider the following statements with respect to National Clean Energy Fund (NCEF)

1. It was created out of cess on carbon emission to provide financial support to clean energy initiatives.
2. Union minister for Finance will approve the project eligible for financing under NCEF.

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 Industrial Security Annex (ISA) agreement

1. It was proposed to be signed between India and Russia.
2. It would facilitate exchange of geospatial information between the parties for both military and civilian use.

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) “Legacy persons’ clause” sometimes seen in the news recently, is associated with which of the following?

- a. Sabarimala Temple entry issue
- b. National Register for Citizens in Assam
- c. H1B Visas for Indian's in U.S
- d. None of the above

5) Consider the following statements with respect to National Youth Parliament Festival 2019

1. It will be conducted at three levels - District, State and National.
2. The theme of this festival is “Be the Voice of New India and Find solutions and contribute to policy”.
3. It was being launched by the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs.

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

6) “Trishna wild life sanctuary” is located in which of the following states?

- a. Andhra Pradesh
- b. Uttar Pradesh
- c. Tripura
- d. West Bengal

7) Consider the following statements with respect to National Board for Wildlife



1. It is a statutory organization constituted under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.
2. It is chaired by Prime Minister of India.

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

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

8) Consider the following statements with respect to The Energy Resources Institute (TERI)

1. It conducts research works in the fields of energy, environment and sustainable development.
2. It works under the administrative control of Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.

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

1. The Constitution (One Hundred and Third Amendment) Act, 2019 reserves 10 per cent quota for economically weaker sections.
2. It grants reservation in both higher education and government jobs.

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 Swami Vivekananda

1. He was a social reformer and was against religious dogmas.
2. He founded the Ramakrishna Mission in 1897.
3. National leader's day was celebrated to commemorate his birth anniversary.

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

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

Answers

1. c

- The first ever India-Central Asia Dialogue which is expected to focus on a plethora of regional issues including enhancing connectivity to war-ravaged Afghanistan is being **held in Samarkand, the capital of Uzbekistan**.
- The Foreign Minister of **Afghanistan is also participating** in the dialogue as a special invitee as the session is dedicated to connectivity issues in the region.

2. d

- National Clean Energy Fund (NCEF) was created out of **cess on coal produced / imported** ("polluter pays" principle) at Rs. 400 per tonne **to provide financial support** to clean energy initiatives and an **Inter Ministerial Group chaired by the Finance Secretary** was constituted to approve the project/schemes eligible for financing under NCEF.
- The 42nd standing committee on energy in its recent report on stressed gas-based power plants has pulled up the government for diverting coal cess to compensate States for revenue loss post-GST, and recommended financial support to the stressed gas-based power projects in the country from National Clean Energy Fund (NCEF).

3. d

- It was planned to be signed between **India and the U.S.**



- It allows sharing of classified information from the U.S. government and American companies with the Indian private sector, which is so far limited to the Indian government and the defence public sector undertakings.
 - BECA refers to **Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement** for Geo-spatial Cooperation.
 - This agreement would facilitate exchange of geospatial information between India and United States for both military and civilian use.
4. b
- The National Register of Citizens (NRC) is the list of Indian citizens of Assam.
 - It was prepared in 1951, following the census of 1951.
 - For a person's name to be included in the updated NRC list of 2018, he/ she will have to furnish:
 1. **Existence of name in the legacy data:** The legacy data is the collective list of the NRC data of 1951 and the electoral rolls up to midnight of 24 March 197
 2. **Proving linkage with the person whose name appears in the legacy data.**
 - A legacy person is someone who figures in a set of pre-1971 documents such as the 1951 NRC and voters' lists up to 1971, who an applicant can trace his or her lineage to.
5. d
6. c
- Trishna Wildlife Sanctuary is located in **Tripura**.
 - *Recently, National Wildlife Board has cleared the ONGC Trishna gas project in Trishna Wildlife Sanctuary.*
 - As the gas bearing zones are in the wildlife sanctuary, permission from the National Wildlife Board is necessary.
7. c
- *Recently, National Wildlife Board has cleared the ONGC Trishna gas project in Trishna Wildlife Sanctuary.*
- As the gas bearing zones are in the wildlife sanctuary, permission from the National Wildlife Board is necessary.
8. a
- TERI is a **Non-Profit Research institute** located in Delhi, established in 1974 and formally known as Tata Energy and Resource Institute.
 - Its activities have scope in climate change, energy efficiency, renewable energy, biotechnology and social transformation.
9. c
- Recently, Indian President Ram gave his assent to the The Constitution (124 Amendment) **Bill**, 2019.
 - The Constitution (**103rd**) Amendment **Act**, 2019 provides for 10% reservation in **education and government jobs** for economically weak from upper castes.
10. a
- **National Youth Day** (on every year, January 12) was celebrated to commemorate the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda.
- 16-01-2019**
- 1) Consider the following statements with respect to Global Aviation Summit 2019**
1. It is being held in New Delhi, India.
 2. It is being organized jointly by the Ministry of Civil Aviation and the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).
 3. The theme for the event is 'Flying for all: especially the next 6 Billion'.
- 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**



Assertion (A): Blood Moon phenomenon happens during a total lunar eclipse, when the sun, Earth and moon are perfectly lined up.

Reason (R): The little light that manages to pass from the edges of the Earth's atmosphere lit up the Moon's surface and makes it look red.

In the context of the statements given above, which of the following is true?

- A and R both are true, and R is the correct explanation for A
- A and R both are true, and R is the not the correct explanation for A
- A is correct, R is incorrect
- A and R both are incorrect

3) "Annual Status of Education (ASER) report" is prepared by which of the following?

- Ministry of Human Resource and Development
- Ministry of Women and Child Development
- NITI Aayog
- None of the above

4) Consider the following statements with respect to Monkey fever

- It is a tick-borne viral hemorrhagic fever endemic to Indian Subcontinent.
- It is caused by Rhino virus, a member of the virus family Flaviviridae.

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

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

5) Consider the following statements with respect to Voter Awareness Forums (VAFs)

- It is an online portal launched to generate awareness around electoral process to the common masses.

- They are part of the Electoral Literacy Club (ELC) programme of Election Commission of India (ECI).

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

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

6) DAMINI app which was recently launched by Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune to give alerts on

- Lightning
- Cyclones
- Heat waves
- None of the above

7) Consider the following statements with respect to Womaniya on GeM initiative

- It enables women entrepreneurs and women self-help groups to sell their products directly to various Government institutions through the Government eMarketplace (GeM) platform.
- It was launched by the Ministry of Finance.

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

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

8) In which of the following states Roshni Act was repealed recently?

- Chhattisgarh
- Manipur
- West Bengal
- Jammu & Kashmir



9) *Kanhoji Angre island* sometimes seen in the news recently, is located along which of the following state's coast?

- Goa
- Odisha
- Maharashtra
- Andhra Pradesh

10) *River Darling* and *Lake Hume* sometimes seen in the news recently are located in which of the following countries?

- Italy
- Colombia
- Australia
- United States of America

Answers

1. a

- Global Aviation Summit 2019, the first of its kind initiative was inaugurated in **Mumbai, India** recently.
- The two-day summit, with a theme '**Flying for all-especially the next 6 Billion**', is being organized by **Ministry of Civil Aviation in association with FICCI**.
- The Summit is supported by International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and other agencies.

2. a

- Lunar eclipses occurs when Earth's shadow blocks the sun's light, which otherwise reflects off the moon.
- There are three types — total, partial and penumbral — with the most dramatic being a total lunar eclipse, in which **Earth's shadow completely covers the moon**.
- During this phenomenon, **the Sun, Earth and the Moon are perfectly lined up** with the Earth blocking the Sun's light from falling directly on the Moon.

- However, the little light that manages to pass from the edges of the Earth's atmosphere lit up the Moon's surface and makes it look red.
- It is due to the red appearance of the Moon during the total lunar eclipse that it is called "Blood" Moon.
- Super Blood Moon will appear in the night sky around much of the world on January 20 and 21.*

3. d

- The Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) is an initiative by **NGO Pratham**.
- Annual Status of Education (ASER) report 2018 was released recently.*

4. d

- According to National Health Portal, **Kyasanur forest disease (KFD)** is a tick-borne viral haemorrhagic fever **endemic (constant presence of disease)** in **Karnataka** State, India.
- It is also referred as monkey fever by local people.
- The virus causing the disease: **KFD virus (KFDV)** is a member of the genus **Flavivirus** and family **Flaviviridae**.
- The **rhinovirus** is the most common viral infectious agent in humans and is the predominant cause of the **common cold**.

5. b

- Voter Awareness Forums (VAFs)** are **informal forums** for generating discussions and awareness around the electoral process, on the how, what and where of registration & voting, through the **medium of real-time activities**.
- Through VAFs in Government Departments, Government and Non-Government Organizations as well as in Corporates; the Election Commission of India aims to spread voter awareness and facilitate voter education.
- VAF is part of the Electoral Literacy Club (ELC) programme of ECI**.
- The ELC programme envisages setting up of Electoral Literacy Club in every educational institution and Chunarv Pathshala at every



booth to cover those outside the formal education system.

6. a

- IITM Pune developed a Mobile App called “DAMINI” to give alerts on **impending lightning activity** over the area.

7. b

- **Government e Marketplace [GeM] has launched** “Womaniya on GeM”, an initiative to enable women entrepreneurs and women self-help groups [WSHG] to sell *handicrafts and handloom, accessories, jute and coir products, home décor and office furnishings*, **directly** to various Government ministries, departments and institutions.
- The initiative seeks to **develop women entrepreneurship on the margins of society to achieve gender-inclusive economic growth**.
- Government e Marketplace is a 100 percent government owned company setup **under the aegis of Ministry of Commerce and Industry** for procurement of common use goods and services by Government ministries, departments and CPSEs.

8. d

- The State Administrative Council (SAC) headed by **Jammu & Kashmir** Governor Satya Pal Malik recently repealed the **Jammu and Kashmir State Lands (Vesting of Ownership to the Occupants) Act, 2001**, popularly known as the **Roshni Act**.
- The Act envisaged the transfer of ownership rights of state land to its occupants, subject to the payment of a cost, as determined by the government.
- But, it had failed to realize the desired objectives and there were also reports of misuse of some its provisions, leading to its repeal.

9. c

- Kanhoji Angre Island is located south of Gateway of India and acts as an entry point to the **Mumbai** harbour.
- It further acting as prime aid for navigation of vessels arriving and departing from Mumbai.

- **Recently Mumbai Port Trust has announced that it will start a ferry service from the domestic terminal to the Kanhoji Angre Island.**

- Currently, there is no direct ferry service to Kanhoji Angre Island as the water level is very low during the low tide.

- The boat services may attract more tourists as it will reduce the time to reach the island.

10. c

- Up to a million dead fish were found floating recently in the **Darling River** in western New South Wales state of **Australia**.

- Also, more rotting fish had since been found in **Lake Hume** in the state’s south.

- The state government has recently announced plans to **mechanically pump oxygen into lakes and rivers** after hundreds of thousands of fish have died.

- Experts blame **heat wave conditions across much of Australia, drought and algal blooms** for starving waterways of oxygen.

17-01-2019

1) Consider the following statements with respect to Gandhi Peace Prize

1. **The award will be conferred annually and is open to people of all nationalities.**
2. **Gandhian peace prize for the year 2018 was conferred on the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).**

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 Sangeet Natak Akademi (SNA)

1. **It is a statutory body works under the Ministry of Culture.**



2. It is the nodal agency of the Ministry of Culture to coordinate the matters related to Intangible Cultural Heritage and various UNESCO Conventions addressing Cultural Diversity.

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 Congenital Central Hypoventilation Syndrome (CCHS)

- 1. It is a disorder of the nervous system, in which the cue to breathe is lost when the patient goes to sleep.
- 2. Vaccination at an earlier stage can restrict its incidence in humans.

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

- 1. River Zaskar is a north flowing tributary of the Indus River in Jammu and Kashmir.
- 2. India's one of the toughest trails, Chadar Trek was on the frozen zaskar river.

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 *IMBEX 2018-19*

- 1. It is a bilateral Army exercise between India and Myanmar.
- 2. It seeks to improve tactical and technical skills in joint counter insurgency and counter terrorist operations.

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) "*Macedonia naming dispute*" sometimes seen in the news recently, is a dispute between which of the following two countries?

- a. Slovenia and Macedonia
- b. Albania and Republic of Macedonia
- c. Macedonia and Republic of Macedonia
- d. Greece and Republic of Macedonia

7) Consider the following statements with respect to Index of Industrial Production (IIP)

- 1. It is a composite indicator that measures long term changes in the volume of production of a basket of industrial products with respect to given base year.
- 2. It is compiled and published by the Central Statistics Office (CSO).

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 Exim Bank of India (Exim Bank)



1. It was established in 1982 under an Act of Parliament.
2. It is regulated by Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

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) **SANJHI –MUJH MEIN KALAKAR** - an initiative to document and promote the Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) was launched by which of the following?

- a. Anthropological Survey of India (AnSI)
- b. Centre for Cultural Resources and Training (CCRT)
- c. Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts
- d. None of the above

10) **Krushak Assistance for Livelihood and Income Augmentation (KALIA) Scheme** was recently launched in which of the following states?

- a. Uttar Pradesh
- b. Odisha
- c. Telangana
- d. West Bengal

Answers

1. a
 - The International Gandhi Peace Prize was instituted by the government on the 125th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.
 - It is given to individuals and institutions for their contribution towards social, economic and political transformation through non-violence and other Gandhian methods, was last conferred upon the Indian Space Research Organisation in 2014.
2. b
 - It is open to people of all nationalities. The award was jointly given in 2000 to Nelson Mandela and Grameen Bank of Bangladesh.
 - After a gap of four years, the Centre recently announced the awardees for the prestigious Gandhi Peace Prize for 2015 to 2018.
 - For the year 2018, it was conferred on WHO Goodwill Ambassador Yohei Sasakawa for his role in leprosy eradication.
3. a
 - The Sangeet Natak Akademi (SNA), the National Academy of Music, Dance and Drama is an **autonomous body** under the **Ministry of Culture**, Govt. of India.
 - It is the **nodal agency of the Ministry of Culture to coordinate the matters related to Intangible Cultural Heritage** and various UNESCO Conventions addressing Cultural Diversity and promotion and dissemination of multifarious cultural traditions and expressions of the country.
 - Recently, Sangeet Natak Akademi (SNA) has launched the second phase of the Web Campaign '**SANJHI –MUJH MEIN KALAKAR**' an initiative to document and promote the Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) and diverse cultural traditions of the country by direct public-participation.
4. c
 - CCHS (also known as Ondine's Curse) is a **disorder of the nervous system** in which the cue to breathe is lost when the patient goes to sleep.
 - This results in a lack of oxygen and a build-up of carbon dioxide in the body, which can sometimes turn fatal.
 - According to NIH, Treatment typically includes **mechanical ventilation or use of a diaphragm pacemaker**.
4. c
 - The Chadar Trek is one of the toughest and most challenging trails in the country.
 - This arduous expedition was on the **frozen Zaskar river**.
 - The Zaskar River is a **north flowing tributary of the Indus River** in Jammu and Kashmir.



- Air force Station Thoise has recently conducted a trekking expedition in this daunting terrain of Ladakh region to commemorate the momentous occasion of 70th Republic Day.

5. a

- The second **India-Myanmar** bilateral **Army** exercise 'IMBEX 2018-19' has recently commenced at Chandimandir military station, Chandigarh, Haryana.
- The aim of this joint training event is to **train the Myanmar delegation for participation in UN peacekeeping operations.**
- The Indian Army has a rich experience of serving in UN peacekeeping operations, being the **foremost troop contributing country in the UN.**

6. d

- Macedonia naming dispute is a longstanding dispute between **Greece and the Republic of Macedonia.**
- Because, **a region of Greece bordering the Macedonian republic is also called Macedonia.**
- Recently, Parliamentarians of the **Republic of Macedonia** voted to change their country's name to the "**Republic of North Macedonia**".



9. d

- Recently, Sangeet Natak Akademi (SNA) has launched the second phase of the Web Campaign '**SANJHI –MUJH MEIN KALAKAR**' an initiative to document and promote the Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) and diverse cultural traditions of the country by direct public-participation.
- This is a unique **talent search** where the participant will showcase their talent in the fields of music, dance, drama, puppetry, folk and tribal arts, culinary skills, painting, sculpture etc.

10. b



7. b

- IIP is a composite indicator that measures the **short-term changes** in the volume of production of a basket of industrial products during a given period with respect to that in a chosen base period.
- It is compiled and published **monthly** by the **Central Statistics Office (CSO)** with a time lag of six weeks from the reference month.
- For the annual revised estimates, the CSO used to replace the IIP with the ASI (Annual Survey of Industries), which comes out with a two-year lag.

8. c

- Exim Bank is the **principal export credit agency for India.**
- It was established in 1982 **under an Act of Parliament** as the apex financial institution for financing, facilitating and promoting India's international trade.
- The Bank primarily lends for exports from India including supporting overseas buyers and Indian suppliers for export of developmental and infrastructure projects, equipment, goods and services from India.
- It is **regulated by RBI.**
- *The Union Cabinet has recently approved the recapitalization of EXIM Bank.*
- *The infusion of capital into Exim Bank will enable it to augment capital adequacy and support Indian exports with enhanced ability.*



- The government of **Odisha** has launched the Krushak Assistance for Livelihood and Income Augmentation (KALIA) scheme, which would benefit about 92% of the farmers in the State.
- It will accelerate agricultural prosperity and elimination of poverty.

18-01-2019

1) Consider the following statements with respect to SAKSHAM 2019

- 1. It is an annual, month-long mass awareness campaign on fuel conservation.**
- 2. It was launched by the Petroleum Conservation Research Association (PCRA).**

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

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

2) Consider the following statements with respect to UNNATI programme

- 1. It is a capacity building programme on developing heavy satellites to provide internet connectivity to remote areas.**
- 2. It is an initiative by ISRO to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the first United Nations conference on the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space (UNISPACE-50).**

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 Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Protsahan Yojana (PMRPY)

- 1. Under the scheme, the Government incentivize employers' based on their employment generation potential.**
- 2. It is being implemented by Ministry of Labour and Employment through the Employees' Provident Fund Organization (EPFO).**

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

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

4) "Zakiullah Khan Committee" sometimes seen in the news recently was constituted for which of the following purposes?

- To suggest guidelines for space technology in Border management
- To study the contemporary status of Muslims in India
- To review inmates' condition in jails and suggest reform measures
- None of the above

5) Consider the following statements

- 1. The Group of 77 is the largest intergovernmental organization of developing countries in the United Nations.**
- 2. Palestine recently assumed the chairmanship of G77 grouping for the year 2019.**
- 3. Palestine is a non-member observer State at the United Nations.**

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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



6) Consider the following statements with respect to Celiac disease

1. It is an autoimmune disease.
2. It occurs because of ingestion of a protein, called gluten.
3. It damages the liver and resulted in improper nutrient absorption.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

7) Which of the following states is the first to launch the Cyber Security portal in India?

- a. Haryana
- b. Telangana
- c. Karnataka
- d. Andhra Pradesh

8) Consider the following statements with respect to Petroleum Conservation Research Association (PCRA)

1. It assist in developing policies which promote energy efficiency in various sectors of economy within the overall framework of the Energy Conservation Act, 2001.
2. PCRA is a non-profit organization, set up under the aegis of Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

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) The selection of the Chairperson and the members of Lokpal shall be through a Selection Committee. Who among the following

will *not* be a member of the selection committee?

1. The President
2. The Prime Minister
3. The Speaker of the Rajya Sabha
4. The Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha
5. An eminent jurist
6. Attorney General of India

Select the correct answer using the code given below

- a. 1 and 3 only
- b. 3 and 4 only
- c. 1, 3, 4 and 6 only
- d. All of the six

10) Consider the following statements with respect to Cassini mission

1. It was sent to study Saturn and its complex system of rings and moons in unprecedented detail.
2. It is a joint endeavor of NASA, ESA (the European Space Agency) and the Italian space agency (ASI).

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

- 'Saksham', an **annual** high intensity **one-month long** people-centric mega campaign of **Petroleum Conservation Research Association (PCRA)** under the aegis of Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas was launched recently.

2. b



- Unispace Nano satellite Assembly & Training programme (UNNATI), a capacity building programme on **Nano-satellite development**, is an **initiative by ISRO** to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the first United Nations conference on the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space (**UNISPACE-50**).
 - The programme **provides opportunities to the participating developing countries** to strengthen in assembling, integrating and testing of Nanosatellite.
3. b
- Under the Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Protsahan Yojana (PMRPY) scheme, **Government is paying full employers' contribution of 12%** (towards Employees' Provident Fund and Employees' Pension Scheme both), for a period of 3 years in respect of **new employees** who have been registered with the EPFO on or after 1st April 2016, with salary up to Rs. 15,000 per month.
 - It is being implemented by **Ministry of Labour and Employment through the Employees' Provident Fund Organization (EPFO)**.
4. d
- **Zakiullah Khan Committee** was constituted to review the Waqf Properties Lease Rules, 2014.
 - It presented its report to Union Minister for Minority Affairs recently.
5. d
- **Palestine has recently assumed the chairmanship of G77** (for the year 2019), **the global body's largest intergovernmental Organisation of developing countries** including India.
 - Egypt was the previous Chair of the Group of 77 (G77) for the year 2018.
 - Palestine is a **non-member Observer State** at the world body (U.N).
6. b
- Gluten allergy, also known as Celiac disease is an **autoimmune disease** that occurs because of **ingestion of a protein, called gluten**.
- When people with Celiac disease eat gluten (a protein found in wheat, rye and barley), their body mounts an immune response that **attacks the small intestine**.
 - These attacks lead to **damage on the villi**, small fingerlike projections that line the small intestine, that promote nutrient absorption.
 - When the villi get damaged, nutrients cannot be absorbed properly into the body and thus, these patients fail to grow in height and weight, develop chronic diarrhea, anemia (low hemoglobin), and weakness of bones.
 - *To create awareness about early diagnosis and management of the disease of which Indians generally "have little or no knowledge", the International Symposium on Wheat related Disorders (ISWD) 2019 was organized in New Delhi by the Celiac Society of India (CSI) from January 10-13.*
7. a
- **Haryana** becomes the first state to launch Cyber Security portal and toll free number for cyber security and cyber alerts at the National Summit on Digital Innovation and Cyber Security organized at Gurugram recently.
8. b
- Petroleum Conservation Research Association (PCRA) is a registered society set up under the **aegis of Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas**, Government of India.
 - As a **non-profit organization**, PCRA is a national government agency engaged in **promoting energy efficiency** in various sectors of economy.
 - The Government of India has set up **Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE)** under the provision of the **Energy Conservation Act, 2001**.
 - It assist in developing policies and strategies with a thrust on self-regulation and market principles with the primary objective of reducing energy intensity of the Indian economy **within the overall framework of the Energy Conservation Act, 2001**.
9. c
- The selection of the Chairperson and the members of Lokpal shall be through a Selection Committee consisting of



1. The Prime Minister,
 2. The Speaker of the Lok Sabha,
 3. The Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha,
 4. The Chief Justice of India or a sitting Supreme Court Judge nominated by the Chief Justice of India and
 5. An eminent jurist to be nominated by the President of India on the basis of recommendations of the first four members of the selection committee.
10. c
- Cassini was one of the most ambitious efforts ever mounted in planetary exploration.
 - It is a **joint endeavor of NASA, ESA** (the European Space Agency) and the **Italian space agency** (ASI), Cassini was a sophisticated robotic spacecraft sent to **study Saturn** and its complex system of rings and moons in unprecedented detail.
 - Scientists, using data from the Cassini spacecraft, have recently found evidence of methane rainfall on the north pole of Titan, the largest moon of Saturn.

19-01-2019

1) Consider the following statements with respect to Young Scientist programme

1. Under this programme, 3 students from each state and UT will be selected and given lectures and access to R&D labs for one month period.
2. It was launched by the Ministry of Human Resources and Development.

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

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

2) Consider the following statements with respect to Seismic Zones in India

1. India is classified in to five seismic zones, in which Zone V is seismically the

most active region, while zone I is the least.

2. Bureau of Indian Standards classifies seismic zones in India.
3. All of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands lie in Zone V.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

3) Consider the following statements with respect to Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS)

1. It is an autonomous body works under the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES).
2. In case of a tsunami, it alerts not only the Indian authorities, but also its neighbours.

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

1. It was famously known as the gateway to the Nubra and Shyok Valleys of Jammu and Kashmir.
2. It is one of the highest motorable pass in the world.
3. The pass is strategically important to India as it is used to carry supplies to the Siachen Glacier.

Identify the correct pass that matches with the above description

- a. Banihal Pass
- b. Jelep La
- c. Khardung La



d. Shipki La

5) “Global Risks Report 2019” is recently published by which of the following organisations?

- World Economic Forum
- World Bank
- UN Environment Programme
- UNFCCC

6) Consider the following statements with respect to Chilika Lake

- The lake is currently listed under the Montreux Record of Ramsar Convention on Wetlands.
- Irrawaddy dolphins were found in this Lake.
- Increasing presence of sea grass in this lake indicates its healthy condition.

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

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

7) Consider the following statements with respect to Dillo Bridge

- It was constructed over the Dillo River in Jammu and Kashmir.
- It would provide uninterrupted access between Sind valley and Chenab valley region.

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

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

8) “Project Udayak” sometimes seen in the news recently, is associated with which of the following?

- Border Roads Organisation (BRO)
- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)
- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)
- Indian Meteorological Organisation (IMD)

9) Recently, a report on ‘Outbreak Readiness and Business Impact’ was released by which of the following organisations?

- World Economic Forum
- World Health Organisation
- World Bank
- International Monetary Fund

10) Consider the following statements with respect to Inner Line Permit (ILP)

- It is an official travel document issued by the Government of India to allow inward travel of an Indian citizen into a protected area for a limited period.
- Currently, the Inner Line Permit (ILP) is operational in Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram and Nagaland.

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

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

Answers

1. a

- The **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** has recently announced the Young Scientist programme for the young minds who want to explore themselves in space research.
- Under the programme, **three students from each state and UT will be selected.**



- They will be **given lectures and they will be given access to R&D labs** and practical experience of building a small satellite.
 - If the satellite is good, ISRO will launch it.
 - This programme is similar to U.S. space agency NASA's student outreach.
2. c
- Earthquake - prone areas of the country have been identified on the basis of scientific inputs relating to seismicity, earthquakes occurred in the past and tectonic setup of the region.
 - Based on these inputs, **Bureau of Indian Standards**, has grouped the country into **four seismic zones**, viz. Zone II, III, IV and V.
 - Of these, Zone V is seismically the most active region, while zone II is the least.
 - Broadly, Zone - V comprises entire northeastern India, parts of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttaranchal, Rann of Kutch in Gujarat, part of North Bihar and **Andaman & Nicobar Islands**.
 - *A strong earthquake of magnitude 6 hit the seismically active Andaman and Nicobar Islands recently.*
3. c
- The INCOIS is an institute **under the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES)** and it has a network buoys and other apparatus to check rise in the sea level in case of a tsunami.
 - It alerts **not only the Indian authorities, but also its neighbours** in case of a tsunami.
 - *A strong earthquake of magnitude 6 hit the seismically active Andaman and Nicobar Islands recently.*
4. c
5. a
6. c
- A stable **Irrawaddy population, increase in seagrass** spread and appearance of sponges are some of the interesting positive aspects brought to light during this year's annual monitoring at Chilika lagoon.
- Chilika Lake is claimed to have 20% of India's seagrass distribution, which plays a vital role in oxygen production and absorption of carbon dioxide and acts as a purifier in aquatic ecology.
 - The lake was included in the Montreux Record (threatened list) in 1993 due to change in its ecological character by Ramsar Convention.
 - The lake was **removed from the Montreux record in 2002** (1st from Asia) by Ramsar convention due to successful restoration.
7. d
- Defence minister has recently inaugurated the 426.60 metre long Pre Stressed Concrete Box Girder type bridge over **Diffo river** on Roing-Koron-Paya road in **Arunachal Pradesh**.
 - It would provide uninterrupted access between Dibang valley and Lohit valley region of Eastern Arunachal Pradesh and an all-weather Road to the troops deployed on the China Border.
 - Dedicating the bridge to the nation, the Defence minister praised the commendable work being done by **Project Udayak, Border Roads Organisation (BRO)** in this region.
8. a
- In the eighties, the two erstwhile easternmost Projects Vartak and Sewak had five and four Border Roads Task Forces respectively.
 - It was felt that a new Project was required for better command and control.
 - On 23 May 1989, a new Project named "Udayak" was sanctioned.
 - The Project was to take **on responsibility of roads and other works** in erstwhile districts of Siang, Lohit, Dibang Valley and Tirap of Arunachal Pradesh and Mon, Tuensang and Mokokchung districts of Nagaland.
 - Dedicating the Diffo bridge to the nation, the Defence minister praised the commendable work being done by **Project Udayak, Border Roads Organisation (BRO)** in this region.
9. a



- In its recent report on '**Outbreak Readiness and Business Impact: Protecting Lives and Livelihoods across the Global Economy**', Geneva-based **World Economic Forum (WEF)** says that the global businesses face huge risks from a new era of epidemics and pandemics that may cause an average annual **economic loss of \$ 570 billion to the global GDP**, posing a **threat similar to that from climate change**.

10. c

- To enter **Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland or Mizoram**, Indians from other states need an inner line permit (ILP) under the provisions of the Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulation (BEFR) Act, 1873.

21-01-2019

1) Consider the following statements with respect to Pravasi Bhartiya Diwas (PBD)-2019

1. Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas (PBD) is celebrated once in every two years to strengthen the engagement of the overseas Indian community with the Government of India and reconnect them with their roots.
2. It is for the first time, the event is being held in Varanasi.
3. The theme for this year event is "Role of Indian Diaspora in building New India".

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

2) Consider the following statements with respect to NGO-DARPAN portal

1. It is mandatory for all NGOs seeking FCRA services to register under this portal.
2. It is being maintained under the aegis of 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

1. It is one of the tiger reserve governed under the Project Tiger.
2. It constitutes an important component of a forest landscape comprising Nagarhole, Mudumalai and Sathyamangalam.
3. Recently, Environment ministry has opposed a proposal to construct elevated roads over this Tiger Reserve.

Identify the Tiger reserve using the description given above

- a. Wayanad Tiger reserve
- b. Kalakad-Mundanthurai Tiger reserve
- c. Sharavati Tiger reserve
- d. Bandipur Tiger reserve

4) Consider the following statements

1. A foreigner cannot seek information under RTI act.
2. Central Information Commission does not have jurisdiction over State Information Commission.
3. A complaint or appeal can be filed in Central Information Commission against an order of a State Information Commission.

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



5) *Kohassa* also known as *White-Bellied Sea Eagle* – a large bird of prey, sometimes seen in the news recently, is endemic to

- Keibul Lamjao National Park
- Chilika Lake
- Gulf of Mannar
- Andaman and Nicobar Islands

6) Consider the following statements

- It is one of India's oldest port cities.
- It is located between the Bhogavo and Sabarmati rivers near the Gulf of Khambat.
- The name of the site means "the mound of the dead".

Identify the Indus Valley Civilisation site using the description given above

- Dholavira
- Lothal
- Mohenjo-daro
- Kalibangan

7) The term "*Urban Heat Island*" refers to

- Islands formed due to volcanic activity
- Warming up of Islands due to rapid urbanisation
- Urban area that is warmer than its surrounding rural areas
- None of the above

8) "*Formosa Strait*" connects which of the following?

- South China Sea and East China Sea
- South China Sea and Philippine Sea
- East China Sea and North China Sea
- East China Sea and Yellow Sea

9) "*Global Economy Watch report*" is published by which of the following organisation?

- World Economic Forum (WEF)
- World Bank
- International Monetary Fund
- None of the above

10) *Varthur Lake*, sometimes seen in the news recently, is located in which of the following cities?

- Chennai
- Kolkata
- Bengaluru
- Mumbai

Answers

1. d

- Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) is celebrated **once in every two years** to strengthen the engagement of the overseas Indian community with the Government of India and reconnect them with their roots.
- The 15th PBD Convention is being held on 21-23 January 2019 in **Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh**.
- The theme of PBD Convention 2019 is "**Role of Indian Diaspora in building New India**".
- PBD every year has been taking place on 9th January to mark the arrival of father of the nation Mahatma Gandhi back to India from South Africa in 1915 but this year it is taking place on 21st to align it with Kumbh Mela and Republic day so that diaspora can have a rich experience of India's culture at Prayagraj and grandeur at Rajpath.
- It was also **made a biennial event from an annual event** earlier before 2015.

2. b

- In a relief to thousands of Non-government Organisations (NGOs), the **Union Home Ministry** has recently **relaxed the mandatory requirement** of getting NGOs registered on a **NITI-Aayog-run online portal NGO-DARPAN** to receive foreign donations.



- Now, it is **optional** for all NGO seeking FCRA services to register under the DARPAN portal.
 - However, associations/NGOs, already registered with the Darpan portal or those required to register under the portal since they receive subsidies/grants/contribution from public funds, may still continue to quote their DARPAN identification number while seeking Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA) related services.
3. d
- The Centre has recently opposed the elevated road, proposed to come up in **Bandipur Tiger Reserve** to overcome the night traffic ban from 9pm to 6am.
4. b
- As per section 3 of the RTI Act **any Indian citizen** can seek information under the Act.
 - Central Information Commission **does not** have jurisdiction over a State Information Commission **nor** a complaint or appeal can be filed in this Commission against an order of a State Information Commission.
5. d
- To enhance the operational capability of Andaman and Nicobar Command (ANC), Naval Air Station (NAS) Shibpur will be commissioned as INS Kohassa.
 - INS Kohassa has been named after a White – Bellied Sea Eagle, which is a large bird of prey endemic to **Andaman and Nicobar Islands (ANI)**.
 - INS Kohassa will become the third Naval Air Base in the Andaman and Nicobar islands after INS Utkrosh at Port Blair and INS Baaz at Campbell Bay.
6. b
- Lothal is located between the **Bhogavo and Sabarmati rivers near the Gulf of Khambat**.
 - The word Lothal, **like Mohenjo-daro**, means the mound of the dead.
 - **Mohenjo-daro** is an IVC site in the province of **Sindh, Pakistan**.
7. c
- **Urban Heat Island** – Urban area that is significantly warmer than its surrounding rural areas.
8. a
- The **Taiwan Strait** or **Formosa Strait** separates the island of Taiwan from mainland China.
 - The strait is part of the **South China Sea and connects to the East China Sea** to the north.
9. d
- India is likely to cross the United Kingdom in the world's largest economy rankings in 2019, Global Economy Watch report published by **global consultancy firm PwC** stated.
 - PwC's Global Economy Watch monitors trends and issues affecting the global economy and details its latest projections for the leading nations.
10. c
- **Spontaneous fire has been spotted recently on Bengaluru's Varthur Lake.**
- 22-01-2019**
- 1) Consider the following statements with respect to World Capitals of Architecture initiative**
- 1. It was jointly launched by UNESCO and the International Union of Architects (UIA) in 2018.**
 - 2. It is intended to become an international forum for debates about pressing global challenges from the perspectives of culture, cultural heritage, urban planning and architecture.**
 - 3. Rio de Janeiro was named as the first city to receive the World Capitals of Architecture title for 2020.**
- Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?**
- 3 only
 - 1 and 2 only
 - 2 and 3 only
 - 1, 2 and 3



2) “World Energy Outlook 2018” was published by which of the following Organizations?

- International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)
- Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)
- World Economic Forum (WEF)
- International Energy Agency (IEA)

3) “Operation Kabaddi” sometimes seen in the news recently, is associated with which of the following?

- Indian Army
- Government of Kerala
- National Disaster Response Force
- Government of Odisha

4) Consider the following statements

- Indian citizens going to Nepal and Bhutan don't need a visa, if they have a photo identity card issued by the government of India.
- All citizens of India can use Aadhaar card as a valid travel document to travel to Nepal and Bhutan.

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

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

5) Consider the following statements with respect to Yellow Fever

- It is an acute viral hemorrhagic disease, transmitted by infected mosquitoes.
- The yellow fever virus is endemic in tropical areas of Africa and Central and South America.

3. The “yellow” in the name refers to the Yellow forest in Sudan from where the virus originates.

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

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

6) “World Economic Outlook” is published by which of the following Organizations?

- World Bank
- International Monetary Fund
- World Economic Forum
- None of the above

7) Consider the following statements with respect to *Pulicat Lake*

- It is the second largest brackish water ecosystem in the country after the Chilika Lake in Odisha.
- Flamingo festival will be held in this lake every year.

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

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

8) “Rio Grande River”, sometimes seen in the news recently, forms part of the border between which of the following two countries?

- Ireland and Northern Ireland
- Brazil and Venezuela
- Norway and Sweden
- United States of America and Mexico



9) “Warrior-VI” is a bilateral military exercise between which of the following two countries?

- China and Pakistan
- Russia and China
- Japan and U.S.A
- Pakistan and Russia

10) Consider the following pairs

- Deopahar Reserve Forest – Assam
- Nelapattu Bird Sanctuary – Andhra Pradesh

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

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

Answers

1. d

- The UN Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has named the Brazilian city of **Rio de Janeiro as the World Capital of Architecture for 2020**.
- Rio will be the **first city** to receive the title under a programme launched together by UNESCO and the International Union of Architects (UIA) in November 2018.

2. d

- The **World Energy Outlook** is published by **International Energy Agency (IEA)**.
- It is published **every year**, based on objective data and dispassionate analysis.
- It provides critical analysis and insights on trends in energy demand and supply, and what they mean for energy security, environmental protection and economic development.

3. a

- Operation Kabaddi** was proposed to be a largest operation to end cross-LoC infiltration by capturing at least 25 selected Pakistani

posts along the Line of Control (LoC) in September 2001.

- The objective of Operation Kabaddi was to change the geography of the LoC with access to tactical points there, which would then help the Army tackle the infiltration of militants by the Pakistani side.
- But it was not executed.

4. a

- Indian citizens going to Nepal and Bhutan don't need a visa, if they have a **valid passport, a photo identity card issued by the government of India or an election ID card issued by the Election Commission**.
- Aadhaar cards are now valid travel document for Indians **under 15 and over 65** travelling to **Nepal and Bhutan**, a recent communique by the MHA said.
- Indians, other than those in the two age brackets will not be able to use Aadhaar to travel to the two neighbouring countries.

5. b

- Yellow fever is often associated with **jaundice**, hence the name yellow.

6. b

- World Economic Outlook is published by **International Monetary Fund (IMF)**, biannually and partly updated two times a year.
- The IMF in its recent January World Economy Outlook update said, India would remain the fastest growing major economies of the world.
- It projected that India will grow at 7.5 per cent this year and 7.7 per cent in 2020, an impressive over one percentage point ahead of China's estimated growth of 6.2 per cent in these two years.

7. c

- Flamingo festival is an annual three-day festival held in the Pulicat Lake.
- The Flamingo Festival has recently kicked-off at **Pulicat Lake** and Nellapattu in Sullurpet mandal, Andhra Pradesh.

8. d



- The River **Rio Grande** is one of the principal rivers in the southwest United States and northern Mexico.
- The Rio Grande begins in south-central Colorado in the United States and flows to the Gulf of Mexico.
- Along the way, **it forms part of the Mexico–United States border.**
- *Recently, U.S President visit the Rio Grande Valley to gather support for his U.S-Mexico border wall plan.*

9. a

- The **Pakistan-China** joint military exercise '**Warrior -VI**' was recently concluded near Kharian, Gujrat District of the Punjab province of Pakistan.

10. c

- The Supreme Court has recently dismissed an appeal filed by Numaligarh Refinery Ltd. (NRL) and ordered demolition of a 2.2-km boundary wall erected on an elephant migration corridor in the Deopahar protected Reserve Forest in eastern **Assam's** Golaghat district.

23-01-2019

1) Consider the following statements with respect to *Sea Vigil – 2019*

- 1. It is a bilateral naval exercise between India and Mauritius.**
- 2. The aim of this exercise is to have an effective forum to discuss common concerns in the Indian Ocean Region and forge deeper cooperation among friendly navies.**

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

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

2) Consider the following statements with respect to Indian Ocean Humpback Dolphin

- 1. It usually lives in deep, coastal waters.**
- 2. It is known to occur within the Indian Ocean from South Africa to India.**
- 3. It has been currently categorised as Endangered by the IUCN.**

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

3) “Global Commission report on the Future of Work” was recently published by which of the following organisations?

- International Labour Organisation (ILO)
- United Nations (UN)
- World Economic Forum (WEF)
- World Bank

4) The area known as ‘Golan Heights’ sometimes appears in the news in the context of the events related to

- Central Asia
- Middle East
- South-East Asia
- Central Africa

5) Consider the following statements with respect to *Malabar exercise*

- 1. It began as a bilateral naval exercise between India and the US and later expanded into a trilateral format with the inclusion of Japan.**
- 2. Recently, Australia was included in the exercise.**

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

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2



d. Neither 1 nor 2

6) Consider the following statements with respect to *Bharat Parv – 2019*

1. It is being celebrated as part of Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) celebrations since 2016.
2. It is being organised by the Ministry of Tourism.

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 Pradhan Mantri Jan Aushadhi Yojana

1. It aims to provide expensive branded drugs to all at an affordable prices through Jan Aushadhi Stores.
2. It is a direct market intervention scheme of 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) “*Border Backstop Arrangement*” sometimes seen in the news recently, is associated with which of the following?

- a. U.S-Mexico wall
- b. BREXIT
- c. U.S troops withdrawal from Syria
- d. None of the above

9) Consider the following statements with respect to AMRIT Scheme

1. It aims to provide quality antenatal care, free of cost, universally to all pregnant women on the 9th of every month.
2. It is an initiative of 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

10) “*Kani tribes*” sometimes seen in the news recently inhabits which of the following states?

- a. Tamilnadu
- b. Goa
- c. Kerala
- d. Odisha

Answers

1. d

- The **Indian Navy**, in close coordination with the **Indian Coast Guard and all coastal security stakeholders**, will conduct a Coastal Defence Exercise code-named ‘**Sea Vigil 2019**’ along the entire coastline of the country.
- It is a large-scale exercise being conducted for the **first time ever** and will **aim to test India’s preparedness** to thwart any attempt by anti-national elements to carry out attack on its territory or against its citizens by infiltrating through the sea route.

2. c

- The Indian Ocean Humpback Dolphin is known to occur within the **Indian Ocean from South Africa to India**.
- The habitat preference of the dolphins for **shallow waters** places them in some of the world’s most intensively utilised, fished, shipped, modified and polluted waters, as per



the IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature).

- Indian Ocean Humpback Dolphins are concentrated in coastal waters **within 2 km** of shore and they are often sighted only a few hundred meters from land.
- This distribution places them in exactly the same location as the majority of small-scale fishing effort prevalent throughout their range in the same near-shore habitat.
- As a result, humpback dolphins encounter large numbers of coastal gillnets and are at high risk of entanglement.
- IUCN currently categorises the Indian Ocean Humpback Dolphin as **Endangered**.

3. a

- The **International Labour Organisation (ILO)** has recently launched its Global Commission report on the 'Future of Work' to mark its centenary celebration.
- The report is the result of a 15-month review by a 27-member commission co-chaired by the South African president Cyril Ramaphosa and the Swedish Prime Minister Stefan Lofven.
- A universal labour guarantee, social protection from birth to old age and an entitlement to lifelong learning are among the ten recommendations made in the report.

4. b

- The Golan Heights is located on the border between Israel and Syria.
- Today it's mostly occupied by Israel, but it was under Syrian sovereignty until June 1967, when Israel took control of most of the area in the **Six-Day War**, a military conflict with Egypt, Jordan and Syria.
- Although Israel controls only about two-thirds of what is known as the Golan Heights, it controls the most strategic points.
- Recently, Israel has carried out a series of airstrikes against Iranian targets in Syria, in response to an **Iranian missile fired at the Golan Heights**.

5. a

- Malabar began as a bilateral naval exercise between India and the US in 1992 and has grown in scope and complexity in recent years.
- In 2015, it was expanded into a trilateral format with the inclusion of Japan.
- However, **India has not accepted repeated requests from Australia** to be included in the exercise, which is seen with suspicion by China.

6. b

- The **Ministry of Tourism** in collaboration with other central Ministries is organizing the 4th edition of 'Bharat Parv' event showcasing the spirit of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat at Red Fort in the capital during 26th to 31st January 2019.
- It is being celebrated as **part of Republic Day Celebrations** since 2016.

7. d

- Pradhan Mantri Jan Aushadhi Yojana is a direct market intervention scheme of the Department of Pharmaceuticals, **Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers**.
- Its objective is to make available **quality generic medicines at affordable prices to all**, especially the poor, throughout the country, through outlets known as Jan Aushadhi Stores (JASs).
- *Taking inspiration from the success that Jan Aushadhi have had with private franchisees, the Health Ministry has decided to throw open AMRIT stores to private players in a bid to increase access to affordable drugs.*

8. b

9. b

- The Affordable Medicines and Reliable Implants for Treatment (AMRIT) pharmacies is a scheme aims to provide expensive drugs such as those used for treating cancer and cardiovascular diseases at a cost that is 30-40 per cent cheaper.
- Unlike Jan Aushadhi stores, which are run by the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers, **AMRIT stores do not sell generic versions of drug but sell branded drugs**.



- Taking inspiration from the success that Jan Aushadhi have had with private franchisees, the Health Ministry has decided to throw open AMRIT stores to private players in a bid to increase access to affordable drugs.

10. c

- The **Kanis**, once a nomadic tribe that subsisted on forest produce, including medicinal plants, are now settled on forest land in the southern districts of Thiruvananthapuram and Kollam of **Kerala**.
- The Kanis' worship an idol of Agastya Muni on the hill and, according to them, permitting women beyond Athiramala, a base station of Agasthyakoodam, would interfere with their traditional rights of worship.

24-01-2019

1) Consider the following statements about **Caesium-137**

1. It is the only stable isotope of Caesium.
2. It exists in liquid form at room temperature.
3. It is a part of the spent fuel in nuclear plants.

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

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

2) Hukitola Island is situated in the coast of

- a. Karnataka
- b. Kerala
- c. Andhra Pradesh
- d. Odisha

3) Consider the following statements about **Vittala Temple**

1. It is dedicated to Lord Vishnu.

2. It was first built during the reign of Krishnadevaraya.
3. It has features of both Nagara and Dravida Styles.

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

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

4) Consider the following statements about **Section 124A of IPC**

1. It is unconstitutional as it violates fundamental right of freedom of speech & expression.
2. It was introduced during the period of Lord Lytton.

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

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

5) Consider the following statements about **National Family Health survey (NFHS)**.

1. It is a survey undertaken by the Ministry of statistics and programme implementation.
2. International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS) is the nodal agency responsible for providing coordination and technical guidance.

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

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



6) Consider the following statements regarding National Bench of Goods and Services Tax Appellate Tribunal (GSTAT)

1. It is the forum of first appeal in GST laws.
2. It is the first common forum of dispute resolution between Centre and States.

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

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

7) The report 'Hidden Risks and Untapped Opportunities: Water and the Indian Banking Sector' was launched by _____ along with Indian Banking Association (IBA)

- a. World Wildlife Fund-India
- b. World Economic Forum
- c. World Bank
- d. UNDP

8) Consider the following statements regarding various development indicators.

1. Global Competitiveness Report - World Economic Forum
2. Global Talent Competitiveness Index - INSEAD
3. Global Democracy Index - Economic Intelligence Unit (EIU)

Which of the above Report(s)/Index are correctly matched?

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

9) Consider the following conditions

1. Temperature of 20 to 30 degree Celcius

2. Elevation within 700m above mean sea level
3. Red sandy loam soil with proper drainage.
4. Moderate rainfall with no frost

The above conditions are necessary for which of the following crops?

- a. Tea
- b. Cashew
- c. Jute
- d. Cotton

10) Consider the following statements about Western Disturbances

1. It originates to the west of Iran.
2. It picks up moisture from the Atlantic Ocean.
3. The brings rainfall to Northwestern India, Gangetic plains and Northeast India.
4. It brings rains, thunderstorms, hailstorm and snowfall.

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

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

Answers

1. c

- Cs-133 is the most stable isotope of Caesium (Cs)
- Cs-137 decays through the emission of beta particles (a high-energy electron or positron, or positive electron) and gamma rays (a form of electromagnetic radiation like X-rays).
- It has a half-life of about 30 years.
- It is a byproduct in fission reactions of uranium and plutonium in nuclear plants.



- Cs-137 is used in a variety of measuring instruments in the construction and other industry.
- It is also used in well-logging devices in the drilling industry for the characterisation of rocks.

2. d

3. a

- It was built during the reign of King Devaraya II (1422 – 1446 A.D.).
- Several portions of the temple were expanded and enhanced during the reign of Krishnadevaraya (1509 – 1529 A.D.).
- It is built in the Dravidian style of architecture. It has traits and features that are characteristic of typical south Indian temple architecture.
- On the other hand Badami caves of Chalukya Dynasty simultaneously represent two ancient Indian artistic traditions; the northern Nagara and the southern Dravida styles.

4. d

- The 'public order' clause, one of the 'reasonable restrictions', allows freedom of speech to be abridged by a law.
- Sedition was introduced in the penal code in 1870, which was the period of Lord Mayo, a decade after the Indian Penal Code came into force.

5. b

- The National Family Health Survey (NFHS) is a large-scale, multi-round survey conducted in a representative sample of households throughout India under the stewardship of the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**.

6. b

- The way that GST was envisaged that the assessment would be done by people below the rank of Commissioner.
- First appeals are dealt by the Appellate Authorities (of Commissioner rank) under the Central and State GST Acts
- GSTAT would be the forum of second appeal in GST laws

- But it is the first common forum of dispute resolution between Centre and States.

7. a

8. d

9. b

10. d

1. It originates beyond Afghanistan and Iran.
2. It picks up moisture from as far as the Mediterranean Sea, and even the Atlantic Ocean.
3. The winds travel in the form of storms from the northwestern direction and cause frequent rainfall over Pakistan, North and Northwestern India, Uttarakhand, and some parts of the Gangetic plains. Sometimes the disturbances reach even the Northeast of India.
4. It brings all kinds of precipitation, including rain and thunderstorms, hailstorm and snowfall depending upon the temperature of the region.

25-01-2019

1) Consider the following statements with respect to Rashtriya Bal Puraskar awards

- 1. It has been given in two categories: Bal Kalyan Puraskar to individuals and Bal Shakti Puraskar to institutions working for children.**
- 2. It has been introduced by the Ministry of women and child development.**

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

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

2) Consider the following statements with respect to Long Range Surface-to-Air Missile (LRSAM)

- 1. It is an indigenous missile designed and developed by DRDO.**



2. Having an operational range of 1500 km, it can destroy airborne threats like aircrafts, anti-ship missiles, UAVs and rockets launched simultaneously.

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 PSLV C-44 mission

1. It is the first flight with a new variant of PSLV called PSLV-DL with no strap-ons (boosters).
2. Microsat-R satellite, developed by the students was launched through this mission.

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) "Global Multi-dimensional Poverty Index (MPI) 2018 Report" was recently released jointly by the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) and _____

- a. World Bank
- b. Oxfam
- c. UNDP
- d. None of the above

5) "My Vote Matters" which was launched by the Election Commission of India recently, is a/an

- a. Online Information repository
- b. Door to Door campaign
- c. Magazine
- d. None of the above

6) Consider the following statements with respect to National Voters' Day (NVD)

1. It is celebrated all over the country on January 25 every year to mark the first election held in India after Independence.
2. It was celebrated since 2011 to encourage, facilitate and maximize the enrolment, especially for the new voters.

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 Zaid Season

1. It is a short season between the rabi and the kharif seasons.
2. Water melon, Musk melon and Cucumber are some of the Zaid crops.

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 New Generation Anti-Radiation Missile (NGARM)

1. It is an indigenous surface-to-surface missile system.
2. It is capable of destroying enemy radars, tracking systems and communication facilities.

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) “Kerch Strait” sometimes seen in the news recently, separates which of the following?

- a. Black Sea and the Sea of Marmara
- b. Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean Sea
- c. Sea of Azov and the Black Sea
- d. None of the above

10) Consider the following statements with respect to World Economic Forum (WEF)

1. It is an International Organization for Public-Private Cooperation.
2. Its headquarters is located in Geneva, Switzerland.
3. Global gender gap report and Global competitiveness report are published by the WEF.

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

Answers

1. b

- The **Ministry of Women and Child Development**, Government of India has introduced a revamped award scheme under the name of “Pradhan Mantri National Children Awards” (**Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar**).
- These awards will be given in two main categories. The categories are as follows:
 1. **Bal Shakti Puraskar** to **individuals** (erstwhile known as National Child Award)
 2. **Bal Kalyan Puraskar** to **institutions/individuals** wor

king for children. (erstwhile known as National Child Welfare Award).

2. d

- LRSAM has been **jointly developed by** Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), **India** and M/s **Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI)**, Israel for the Indian Navy.
- The missile having an operational range of **75 km** can destroy airborne threats like jets, aircraft, anti-ship missiles, unmanned aerial vehicles and rockets including projectiles launched simultaneously.

3. d

- The PSLV-C44, was the first mission of a **new variant of the PSLV**, called the **PSLV-DL**, as it was equipped with **two strap-on** configurations.
- Usually, PSLVs were launched without any strap-ons (boosters) or were equipped with six strap-ons fixed around the rocket, but the ISRO, for the first time, used only two boosters for this mission.
- India successfully launched Microsat-R, an imaging satellite, meant for **military purposes** developed by **DRDO laboratories** using PSLV-C44.
- Contributed by **students** and the members of a Chennai-based organisation — Space Kidz India — **Kalamsat** is also launched using this mission.

4. c

5. c

- ECI has released ‘**My Vote Matters**’, a **Quarterly Magazine** on the occasion of National Voters Day 2019 celebration.

6. b

- The National Voters’ Day (NVD) is celebrated all over the country on January 25 every year **since 2011** to mark the **Foundation day of Election Commission of India**, which was established on 25th January 1950.
- The main purpose of the NVD celebration is to encourage, facilitate and maximize the enrolment, especially for the new voters.
- In view of the upcoming Lok Sabha Elections, “**No Voter to be Left**



Behind” has been selected as the theme for the National Voters’ Day, 2019.

7. c

- In between the rabi and the kharif seasons, there is a short season during the summer months known as the Zaid season.
- Some of the crops produced during ‘zaid’ are watermelon, muskmelon, cucumber, vegetables and fodder crops.
- Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare has recently organized the national conference on agriculture for Zaid/ Summer campaign-2019.

8. b

- NGARM, having a strike range of over 100 km, is the **first air-to-surface missile completely designed and developed by DRDO.**
- It is the first indigenous air to surface missile to be developed by DRDO, after the supersonic Brahmos cruise missile developed jointly with Russia.
- The missile is capable of destroying enemy radars, tracking systems and communication facilities.
- The state-of-the-art high speed missile is **first-of-its-kind in the country’s arsenal.**
- *Recently the DRDO claimed to have conducted the maiden test of new generation anti-radiation missile (NGARM) from a fighter aircraft off Odisha coast.*

9. d

- The Kerch Strait is a strait connecting the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov, **separating the Kerch Peninsula of Crimea from the Taman Peninsula of Russia.**

10. d

26-01-2019

1) Which of the following is/are **not** the cause(s) of Nitrogen Pollution

1. Emission from chemical fertilizers
2. Oil spillage in oceans
3. Burning of fossil fuels

4. Emission from livestock manure

Select the correct answer using the code given below

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

2) Consider the following statements with respect to Bharat Ratna

1. The award does not carry any monetary grant.
2. It cannot be used as a prefix or suffix to the recipient’s name.
3. It can be awarded posthumously.
4. The recommendations for the Bharat Ratna are made by the Prime Minister to the President.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

3) Consider the following statements with respect to Mugger Crocodile

1. It is endemic to freshwater habitats of Gujarat.
2. It has been listed as endangered on the IUCN Red List.
3. It is protected under Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.

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



4) Consider the following statements

1. Ashoka Chakra is India's highest military decoration, awarded for displaying distinguished acts of valour during wartime.
2. Kirti Chakra is India's second highest peacetime gallantry award.

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) "Red fort declaration" sometimes seen in the news recently, established a Strategic Partnership between India and _____

- a. Mauritius
- b. South Africa
- c. Japan
- d. Seychelles

6) Which of the following countries does not share border with Venezuela?

1. Peru
2. Guyana
3. Colombia
4. Suriname
5. Brazil

Select the correct answer using the code given below

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

7) Consider the following statements with respect to Wild life protection Act, 1972

1. The act extends to the whole of India with the objective of effectively protecting the wild life of India.
2. Among the six schedules listed in the Act, Schedule I and part II of Schedule II provide the highest degrees of protection to listed species.

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) "World Economic Situation and Prospects Report 2019" was recently launched by which of the following organizations?

- a. United Nations (UN)
- b. Federal Reserve Bank of USA
- c. World Economic Forum
- d. International Monetary Fund

9) Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSIA) was developed by

- a. International Air Transport Association (IATA)
- b. International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)
- c. International Aviation Regulation Authority (IARA)
- d. None of the above

10) Consider the following statements with respect to Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) Scheme

1. It is a Central Sector Scheme with 100% financial assistance for District level component.
2. It is a tri-ministerial effort of Ministries of Women and Child Development, Health & Family Welfare and Human Resource Development.



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

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

Answers

1. a

2. c

- Bharat Ratna, the country's highest civilian award instituted in 1954, is given in recognition of exceptional service, performance of the highest order in any field of human endeavour.
- Any person without distinction of race, occupation, position or sex is eligible for this award.
- The recommendations for Bharat Ratna are made by the **Prime Minister to the President**.
- The number of annual awards is restricted to a maximum of three in a particular year.
- On conferment of the award, the recipient receives a Sanad (certificate) signed by the President and a medallion.
- **The award does not carry any monetary grant.**
- **The award cannot be used as a prefix or suffix to the recipient's name.**
- However, should an award winner consider it necessary, he or she may use the following expression in their biodata or letterhead or visiting card etc. to indicate that he or she is a recipient of the award: 'Awarded Bharat Ratna by the President' or 'Recipient of Bharat Ratna Award'.
- **The original statutes did not provide for posthumous awards but were amended in January 1955 to permit them.**
- *The President has recently conferred Bharat Ratna, on former president Pranab Mukherjee.*

- *The award was also conferred on RSS ideologue Nanaji Deshmukh and singer Bhupen Hazarika (both posthumously).*

3. a

- The mugger crocodile, also called marsh crocodile or broad-snouted crocodile, is a species (*Crocodylus palustris*) native to freshwater habitats from southern Iran and Pakistan to the Indian subcontinent and Sri Lanka.
- It has come to the centre of renewed attention in Gujarat, where the Forest Department has started evacuating muggers from two ponds on the Sardar Sarovar Dam premises on the Narmada, to facilitate a seaplane service at the Statue of Unity.
- Already extinct in Bhutan and Myanmar, the mugger has been listed as **vulnerable** on the IUCN Red List since 1982.
- In India, it is protected under Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.

4. b

- **Ashok Chakra** is the highest **peacetime** award given for valor and bravery away from the face of the enemy and it is equivalent to **Param Veer Chakra**, which is the highest **war-time** gallantry award.
- **Kirti Chakra** is the second in the order of precedence of the peacetime gallantry award and is equivalent to **Maha Veer chakra**, the **second highest** military decoration, given to the act of braveness performed **during war**.

5. b

- The Strategic Partnership between **India and South Africa**, called the Red Fort Declaration, was signed in March 1997 by the then South African President Nelson Mandela and former PM H.D. Deve Gowda.
- India and South Africa has recently sealed a three-year strategic programme covering all aspects of bilateral ties.

6. a

- Venezuela is located on the northern coast of South America.
- The continental territory is bordered on the **north by the Caribbean Sea** and



the **Atlantic Ocean**, on the **west by Colombia, Brazil on the south, Trinidad and Tobago to the north-east and on the east by Guyana.**

7. b

- It extends to the whole of India, except the State of Jammu and Kashmir which has its own wildlife act.
- It has six schedules which give varying degrees of protection
- Species listed in Schedule I and part II of Schedule II get absolute protection – offences under these are prescribed the highest penalties
- Species listed in Schedule III and Schedule IV are also protected, but the penalties are much lower
- Schedule V includes the animals which may be hunted
- The plants in Schedule VI are prohibited from cultivation and planting

8. a

- The Indian economy is expected to grow at 7.4 per cent in the current fiscal year and its GDP growth will rise to 7.6 per cent in 2019-20, before tapering down to 7.4 per cent in 2020-21, according to a **UN report: World Economic Situation and Prospects (WESP) 2019**, released recently.

9. b

- Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSIA), is an emission mitigation approach for the global airline industry, developed by the **International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)**.
- The aim is to address any annual increase in total CO₂ emissions from international civil aviation above 2020 levels and contribute to the industry's commitment to carbon neutral growth from 2020 ("CNG2020").
- Recently, the Bureau of Indian Standards in Collaboration with the Indian Air Force Releases New Standard for Bio-Jet Fuel.
- This standard would enable the oil companies to manufacture bio-jet fuel for the Indian aviation industry.

- Given the advent of Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSIA) by the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) by 2027, this is a significant development which could reduce the carbon emissions and help India become a green fuel production hub.

10. c

- Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) is a comprehensive programme to address the declining Child Sex Ratio (CSR) and related issues of empowerment of women over a life-cycle continuum.
- It is a **tri-ministerial effort** of Ministries of Women and Child Development, Health & Family Welfare and Human Resource Development.
- BBBP Scheme is a Central Sector Scheme with **100% financial assistance for District level component** and the fund are directly released to the DC/DM's account for smooth operation of the Scheme.
- The specific objectives of the scheme include preventing gender biased sex selective elimination; ensuring survival and protection of the girl child and ensuring education and participation of the girl child.

28-01-2019

1) Consider the following statements

- 1. It is located in Western Indian Island which is also known as the Island of Gharapuri.**
- 2. It is a UNESCO World Heritage site.**
- 3. It is a glorious abode of Lord Shiva and an epitome of Hindu cave culture.**

Identify the world heritage site using the description given above

- Ellora Caves
- Bandar Khayran Caves
- Elephanta Caves
- Silvassa Island Temple

2) Consider the following statements with respect to Pariksha Pe Charcha 2.0 programme



1. It is a unique interaction platform, where students can directly register their grievances with respect to exams, with the Human Resource Minister.
2. Only Delhi / NCR students were allowed to participate in this programme.

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

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

3) Consider the following statements with respect to Technical textiles

1. They are manufactured primarily for technical performance and functional properties rather than aesthetic and decorative characteristics.
2. Use of technical textiles is restricted only to medical applications in India.

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

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

4) Consider the following statements with respect to Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI)

1. It was set up by a resolution of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
2. It is headed by the Prime Minister of India.
3. Its headquarters is located in Chennai, Tamilnadu.

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

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

- d. None

5) Consider the following statements with respect to Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO)

1. It was set up by a resolution adopted by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs in 2013.
2. It is a multi-disciplinary organization works under the 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

6) DAMaN initiative, an inspiration for global fight against malaria, is an effort by which of the following Indian states?

- a. Chattisgarh
- b. Odisha
- c. Meghalaya
- d. West Bengal

7) Consider the following statements with respect to National Chilika Bird Festival

1. It aims to promote eco-tourism and preservation of birds in India.
2. It was jointly organised by the Ministry of Tourism and Odisha Tourism Development Board.

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 states, Schedule VI of Indian Constitution does not apply?



1. Assam
2. Arunachal Pradesh
3. Meghalaya
4. Manipur
5. Nagaland
6. Mizoram

Select the correct answer using the code given below

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

9) "Nalbana Island" is located in which of the following states?

- a. Maharashtra
- b. Karnataka
- c. Kerala
- d. Odisha

10) Consider the following pairs

1. Satkosia Tiger Reserve – West Bengal
2. Simlipal Tiger Reserve – Odisha
3. Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary – Karnataka

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

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

Answers

1. c

- Elephanta Caves near Mumbai is a **UNESCO World Heritage site**.
- The Elephanta Caves are located in Western India on **Elephanta Island** (also known as the Island of Gharapuri (City of caves)).

- The masterpiece "Sadashiva" dominates the entrance to one of the caves in Elephanta.
- A unique event "Artisan Speak" which will showcase the rich handloom and textile tradition of India is being held at Elephanta Caves recently.
- The first-of-its-kind event at Elephanta Caves is being organized by the Ministry of Textiles, in partnership with IMG Reliance.

2. d

- It is a unique interaction where **students, teachers, parents** and the **Prime Minister**, will come together to **discuss issues** related to exams and the **stress connected to that**.
- A total of 2000 students, parents and teachers will be participating at Talkatora Stadium from all over India in another exciting edition of **Pariksha Pe Charcha 2.0** on 29th January, 2019.
- For first time, **students from all over India and also Indian students residing abroad** are participating as compared to last year where only Delhi / NCR students were called.
- The participants from abroad include from countries like Russia, Nigeria, Iran, Nepal, Doha, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and Singapore.

3. a

- Technical textiles are textile material and products manufactured primarily for technical performance and functional properties rather than aesthetic and decorative characteristics.
- They find application not only in clothing but also in areas like **agriculture, medical, infrastructure, automotive, aerospace, sports, defence and packaging**.

4. d

- The Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI) is a **statutory** advisory body on Animal Welfare Laws and promotes animal welfare in the country.
- It was established in 1962 under Section 4 of the **Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960**.



- Its headquarters was **shifted from Chennai, Tamilnadu to Ballabgarh** in Faridabad district of Haryana in 2018.
 - *With several objections raised against his functioning by Union Minister Maneka Gandhi and several animal rights activists as the backdrop, retired IAS officer SP Gupta has resigned from the **chairmanship** of AWBI.*
5. d
- SFIO is a **statutory** corporate fraud investigating agency in India.
 - Initially, it was set up by a resolution adopted by the Government of India in 2003.
 - Later, Section 211 of the Companies Act, 2013, accorded the statutory status to the SFIO.
 - SFIO is a multi-disciplinary organization under **Ministry of Corporate Affairs**.
6. b
- Durgama Anchalare Malaria Nirakaran (**DAMaN**), is an initiative of **Odisha** government.
 - It aims to deliver services to the most inaccessible and hardest hit people of the State.
 - Through its DAMaN initiative, Odisha has emerged as an inspiration in the global fight against malaria.
7. d
- The 2nd National Chilika Bird Festival began recently at Mangalajodi, with the aim to promote eco-tourism and preservation of birds in **Odisha**.
 - The two-day festival, jointly organized by **Odisha Tourism and Chilika Development Authority**, includes photo exhibition seminars and visit to **Nalbana island** inside Chilika.
8. d
- The Union Cabinet has recently approved the constitutional amendment which seeks to increase the powers of the autonomous council recently.
 - The amendment to Article 280 and Sixth Schedule of the Constitution has been approved.
- It will significantly improve the financial resources and powers of the autonomous districts councils in **Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Tripura**, fulfilling longstanding aspirations of the tribal population in these North-eastern states.
9. d
- The two-day National Chilika Bird festival includes photo exhibition seminars and visit to **Nalbana island** inside Chilika lake.
10. c
- The Karnataka Forest Department has issued permission to expand a private mini-hydel project in the eco-sensitive zone (ESZ) of the **Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary**, located in Karnataka, though it was rejected by the State Board for Wildlife twice.
 - **Cauvery North Wildlife Sanctuary** is located in **Tamilnadu**.
 - Patrolling in the Satkosia Tiger Reserve, **Odisha** is set to be strengthened as two trained elephants would be deployed there shortly.
 - The two elephants are being brought from the Similipal Tiger Reserve, **Odisha**.
 - Trained elephants will help ground-level forest guards' patrol deep in the forest where jeeps cannot go.
- 29-01-2019**
- 1) Consider the following statements with respect to National Agricultural Higher Education Project (NAHEP)
1. It aims to support participating Agricultural Universities and ICAR to provide more relevant and higher quality education to Agricultural University students.
 2. It will be funded by the World Bank and the Indian Government on a 50:50 basis.
 3. It was launched by the Ministry of Human Resources and Development.
- 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 Student READY scheme

1. Under this scheme, practical experience of agriculture and entrepreneurship is provided to undergraduate students.
2. It was launched by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR).

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 Consultative Committees

1. These committees are constituted by the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs.
2. Meetings of these Committees are held both during the session and inter-session period of Parliament.
3. These committees shall stand dissolved upon dissolution of every Lok Sabha.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

4) Consider the following statements with respect to Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA)

1. It is a biennial international survey which aims to evaluate the education system worldwide by testing the skills and knowledge of 15-year-old students.

2. It was introduced by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).
3. Recently, India has signed an agreement confirming its participation in PISA for the first time.

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

5) Consider the following statements with respect to Sarus Crane

1. It is the world's tallest flying bird, endemic to Indian sub-continent.
2. It has been listed as Vulnerable under the IUCN Red list.
3. It is omnivorous, feeding on fish and insects, as well as roots and plants.

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

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

6) HSPD-6 and Global Entry Programme (GEP) are the initiative of which of the following countries?

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

7) Consider the following statements with respect to Charter of Patient's Rights

1. It has been developed by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.



2. India has recently adopted this charter which addresses violations of patient rights.

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

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

8) Consider the following statements

- 1. India can make an extradition request to any country, even without having a bilateral extradition treaty with a specific country.
- 2. Currently, India and Australia does not have any extradition treaty between them.

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) "Zearalenone" sometimes seen in the news recently, is a

- a. Fungal toxin
- b. Drug resistant bacteria
- c. Country in Western Africa
- d. None of the above

10) Match the following

- | Folk Dance | – | State |
|---------------|---|----------------|
| 1. Bhangra | – | a. Gujarat |
| 2. Karakkatam | – | b. Maharashtra |
| 3. Misra Raas | – | c. Punjab |
| 4. Taakala | – | d. TamilNadu |

Select the correct answer using the code given below

- a. 1-C; 2-D; 3-A; 4-B
- b. 1-B; 2-D; 3-C; 4-A
- c. 1-C; 2-D; 3-B; 4-A
- d. 1-B; 2-C; 3-A; 4-D

Answers

1. b

- The **Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)** has recently launched Rs.1,100 crore ambitious National Agricultural Higher Education Project (NAHEP) to attract talent and strengthen higher agricultural education in the country.
- This project will be funded by the **World Bank and the Indian Government on a 50:50 basis.**
- The objective of the Project is to support Participating Agricultural Universities and ICAR in providing more relevant and higher quality education to Agricultural University students.
- NAHEP addresses quality by supporting interested AUs to propose and implement technically sound and verifiable investments that increase faculty performance, attract better students to these AUs, improve student learning outcomes and raise their prospects for future employability, particularly in the private sector.

2. c

- The Student READY (Rural Entrepreneurship Awareness Development Yojana) programme is an initiative of **Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)** to reorient graduates of Agriculture and allied subjects for ensuring and assuring employability and develop entrepreneurs for emerging knowledge intensive agriculture.
- It aims to provide rural entrepreneurship awareness, practical experience in real-life situation in rural agriculture and creating awareness to **undergraduate students** about practical agriculture and allied sciences.

3. d

- Consultative committees are attached to various ministries/departments of the Central



Government and consist of members of both the Houses of Parliament.

- The Minister / Minister of State in charge of the Ministry concerned acts as the chairman of the consultative committee of that ministry.
- These committees provide a forum for informal discussions between the ministers and the members of Parliament on policies and programmes of the government and the manner of their implementation.
- These committees are constituted by the **Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs**.
- The Ministry also makes arrangements for holding their meetings **both during the session and the intersession period of Parliament**.
- These committees are normally constituted after the new Lok Sabha is constituted, after General Elections for the Lok Sabha.
- In other words, **these committees shall stand dissolved upon dissolution of every Lok Sabha** and shall be reconstituted upon constitution of each Lok Sabha.

4. a

- PISA – introduced in 2000 by **OECD** – tests the learning levels of **15-year-olds in reading, mathematics and science**.
- The test is conducted **every three years**.
- India stayed away from PISA in 2012 and 2015 on account of its dismal performance in **2009**, when it was placed 72nd among the 74 participating countries.
- *Confirming India's participation in the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) in 2021, the HRD Ministry has signed an agreement with the Organisation for Economic Cooperation Development (OECD) recently.*

5. c

- The Sarus crane is the **tallest flying bird in the world**.
- It has three disjunct populations in the **Indian sub-continent, south-east Asia and northern Australia**.

- In the Indian subcontinent, it is found in **northern and central India, Terai Nepal and Pakistan**.
- It is the official state bird of Uttar Pradesh.
- It is not only the tallest flying bird in the world, it is also **India's only resident breeding crane**, as per the Wildlife Trust of India (WTI).
- The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has marked it as '**vulnerable**' in its list of threatened species.
- It is currently listed in the **Schedule IV** of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
- *The population of the Sarus crane, a bird distinguishable by its red upper neck and white collar, has climbed as per the 2018 census (summer).*

6. a

- Homeland Security Presidential Directive (HSPD-6) is an agreement for exchange of terrorist screening information between the Terrorist Screening Centre (TSC) of the U.S. and the partner country's security agency.
- Global Entry is a US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) program that allows speedy clearance for low-risk travellers upon their arrival in the US.

7. d

- Charter of Patient's Rights has been developed by **National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)**.
- In August 2018, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare announced its plans to implement this Charter.
- Although nearly 4 months have elapsed since this declaration of intent, there seems to have been **no further progress on finalisation and adoption of the charter**.

8. a

- According to the website of the Ministry of External Affairs, India can make an **extradition request to any country**.
- While India's treaty partners have treaty obligations to consider India's requests, in the absence of a treaty, it is a matter for the foreign country to consider, in accordance with its



domestic laws and procedures, whether the country can agree to India's extradition request on the basis of an assurance of reciprocity.

- India has extradition treaties with 43 countries and extradition arrangements with 10 countries.
- **India and Australia** signed an extradition treaty **in 2008**, but it came into force only in 2011.
- Under this treaty, both countries decided to recognise extraditable offences which are punishable by an imprisonment of at least one year or severe penalty.
- **India is all set to sign a revamped extradition treaty with Australia that would enable both countries to exchange information on spies, terrorism and human traffickers.**
- The extradition treaty signed with Australia **earlier was general** in nature. **This one will be more crime specific.** It will focus on narcotics, human trafficking, spies and terrorism.

9. a

- Zearalenone is a **fungus toxin** infesting cereals such as wheat, maize and barley.
- It attacks crops while they are growing, but can also develop when cereals are stored without being dried fully.
- Recently, a *Journal of Food Science* study detected zearalenone in wheat, **rice, corn and oats** from markets in Uttar Pradesh.
- The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India **does not impose maximum limits for zearalenone**, though the European Union (EU) does.
- Zearalenone behaves like **oestrogen**, the female sex hormone, and could cause endocrine disturbances in humans.
- Some studies over the past two decades have suggested that girls exposed to zearalenone might exhibit early puberty, while others have linked elevated blood levels of zearalenone to mammary gland and prostate tumours.

10. a

- **Vice President has recently witnessed folk dances performed by Tableaux Artists.**
- Artists from **Tamil Nadu** presented the **Karakkatam** folk dance, while Taakala Folk Dance was performed by artists from Maharashtra.
- North Eastern states Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Sikkim and Tripura presented Monpa, Satoiya Nitya, Tamang Seto and Mamita folk dances.
- Artists from Jammu Kashmir performed the Fusim Dance reflecting the composite culture of the State.
- The artistes from Gujarat performed Misra Raas, while Hudka Chhudka from Uttarakhand and Bhangra from Punjab were also performed.

30-01-2019

1) Consider the following statements with respect to Junk Bonds

- 1. These bonds are highly rated corporate bonds.**
- 2. These bonds are issued by low rated companies.**
- 3. In India, Junk bonds are regulated by SEBI.**

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

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

2) Consider the following statements with respect to D – Voters

- 1. D – Voters are those who have been disenfranchised for their alleged acquisition of the citizenship of another country.**
- 2. They have to prove their citizenship in the Foreigners tribunal in order to get back their voting right.**



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 Statistical Commission (NSC)

1. It is a statutory body established under the National Statistical Commission Act, 2005.
2. Niti Aayog CEO is an ex-officio member of NSC.
3. It works under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI).

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

4) "Chin Refugees" sometimes seen in the news recently, migrated to India from which of the following neighbouring countries?

- a. China
- b. Bangladesh
- c. Myanmar
- d. Afghanistan

5) Consider the following statements with respect to Golden Langur Conservation Project

1. It has been funded by the Central Zoo Authority (CZA).
2. Golden langur, founded only in Assam and Bhutan is listed as 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

6) Consider the following statements with respect to Symbol allotment by the Election Commission of India (ECI)

1. The Election commission has three categories of symbols namely, Reserved, Free and Open category.
2. Reserved symbols are allotted to candidates sponsored by recognised state or national parties.
3. Open symbols are allotted to candidates sponsored by a party, which secures six percent of valid votes pollen in any four or more states at a general election to the Lok Sabha.

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

7) Which of the following countries is/are *not* the members of Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP)?

1. U.S.A
2. Canada
3. China
4. India
5. Japan
6. Australia

Select the correct answer using the code given below

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



8) "Pong Dam wetlands" sometimes seen in the news recently, is located in which of the following states?

- Gujarat
- Jammu and Kashmir
- Uttarakhand
- Himachal Pradesh

9) Consider the following statements with respect to Amur Tigers

- These are the largest and heaviest of all cats with the thickest fur.
- The main difference between the Siberian tiger and the Amur Tiger is its migratory pattern.

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 with respect to Hansen's disease

- It is a bacterial disease.
- It is not hereditary and completely curable disease.

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

- According to SEBI, Junk bonds are **high yield bonds** issued by **low rated companies**.

- Junk bonds are a high-yielding debt instrument without an investment grade (noninvestment-grade bond).
- These bonds carry a credit rating of BB and lower, because they have a higher risk of default.
- Typically, these bonds also give **higher returns** as opposed to investment grade bonds, making them attractive to investors.
- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) allowed companies to raise funds by issuing junk bonds or those below investment grade in 2007.

2. b

- D-voter or Doubtful voter is a category of voters in **Assam**.
- In 1997, during intensive revision of electoral rolls, the Election Commission had ordered that the letter 'D' be written against names of those voters who failed to provide proof of their citizenship.
- Cases of all those were referred to the **foreigners' tribunals** (FT) and they have to prove their citizenship in the tribunal.
- If they fail to prove their citizenship, the FT designates them Declared Foreigners (DF) and they are sent to Detention Camps.
- The 'D' voters are not allowed to cast their votes.

3. c

- The Government of India through a resolution in 2005 set up the National Statistical Commission (NSC).
- The setting up of the NSC followed the decision of the Cabinet to accept the recommendations of the **Rangarajan Commission**, which reviewed the Indian Statistical System in 2001.
- The Commission consists of a part-time Chairperson, four part-time Members and **CEO, Niti Aayog, as an ex-officio Member**. The Chief Statistician of India (CSI) is the Secretary to the Commission.
- The chairman and an external member of the National Statistical Commission (NSC) have resigned recently, expressing disappointment*



over the treatment being meted out to the NSC by the government.

4. c

- In November 2017, about 1,600 Chins, many of whom were women and children, fled to Lawngtlai district of Mizoram following a military offensive against the Arakan Army (AA) militants in the **Chin State of Myanmar**.
- Eight organisations of the Chakma community had recently submitted a memorandum to the Ministry of Home Affairs seeking the inclusion of Chin refugees in India by further amending the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2016.

5. c

- *Golden langur* is a charismatic primate species conspicuous by its lustrous creamy-golden fur and found only in few forest patches of **Assam and Bhutan**.
- The golden langur (*Trachypithecus geei*) is currently been listed as **endangered** under the IUCN Red list.
- The golden langur conservation project was undertaken at the **Assam** State Zoo in Guwahati during the 2011-12 fiscal.
- It has been funded by the Central Zoo Authority.
- *Assam Environment and Forest Ministry* has recently announced the success of the *Golden Langur Conservation Breeding Programme in the State*.

6. a

- The EC has two lists of symbols: **reserved and free**.
- While **reserved symbols are allotted to candidates sponsored by recognised state or national parties**, a list of free symbols is prepared for independent candidates or those affiliated to unrecognised parties.
- According to EC, the second category of candidates has to choose three symbols from the list of free symbols, which are allotted during nomination.
- If a party secures six per cent of valid votes polled in any four or more states at a general election to the Lok Sabha or to the legislative

assembly, it will be recognised as a **national party**.

7. b

- The Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) is a free trade agreement involving 11 countries in the Asia-Pacific region, including New Zealand, **Australia**, Brunei Darussalam, **Canada**, Chile, **Japan**, Malaysia, Mexico, Peru, Singapore, and Viet Nam.

8. d

- The bird watchers in association with the state Forest Department are organizing the annual census of waterfowl species at the famed **Pong wetlands of Kangra Valley, Himachel Pradesh**.
- Water fowls are the birds that depend on water bodies for roosting and feeding.
- It is the only place in the country after the Bharatpur sanctuary in Rajasthan where the red-necked grebe descends every year.
- The wetland is one of the largest man-made wetlands of the Northern India.
- It is formed by the construction of Pong Dam during 1974 across the Beas River.
- The Pong dam reservoir is also known Maha Rana Pratap Sagar.
- It was declared a "RAMSAR SITE" in the year 2002.

9. a

- Amur tigers, which were **earlier called Siberian tigers**, are listed as an **endangered** species.
- Amur tigers were once found across the Russian Far East, northern China and the Korean peninsula.
- At present, Amur Tigers are mostly found in Amur Valley.
- Amur tigers are the largest and heaviest of all cats with the thickest fur.
- **In December 2018, 11 Amur tigers were spotted in the upper reaches of the Dibang Valley in Arunachal Pradesh.**

10. c



- **Leprosy**, also known as Hansen's disease, is a **bacterial disease**.
- It affects skin and nerves which can lead to physical deformity and disability if left untreated.
- It is **not hereditary and completely curable**, as opposite to general public views on leprosy.
- It is only mildly infectious (i.e) more than 85% of cases are non-infectious and over 95% of the population has a natural immunity to the disease.

31-01-2019

1) Consider the following statements with respect to Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)

1. It functions under the Ministry of Consumer Affairs.
2. While Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) is responsible for external trade, DPIIT is responsible for Internal Trade in India.

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

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

2) "Corruption Perceptions Index 2018" was released recently by which of the following?

- a. United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
- b. Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
- c. International Anti-Corruption Academy
- d. Transparency International

3) Consider the following statements with respect to Polar Vortex

1. It is a large area of low pressure that consistently overlies the North and South poles.

2. It always exists near the poles, but weakens in summer and strengthens in 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

4) Consider the following statements with respect to Aero India Show

1. It is an annual exhibition show organised by the Ministry of Defence.
2. The tagline for this year's event is "The Runway to a Billion Opportunities".
3. Drone Olympics, scheduled to be held in India for the first time is a part of the Aero India 2019 event.

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

5) "Beveridge Curve" in economics, shows the relationship between?

- a. Income inequality and wealth distribution
- b. Unemployment and Job vacancy
- c. Average tax rate and total tax revenue
- d. Inflation and unemployment

6) "Future of Rail Report" which was released recently, was prepared by which of the following?

- a. Transport standards organisation
- b. Ministry of Indian Railways
- c. International Energy Agency
- d. None of the above



7) Consider the following statements with respect to *Sahitya Akademi Award*

1. It is being conferred annually for authors of works of outstanding literary merit in Indian languages.
2. Awards are currently being given only in 22 scheduled languages of India.

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

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

8) Consider the following with respect to International Energy Agency (IEA)

1. It is an inter-governmental organisation.
2. India is one of the member countries of IEA.
3. World Energy Outlook (WEO) is being published by the IEA.

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

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

9) Consider the following statements with respect to *Southern Lights*

1. It is the southern counterpart of aurora borealis.
2. It is caused by the collision between fast-moving electrons from space with the oxygen and nitrogen in Earth's upper atmosphere.

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) *Beypore port* is located in which of the following states?

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

Answers

1. d

- The government has recently renamed the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) as the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).
- DPIIT will work under the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry**.
- In addition to the previous responsibilities of the erstwhile DIPP, DPIIT will also look in to matters related to promotion of internal trade, including retail trade, welfare of traders and their employees, facilitating ease of doing business and start-ups.
- Earlier issues related to **internal trade** was looked after by the **consumer affairs ministry**.

2. d

- "**Corruption Perceptions Index 2018**", the **Transparency International's** latest report on business leaders' perceptions of corruption, had India marginally improve its score to 41 (from 40 in 2017), and its position to 78 out of 180 countries in 2018 against 2017's 81st, where it had slid from 79 in 2016.

3. c

- The Polar vortex is a large area of **low pressure** that consistently overlies the **North and South poles**.
- It **always** exists near the poles, but **weakens in summer and strengthens in winter**.



- The term "vortex" refers to the counter-clockwise flow of air that helps keep the colder air near the Poles.
 - Usually this mass of cold polar air remains over the poles - strong and compact.
 - But sometimes, during winter in the northern hemisphere, the vortex becomes weak and expands, sending Arctic cold air southward.
 - Parts of the weak vortex will continue to creep away from the Arctic region, influencing the path of the jet stream (an area of fast-moving air high in the atmosphere).
 - The polar vortex can lead to major cold air outbreaks in the Northern Hemisphere, including North America, Europe and Asia.
4. c
- Aero India Exhibition show is being organised **every two years**.
 - The tagline for Aero India 2019 is "**The Runway to a Billion Opportunities**".
 - Government of India is organizing a Drone Olympics in the Aero India 2019 event.
 - Being the first of such kind global event on drones, it will be a great opportunity for global and Indian drone manufacturers to showcase their Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs).
5. b
- **Beveridge curve** refers to a graphical representation that shows the relationship between the **unemployment rate** (on the horizontal axis) and the **job vacancy rate** (on the vertical axis) in an economy.
 - The Beveridge curve **usually slopes downwards** because times when there is high job vacancy in an economy are also marked by relatively low unemployment since companies may actually be actively looking to hire new people.
 - By the same logic, a low job vacancy rate usually corresponds with high unemployment as companies may not be looking to hire many people in new jobs.
6. c
- "**The Future of Rail**" the first-of-a-kind report by **International Energy Agency (IEA)**, was released recently by the Ministry of Railways, India.
- It analyses the current and future importance of rail around the world through the perspective of its energy and environmental implications.
 - This first ever global report has a focus on India, elaborating on the unique social and economic role of rail in India, together with its great enduring potential, to show how India can extend and update its networks to harness rail at a scope and scale that is unparalleled.
7. a
- **Every year** since its inception in 1954, the Sahitya Akademi Award prizes to the most outstanding books of literary merit published in any of the major Indian languages recognised by the Akademi.
 - Awards are currently being given for **24 languages** (22 Scheduled Languages and English and Rajasthani).
8. b
- The IEA is an **inter-governmental organisation** that works to ensure reliable, affordable and clean energy for its 30 member countries and 8 association countries.
 - India is one of the 8 association countries (**not the member of IEA**)
9. c
- The **aurora borealis** and **aurora australis** – often called the **northern lights** and **southern lights** respectively – are common occurrences at high northern and southern latitudes.
 - The typical aurora is caused by **collisions between fast-moving electrons from space with the oxygen and nitrogen in Earth's upper atmosphere**.
 - During one kind of solar storm called a **coronal mass ejection**, the sun burps out a huge bubble of electrified gas that can travel through space at high speeds.
 - When a solar storm comes toward earth, some of the energy and small particles can travel down the magnetic field lines at the north and south poles into Earth's atmosphere.



- There, the particles interact with gases in Earth's atmosphere resulting in beautiful displays of light in the sky.
- Oxygen gives off green and red light. Nitrogen glows blue and purple.

10. a

- With the Customs Department's decision to introduce Electronic Data Interface (EDI) clearance facility, the **Beypore port in Kerala** will soon resume its international container shipping operations, inviting local importers who were heavily dependent on other ports for their business operations till now.

SHANKAR IAS ACADEMY