



# IAS PARLIAMENT

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A Shankar IAS Academy Initiative

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



## INDEX

01-03-2019.....	3
02-03-2019.....	6
04-03-2019.....	9
05-03-2019.....	11
06-03-2019.....	15
07-03-2019.....	18
08-03-2019.....	21
09-03-2019.....	24
11-03-2019.....	27
12-03-2019.....	30
13-03-2019.....	33
14-03-2019.....	36
15-03-2019.....	39
16-03-2019.....	42
18-03-2019.....	45
19-03-2019.....	48
20-03-2019.....	51
21-03-2019.....	53
22-03-2019.....	56
23-03-2019.....	59
25-03-2019.....	62
26-03-2019.....	64
27-03-2019.....	66
28-03-2019.....	69
29-03-2019.....	72
30-03-2019.....	75



**01-03-2019**

**1) Consider the following statements with respect to International Energy Agency's Technology Collaboration Programme on Bio-energy (IEA's Bio-energy TCP)**

- 1. It aims to improve cooperation and information exchange between countries that have national programmes in bio-energy research, development and deployment.**
- 2. Union Ministry for New and Renewable Energy is a member to this collaboration programme.**

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

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

**2) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has recently formed a task force under Usha Thorat for which of the following purposes?**

- To review finance to small scale industry policy
- To suggest reforms in small savings
- To examine issues related to offshore rupee markets
- To review restructuring of Regional Rural Banks

**3) The Union Cabinet has recently approved the National Mineral Policy (NMP) 2019. Consider the following statements with respect to NMP-2019**

- 1. It replaces the extant National Mineral Policy 2008.**
- 2. It encourages the private sector to take up exploration.**
- 3. It introduces the concept of Inter-Generational Equity.**

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

- 1 only

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

**4) Consider the following statements with respect to New Delhi International Arbitration Centre (NDIAC)**

- 1. The Chairperson of NDIAC will be appointed by the Supreme Court of India.**
- 2. Only Judges from Supreme Court will be appointed as chairperson of NDIAC.**

**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 Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)**

- 1. Its member countries spread over four continents.**
- 2. India is not a member to OIC.**

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

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

**6) Hanoi summit sometimes seen in the news recently, is associated with which of the following two countries?**

- Israel and Palestine
- Afghanistan and Taliban group
- USA and North Korea
- None of the above



7) Consider the following statements with respect to PM JI-VAN Yojana

1. It aims to explore and exploit untapped unconventional hydrocarbons in India.
2. It will be implemented by the 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

8) Consider the following statements with respect to Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)

1. It is a Multilateral Development Bank, headquartered in Philippines.
2. India is the Second Largest shareholder in the AIIB and its largest borrower.

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

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

9) Consider the following statements with respect to TRIFOOD Scheme

1. The main objective of the project is to reduce price volatility in agriculture commodities such as vegetables.
2. It is a joint initiative of Ministry of Food Processing Industry and Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).

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

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

10) Consider the following statements

1. Minimum Support Price (MSP) is essentially a form of market intervention undertaken by the government, to provide a safety net to farmers in case of a price drop.
2. Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) will not be applicable to Minor Forest Produces (MFPs) 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

### Answers

1. a

- International Energy Agency's Technology Collaboration Programme on Bioenergy (IEA Bioenergy TCP) is an international platform for co-operation among countries with the aim of improving cooperation and information exchange between countries that have **national programmes** in bio-energy research, development and deployment.
- IEA Bioenergy TCP works under the framework of **International Energy Agency (IEA) to which India has "Association" status** since 30th March, 2017.
- The Union Cabinet was recently apprised about **Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas**, Government of India joining IEA Bio-energy TCP as its **25th member** on 25th January, 2019.

2. c

- The Reserve Bank of India has recently announced a task force headed by former RBI deputy governor **Usha Thorat** to examine issues related to **offshore rupee markets** and recommend policy measures to ensure stability of the external value of the domestic currency.

3. d

- **National Mineral Policy 2019** replaces the extant National Mineral

Policy **2008** ("NMP 2008") which was announced in year 2008.

- A committee under the chairmanship of Dr. **K Rajeswara Rao** was constituted to review NMP 2008.
- NMP 2019 includes provisions which will give boost to mining sector such as
  1. Introduction of Right of First Refusal for RP/PL holders.
  2. Encouraging the private sector to take up exploration, etc.
- The 2019 Policy also introduces the concept of **Inter-Generational Equity** that deals with the **well-being not only of the present generation but also of the generations to come** and also proposes to constitute an inter-ministerial body to institutionalize the mechanism for ensuring sustainable development in mining.

4. d

- *The Union Cabinet has recently approved the promulgation of an Ordinance for establishing the New Delhi International Arbitration Centre (NDIAC) for the purpose of creating an independent and autonomous regime for institutionalised arbitration.*
- New Delhi International Arbitration Centre (NDIAC) will be headed by a chairperson who has been a **Judge of the Supreme Court** or a **Judge of a High Court** or an **eminent person**, having special knowledge and experience in the conduct or administration of arbitration law or management, to be **appointed by the Central Government in consultation with the Chief Justice of India.**

5. c

- The Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), with a membership of 57 states spread **over four continents**. (Asia, Europe, South America and Africa).
- The Organization is the **collective voice of the Muslim world.**
- *External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj addressed inaugural plenary of Foreign Ministers' meet of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) in Abu Dhabi recently.*
- *This is the first time that a leader of the non-Muslim country has been invited to the OIC conference.*

6. c

- The **United States and North Korea** have failed to reach a formal deal at the **Hanoi Summit.**
- The talks ended with no agreement after USA refused North Korean demand to lift all international sanctions.
- The two-day meeting in the Vietnamese capital Hanoi had come eight months after their historic summit in Singapore in June last year.

7. b

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has recently approved the "**Pradhan Mantri JI-VAN (Jaiv Indhan- Vatavaran Anukool fasal awashesh Nivaran) Yojana**" for providing **financial support** to Integrated Bioethanol Projects using lignocellulosic biomass and other renewable feedstock.
- The scheme focuses to **incentivise 2G Ethanol sector** and support this nascent industry by creating a suitable ecosystem for setting up commercial projects and increasing research & development in this area.
- **Centre for High Technology (CHT)**, a technical body under the aegis of **Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas**, will be the implementation Agency for the scheme.

8. b

- The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) is a Multilateral Development Bank, headquartered in **Beijing**, which began operations in January 2016.
- Republic of India is the **Second Largest shareholder** in the AIIB and its **largest borrower.**

9. d

- **TRIFOOD Scheme** is a joint initiative of Ministry of **Food Processing Industry, Ministry of Tribal Affairs and TRIFED.**
- Under this scheme a **tertiary value addition centre will be set up** in Jagdalpur in Chhattisgarh and Raigad in Maharashtra at a cost of approximately Rs.11.00 crores.
- A highlight of this is the production of "**Heritage Mahua**" drink. The traditional Mahua tribal drink will be mainstreamed and

marketed all over the Country under this project.

10. a

- Mechanism for Marketing of Minor Forest Produce (MFP) through Minimum Support Price (MSP) and development of value chain is a scheme under **Ministry of Tribal affairs**.
- It is designed as a social safety net for improvement of livelihood of MFP gatherers by providing them fair price for the MFPs they collect.

**02-03-2019**

1) **Param Shivay** sometimes seen in the news recently, is a

- a. Supercomputer
- b. Microprocessor
- c. Indigenous Semiconductor Chip
- d. None of the above

2) Consider the following statements with respect to Atal Jai Anusandhan Biotech Mission – UNaTI

1. It aims to transform Health, Agriculture and Energy sectors during the next 5 years.
2. It was launched by the Ministry of Science and Technology.

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

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

3) Consider the following statements with respect to Geneva Conventions

1. It comprises of four conventions and three additional protocols.
2. They were adopted in 1919 in the backdrop of World War I.
3. The treatment of prisoners of war is dealt with by the Third Geneva Convention.

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 with respect to Sundarbans

1. It is the largest protected wetland in India.
2. The Indian side of the Sundarbans received the Wetland of International Importance tag, since 1992.

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) **Inclusive Internet Index (3i) 2019** was prepared by which of the following?

- a. U.S Chambers of Commerce
- b. International Telecommunication Union
- c. Economist Intelligence Unit
- d. None of the above

6) Consider the following statements with respect to TRIFED

1. Its main objective is to promote tribal products and socio-economic development of tribes.
2. It functions under the administrative control of Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

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

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

**7) Consider the following statements**

1. The first specification of a Scheduled Tribe in relation to a particular State/ Union Territory is by a notified order of the President.
2. A notified order by a President can be modified subsequently only through an 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

**8) Consider the following statements with respect to National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF)**

1. It was established to provide long-term capital to India's infrastructure sector.
2. It is considered as India's quasi sovereign wealth fund.

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. It lies on the western and north-western margins of the peninsular plateau.
2. These are highly eroded hills and are found as broken hills.
3. Luni – the largest river system of Rajasthan located west to this mountain.

Identify the mountain that correctly matches with the above description

- a. Vindhya Mountains
- b. Western Ghats
- c. Satpura Mountains
- d. Aravalli Range

**10) Consider the following statements**

1. Turtles and Tortoises belong to the same family of reptiles and look similar.
2. Turtles prefer land while tortoises live mainly on water.

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

- Indian Prime Minister has recently inaugurated '**Param Shivay' Supercomputer** of 833 teraflop capacity built at the cost of Rs 32.5 crore under the **National Super Computing Mission** at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Banaras Hindu University (BHU).
- India's first supercomputer called PARAM 8000 was launched in 1991.
- India's first **Indigenous Semiconductor Chips** was recently launched by Bengaluru based semiconductor company "**SIGNALCHIP**" for 4G/LTE and 5G NR MODEMS in New Delhi.
- At present only 8 companies and a few countries can design and build semiconductor chips.
- India is just breaking into the elite club of the world and this will have huge implications for India's data security and data sovereignty, besides the positive economic implications.

2. c

- Recently, the **Ministry of Science and Technology** has announced key missions at the 33rd foundation day ceremony of Department of Biotechnology, including **Atal JaiAnusandhan Biotech Mission** - Undertaking Nationally Relevant Technology Innovation (UNaTI).
- It is expected to transform Health, Agriculture and Energy sectors during the next 5 years.
- This mission includes -



1. **GARBH-ini** – A Mission to promote Maternal and Child Health and develop prediction tools for pre-term berth.
  2. **IndCEPI** – A Mission to develop affordable vaccines for endemic diseases, Development of Bio-fortified and Protein Rich wheat - contributing to POSHAN Abhiyan.
  3. Mission on **Anti-Microbial Resistance** for Affordable Diagnostics and Therapeutics.
  4. **Clean Energy Mission** – Innovative Technology interventions for Swachh Bharat.
3. c
- The Geneva Convention was adopted in **1949 in the backdrop of World War II**.
  - However, the **four Geneva Conventions, with three protocols** added since 1977, continue to apply today to situations of armed conflicts. The conventions have been ratified by **196 countries**.
1. The first convention requires that all wounded and infirm soldiers as well as medical personnel and chaplains in the field are treated humanely without discrimination on the basis of race, colour, gender, religion or faith, and the like. It prohibits acts such as torture, mutilation, outrages upon personal dignity, and execution without judgment. It also grants them the **right to proper medical treatment** and care.
  2. The second convention extends the protections described above to shipwrecked soldiers and other naval forces, including special protections afforded to hospital ships.
  3. The **third convention is related to the treatment of Prisoners of War (PoWs)**.
  4. The last Convention focuses on the protection of civilians in times of war.
4. a
- The Indian side of the Sunderbans has received the prestigious 'Wetlands of International Importance' tag under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, making it the **largest protected wetland in the country**.
  - Home to the royal Bengal tiger, this is the **second Ramsar site** in Bengal after the East Kolkata Wetlands, which got the tag in 2002.
  - The decision was taken at a Ramsar Convention held **recently**.
- The Sunderban Wetland was listed as the **27th site in India** on the official Ramsar website.
  - The **Bangladesh part** of the Sunderbans had received the Ramsar tag way back in **1992**.
5. c
- India has been ranked 47th in the overall "**Inclusive Internet Index 2019**" score while Sweden topped the chart, followed by Singapore and the US, a Facebook-led study has revealed.
  - Inclusive Internet Index (3i) was prepared by the **Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) for Facebook**.
6. d
7. c
- According to Article 342, the first specification of Scheduled Tribes in relation to a particular State/ Union Territory is by a **notified order of the President**, after consultation with the State governments concerned.
  - These orders can be modified subsequently **only through an Act of Parliament**.
  - It also provides for listing of scheduled tribes, State/Union Territory wise and not on an all India basis.
8. c
- NIIF, short for National Investment and Infrastructure Fund, is an Indian-government backed entity established to provide **long-term capital to the country's infrastructure sector**.
  - NIIF was set up as an alternative investment fund (AIF) in December 2016 with a planned corpus of Rs. 40,000 crore.
  - The Indian government has **49 per cent stake in NIIF** with the rest held by marquee foreign and domestic investors such as Abu Dhabi Investment Authority, Temasek and HDFC Group.
  - With the Centre's significant stake, **NIIF is considered India's quasi sovereign wealth fund**.
9. d
10. a
- **Turtles and Tortoises** belong to the same family of reptiles and look similar.

- However, their lifestyle differences set them apart.
- They do not share the same habitat — **turtles prefer water while tortoises live mainly on land.**
- From that stems the major differences:
- Turtles have webbed feet, which make them able swimmers. Tortoises have huge stubby feet with claws, which help them to move easily on sandy or grassy terrain, as well as strong forelegs for digging burrows.
- The reptiles are protected by shells into which they can draw when threatened. A turtle's shell is flat and suitable for its aquatic environment. The tortoise's shell is heavier and dome-shaped.
- Turtles are omnivorous — they eat plant and fish. The diet of tortoises, on the other hand, mainly consists of grasses, weeds, leafy greens, flowers and fruits.
- Tortoises, being slow-moving land animals, do not migrate to warmer climes during winter unlike turtles. Instead, they hibernate in deep long burrows that they dig with their forelegs.
- Lastly, tortoises win the longevity factor hands down — their lifespan ranges from 80-150 years. Turtles live for 20-40 years on an average.

**04-03-2019**

**1) "Negative Spread" sometimes seen in the news recently, occurs**

- a. when growth of a company/economy distributed across all sectors equally
- b. when growth of a company/economy distributed across all sectors unequally
- c. when interest rates charged on amounts lent are higher than interest rates paid on borrowed sums
- d. when interest rates charged on amounts lent are lower than interest rates paid on borrowed sums

**2) Consider the following statements**

- 1. 124th constitutional amendment act provides 10% reservation for economically weaker sections (EWS).**
- 2. The 10% reservation for economically weaker sections (EWS) does not apply to Jammu and Kashmir.**

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

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

**3) Global Innovation Index is released by which of the following organisations?**

- a. INSEAD
- b. World Economic Forum
- c. World Intellectual Property Organisation
- d. Jointly by A and C

**4) Consider the following statements**

- 1. India is the second-largest consumer and the largest importer of gold.**
- 2. India's consumer demand for gold dipped in 2018 compared to 2013.**

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

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

**5) Consider the following statements with respect to International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI)**

- 1. It is an informal partnership among governments, International Organisations, and NGO's.**
- 2. India is a member country to ICRI.**

**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 Electric Vehicle Outlook** was published by which of the following organisations?

- NITI Aayog
- World Economic Forum
- International Energy Agency
- Department of heavy industries

7) **Key Resolve** and **Foal Eagle** are the joint military exercise between which of the following two countries?

- Russia and N.Korea
- USA and S.Korea
- Russia and China
- India and USA

8) Which of the following factor(s) hinders the success of electric vehicles in India?

- Cost of Lithium-ion batteries
- Charging speed
- Charging Infrastructure

Select the correct answer using the code given below

- All except 1
- All except 2
- All except 1 and 3
- All of the above

9) **Theyyam** is a popular ritualistic festival, celebrated in which of the following states?

- Andhra Pradesh
- Kerala
- Telangana
- Tamilnadu

10) **Regenerative braking system** used in electric vehicles is based on which of the following principle?

- Energy can neither be created nor be destroyed
- Apparent loss of weight is equal to the weight of liquid displaced

- To every action there is equal and opposite reaction
- Force is equal to mass multiplied by acceleration

## Answers

1. d

- Negative spread refers to the negative difference between the interest rate paid by a bank and the agreed upon basic interest rate.
- A negative spread occurs when interest rates charged on amounts lent are lower than interest rates paid on borrowed sums.**
- A forensic audit report of IL&FS has found serious lapses in the manner in which huge loans were extended to certain entities even after internal risk assessment clearly showed that the borrowers were under financial stress.

- Further, various instances have been found wherein the committee of directors of the infrastructure financing company extended loans at a **negative spread** to borrowers facing liquidity issues.

2. d

- President Ram Nath Kovind has recently issued an order extending the benefits of reservation to economically backward sections in Jammu and Kashmir.
- With this, the 10 per cent reservation for economically weaker sections **has been made applicable in Jammu and Kashmir also.**
- Ten per cent reservation to economically weaker sections was introduced in the rest of the country through the **103rd** Constitutional Amendment **Act** in January 2019.

3. d

- Global Innovation Index** is the result of collaboration between **Cornell University, INSEAD, and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO).**
- India is at 57th position in Global Innovation Index 2018 from 81 in 2014.

4. c

- Data from World Gold Council highlighted that the **demand for gold has been dropping in India.**

- However, the Reserve Bank has recently increased the gold holdings in its reserves.
- The last time it added substantially to its holdings was in 2009.
- India's **consumer demand for gold dipped by 21% in 2018 compared to 2013.**
- Since 2015, there has been a downward trend following government measures to promote transparency.

5. c

- The International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) is an **informal partnership** between Nations and organizations which strives to preserve coral reefs and related ecosystems around the world.
- ICRI's decisions are not binding on its members.
- It was founded in 1994 by eight governments: Australia, France, Japan, Jamaica, the Philippines, Sweden, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America.
- It was announced at the First Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity in December 1994, and at the high level segment of the Intersessional Meeting of the U.N. Commission on Sustainable Development in April 1995.
- ICRI now counts more than 60 members **including India** (Ministry of Environment and Forests).

6. c

7. b

- **United States** and **South Korea** has recently announced that they will end their annual large-scale joint military exercises as Washington pursues efforts to improve ties with North Korea.
- They have decided to conclude the **Key Resolve and Foal Eagle** series of the exercises.

8. d

9. b

10. a

- Regenerative braking system works based on the principle of physics: The **law of conservation of energy** which states that energy cannot be created or destroyed, but

only changed from one form into another or transferred from one object to another.

- Moving vehicles have a lot of kinetic energy, and when brakes are applied to slow a vehicle, all of that kinetic energy has been converted into wasted heat in order to decelerate a car. All of that energy was simply lost to the environment.
- Regenerative braking allows **running the motors in reverse**, storing energy back into the battery pack while decelerating.

**05-03-2019**

**1) Nai Talim is a concept of basic education promoted by which of the following leaders?**

- Mahatma Gandhi
- Jawaharlal Nehru
- Rabindranath Tagore
- Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar

**2) Consider the following statements with respect to YUva Vigyani Karyakram**

- It aimed at imparting basic knowledge on Space Technology, Space Science and Space Applications to students from class 6 to Class 8.**
- It was launched by Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).**

**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 BOLD-QIT Project**

- It is a boundary monitoring system that installs technical systems under the Comprehensive Integrated Border Management System (CIBMS) programme.**
- It helps Border Security Forces (BSF) to monitor Indo-Bangladesh borders.**



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

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

4) Consider the following statements with respect to Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) Technology

- It uses radio communication between the tag and the reader to identify the object that has the tags attached to it.
- It has been in use since World War II.
- Child thefts in hospitals can be prevented using this technology.

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

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

5) Consider the following statements with respect to India BPO Promotion Scheme

- It aims at setting up business process outsourcing (BPO) units in rural areas to secure balanced regional growth of the industry.
- It comes under the Digital India Programme.

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

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

6) Consider the following statements with respect to Companies Act, 2013

- Under the Act, the office of a director becomes vacant in case of he or she being disqualified by an order of a court or a tribunal.

- The Act also mentions that a person being disqualified by an order of SEBI should also vacate the office of a director.

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

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

7) Oslo accords are associated with which of the following two countries?

- U.K and Ireland
- India and Srilanka
- Israel and Palestine
- S. Korea and N.Korea

8) Consider the following statements with respect to Software Technology Parks of India (STPI)

- It is an autonomous society set up by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).
- Its main objective is to encourage, promoting and boosting the Software Exports from India.

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

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

9) Consider the following statements with respect to World Wildlife day

- The day of signature of Convention on Biological diversity is celebrated as World Wildlife Day.
- The theme for 2019 is "Life below water: for people and planet".

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

- 1 only

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

10) Consider the following statements with respect to National anti doping Agency (NADA)

1. It was set up as a registered society under the Societies Registration Act of 1890.
2. It works under the Ministry of Youth affairs and Sports.

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

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

## Answers

1. a

- **Nai Talim** or **basic education** is a principle promoted by **Mahatma Gandhi** which states that **knowledge and work are not separate**.
- It is a holistic approach of developing body, mind and soul, by making a productive art, craft or community engagement activity as the centre of learning.
- Recently, Indian Vice President has quoted Mahatma Gandhi's Nai Talim and stressed that youth and children should not just be trained to acquire skills but should be **taught to respect human labor and social harmony and tolerance**. One must learn to respect every job.
- Also, Union HRD Minister had launched a book and curriculum on Gandhiji's 'Nai Talim' to mark the Teachers Day on September 5, 2018.
- The title of the book is '**Experiential Learning - Gandhiji's Nai Talim**'.

2. b

- **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** has launched a special programme for School Children called "**Young Scientist**

**Programme**", "**YUva Vigyani Karyakram**" from this year.

- The Program is primarily aimed at **imparting basic knowledge on Space Technology, Space Science and Space Applications to the younger ones** with the intent of arousing their interest in the emerging areas of Space activities.
- ISRO has chalked out this programme to "Catch them young".
- The residential training programme will be of around two weeks duration during summer holidays and it is proposed to select 3 students each from each State/ Union Territory to participate in this programme every year covering CBSE, ICSE and State syllabus.
- **Those who have finished 8th standard and currently studying in 9th standard will be eligible for the programme.**

3. c

- **BOLD-QIT** (Border Electronically Dominated QRT Interception Technique) is a boundary monitoring system that installs technical systems under the **CIBMS** (Comprehensive Integrated Border Management System) programme.
- It was scheduled to be established on **India-Bangladesh** border in Dhubri district of Assam.
- Since, **Border Security Forces (BSF)** is responsible for safeguarding 4,096 km long International Border with Bangladesh, it enables BSF to equip Indo-Bangla borders with different kinds of sensors in the unfenced riverine area of Brahmaputra and its tributaries.
- It is built on the basis of security on the border similar to that of **Israel**.
- In September 2018, Union Home Ministry had inaugurated two similar smart fencing pilot projects of five-kilometres each on India-Pakistan international border in Jammu.

4. d

- RFID uses radio communication between the tag and the reader to identify the object that has the tags attached to it.
- To prevent infants being lifted, Government Hospitals in Tamil Nadu are implementing RFID technology.

- RFID has been around for decades. Its use **dates back to the WWII**, when radar technology, technically RFID now, was used to identify whether an aircraft belonged to the enemy or not.
5. c
- India BPO Promotion Scheme (IBPS) of **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology** aims at setting up business process outsourcing (BPO) units in **rural areas** to secure balanced regional growth of the industry.
  - It is under the **Digital India Programme** to create employment opportunities for the youth living in rural areas so that they do not need to migrate to urban clusters.
  - It provides capital support along with special incentives up to Rs 1 lakh in the form of viability gap funding (VGF) to companies to create BPO units.
  - Disbursement of financial support under the schemes is directly linked with employment generation.
  - It provides special incentives for employment to women and Divyang, setting up operations in towns other than capital towns, generating employment beyond target and promoting local entrepreneurship.
  - There are also special provisions for the Himalayan states of Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand
  - Metro cities such as Bengaluru, Chennai, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Mumbai, National Capital Region (NCR), and Pune, along with their urban agglomeration were excluded.
  - **Software Technology Parks of India (STPI)** is the implementing agency of the India BPO promotion Scheme and North East BPO promotion Scheme.
6. a
- Recently, Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has asked the government to amend the Companies Act, 2013 to ensure that a director declared by SEBI as a disqualified person should immediately vacate the position.
  - Under the Companies Act, 2013, the office of a director becomes vacant in case of he or she being disqualified by an **order of a court or a tribunal**, among other reasons, but **there is no explicit mention of an order by the SEBI.**
7. c
8. c
- Software Technology Parks of India is an **autonomous society** set up by the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology** (MeitY), Government of India in 1991, with the objective of encouraging, promoting and **boosting the Software Exports from India.**
  - Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) is the **implementing agency** of the India BPO promotion Scheme and North East BPO promotion Scheme.
9. b
- The day of signature of the **Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)** is celebrated as UN World Wildlife Day.
  - It aims to celebrate and raise awareness of the world's wild animals and plants.
  - The theme for 2019 is "**Life below water: for people and planet**".
  - The theme aligns with goal 14 of UN Sustainable Development Goals.
  - This is the first World Wildlife Day to focus on life below water.
  - The oceans have an estimated market value of \$3 trillion, which makes up nearly 5% of world's gross domestic product.
  - Nearly 40% of global livelihoods depend on the oceans for sustenance and craftwork as well as for their cultural and spiritual value.
10. d
- National anti doping Agency (NADA) was set up as a registered society under the Societies Registration Act of 1890 on 2005.
  - It works under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.
  - It was set up with a mandate for Dope free sports in India.
  - The primary objectives are
1. To implement anti-doping rules as per WADA code

2. To regulate dope control program
3. To promote education and research and creating awareness about doping and its ill effects

**06-03-2019**

1) Consider the following statements with respect to *Transport and Marketing Assistance (TMA) Scheme*

1. It aims to provide assistance for the international component of freight and marketing of agricultural produce.
2. It is applicable only to specified Agriculture products.
3. It was launched by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

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

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

2) Consider the following statements with respect to *Al Nagah*

1. It is a bilateral naval exercise between India and Oman.
2. Al Nagah-2019, third in the series will be held in Oman.
3. The aim of this exercise is to enhance interoperability in counter terrorist operations in semi urban mountainous terrain.

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

3) Consider the following statements with respect to *National Rural Economic Transformation Project (NRETP)*

1. It focused on promoting women-owned and women-led farm and non-farm enterprises.
2. The project is an additional financing to the *National Rural Livelihoods Project (NRLP)* approved by the World Bank in 2011.

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 *National Common Mobility Card (NCMC)*

1. These are Debit/Credit/Prepaid cards issued by the government through Common Service Centres (CSC).
2. It is an initiative of Ministry of Finance.
3. The inter-operable transport card would allow the holders to pay for their bus travel, parking charges and even withdraw money.

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

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

5) Consider the following statements with respect to *Generalized System of Preferences (GSP)*

1. It is the United States' largest and oldest trade preference programme designed to promote economic growth in the developing world.
2. It involves reduced or zero tariffs for eligible products exported by beneficiary countries.
3. India has been the biggest beneficiary of the GSP regime.

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

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

6) Consider the following statements with respect to Indo-Pacific Regional Dialogue (IPRD)

- The idea of an Indo-Pacific Regional Dialogue (IPRD) was first conceptualised and conducted in 2018.
- The 2nd edition of Indo-Pacific Regional Dialogue (IPRD): 2019 is being held in New Delhi.
- The permanent theme of this biennial dialogue is a review of India's opportunities and challenges in the Indo-Pacific region.

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) Artificial Sun Device sometimes seen in the news recently, is being developed by?

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

8) Consider the following statements

- Hurricanes are primarily oceanic phenomena, whereas Tornadoes are purely over-land phenomena.
- Tornadoes are relatively small when compared to Hurricanes.

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

- 1 only
- 2 only

- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 nor 2

9) Consider the following pairs

Component	–	Manufacturer
1. AMRAAM Missile	–	U.S.A
2. F16 Fighter Jet	–	Russia
3. MiG-21	–	France

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

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

10) Kole wetlands is located in which of the following states?

- Kerala
- Haryana
- Odisha
- West Bengal

### Answers

1. d

- Department of Commerce of the **Ministry of Commerce & Industry** has recently notified a scheme for **Transport and Marketing Assistance (TMA) for Specified Agriculture Products**.
- It aims to provide assistance for the international component of freight and marketing of agricultural produce which is likely to mitigate disadvantage of higher cost of transportation of export of specified agriculture products due to trans-shipment and to promote brand recognition for Indian agricultural products in the specified overseas markets.

2. c

- Exercise Al Nagah III, third in the series of bilateral joint **military** exercise between **India and Oman** is scheduled to be held from 12 to 25 March 2019 at Jabel Al Akhdar Mountains in **Oman**.

- The exercise will see both the armies exchanging expertise and experience in tactics, weapon handling and firing, with an aim to enhance interoperability in counterterrorist operations in **semi urban mountainous terrain**.
  - India-Oman bilateral security ties have continued to develop since the beginning of India-Oman Joint Military Cooperation meetings in 2006.
  - Exercise Al Nagah III follows the first two joint exercises that were held in Oman in January 2015 and India in March 2017 respectively.
3. c
- Recently, the World Bank and the Government of India signed a \$250 Million Agreement for the National Rural Economic Transformation Project (NRETP) in New Delhi.
  - A Key Focus of the Project will be to promote **women-owned and women-led farm and non-farm enterprises** across value chains; enable them to build businesses that help them access finance, markets and networks; and generate employment.
  - The National Rural Economic Transformation Project (NRETP) is an **additional financing** to the \$500 million **National Rural Livelihoods Project (NRLP)** approved by the World Bank in July 2011.
  - The NRLP which is currently being implemented across 13 states has so far mobilized more than 8.8 million women from poor rural households into 750,000 self-help groups (SHGs).
  - While these 13 states will continue to be supported under the new project signed recently, 125 new districts will be added from within these states.
4. a
- National Common Mobility Card (NCMC) – The first Indigenously Developed Payment Eco-system for transport consists of
    1. NCMC Card
    2. SWEEKAR (Swachalit Kiraya: Automatic Fare Collection System (AFC))
    3. SWAGAT (Swachalit Gate)
  - It is an initiative of **Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs** to enable seamless travel by different metros and other transport systems.
  - NCMC's also known as 'One Nation One Card' is a **bank issued Debit/Credit/Prepaid cards**.
  - The inter-operable transport card would allow the holders to pay for their bus travel, toll taxes, parking charges, retail shopping and **even withdraw money**.
5. d
- The GSP, the **largest and oldest US trade preference programme**, is designed to promote economic development by allowing duty-free entry for thousands of products from designated beneficiary countries.
  - GSP involves reduced/zero tariffs of eligible products exported by beneficiary countries to the markets of GSP-providing countries.
  - India has been the **biggest beneficiary of the GSP regime** and accounted for over a quarter of the goods that got duty-free access into the US in 2017.
  - *Recently, the US President Donald Trump has said that he intends to end India's preferential trade treatment under generalised system of preferences (GSP) that allows \$5.6 billion worth of Indian exports to enter the United States duty-free.*
  - *The reason behind this move is that India has not assured the United States that it will provide equitable and reasonable access to its markets.*
6. b
- The idea of an Indo-Pacific Regional Dialogue (IPRD) was first conceptualised and conducted in **2018**, as the apex level conference of the Indian Navy, organised by the National Maritime Foundation as the Navy's Knowledge Partner.
  - The **permanent theme** of this **annual** dialogue is a review of India's opportunities and challenges in the Indo-Pacific region.
  - The aim is to focus attention on the Indo-Pacific, as a maritime geographical-entity, while deliberating aspects of great relevance to regional geopolitics.
  - *The second edition of Indo-Pacific Regional Dialogue (IPRD) - 2019 is being held at the Manekshaw Centre, New Delhi.*
  - *IPRD-2019 is likely to witness active participation of globally-renowned domain*

experts and policy-makers from **thirteen countries** of the Indo-Pacific – Australia, Bangladesh, Canada, China, Indonesia, Israel, Japan, Seychelles, Singapore, South Korea, Sri Lanka, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America.

7. b

- **China's** HL-2M Tokamak device often dubbed as the “Artificial Sun” is designed to replicate the nuclear fusion process that occurs naturally in the sun and stars to provide almost infinite clean energy through controlled nuclear fusion.
- China plans to complete the construction of the artificial sun this year, achieving an ion temperature of 100 million degrees Celsius.

8. c

9. a

- India has recently given proof to the **US** about the use of **its F-16** fighters and **AMRAAM** beyond visual range air-to-air missile by Pakistan during its unsuccessful aerial raid targeting Indian military installations on February 27, 2019.
- As part of the purchasing agreement, the US had put restrictions and reportedly **barred Pakistan from using the F-16's against any third country.**

10. a

- Kole wetlands spread over 13,632 hectares in Thrissur and Malappuram districts of **Kerala.**
- It is a **Ramsar site** and IBA (Important Bird and Biodiversity Area)
- The Kole fields account for more than 40% of the rice production in the State.
- It is situated in the Central Asian Flyway of migratory birds.
- The area contains subterranean habitats that are important habitats for some fresh water fish species which are endemic to southern Western Ghats.
- Mining & quarrying of sand and clay mining, granite quarry and Fishing & harvesting aquatic resources are some of the threats to the Kole wetlands.

**07-03-2019****1) Consider the following statements**

1. They are awarded the first ever Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar for the year 2019.
2. They are also known as “Angels in Orange”.

**Identify the agency that correctly matches with the above description?**

- a. Fire Fighters of Indian Navy
- b. Safety Engineers Association of India
- c. National Disaster Response Force
- d. Council of Scientific & Industrial Research

**2) Consider the following statements with respect to Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar**

1. It is an annual award presented every year since 2005.
2. It will be presented for outstanding contributions to science and technology.

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

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

**3) Deep Water Horizon is a site well known for which of the following?**

- a. Oil Spillage
- b. Nuclear winter
- c. Plastic Mountain
- d. Longhiest Trench

**4) Consider the following statements with respect to East Rennell Island**

1. It is the largest raised coral atoll in the world.
2. It is the only natural World Heritage Site in the Pacific that is on the Danger List.

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 Swachh Survekshan Awards 2019

- It is an initiative of Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
- According to the survey, Mysore is India's cleanest city for the 3rd straight year.

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

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

6) *Forward Search Experiment (FASER)*, is a new project to look for particles associated with the mysterious dark matter was recently approved by which of the following?

- European Organisation for Nuclear Research (CERN)
- China National Space Administration (CNSA)
- National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)
- Indian National Physical Laboratory (NPL)

7) Consider the following statements with respect to *Official Secrets Act, 1923*

- The Indian Official Secrets Act was first enacted during the time of Lord Curzon.
- The Act states that one cannot approach, inspect, or even pass over a prohibited government site or area.

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 Model Code of Conduct (MCC)

- It refers to a set of norms laid down by the Election Commission of India, with the consensus of political parties.
- It is not statutory.

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

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

9) Consider the following statements with respect to National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL)

- It is a constituent board of Quality Council of India (QCI).
- It comes under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

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 pairs with respect to GI tag

- Erode Turmeric – Tamilnadu
- Alphonso mango – Madhya Pradesh
- Shahi Litchi – Bihar

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

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

## Answers

- c

- For the year 2019, 8th Battalion of **National Disaster Response Force** located at Ghaziabad has been selected for the Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar for its commendable work in disaster management.
2. d
- The government has **recently instituted** an **annual award** titled Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar.
  - It will be announced every year on **23rd January**, the birth anniversary of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose.
  - The Award carries a certificate and a cash prize of 51 lakh rupees.
  - For the year 2019, 8th Battalion of **National Disaster Response Force** located at Ghaziabad has been selected for the Award for its commendable work in disaster management.
  - The award has been instituted to acknowledge the contribution and selfless service of organisations and individuals to humanity in the aftermath of any disaster.
3. a
- Deep water Horizon site is well known for the second biggest oil spill after the Persian Gulf War oil spill of 1991.
  - The deep water horizon oil spill came in 2010 in the Gulf of Mexico when a gas blast in the Deepwater Horizon oil platform killed 11 workers and released some 134 million gallons of oil, polluting about 2,100 km of the US Gulf Coast.
4. c
- An oil spill has occurred recently near the **East Rennell**, the **only** natural World Heritage site in the Pacific that is on the **Danger List**.
  - East Rennell was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1998 and is **the largest raised coral atoll in the world**.
  - East Rennell was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in **Danger** in 2013 for threats to its Outstanding Universal Value posed by commercial logging of its forests and the introduction of invasive rats.
  - The site also suffers from over-exploitation of its marine resources of which little is known to date.
5. a
- **Indore** was recently adjudged **India's cleanest city for the third straight year** in the central government's cleanliness survey "Swachh Survekshan 2019".
  - The second and third positions in the category were grabbed by Ambikapur in Chhattisgarh and Mysore in Karnataka.
  - Swachh Survekshan 2019 covered all urban local bodies in the country, making it the largest such cleanliness survey in the world.
  - The cleanliness awards are given by the Union **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs**.
6. a
- **European Organisation for Nuclear Research (CERN)**, which hosts the world's largest and most powerful particle accelerator is planning a new experiment **FASEER**, or **the Forward Search Experiment** to look for particles associated with the mysterious dark matter which makes up about 27% of the universe.
  - FASEER will complement CERN's ongoing physics programme, extending its discovery potential to several new particles.
7. b
- The Official Secrets Act has its roots in the British colonial era.
  - Its predecessor law, The **Indian Official Secrets Act, 1904** was enacted during the time of Lord Curzon, Viceroy of India from 1899 to 1905.
  - **It was an amended and more stringent version of The Indian Official Secrets Act (Act XIV) of 1889**, brought in at a time when a large number of powerful newspapers had emerged in several languages across India.
  - It states clearly that actions which involve helping an enemy state against India are strongly condemned.
  - It also states that one cannot approach, inspect, or even pass over a prohibited government site or area.
8. c
- The model code refers to a set of norms laid down by the Election Commission of India, **with the consensus of political parties**.

- It is **not statutory**. It spells out the do's and don't's for elections.

9. c

- National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL) is a Constituent Board of Quality Council of India (QCI).
- It has been established with the objective of third-party assessment of the technical competence of testing including medical and calibration laboratories, proficiency testing providers and reference material producers.
- It provides accreditation in all major fields of Science and Engineering.
- It also offers accreditation for Proficiency testing providers.
- *NABL has recently launched a scheme called Quality Assurance Scheme (QAS) for Basic Composite (BC) Medical Laboratories.*

10. c

**08-03-2019**

1) "**Cheat Devices**" sometimes seen in the news recently, was associated with which of the following?

- Whaling
- Cyber frauds
- Military equipments
- Environment damage

2) In which of the following sectors, FDI is **not allowed** in India?

- Defence
- Space
- Gambling
- Construction of Farm Houses
- Tobacco
- Alcohol

Select the correct answer using the codes given below

- All except 1
- All except 1 and 4
- 3, 4 and 5 only

- All of the above

3) Consider the following statements with respect to **Hazardous and Other Wastes Amendment Rules, 2019**

- It totally bans the import of solid plastic wastes in to India, except when they are carried out by agencies situated in Special Economic Zones (SEZ).
- It mandates the exporters of silk waste to get prior permission from the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

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

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

4) Consider the following statements

- Conventional submarines using diesel engines are vulnerable to detection and attack whereas nuclear powered submarines are hard to detect.
- INS Arihant and INS Chakra are the only indigenous submarines that are propelled by nuclear reactors in India.

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

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

5) *e-Dharti Geo Portal* sometimes seen in the news recently, is launched by which of the following?

- Ministry of Earth Sciences
- Ministry of Science and Technology
- Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
- Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology

6) Consider the following statements with respect to National Centre for Good Governance (NCGG)

1. It aims to promote good governance through Capacity Building on Public Policy and Governance both at National and International Level.
2. It has been set up under the aegis of Ministry of Home affairs.

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

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

7) Consider the following statements with respect to Nidhi Company

1. It is a registered society under the Societies Registration Act, 1860.
2. They are regulated by Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA).

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

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

8) Consider the following statements with respect to National Defence Fund (NDF)

1. The Fund is used for the welfare of the members of the Armed Forces, including Para Military Forces and their dependents.
2. The Fund is administered by an Executive Committee, with Defence minister as Chairperson and Finance and Home Ministers as Members.

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

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

9) *Bolo App*, sometimes seen in the news recently, was launched by which of the following?

- a. Amazon
- b. Google
- c. Facebook
- d. Microsoft

10) Match the following:

1. Kiru Hydro Electric Project – a. Uttar Pradesh
2. Buxar thermal Power Project – b. Bihar
3. Khurja Super Thermal Power Plant – c. Jammu & Kashmir

Select the correct answer using the codes given below

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

### Answers

1. d

- The *National Green Tribunal (NGT)* has recently slammed a Rs 500 Crore penalty on Volkswagen for installing '*Cheat Devices*' in their cars which helped the company cheat through *emission tests*.
- This comes after the German auto major has not deposited Rs 100 crore in accordance with NGT's November 16, 2018 order.
- On November 16, 2018, the tribunal had said that the use of 'cheat device' by Volkswagen in diesel cars in India leads to the inference of *environmental damage* and had asked Volkswagen to deposit an interim amount of Rs 100 crore with the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).

2. c

- According to RBI, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is the investment through *capital instruments* by a person resident outside India in an unlisted Indian company; or in 10 percent or more of the post issue paid-up equity capital on a fully diluted basis of a listed Indian company.

- Investment by a person resident outside India is prohibited in the following sectors:
    1. Lottery Business including Government/private lottery, online lotteries.
    2. **Gambling** and betting including casinos.
    3. Chit funds (except for investment made by NRIs and OCIs on a non-repatriation basis).
    4. Nidhi company.
    5. Trading in Transferable Development Rights (TDRs).
    6. Real Estate Business or **Construction of Farm Houses**.
    7. Manufacturing of Cigars, cheroots, cigarillos and cigarettes, of **tobacco** or of tobacco substitutes. The prohibition is on manufacturing and other activities including wholesale cash and carry, retail trading etc. and is governed by FEMA.
    8. Atomic energy
    9. Railway operations.
  - Citizen / entity from Bangladesh or Pakistan require **prior Government approval**.
  - Citizen / entity of Pakistan cannot invest in **defence and space** industries either.
3. d
- Recently the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has amended the Hazardous and Other Wastes (Management & Trans-boundary Movement) Rules, 2016.
  - Some of the salient features of the Hazardous and Other Wastes (Management & Trans-boundary Movement) Amendment Rules, 2019 are as follows:
    1. Solid plastic waste has been prohibited from import into the country **including** in Special Economic Zones (SEZ) and by Export Oriented Units (EOU).
    2. **Exporters of silk waste** have now been given **exemption** from requiring permission from the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
    3. Electrical and electronic assemblies and components manufactured in and exported from India, if found defective can now be imported back into the country, within a year of export, **without obtaining permission** from the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
- 4.
- Industries which do not require consent under Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act 1974 and Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act 1981, are now **exempted** from requiring authorization also under the Hazardous and Other Wastes (Management & Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2016, provided that hazardous and other wastes generated by such industries are handed over to the authorized actual users, waste collectors or disposal facilities.
4. a
- Conventional submarines with their diesel engines cannot run underwater for lack of air.
  - It can remain submerged for only as long as its on-board electric batteries provide power.
  - When the batteries are drained, typically in 8-48 hours, the submarine must surface to run its generators and recharge batteries. **A surfaced submarine is vulnerable to detection and attack.**
  - In contrast, an SSN's **nuclear reactor can run underwater**, allowing it to remain **submerged indefinitely**, when it is **extremely hard to detect**.
  - *India and Russia have recently signed a 10-year lease for a new Russian SSN, which will join the Indian fleet around 2025.*
  - The Indian navy have already operates a **Russian SSN, called INS Chakra**, which was taken on a 10-year lease in April 2012.
  - India has indigenously designed and built a nuclear-propelled, nuclear ballistic missile submarine (SSBN), called INS Arihant.
  - A second SSBN, called **INS Arighat**, is to follow shortly, with two more in the pipeline.
5. c
- Union ministry of **Housing and Urban Affairs** has recently launched **e-Dharti app** which is a new online system where all the three main modules under the jurisdiction of Land and Development Office (L&DO) i.e. Conversion, Substitution and Mutation have been made online for the citizens.
  - The Ministry also launched **e-Dharti Geo Portal**, through which the lessee of the property will be able to see the basic details of property along with map showing its location.
6. b

- National Centre for Good Governance (NCGG) has been set up by the Government of India (GoI) under the aegis of Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances, **Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions**.
  - It aims to promote good governance through **Capacity Building on Public Policy and Governance** both at National and International Level and carrying out studies/ action research on issues relating to governance.
  - *The NCGG and Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA) have recently signed a MoU.*
  - *Under the MoU, IICA will support NCGG for utilization of infrastructure facilities during the training programme of NCGG at Delhi and for academic & intellectual interactions for 5 years.*
7. b
- A Nidhi company is registered under the **Companies Act, 1956** and is regulated by **Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA)**.
8. a
- The National Defence Fund was set up to take charge of voluntary donations in cash and kind received for promotion of the national defence effort, and to decide on their utilisation.
  - The Fund is used for the welfare of the members of the Armed Forces (**including Para Military Forces**) and their dependents.
  - The Fund is administered by an Executive Committee, with **PM as Chairperson**, and Defence, Finance and Home Ministers as Members.
9. b
- Bolo is an app launched by **GOOGLE**.
  - It is a speech-based reading-tutor app **aimed at rural kids**, who would otherwise may not have access to a good education support system.
10. b
- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has recently approved the investment sanction for construction of 624 Mega watt **Kiru Hydro Electric Project in Jammu and Kashmir**.

- The CCEA also approved the investment for 1320 Mega Watt **Khurja Super Thermal Power Plant** at Bulandshahar in **Uttar Pradesh**.
- Investment for 1320 Mega Watt **Buxar thermal Power Project in Bihar** was also approved.

**09-03-2019**

**1) Consider the following statements with respect to Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT)**

- 1. It is a statutory body established under the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992.**
- 2. It deals with appeals filed against the orders of SEBI, IRDAI and also PFRDA.**
- 3. It has only one bench which sits at Mumbai and has jurisdiction across whole of India.**

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

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

**2) Consider the following statements with respect to National Council of Science Museums (NCSM)**

- 1. It primarily engaged in popularizing Science and Technology through a network of science centers.**
- 2. It is an autonomous organization under the Ministry of 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



3) Consider the following statements with respect to Nari Shakti Puraskar

1. It is the highest civilian honour for women in India.
2. Ministry of Women and Child Development confers this award annually.

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 Unlocking NATIONAL Energy Efficiency potential (UNNATEE)

1. It is a national strategy document developed by Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL).
2. It offers a roadmap to address India's environmental and climate change mitigation action through energy efficiency measures.

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) *Social Institutions and Gender Index*, was released by which of the following agencies?

- a. World Bank
- b. World Economic Forum
- c. International Labour Organisation
- d. Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development

6) Arrange the following events in chronological order

1. Royal Indian Navy Upsurge
2. Kheda Satyagraha
3. Paika Rebellion

4. Non Co-operation movement

Select the correct answer using the codes given below

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

7) Consider the following statements with respect to Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR)

1. It was established in 1972 through the Societies Registration Act, 1860.
2. It is an autonomous organization works under the Ministry of Culture.

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) "*IP Nani*" sometimes seen in the news recently, is?

- a. Women safety program launched by Ministry of Home affairs
- b. India's first Intellectual Property Mascot
- c. Indigenously developed Internet Protocol Standards for India
- d. Google's project to promote Internet penetration in remote areas

9) Which of the following countries share borders with Paraguay?

1. Bolivia
2. Argentina
3. Uruguay
4. Brazil

Select the correct answer using the code given below

- a. All except 1
- b. All except 2

- c. All except 3  
d. All except 3 and 4

**10) Chowdike is an ancient instrument popular in which of the following states?**

- a. Assam  
b. Karnataka  
c. Rajasthan  
d. Arunachal Pradesh

**Answers**

1. c
- The Union Cabinet has recently approved the proposal for creation of the Post of **Technical Member** in Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT), Mumbai.
2. a
- National Council of Science Museums (NCSM) is an autonomous organization under the **Ministry of Culture**.
  - It primarily engaged in popularizing Science and Technology through a network of science centres, Mobile Science Exhibitions (MSE) units.
  - Presently NCSM, with its Headquarters in Kolkata, administers and manages 25 science museums/centres spread across the country and is the world's largest network of science centres and museums that functions under a single administrative umbrella.
  - NCSM has recently collaborated with 'Google Arts & Culture' for the largest online exhibition about inventions and discoveries ever curated.
3. c
- Technically Bharat Ratna is the highest civilian award.
  - Nari Shakti Puraskar is the **highest civilian honour among awards given exclusively for women** in India.
  - To acknowledge women's achievements, the **Ministry of Women and Child Development** confers Nari Shakti Puraskar on women and institutions in recognition of their relentless service towards the cause of women empowerment and social welfare.
4. a
- Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE)** has developed a national strategy document for accelerating energy efficiency in India.
  - The strategy document titled **UNNATEE (Unlocking NATIONAL Energy Efficiency potential)** describes a plain framework and implementation strategy to establish a clear linkage between energy supply-demand scenarios and energy efficiency opportunities.
  - The document offers a comprehensive roadmap to address India's environmental and climate change mitigation action through energy efficiency measures.
5. d
6. d
- The Prime Minister has recently released the "**Dictionary of Martyrs**" of India's Freedom Struggle.
  - It includes the martyrs of 1857 Uprising, Jallianwala Bagh Massacre (1919), **Non-Cooperation Movement (1920-22)**, Civil Disobedience Movement (1930-34), Quit India Movement (1942-44), Revolutionary Movements (1915-34), Kissan Movements, Tribal Movements, Agitation for Responsible Government in the Princely States (Prajamandal), Indian National Army (INA, 1943-45), **Royal Indian Navy Upsurge (RIN, 1946)**, etc.
  - The project for compilation of "Dictionary of Martyrs" of India's Freedom Struggle was commissioned by the Ministry of Culture, to the **Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR)** to commemorate the 150th anniversary of uprising of 1857.
- Paika Rebellion (1817)
  - Kheda Satyagraha (1918)
  - Non Co-operation movement (1920-22)
  - Royal Indian Navy Upsurge (1946)
7. a
- Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR) is an autonomous organization under **Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD)**.
  - It was established under Societies Registration Act (Act XXI of **1860**) in 1972.
  - The primary objective of the Council is to promote and give direction to historical

research and to encourage and foster objective and scientific writing of history.

- The project for compilation of “Dictionary of Martyrs” of India’s Freedom Struggle was commissioned by the **Ministry of Culture**, to the **Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR)** to commemorate the 150th anniversary of uprising of 1857.

8. b

- ‘**IP Nani**’ is **India’s first Intellectual Property (IP) Mascot** aimed at spreading awareness about the importance of Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) amongst children.

9. c



10. b

- Chowdike is a unique instrument popular in Karnataka.
- It is a single-stringed instrument and is said to be a symbol of goddess Yellamma.
- Women form groups to sing in praise of Yellamma. It includes both song and narration.
- The instrument Chowdike provides the rhythmic support with another instrument, Sambala.

**11-03-2019**

1) Which of the following appliances are listed under **Voluntary Scheme of Standards & Labelling (Star Rating) program** of India?

- Microwave Ovens
- Washing Machines
- Electric Geysers
- Room Air Conditioners

Select the correct answer using the codes given below

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

2) Consider the following statements with respect to **University of Peace**

- It was founded by the United Nations Organizations.
- It is located in Geneva, Switzerland.
- Recently, it confers Honorary Doctorate on Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

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

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

3) Consider the following statements with respect to Republic of Costa Rica

- It is a Central American Island located in the West Atlantic Ocean.
- Temperate Cyclones are more frequent in Costa Rica.

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

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

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

1. It is a non-statutory body.
2. It functions under the Ministry of Home Affairs.
3. It is the implementing & monitoring agency for implementation of Crime & Criminal Tracking Network System (CCTNS).

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) Consider the following statements with respect to Daylight saving time

1. It was followed to ensure that the clocks show an earlier sunrise and earlier sunset — in effect a longer evening daytime.
2. India does not follow daylight saving time.

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 Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE)

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

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

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

d. Neither 1 nor 2

7) *The Golden City Gate Awards*, sometimes seen in the news recently, was associated with which of the following?

- a. Exports
- b. Tourism
- c. Law and Order
- d. None of the above

8) *Aves Island* sometimes seen in the news recently, is located in which of the following?

- a. Lakshadweep
- b. Gulf of Mannar
- c. Gulf of Kambhat
- d. Andaman & Nicobar Islands

9) Consider the following statements

1. It is both a tiger reserve and a prime one-horned rhino habitat.
2. It is situated on the north bank of the river Brahmaputra.
3. It is also known as the mini-Kaziranga.

Identify the National park that correctly matches with the above description:

- a. Mouling National Park
- b. Nameri National Park
- c. Orang National Park
- d. Dibru-Saikhowa National Park

10) Recently, the inaugural edition of Space Dialogue was held between which of the following two countries?

- a. India and U.S.A
- b. India and Israel
- c. India and Japan
- d. India and Russia

### Answers

1. a

- The Standards & Labelling (Star Rating) Program has been formulated by Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE).
- Under the Scheme, there are both mandatory and voluntary forms of labelling.

#### **Mandatory Labelling Scheme**

1. Frost Free (No-Frost) Refrigerator
2. Tubular Fluorescent Lamps
3. **Room Air Conditioners**
4. RAC (Cassette, Floor Standing Tower, Ceiling, Corner AC)
5. Direct Cool Refrigerator
6. **Electric Geysers**
7. Color TV
8. IAC Notification/ Gazette
9. LED Notification/ Gazette
10. Distribution Transformer

#### **Voluntary Labelling Scheme**

1. Induction Motors
2. Agricultural Pump Sets
3. Ceiling Fans
4. Domestic Liquefied Petroleum Gas(LPG) Stoves
5. **Washing Machine**
6. Computer (Notebook /Laptops)
7. Ballast (Electronic/Magnetic)
8. Office equipment's (Printer, Copier, Scanner, MFD's).
9. Diesel Engine Driven MonosetPumps for Agricultural Purposes
10. Solid State Inverter
11. Diesel Generator
12. Chillers
13. **Microwave Ovens**

2. a

- The University for Peace was founded further to a resolution of **United Nations' General Assembly** (UNGA) in December 1980.
- It was established with a mandate of "Engaging in dissemination of knowledge fundamental to the full development of the human person and societies to the

interdisciplinary study of all matters relating to peace".

- **India is a signatory to this resolution** and **Venkaiah Naidu** is the first Indian to receive an Honorary Doctorate from this University.
- It is located in **Costa Rica**.

3. d



- Republic of Costa Rica is a country in Central America, bordered by Nicaragua to the north, the Caribbean Sea to the northeast, Panama to the southeast, the Pacific Ocean to the southwest, and Ecuador to the south of Cocos Island.
- It is located in the **Tropic Region**.

4. d

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

- It is the Nodal Agency for authentic source of data on crime, accidents, suicides, and prisons for policy matters and research.
  - Bureau is also apex nodal agency for all Finger Print related matters including accreditation of Finger Print Experts in the country.
  - Bureau is implementing & monitoring agency for implementation of Crime & Criminal Tracking Network System (CCTNS), a Mission Mode Project under the National e-Governance Plan of Government of India.
  - The project aims at creating a comprehensive and integrated system for enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of policing in the country.
5. b
- Daylight saving time is followed in over 70 countries on various dates.
  - **India does not follow daylight saving time**; countries near the Equator do not experience high variations in daytime hours between seasons.
  - The rationale behind setting clocks ahead of standard time, usually by 1 hour during springtime, is to ensure that the clocks show a **later sunrise and later sunset** – in effect a longer evening daytime.
  - Individuals will wake an hour earlier than usual, complete their daily work routines an hour earlier, and have an extra hour of daylight at the end.
6. a
- The BEE is a **statutory body** under the Ministry of Power, Government of India.
  - It assists in developing policies and strategies with the primary objective of reducing the energy intensity of the Indian economy.
  - BEE coordinates with designated consumers, designated agencies, and other organizations to identify and utilize the existing resources and infrastructure, in performing the functions assigned to it under the Energy Conservation Act.
7. b
- The Golden City Gate Tourism Multi-media Awards are given **annually** in various categories related to the **Tourism and Hospitality** sectors.
  - The 'Golden City Gate' is a creative multi-media international competition for countries, cities, regions and hotels.
  - The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India has won the **First Prize** in the category of TV Cinema Spot at the prestigious international **Golden City Gate Tourism Awards 2019**.
8. d
9. c
- Located on the north bank of the Brahmaputra River in the Darrang and Sonitpur districts of Assam, the **Rajiv Gandhi Orang National Park** is also known as the mini-Kaziranga, because of its similar landscape of marshes, streams and grasslands.
  - Like Kaziranga, it is also inhabited by the one-horned rhinoceros.
  - The Park has a rich flora and fauna, including the pigmy hog, elephant, wild buffalo and **tiger**.
10. c
- The **inaugural India-Japan Space Dialogue** was held in New Delhi recently.
  - The dialogue brought together Ministries and agencies related to outer space in the two countries and provided an opportunity for information exchange on the respective space policies.
  - Discussions were also held on bilateral cooperation between JAXA-ISRO, their space industries, global navigation satellite system, space situational awareness, space security and space-related norms.

**12-03-2019**

**1) Which of the following is/are not associated with the relationship between the Indian Navy and the Royal British Navy?**

1. Exercise Malabar
2. Exercise Konkan
3. Exercise Ajeya Warrior
4. Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS)

**Select the correct answer using the codes given below:**

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

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

2) Consider the following statements with respect to Indra Sawhney Case Judgment, 1992

1. It ruled that, a backward class cannot be determined only and exclusively with reference to economic criterion.
2. It confined the exclusion of 'creamy layer' from reservation only to the OBCs and not the SC/STs.

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 UN Environment Assembly (UNEA)

1. It is the governing body of UN Environment Programme and the world's highest-level decision-making body on the environment.
2. It meets annually to set priorities for global environmental policies and develop international environmental law.
3. 4th Session of the UN Environment Assembly – 2019 was recently held in New Delhi, India.

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

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

4) Consider the following statements with respect to International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

1. It was founded in 1865 to facilitate international connectivity in communications networks.

2. It is the United Nations specialized agency for information and communication technologies.

3. Its headquarters is located in Geneva, Switzerland.

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

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

5) Consider the following statements

1. India is the world's largest consumer of gold.

2. India is the second largest holder of gold reserves in the world.

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

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

6) Which of the following tree is also called as "The Flame of the Forest"?

- a. Jammi chettu
- b. Red Sandalwood
- c. Palash Tree
- d. Indian Jujube

7) Consider the following statements with respect to PINAKA guided Rocket System

1. It was indigenously developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

2. It was exclusively designed for the purpose of using it in Submarines.

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) SIPRI has recently released a report titled “Trends in International Arms Transfers-2018”. Consider the following statements in this regard:

1. India is the largest arms importer in the world after Saudi Arabia.
2. The lowering of imports by India is mainly due to its more inclination towards soft power.

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

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

9) Consider the following statements with respect to First-Past-The-Post (FPTP) system

1. It is also known as the simple majority system.
2. Under FPTP system of voting, a candidate can win despite securing less than half the votes in an election.

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

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

10) Addis Ababa is sometimes seen in the news recently. It is a/the

- a. Capital of Eritrea
- b. Strait between Yemen and Djibouti
- c. Largest desert in Kenya
- d. None of the above

## Answers

1. b

- Indian Navy and Royal Navy are **partners in the Indian Ocean Naval**

**Symposium** (IONS), a Maritime Cooperation construct conceptualised and **pioneered by Indian Navy** in 2008.

- The bilateral naval exercise **KONKAN** is a significant operational link between the Indian Navy and the Royal Navy and is held every year, alternately off the coast of India and UK.
- Ajeeya Warrior is a joint exercise between the Indian **Army** and Royal British **Army**.

2. c

- The Mandal judgment (Indra Sawhney Vs Union of India) had confined the exclusion of 'creamy layer' **only to the OBCs** and not the SC/STs.

3. a

- The **United Nations Environment Assembly** is the world's highest-level decision-making body on the environment.
- It addresses the critical environmental challenges facing the world today.
- The Environment Assembly meets **biennially** to set priorities for global environmental policies and develop international environmental law.
- The fourth session of the UN Environment Assembly is being held in **Nairobi, Kenya** from 11 - 15 March **2019**.
- Theme of the fourth Session of the UN Environment Assembly is **“Innovative solutions for environmental challenges and sustainable consumption and production”**

4. c

- International Telecommunication Union (ITU) is the **United Nations specialized agency** for information and communication technologies – ICTs.
- Founded in **1865** to facilitate international connectivity in communications networks, it is headquartered in **Geneva, Switzerland**.

5. a

- According to World Gold Council (WGC), India – **the world's largest consumer of gold, has the 11th largest gold reserve**.
- India's overall position in terms of total gold holding would have been tenth had the list included only countries.

- Whereas, International Monetary Fund (IMF) is included and is third on the list with total gold reserves of 2,814 tonnes.
  - The numero uno slot is occupied by the U.S., which boasts of gold reserves of 8,133.5 tonnes, followed by Germany with 3,369.7 tonnes.
6. c
- Butea Monosperma also known as **Palash Tree** was popularly called as the 'Flame of the forest'.
7. a
- Defence Research and Defence Organisation (DRDO) has recently test fired the Guided PINAKA from Pokhran ranges, Rajasthan.
  - The weapon system is equipped with state-of-the-art guidance kit comprising of an advanced navigation and control system.
  - The **indigenously developed Guided Pinaka by DRDO** will significantly boost the capability of the artillery to make precision hits.
8. a
- According to the latest report published by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), India was the world's second largest arms importer from 2014-18, ceding the long-held tag as **largest importer to Saudi Arabia**, which accounted for 12% of the total imports during the period.
  - The lowering of imports by India is mainly due to **delays in deliveries**.
  - Imports decreased by 24 per cent between 2009-13 and 2014-18 (two five-year blocks), partly due to delays in deliveries of arms produced under licence from foreign suppliers, such as combat aircraft ordered from Russia in 2001 and submarines ordered from France in 2008.
9. d
- The first-past-the-post (FPTP) system is also known as the **simple majority system**.
  - In this voting method, the candidate with the highest number of votes in a constituency is declared the winner.
  - This system is used in India in direct elections to the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies.
- While FPTP is relatively simple, it does not always allow for a truly representative mandate, as the **candidate could win despite securing less than half the votes in a contest**.
  - In 2014, the National Democratic Alliance led by the Bharatiya Janata Party won 336 seats with only 38.5% of the popular vote.
  - Also, smaller parties representing specific groups have a lower chance of being elected in FPTP.
10. d
- Addis ababa is the capital and largest city of Ethiopia.
  - *Ethiopian Airlines flight was recently crashed soon after taking off from Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.*
- 13-03-2019**
- 1) Consider the following statements with respect to Dandi March, 1930**
1. It marks the launch of the Civil Disobedience Movement.
  2. Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel does not participate in the Dandi March.
- 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) Doha talks which was concluded recently, associated with which of the following?**
- a. Denuclearization
  - b. Climate Change
  - c. Peace Process
  - d. None of the above
- 3) Consider the following statements with respect to Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)**
1. It is a statutory body.

2. It has powers to issue *ex parte* interim orders.
3. The orders passed by SEBI can be appealed only in Supreme Court.

Which of the statement(s) 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) "Global Resources Outlook 2019" was recently released by which of the following agencies?

- a. International Energy Agency
- b. UN Environment
- c. Global Footprint Network
- d. World Resource Institute

5) Consider the following statements with respect to *Black Boxes* used in Aircrafts

1. They are actually two black metallic boxes, containing the Cockpit voice recorder (CVR) and the Flight data recorder (FDR).
2. They are mostly equipped towards the front end of the aircraft – where usually the impact of a crash is the least.

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 *Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI)*

1. SECI is the only Central Public Sector Undertaking (CPSU) dedicated to the solar energy sector.
2. It works under the administrative control of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE).

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 *Core Hot Zones (CHZ)* in India

1. These are areas that are most prone to severe heat wave days with the highest frequency during the month of May.
2. The zone covers the state of Punjab, Uttarakhand and even Himachal Pradesh.

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 *Wood Snake* sometimes seen in the news recently

1. They are uniformly dark green in colour.
2. They are endemic to Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

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) *Megamalai Wildlife Sanctuary* sometimes seen in the news recently, is located in which of the following states?

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

**10) Consider the following pairs with respect to GI tag**

1. Marayoor Jaggery – Kerala
2. Sirsi Supari – Karnataka
3. Thirubuvanam Silk Saree – Kerala

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

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

**Answers**

1. c

- The historic **Dandi March**, marking the launch of the **Civil Disobedience Movement**, began on March 12, and Gandhi broke the salt law by picking up a lump of salt at Dandi on April 6.
- Sardar Patel planned every minute aspect of the Dandi March, down to the last detail.
- As Patel went about mobilising people for the march, the district administration of Surat realised it was necessary to get him out of the way.
- Consequently, on March 7, **five days before the march was scheduled, Patel was arrested at village Raas.**
- He was sentenced to three months imprisonment and lodged at Sabarmati jail in Ahmedabad.

2. c

- It is a **peace process** held between **U.S and Taliban** on Afghanistan.
- US and Taliban negotiators wrapped up their 16-days round of talks in Doha recently with progress on some key issues but without producing a major breakthrough.

3. a

- The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** was established on April 12, 1992 in accordance with the provisions of the **SEBI Act, 1992.**
- *The Securities and Appellate Tribunal (SAT) has recently directed SEBI to use its powers to*

*pass an “ex parte interim order” sparingly and only in “extreme urgent cases.”*

- An *ex parte* injunction is mainly a direction, command to restrain, **granted after hearing only one party** in matters of ‘urgency’, **without a notice to the other parties involved.** Full hearing is held at a later date.
- Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT) is a **statutory body** established **to hear and dispose of appeals against orders passed by the SEBI.**

4. b

- The resource extraction has more than tripled since 1970 in the world, including a five-fold increase in the use of non-metallic minerals and a 45 per cent increase in fossil fuel use, informed a **UN Environment report - ‘Global Resources Outlook 2019’**, released recently during the fourth United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-4).
- It was **prepared by the International Resource Panel.**

5. d

- The black boxes are actually two **orange** metallic boxes containing the recorders.
- Most aircraft are required to be equipped with two black boxes — the **Cockpit voice recorder (CVR) and the Flight data recorder (FDR)**
- While the CVR records radio transmissions and other sounds in the cockpit such as conversations between the pilots and engine noises, the flight data recorder records more than 80 different types of information such as altitude, airspeed, flight heading, vertical acceleration, pitch, roll, autopilot status etc.
- To protect these black boxes, they are equipped towards the **tail end** of the aircraft – where usually the impact of a crash is the least.

6. c

- Solar Energy Corporation of India Ltd. (SECI) is a CPSU under the administrative control of the **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE).**
- It is the **only CPSU dedicated to the solar energy sector.**

- It was originally incorporated as a section-25 (not for profit) company under the Companies Act, 1956.
- However, through a Government of India decision, the company has recently been converted into a Section-3 company under the Companies Act, 2013.
- The mandate of the company has also been broadened to cover the entire renewable energy domain.

7. c

- During the hot weather season, stations from the North, North-west, Central, East India and North-East Peninsula – known as the Core Hot Zone (CHZ) – are most prone to severe heat wave days with the highest frequency during May.
- The CHZ covers the States of Punjab, **Himachal Pradesh**, Uttarakhand, Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Odisha and Telangana and Met subdivisions of Marathwada, Vidarbha, Madhya Maharashtra and coastal Andhra Pradesh.

8. d

- A species of wood snake that wasn't seen for 140 years has resurfaced in a survey conducted at the Meghamalai Wildlife Sanctuary.
- The wood snake is point endemic, which can be **only found in Meghamalai forests and the Periyar Tiger Reserve** landscape.
- The scientific name of the species is *Xylophis indicus*, and it is uniformly **dark brown** in colour.

9. b

- A species of **wood snake** that wasn't seen for 140 years has resurfaced in a survey conducted by scientists in the **Meghamalai Wildlife Sanctuary, Tamilnadu**.

10. b

- Recently, Marayoor Jaggery has received the Geographical Indication (GI) tag from the Union Government.
- **Marayoor Jaggery** is the traditional and handmade product from Idukki district of **Kerala**.

- It is made in the sugarcane farms and no chemicals are added during the manufacturing process.
- This Jaggery is manufactured by the farmers, who mostly belong to the Muthuva tribe.
- The peculiar geographical location of Marayoor, which nestles amid the forests of the Western Ghats gives the sugar cane a distinct geographical identity.
- For the first time in the arecanut sector, '**Sirsi Supari**' grown in Uttara Kannada has received the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- It is cultivated in Yellapura, Siddapura and Sirsi taluks of **Karnataka**.
- **Thirubuvanam Silk Saree** of Kumbakonam, **Tamilnadu** has recently granted GI tag.

**14-03-2019**

1) **Nice, Vienna and Locarno Agreement** sometimes seen in the news, were associated with which of the following?

- Consular Relations
- Intellectual Property
- Liability for Nuclear damage
- Ozone Protection

2) "**Global Environment Outlook**" was published by which of the following?

- UN Environment
- Green Peace International
- Global Environment Facility
- Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

3) Consider the following statements with respect to **Transports Internationaux Routiers' (TIR) convention**

- It is a UN convention, aims to facilitate international transit through a simplified Customs transit procedure.
- India ratifies the TIR convention in 2017.

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



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

4) Which one of the following best describes the term “Cool Spot” sometimes seen in the news recently

- It is a region where species are most affected by human activity
- It is a region where species are largely unaffected and threat free
- It is a region which is significantly cooler than its surrounding areas
- It is a region which is significantly warmer than its surrounding areas

5) Arrange the following in correct order of precedence

- Bharat Ratna
- Param Vir Chakra
- Ashoka Chakra
- Padma Vibhushan

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- 1-4-2-3
- 1-2-4-3
- 1-2-3-4
- 1-4-3-2

6) A *starry dwarf frog* sometimes seen in the news was recently discovered in which of the following?

- Western Ghats
- Eastern Himalayas
- Thar Desert
- Andaman and Nicobar Islands

7) Consider the following pairs

- Idlib – Syria
- Solomon Islands – Atlantic Ocean
- Addis Ababa – Yemen

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

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

8) Consider the following statements about Asian Development Bank

- ADB is a regional development bank headquartered in Manila, Philippines.
- It admits the members of the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and non-regional developed countries.
- Voting is based on ‘One Member-One Vote’ System.

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

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

9) Assertion (A): Bio films are one of the major reasons behind antimicrobial resistance.

Reason (R): During times of hostile conditions bacteria tend to come together to protect them

Select the correct answer using the options given below

- Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A
- Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A
- A is true but R is false
- A is false but R is true

10) Consider the following statements regarding Paika Rebellion

- The Paikas were landed militia of Khurda, who rose in an armed rebellion against the British.
- Indian government recently celebrated the centenary of this rebellion.

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

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

## Answers

1. b

- In a move to boost foreign investor confidence in relation to protection of **Intellectual Property (IP)** in India, the Cabinet has recently approved the proposal for Accession to the **Nice, Vienna and Locarno Agreements**.

1. The **Nice Agreement** concerning the International Classification of Goods and Services for the purposes of registration of marks.

2. The **Vienna Agreement** establishing an International Classification of the figurative elements of marks.

3. The **Locarno Agreement** establishing an international classification for industrial designs.

- It will allow India an opportunity to include Indian designs, figurative elements and goods in the international classification systems.

- These agreements will help the Intellectual Property Office in India to harmonise the classification systems for examination of trademark and design applications, **in line** with the classification systems followed globally.

- The accession would also facilitate in exercising rights in decision-making processes regarding review and revision of the classifications under the agreement.

2. a

- India could save at least \$3 trillion in healthcare costs if it implemented policy initiatives consistent with ensuring that the globe didn't heat up beyond 1.5 degrees Celsius by the turn of the century, says the sixth edition of the **Global Environmental Outlook (GEO)**, prepared by the **United Nations Environment Programme**.

3. c

- India had **joined the TIR Convention** (the **United Nations** Customs Convention on International Transport of Goods under cover of TIR Carnets) on June 15, **2017**.

- The first shipment under the United Nations 'Transports Internationaux Routiers' (TIR) convention has recently arrived in India from Afghanistan through Iran's Chabahar Port.

4. b

- Cool-spots** are the world's last refuges, where high numbers of threatened species still persist.

- Cool Spots are regions where species are **largely threat-free**.

- Coolspots include parts of the **Amazon rainforest**, the **Andes**, the **eastern Himalayas**, and the **forests of Liberia** in West Africa.

5. c

### Order of precedence

- Bharat Ratna
- Param Vir Chakra
- Ashoka Chakra
- Padma Vibhushan
- Padma Bhushan
- Sarvottam Yudh Seva Medal
- Param Vishisht Seva Medal
- Maha Vir Chakra
- Kirti Chakra
- Padma Shri

6. a

- A 'secretive' new species of orange-bellied frog with a brown back, covered in tiny spots that **resemble a starry sky**, has been discovered recently in the **Western Ghats**.

7. c

- Solomon Islands – South Pacific Ocean
- Addis Ababa – Ethiopia

8. b

- The voting system is modeled closely on the World Bank where votes are distributed in proportion with members' capital subscriptions.

9. a

10. a

- The rebellion took place in 1817 making it the Bicentenary celebration.

**15-03-2019**

1) Consider the following statements with respect to West Nile Virus

1. Birds are the natural hosts of this virus.
2. It most commonly spread to people by the bite of an infected Anopheles mosquito.
3. There is no vaccination or specific treatment available for the virus.

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) Which of the following statements with respect to *Man Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile (MPATGM)* is not correct?

- a. It is an indigenous missile developed by DRDO
- b. It is a low weight system based on fire and forgets principle
- c. Mounted on a Tatra truck, the system is equipped with state-of-the-art Imaging Infrared Radar (IIR)
- d. All the above statements are correct

3) Which of the following *shares* borders with *Algeria* which was sometimes seen in the news recently?

1. Kenya
2. Morocco
3. Atlantic Ocean
4. Mediterranean Sea

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- a. All except 1
- b. All except 1 and 3
- c. All except 2 and 3

d. None

4) Consider the following statements with respect to *National Mission for Sustaining the Himalayan Ecosystem (NMSHE)*

1. It is one of the eight missions under the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC).
2. NMSHE is the only mission under NAPCC with a geographic focus.
3. Ministry of Earth Sciences is coordinating the implementation of NMSHE.

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

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

5) Consider the following statements with respect to *Gobindobhog Rice*

1. It is a non-Basmati type indigenous aromatic rice primarily cultivated in parts of Odisha.
2. It was granted Geographical Indication (GI) tag in 2017.

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 *Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS)*

1. It seeks to promote export of notified goods manufactured/produced in India.
2. It was implemented by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

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

- a. 1 only

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

7) **Uniting for Consensus** is a movement associated with which of the following?

- a. Kyoto Protocol
- b. Convention on Bio-diversity
- c. Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty
- d. None of the above

8) Consider the following statements with respect to **Kesar Mango**

1. The cultivation of Kesar mangoes is widely prevalent in the State of Gujarat.
2. Rann of Kutch is gaining recognition as a fertile land for the Kesar mango variety in recent times.

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

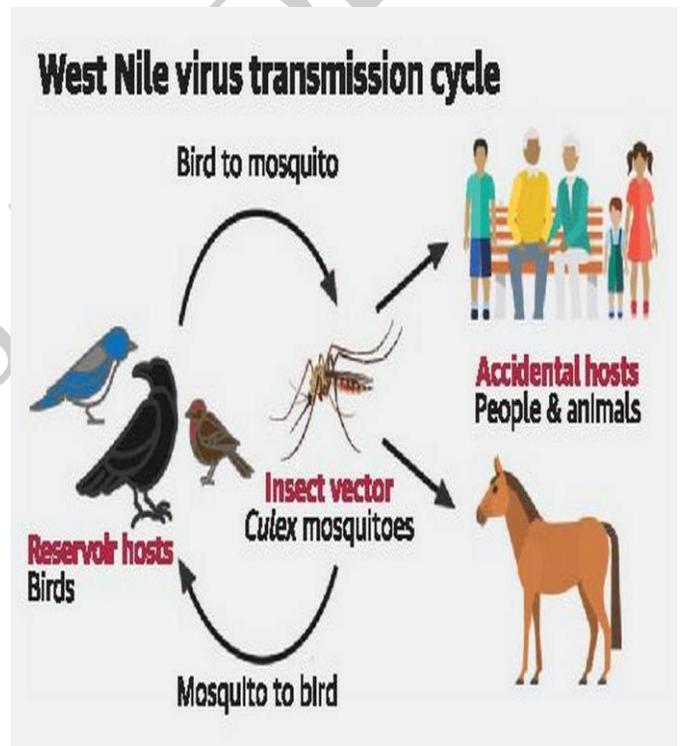
9) **Kurichiya** is a tribal community inhabited in which of the following states?

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

10) **Subhash Chandra Garg Committee** was associated with which of the following?

- a. Drugs Regulation
- b. Artificial Intelligence in Defence
- c. Financial Technology
- d. None of the above

- West Nile Virus is a **viral infection** currently is very uncommon in India.
- **Birds are the natural hosts** of this virus.
- But it spreads to human by **Culex mosquitoes**.
- Mosquitoes become infected when they feed on infected birds.
- There is no vaccination or specific treatment available for the virus.
- *A seven-year-old boy from Malappuram district has been diagnosed with West Nile fever, a relatively unknown viral infection in the Malabar region in recent times.*



2. c

- The **DRDO** developed **Man Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile (MPATGM)** was successfully test fired in the desert ranges of Rajasthan recently.
- The **indigenously** developed missile has many advanced features like a state-of-the-art **Imaging Infrared Radar (IIR)** seeker with integrated avionics.
- The missile **launched from the shoulder** is **low weight, fire and forget** missile.

3. b

## Answers

1. c

- President Abdelaziz Bouteflika has recently reversed a decision to seek a fifth term in the face of weeks of mass rallies by protesters fed up with authoritarian rule and decades of economic and political stagnation.
- Abdelaziz Bouteflika is **Algeria's** longest-serving head of state.



4. b

- National Mission for Sustaining the Himalayan Ecosystem (NMSHE) was launched as part of the eight missions under the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC).
- NMSHE is the only mission under NAPCC with a geographic focus, all the others being theme based.
- The **Department of Science and Technology** (DST), Ministry of Science and Technology is coordinating the implementation of NMSHE.

5. b

- Gobindobhog is a non-Basmati type indigenous aromatic rice from **West Bengal**.

- The paddy variety, which got the GI (Geographical Indication) status in **August 2017**, is primarily cultivated in East Burdwan district in the Raina 1, Raina 2 and Khandaghosh blocks.

6. c

- The Government of India has introduced Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS) through the **Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) 2015-20**.
- It seeks to promote export of notified goods manufactured/ produced in India.
- MEIS is a major export promotion scheme of GOI implemented by the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry**.

7. d

- **Uniting for Consensus (ufc)** also known as (**Coffee Club**) is a group of countries who are opposing the expansion of permanent seats in the **UNSC** under the leadership of Italy.
- Members - Italy, Spain, Malta, San Marino, Pakistan, South Korea, Canada, Mexico, Argentina, Colombia & Turkey.
- Despite drastic changes in geopolitics and international relations the Council has not been reformed yet.

8. c

- Kesar mango is largely produced in the state of **Gujarat**.
- It has got global recognition as 'Gir Kesar' mango was granted the Geographical Indication (GI) tag in 2011.
- Known for its dry land, Kutch district is gaining its recognition as a fertile land for the 'Kesar' variety of mango.
- Closely competing with Saurashtra, Kutch is becoming a preferred place for Kesar mango.
- Farmers claim, **drip irrigation** from groundwater is supporting the prospects for Kutch to become a Kesar mango heartland - a title currently enjoyed by Gir Somnath district in Saurashtra.

9. a

- A starry dwarf frog, a nocturnal amphibian which sports pale blue spots and brilliant orange thighs has been found in Wayanad district, Kerala.

- The frog has distinct physical characteristics such as its triangular finger- and toe tips, which closely resembled frogs in South America and Africa.
- The frog species is named as *Astrobatrachus kurichiyana* in the honor of Kurichiya tribal community of Kerala.
- The frog is not only a new species but different enough to be assigned to a new 'subfamily'.

10. c

**16-03-2019**

1) Consider the following statements with respect to High Courts in India

1. Every High Court shall have the power to punish for contempt of itself under Article 129 of Indian Constitution.
2. Every Judge of a High Court shall be appointed by the President by warrant under his hand and seal.

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 Lokpal Act, 2013

1. The Leader of Opposition from both houses of the Parliament are members of the Selection Committee.
2. When no person has been recognised as the Leader of Opposition, the leader of the single largest group in opposition of the Government would be the Leader of Opposition.

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) In which of the following countries, *River Kaladan* flows?

1. India
2. Bangladesh
3. Myanmar
4. Thailand

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

4) Consider the following statements with respect to Kaladan Project

1. It aims to provide an alternate outlet to the landlocked North East by providing connectivity through road, air and seaways.
2. Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) is the nodal agency for implementation on the Indian side.

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) Which of the following can negatively impact the competitiveness of Indian Agri-products exported?

1. Increasing Minimum Support Price
2. Decreasing Minimum Support Price
3. Appreciation of Rupee
4. Depreciation of Rupee

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

6) Consider the following pairs

1. Sariska Tiger Reserve – Rajasthan
2. Rajaji Tiger Reserve – Uttarakhand
3. Dampa Tiger Reserve – Mizoram

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

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

7) Consider the following statements with respect to Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO)

1. It is responsible for the enforcement of Drugs price Control Order (DPCO).
2. It functions under the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers.

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 SWAYAM programme

1. It is a group of 32 DTH channels devoted to telecasting of high-quality educational programmes on 24X7 basis using the GSAT-15 satellite.
2. It comes under the Ministry of 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

9) Consider the following statements with respect to *United Nations Security Council (UNSC)*

1. The council consist of 5 Permanent members and 10 members elected by the General Assembly for 5 year terms.
2. All the members have one vote and permanent members have veto power.

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

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

10) *Global Terrorism Index (GTI)* is released annually by which of the following?

- a. Interpol
- b. UN Security Council
- c. Institute for Economics & Peace
- d. United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

### Answers

1. b

- **Article 215:** Every *High Court* shall be a court of record and shall have all the powers of such a court including the power to punish for contempt of itself.
- 217 (1) **Every Judge of a High Court** shall be appointed by the **President** by warrant under his **hand and seal** after consultation with the Chief Justice of India, the Governor of the State, and, in the case of appointment of a Judge other than the Chief Justice, the Chief Justice of the High Court.
- **Article 129:** The **Supreme Court** shall be a court of record and shall have all the powers of such a court including the power to punish for contempt of itself.

2. d

- The Chairperson and Members of the Lokpal shall be appointed by the President after obtaining the recommendations of a Selection Committee.
- The Selection Committee consist of:

**Chairperson:** Prime Minister

**Members**

1. Speaker of the House of the People
2. Leader of Opposition in the **House of the People**
3. Chief Justice of India or a Judge of the Supreme Court nominated by him
4. One eminent jurist
- There is **no provision** in the Lokpal Act to include the leader of the single largest party in the opposition as a member of the selection committee.
- Congress leader Mallikarjun Kharge has, for the seventh time, rejected the government's invitation to him to attend the meeting of the Lokpal selection panel, arguing that there was no provision for a special invitee to attend such a meet.

**CVC**

- According to Central Vigilance Commission Act, 2003, Central Vigilance Commissioner and the Vigilance Commissioners shall be appointed by the President after obtaining the recommendation of a Committee consisting of

**Chairperson** – Prime Minister

**Members**

1. Minister of Home Affairs
2. Leader of the Opposition in the House of the People
- The Leader of the Opposition in the House of the People shall, when no such leader has been so recognised, include the **leader of the single largest group in opposition of the Government** in the House of the People.

3. a

- Kaladan is a river in eastern Mizoram State of **India**, and in Chin State and Rakhine State of western **Myanmar**.
- The Kaladan River is called the Chhimtuipui River in India.

4. b

- The Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project is a project that will connect the eastern Indian seaport of Kolkata with Sittwe seaport in Rakhine State, Myanmar **by sea**.
- In Myanmar, it will then link Sittwe seaport to Paletwa, Chin State via the Kaladan **river**

**boat route**, and then from Paletwa **by road** to Mizoram state in Northeast India.

- **Ministry of External Affairs** is the nodal agency on Indian side.

5. a

- Indian non-basmati rice exporters have begun to lose the white rice market in Africa, the largest buyer, to competitors such as Vietnam, Myanmar and Pakistan as a **hike in the minimum support price** for paddy and an **appreciating rupee** have impacted the competitiveness of the cereal.

6. d

7. d

- The **Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO)** under Directorate General of Health Services, **Ministry of Health & Family Welfare** is the National Regulatory Authority (NRA) of India.

- Under the **Drugs and Cosmetics Act**, CDSCO is responsible for approval of New Drugs, Conduct of Clinical Trials, laying down the standards for Drugs, control over the quality of imported Drugs in the country and coordination of the activities of State Drug Control Organizations by providing expert advice with a view of bring about the uniformity in the enforcement of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act.

- **National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA)** implements and enforces the provisions of **Drugs price Control Order (DPCO)**.

8. b

- **Study Webs of Active Learning For Young Aspiring Minds (SWAYAM)** is an indigenous IT platform for hosting the Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs).

- The objective is to take the best teaching learning resources to all, including the most disadvantaged.

- It targets those students who could not complete their studies and professionals who wish to upgrade their knowledge.

- This is done through an indigenous developed IT platform that facilitates hosting of all the courses, taught in classrooms from 9th class till post-graduation to be accessed by anyone, anywhere at any time.



- It covers diverse disciplines such as arts, science, commerce, performing arts, social sciences and humanities subjects, engineering, technology, law, medicine, agriculture etc. in higher education domain.
- It was indigenously developed by **All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) with the help of Microsoft.**

### Swayam Prabha

- It is a group of 32 DTH channels devoted to telecasting of high-quality educational programmes on 24X7 basis using the GSAT-15 satellite.
- The channels cover higher education, school education and assist the students (class 11th & 12th) prepare for competitive exams.
- Information and Library Network (INFLIBNET), an autonomous Inter-University Centre (IUC) of UGC maintains the web portal.
- It widens the scope of SWAYAM and Channels for telecasting educational programmes dedicated to teacher training are also available.

9. a

- UNSC has primary responsibility for the maintenance of International peace and security.
- The council has 15 members: 5 Permanent - US, UK, Russia, France & China and 10 members elected by the General Assembly for **2-year terms.**
- While other organs of the UN can only make recommendations to member states, the Security Council has the power to make **binding decisions** on member states.
- All the members have one vote and permanent members have **veto power.**

10. c

- **Global Terrorism Index** is a report released annually by the Sydney-based **Institute for Economics & Peace.**

### 18-03-2019

1) Consider the following statements with respect to TROPEX-19

1. It is an annual joint naval exercise among the tropical countries.

2. All the three services of Indian defence forces participated in the event.

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 International Criminal Court (ICC)

1. It was established through the Rome Statute.
2. Its headquarters is located in The Hague, Netherlands.
3. India is a party to the ICC.

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

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

3) Who among the following will come under the purview of the Lokpal?

1. Prime Minister
2. Member of Parliament
3. Armed Forces
4. Central Government officials

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

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

4) Twin pit system sometimes seen in the news recently, is associated with which of the following schemes?

- a. Bharatmala Pariyojana
- b. Swachh Bharat Mission
- c. Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana

d. Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana

5) *Project Stream* sometimes seen in the news recently is a cloud gaming project of which of the following?

- Apple
- Google
- Facebook
- Microsoft

6) Consider the following statements with respect to *Lokpal*

- It will consist of a Chairperson and a maximum of eight members, of whom 50 percent shall be judicial members.
- Further, not less than 50 percent of the lokpal's members shall be from amongst SC/ST/OBCs, minorities and women.

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

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

7) The Union Cabinet has recently approved a new hydroelectricity policy. Consider the following statements in this regard:

- Under the policy, only small hydro projects of a capacity of less than 25 MW were treated as renewable energy.
- Large hydro projects were removed from the ambit of renewable energy and treated as a separate source of energy.

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

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

8) Which of the following is associated with *Project 75* of Indian Navy?

- Arihant

2. Karanj

3. Kohassa

4. Vagsheer

5. Kadamba

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- 2 and 4 only
- 1, 2 and 3 only
- 2, 4 and 5 only
- 2, 3, 4 and 5 only

9) Consider the following pairs

- Idai Cyclone – Philipines
- Papua Province – Indonesia

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

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

10) Consider the following statements with respect to *Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakram*

- The scheme entitles all pregnant women delivering in public health institutions to an absolutely free and no expense delivery including C- section.
- A pregnant woman is also entitled to free transport from home to the government health facility.

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

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

## Answers

- b

- Theatre Level Operational Readiness Exercise (TROPEX 19) is the **largest War Game of the Indian Navy**.
  - The exercise had commenced on 07 January 2019.
  - Earlier, TROPEX 19 had commenced with **Tri-services Amphibious Exercise** in the **Andaman & Nicobar Islands** with participation of **Indian Army and Indian Air Force**.
  - This was followed by the largest Coastal Defence Exercise code named **SEA VIGIL'** on 22 January and 23 January 2019 with participation of all 13 Coastal States and Union Territories along with all maritime stakeholders.
2. c
- It was created by the '**Rome Statute**'.
  - The Rome Statute is multilateral treaty which serves as ICC's foundational and governing document.
  - India is not a signatory to the Statute.
  - USA and China is also non-signatory of the statute.
  - Its headquarters is located in **The Hague, Netherlands**.
3. b
- All Public servants and all entities receiving donations from foreign sources in excess of Rs. 10 Lakh per year come under the purview of the Lokpal.
  - But the **Armed forces do not come under its ambit**.
  - All public Servants include:
    1. **Prime Minister**
    2. Ministers
    3. **Member of Parliament**
    4. Groups A, B, C and D officers and
    5. Central Government officials
  - However, the Lokpal shall not inquire into any allegation of corruption against a former or current PM if they are related to International relations, external and internal security, Public order, atomic energy and space.
4. b
- Twin pit systems are a type of toilet system.
  - Under the twin-pit latrine system, two pits are dug with honeycombed walls and earthen floors which allow liquid to percolate into the surrounding soil. When one pit is filled and closed off, waste flow is transferred to the second pit, allowing waste in the first pit to be converted into manure after a year or two.
  - The twin pit has been promoted by the **Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation** and the **World Health Organisation** as an **in-situ sanitation system**, which claims to bypass thorny issues as owners will be dealing with manure, not excreta.
5. b
- **Project Stream** is **Google's** first attempt at streaming video games over the internet using **cloud gaming** technology through its Chrome browser.
  - Rather than needing high-end hardware, Project Stream allows you to use whatever computer you have around to play video games.
6. c
- The Lokpal shall consist of
    1. A Chairperson, who is or has been a Chief Justice of India or is or has been a Judge of the Supreme Court or an eminent person.
    2. Such number of Members, **not exceeding eight** out of whom **fifty per cent** shall be **Judicial Members**: Provided that not less than **fifty per cent** of the Members of the Lokpal shall be from amongst the persons belonging to the **Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes, Minorities and women**.
7. d
- The Union Cabinet has recently approved a new hydroelectricity policy that, among other things, **included large hydro projects within the ambit of renewable energy**.
  - Prior to the policy, only small hydro projects of a capacity of less than 25 MW were treated as renewable energy. Large hydro projects were treated as a separate source of energy.
8. a
- Project 75 of Indian Navy envisages the construction of six conventional submarines with better sensors and weapons and the Air Independent Propulsion System (AIP).



1. Kalvari
2. Khanderi
3. Karanj
4. Vela
5. Vagir
6. Vagsheer

9. b

- **Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Malawi** has been hit by a vicious cyclone “**Idai**” recently.
- At least 73 people have died and more than 60 are missing in flash floods that happened recently in Indonesia's eastern province of **Papua**.

10. d

- Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakram entitles all pregnant women delivering in public health institutions to an absolutely free and no expense delivery including C- section.
- All expenses are borne by the government.
- A pregnant woman is also entitled to free transport from home to the government health facility.
- Entitlements include free drugs and consumables, free diagnostic, free blood, free diet up to 3 days for normal delivery and 7 days for C-section.
- Similar entitlements have been put in place for all sick newborns accessing public health institutions for healthcare till 30 days after birth.
- This initiative will also help in reducing maternal and infant mortality and morbidity.

**19-03-2019**

**1) Consider the following statements with respect to AFINDEX-19**

- 1. It is a field training exercise between India and African nations.**
- 2. AFINDEX-19 is the 6th edition in the series of events that held in India and Africa alternatively.**

**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 Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan (KUSUM) Scheme**

- 1. It aims at boosting farmers' income by allowing them to sell additional power to the grid through solar plants.**
- 2. It is implemented by the Ministry of power.**

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

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

**3) Consider the following statements with respect to Bomb Cyclones**

- 1. It occurs when a cold air mass collides with a warm air mass, such as air over warm ocean waters.**
- 2. A storm is considered a “bomb” when the pressure drops rapidly at least 24 millibars in 24 hours.**

**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) Assertion: March's full moon was popularly called as the “worm moon” by Native Americans.**

**Reason: It occurs at a time of year when the ground is softening, and earthworm casts start to reappear.**

**Select the correct answer using the codes given below:**

- a. Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A
- b. Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A

- c. A is true but R is false
- d. A is false but R is true

- c. West Bengal
- d. Himachal Pradesh

5) *Chitosan gel* sometimes seen in the news can be used for which of the following purposes?

1. To remove oil spill
2. To protect humans against harmful pesticides
3. To seal wounds during warfare

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

6) *Nitaqat system* followed by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia refers to which of the following?

- a. 15% of income should be dedicated to philanthropic activity
- b. Co-operation with the oil-exporting Gulf countries
- c. Reducing the dependence on expatriate workers
- d. None of the above

7) Consider the following statements

1. The constitution does not define the term backward classes.
2. National Commission for backward Class (NCBC) is a constitutional body.

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) *Jatra* is a folk theatre from prevalent in which of the following states?

- a. Tamilnadu
- b. Rajasthan

9) Match the following Mobile Apps with its respective purposes:

1. C Vigil - a. Grievance redressal system
2. Voter Helpline - b. Helps citizen report misdemeanors directly to Election Commission
3. Samadhan - c. Helps candidate to apply for permissions for rallies, loudspeakers
4. Suvidha - d. Helps to check a citizen to find his/her name on the list

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

10) Which of the following shares borders with Guinea?

1. Atlantic Ocean
2. Indonesia
3. French Guiana
4. Sierra Leone
5. Caribbean Sea

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

### Answers

1. a

- The *inaugural* Africa-India Field Training Exercise-2019 for India and African nations called AFINDEX-19 was recently started with a grand opening ceremony at Aundh Military Station, Pune.

- Contingents of the **17 African Nations** i.e. Benin, Botswana, Egypt, Ghana, Kenya, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe came together for the opening ceremony along with a contingent of Maratha Light Infantry representing India.
- The aim of the exercise is to practice the participating nations in planning and conduct of Humanitarian Mine Assistance and Peace Keeping Operations under Chapter VII of United Nations Peace Keeping Operations.

2. a

- Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan (KUSUM) is a farmer-oriented solar power scheme that will allow setting up grid-connected solar plants in rural areas and off-grid solar pumps.
- It involves decentralized solar power production of up to 28,250 Megawatt (Mw) over five years.
- It aims at boosting farmers' income by allowing them to sell additional power to the grid through solar plants.
- Under the scheme, the government plans to incentivize farmers to run solar farm water pumps and use barren land for generating power for extra income up to Rs 60,000 per acre every year.
- It will also have provisions for solarization of tube wells and lift irrigation projects.
- It is implemented by **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy**.

3. c

- **Bombogenesis**, a popular term used by meteorologists, occurs when a mid-latitude cyclone rapidly intensifies, dropping **at least 24 millibars over 24 hours**.
- A millibar measures atmospheric pressure.
- This can happen when a **cold air mass collides with a warm air mass**, such as air over warm ocean waters.
- The formation of this rapidly strengthening weather system is a process called bombogenesis, which creates what is known as a **bomb cyclone**.

4. a

5. d

### Sealing wounds

- It will help in preventing blood loss by forming a film over the wound.
- Coupled with platelets and red blood cells aggregation, it stops the bleeding.
- Its antibacterial and wound health properties are of added benefit.
- The gel is poured onto the wound and held with physical pressure for few minutes till the bleeding stops.

### Oil Spill

- A natural biopolymer, Chitosan (a kind of polysaccharide obtained from a chitin shell such as the shrimp's), which is water-soluble, has been chemically modified by researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Guwahati to selectively remove either an oil or water phase from an oil-water mixture.

### Act against Pesticides

- Using easily available, inexpensive natural polymers, researchers in Bengaluru have developed a gel for the skin to protect agricultural workers from harmful pesticide sprays.
- The gel does not just act as a simple physical barrier; it chemically deactivates pesticides.
- The base of the gel is chitosan, a natural substance extracted from the waste shells of crabs and shrimps.

6. c

- The Government of the Kingdom of **Saudi Arabia** has been following the policy of Nitaqat (Saudization), since 2011.
- This broadly aims at **increasing the employment opportunities of the Saudi citizens** both in the public and private sectors by **reducing dependence on the expatriate workers**.

7. c

- The Constitution does not define the term 'backward classes,' though it endorses the role of the state in ensuring and promoting social equality.
- National Commission for Backward Classes is a Constitutional body.
- The commission consists of one chairman and five Members with the term of three years.

8. c

- Fairs in honour of gods, or religious rituals and ceremonies have within their framework musical plays are known as **Jatra**.
- This form was born and nurtured in Bengal.
- It spreads throughout most of Bengali speaking areas of the Indian subcontinent, including Bangladesh and Indian states of **West Bengal**, Bihar, Assam, Orissa and Tripura.
- Krishna Jatra became popular due to Chaitanya's influence.
- Later, however, worldly love stories too, found a place in Jatra.
- The earlier form of Jatra has been musical.
- Dialogues were added at later stage.
- The actors themselves describe the change of scene, the place of action, etc.

9. d

- C Vigil - Helps citizen report misdemeanors directly to Election Commission
- Voter Helpline - Helps to check a citizen to find his/her name on the list
- Samadhan - Grievance redress system
- Suvidha - Helps candidate to apply for permissions for rallies, loudspeakers

10. c

**20-03-2019**

**1. Which of the following is incorrect about Delimitation Commission of India ?**

- Delimitation is commonly used in the context of drawing boundaries for Assembly and Lok Sabha Constituencies based on the recent census
- The Commission is a powerful and independent body whose orders cannot be challenged in a court of law.
- The orders of the Commission come into force on a date to be specified by the President of India.
- The current allocation of seats in the Lok Sabha to the states is frozen on the basis of 1991 Census of India.

**2. Consider the following statements about Indian Ocean dipole movement (IOD)**

- During the positive phase of IOD, eastern basin of the Indian Ocean warms up relative to the western basin of the Indian Ocean.
- The positive IOD phase has a positive effect on South West Monsoon in India.

**Select the Correct Code**

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2
- None of the above

**3. Which of the following is/are correct about Bureau of International Recycling ?**

- It is a non-profit organisation under Belgian law.
- It promotes materials recycling and facilitates free and fair trade of recyclables in a sustainable and competitive world economy.
- India is a member country in this organization

**Select the correct code**

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

d. All the above

**4. Consider the following statements about Kurnool Circular**

1. It was issued during Civil Disobedience movement in 1930s.
2. It intended to paralyze all means of communications and machinery of administration in Andhra Pradesh.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

**5. Match the following correctly**

<i>Places in News</i>	-	<i>Country</i>
1. Baghouz	-	Afghanistan
2. Beira	-	Syria
3. Deir ez- Zor	-	Saudi Arabia

Select the correct Code

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

**6. Which of the following statements is/are correct about copyright in India ?**

1. Copyright comes into existence as soon as a work is created.
2. Mathematical concepts enjoy copyright protection.
3. Copyright office comes under the administrative control of Department of higher education.

Select the correct Code

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

**7. Consider the following statements about Worldwide Cost of Living Survey**

1. It is released by World Economic Forum
2. Singapore is the costliest city.

Select the correct code

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

**8. Which of the following acts as bio-indicators**

1. Lichens
2. Peregrine Falcon
3. Honey
4. Water Striders

Select the correct code

- a. 1 & 4 only
- b. All except 2
- c. All except 3
- d. All of the above

**9. Consider the following statements regarding the Inter State Council**

1. It is a permanent constitutional body.
2. It investigates subjects in which the states or the Centre and the states have a common interest.
3. The recommendations of the Inter State council are binding on the government.

Which of the statements given above is/are *not* correct?

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

**10. Consider the following statements regarding the sessions of Indian Parliament:**

1. Prorogation of the session is done by the President of India
2. Adjournment does not affect the bills or any other business pending before the House.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

### Answers

- d
- b
- d
- b
  - It was issued during Quit India Movement.
- d
  - Baghouz, Deir ez-Zor - Syria
  - Beira - Mozambique
- c
- b
  - It is released by the Economist Intelligence Unit
- d
- a
- c

**21-03-2019**

1) Consider the following statements with respect to *Sabang port*

- It is a deep sea port located in Seychelles.
- It was jointly developed by the Government of India and the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

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 *West Nile Virus (WNV)*

- It is a flavivirus, causing the West Nile Fever – a mosquito borne zoonotic disease.
- It is related to viruses that cause Japanese Encephalitis, yellow fever and St. Louis encephalitis.

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

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

3) *Voluntary Code of Ethics* sometimes seen in the news recently was associated with which of the following?

- Social Media Regulations
- Gene editing guidelines
- Treatment of Prisoners of wars
- None of the above

4) Consider the following statements with respect to *National Anti-Profiteering Authority (NAA)*

- It was set up under the Central GST Act, 2017.
- It aims to check whether trade and industry were passing on rate reductions under the Goods and Services (GST) Tax.
- NAA can act only based on consumer complaints.

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

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

5) Consider the following statements with respect to *Exercise Mitra Shakti*

1. It is a bilateral military exercise held annually between the armies of India and France.
2. It aims to build and promote close relations between armies of both the countries.

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

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

6) *World Happiness Report* was released annually by which of the following agencies?

- a. Amnesty International
- b. International Labour Organisation
- c. United Nations Development Programme
- d. Sustainable Development Solutions Network

7) Assertion: Very small animals are rarely found in Polar Regions.

Reason: Small animals have a larger surface area relative to their volume.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- a. Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A
- b. Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A
- c. A is true but R is false
- d. A is false but R is true

8) Consider the following statements with respect to *Swajal Yojana*

1. It is a community owned drinking water programme for sustained piped drinking water supply powered by solar energy.
2. Under the scheme, 90% of the project cost will be taken care by the Government and the remaining 10% of the project cost will be contributed by the community.

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

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

9) *Exercise CORPAT* is a bilateral maritime exercise between India and \_\_\_\_\_?

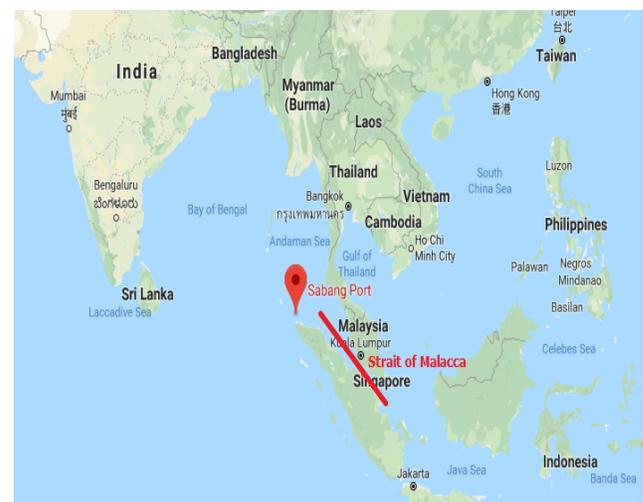
- a. Malaysia
- b. Oman
- c. Singapore
- d. Indonesia

10) In which of the following states, *Kadalundy Bird Sanctuary* is located?

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

## Answers

1. d



- India is developing its *maiden deep-sea port in Indonesia's Sabang* close to Andaman and Nicobar Islands making its maiden foray in the south-east Asian amid China's slew of connectivity plans for ASEAN under BRI.

- The Sabang port is being developed in partnership with **neighbour and strategic partner Indonesia**.
  - An Indian Coast Guard Ship **Vijit**, has recently visited Sabang, Indonesia.
  - The deep sea port will give India wide access to South-east Asia as a counter-balancing force.
  - The port will be a key element in India's Indo-Pacific strategy.
2. c
- West Nile Fever is a mosquito borne zoonotic disease caused by a flavivirus -West Nile Virus (WNV).
  - This virus is related to viruses that cause Japanese Encephalitis, yellow fever and St. Louis encephalitis.
  - Human infection is most often due to bites from infected mosquitoes.
  - To date, no human-to-human transmission of WNV through casual contact has been documented.
  - Infection with WNV is either asymptomatic (no symptoms) in around 80% of infected people, or can lead to West Nile fever or severe West Nile disease.
3. a
- The Social Media Platforms and Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI) have recently presented a "**Voluntary Code of Ethics for the General Election 2019**".
  - The 'Code of Ethics' has been developed to ensure free, fair & ethical usage of Social Media Platforms including **Facebook, WhatsApp, Twitter, Google, ShareChat and TikTok** etc. to maintain the integrity of the electoral process for the **General Elections 2019**.
  - The Code voluntarily agreed upon by the Participants comes into operation with immediate effect.
4. a
- The National Anti-Profitteering Authority (NAA) was set up under Section 171 of the Central GST Act, 2017 to check whether trade and industry were passing on rate reductions under the Goods and Services (GST) Tax.
- **Consumer complaints are not the only trigger for the NAA to act**, said its chairman B.N. Sharma recently.
  - Mock purchases can be made by NAA offices to check a trader's invoice for profiteering.
  - Besides interested parties, the NAA chairman, as a civilian, could also take note of any instance.
5. a
- Exercise **Mitra Shakti** is conducted **annually** as part of military diplomacy and interaction between armies of **India & Sri Lanka**.
  - The aim of the exercise is to build and promote close relations between armies of both the countries and to enhance ability of joint exercise commander to take military contingents of both nations under command.
  - The exercise will involve tactical level operations in an international Counter Insurgency and Counter Terrorist environment under United Nations mandate.
6. d
- India figures at 140th place, seven spots down from last year's 133rd on UN World Happiness Report- 2019, released recently by the **Sustainable Development Solutions Network** for the United Nations on March 20, which was designated as the World Happiness Day by the UN General Assembly in 2012.
  - The list is topped by Finland for the second year in a row.
7. a
- Very small animals are rarely found in Polar Regions.
  - Since small animals have a larger surface area relative to their volume, they tend to lose body heat very fast when it is cold outside; then they have to expend much energy to generate body heat through metabolism.
8. d
- Swajal Yojna was launched in 115 Aspirational districts in the country.
  - It is a community owned drinking water programme for sustained piped drinking water supply powered by solar energy.
  - It ensures the availability of clean drinking water to every household round the year.

- The scheme will train hundreds of rural technicians for operation and maintenance of Swajal units which generates employment in the rural areas.
- Under the scheme, **90%** of the project cost will be taken care by the **Government** and the remaining **10%** of the project cost will be contributed by the **community**.
- The Operations and management of the project will be taken care of by the local villagers.

9. d

- 33rd edition of the **India-Indonesia Coordinated Patrol (IND-INDO CORPAT)** – a bilateral maritime patrolling exercise is being held recently.
- The IND-INDO CORPAT Series of bilaterals seek to underscore India's peaceful presence and solidarity with friendly Maritime neighbours countries to ensure good order in the maritime domain, consolidate interoperability and strengthen existing bonds of friendship between **India and Indonesia**.

10. a

**22-03-2019**

1) Consider the following statements with respect to **Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)**

1. It is an initiative of World Bank.
2. It is envisaged as a knowledge exchange and capacity development partnership.

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

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

2) Consider the following statements with respect to **International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR)**

1. It is a strategic framework adopted by United Nations Member States in 2000.
2. It guides and coordinates the efforts of a wide range of partners to achieve a substantive reduction in disaster losses.

3. The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) is the secretariat of the ISDR.

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

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

3) Consider the following statements with respect to **Shanghai Cooperation Organization**

1. India is a founding member of SCO.
2. Recently, Hindi was added as the official working languages of the SCO.
3. Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) headquartered in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, is a permanent organ of the SCO.

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

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

4) **World Economic Outlook (WEO)** is a report published by which of the following agencies?

- a. World Economic Forum
- b. International Monetary Fund
- c. World Bank
- d. Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development

5) Consider the following statements with respect to voting rights in the **Lok Sabha Elections - 2019**

1. Those who have been left out of the complete draft of the National Register of Citizens (NRC) will not be able to cast their vote at any cases.
2. Doubtful Voter (D-Voters) will not be able to exercise their franchise in the Lok Sabha poll.



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

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

6) Consider the following statements

- It is one of the largest atolls in the world.
- It is one of the important turtle nesting site in the Indian Ocean.
- It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Identify the site that correctly matches with the above description:

- Vancouver Island, British Columbia
- West Falkland, Falkland Islands
- Aldabra atoll, Seychelles
- Marshall Islands, USA

7) Consider the following statements with respect to *Project Saamrath* sometimes seen in the news recently

- It aimed at skilling, upskilling and reskilling 10 lakh personnel involved in the rubber sector, by 2020.
- The training is being provided under the Recognition of Prior Learning Scheme of Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY).

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 *Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY)*

- It is an outcome based skill certification scheme implemented by National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC).
- The objective is to enable a large number of Indian youth to take up

industry-relevant skill training that will help them in securing a better livelihood.

- It comes under the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.

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

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

9) *Yanadi tribal community* sometimes seen in the news recently are from which of the following states?

- Gujarat
- Haryana
- Sikkim
- Andhra Pradesh

10) In which of the following states, *Nahargarh Biological Park* is located?

- Karnataka
- Kerala
- Rajasthan
- Madhya Pradesh

## Answers

1. b

- The first International Workshop on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (IWDR 2018) was held in January 2018.
- The second International workshop on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (IWDR 2019) will further build upon some of the ideas generated at the IWDR 2018 as a crucial milestone towards the establishment of the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI).
- The CDRI is envisaged as a knowledge exchange and capacity development partnership.
- India** announced the creation of a CDRI soon after the Asian Ministerial Conference on

Disaster Risk Reduction, which was held in New Delhi in 2016.

2. d

- The International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) is a strategic framework adopted by United Nations Member States in 2000.
- The ISDR guides and coordinates the efforts of a wide range of partners to achieve a substantive reduction in disaster losses.
- It aims to build resilient nations and communities as an essential condition for sustainable development.
- The **United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR)** is the secretariat of the International Strategy of Disaster Reduction and disaster risk reduction community.
- The disaster risk reduction community comprises numerous organizations, States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, financial institutions, technical bodies and civil society, which work together and share information to reduce disaster risk.

3. a

- **Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)** is a Eurasian political, economic, and military organisation which was founded by the leaders of China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.
- Current member states (8) - China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, India and Pakistan.
- Observer States (4) - Afghanistan, Belarus, Iran and Mongolia.
- Dialogue Partners (6) - Azerbaijan, Armenia, Cambodia, Nepal, Turkey, Sri Lanka.
- The official working languages of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation are Chinese and Russian.
- The SCO Secretariat, based in Beijing, is the main permanent executive body of the SCO.
- The Council of Heads of State is the top decision-making body in the SCO.
- The Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS), headquartered in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, is a permanent organ of the SCO which serves to promote cooperation of member states against terrorism, separatism and extremism.

- All SCO members, except for China, India & Pakistan, are also members of the Eurasian Economic Community.

- The original purpose of the SCO was to serve as a counterbalance to NATO and in particular to avoid conflicts that would allow the United States to intervene in areas bordering both Russia and China.

4. b

5. b

- Allaying fears of over 40 lakh persons whose names were not included in the draft Assam NRC, the Election Commission of India (ECI) has recently told the Supreme Court that exclusion will not affect their voting rights in the upcoming Lok Sabha polls **provided their names feature in the electoral rolls.**

6. c

7. c

- The Rubber Skill Development Council (RSDC) has launched **Project Saamrath**, which is aimed at skilling, upskilling and reskilling 10 lakh personnel involved in the rubber sector, by 2020.
- Over 10 lakh personnel are involved in NR (natural rubber) plantation work and the requirement of skilling is huge for increasing production and productivity.
- The Council has joined hands with the Rubber Board in upskilling the growers.
- The training is being provided under the **Recognition of Prior Learning Scheme of Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana** across natural rubber plantations, tyre services and rubber manufacturing.

8. d

- **Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY)** is an outcome based skill certification scheme implemented by National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC).
- The objective is to enable a large number of Indian youth to take up industry-relevant skill training that will help them in securing a better livelihood.
- Individuals with prior learning experience or skills will also be assessed and certified under Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL).

- Training and Assessment fees are completely paid by the Government.
- The Various components are short term training, recognition of prior learning, special projects, kaushal and rozgarmela, placement guidelines and monitoring guidelines.

9. d

10. c

- Nahargarh Biological Park is part of Nahargarh sanctuary in **Jaipur, Rajasthan**.
- It is located in the foot hills of Aravalli.
- The park is known for breeding centre of lions.
- State's first lion safari was recently inaugurated in this park.

**23-03-2019**

1) Consider the following statements with respect to *Golan Heights* sometimes seen in the news recently

1. It is a fertile volcanic plateau long disputed between Israel and Syria.
2. It was largely occupied by Syria.
3. Golan is key to the region's water supply – an important issue between the two parties.

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

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

2) Consider the following statements with respect to *Indian Statistical Institute (ISI)*

1. It is one of the institutions which gained the status of an Institution of National Importance by an act of the Indian Parliament.
2. ISI is completely funded by Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

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 *World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)*

1. It is one of the specialised agencies of United Nation (UN).
2. It is headquartered in The Hague, Netherlands.
3. It is designed to promote the worldwide protection of both industrial property and copyrighted materials.

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 *Atacama Desert*

1. It is the most arid cold desert in the world.
2. It is located in the western coast of South America.

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) Which of the following best describes the term *Holacracy*?

- a. It is the government by a small group of the wealthiest citizens
- b. It is a government whose supreme leader rules by divine right which is hereditary
- c. It is a new management framework that empowers organisations to self-manage without managers

- d. It is the system followed by Germany during World War II

6) Which of the following is *not necessary* for a storm to be considered as a blizzard?

1. There is sustained wind or frequent gusts of 35 miles per hour or greater.
2. There is falling and/or blowing snow, frequently reducing visibility to less than one-quarter of a mile.
3. The necessary conditions must persist for a minimum of three hours.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- 1 and 2 only
- 1 and 3 only
- 1, 2 and 3
- None of the above

7) *Berne Convention* was related to which of the following?

- Rights of people with disability
- Prohibition of Radio-active waste
- Protection of Congo Peatlands
- Protection of Copyrights

8) Consider the following statements with respect to *LIMA-2019*

1. Indian Air Force is participating in *LIMA-2019 International Maritime Aero Expo* for the first time.
2. Participation of IAF in *LIMA-2019* will provide an opportunity to air-warriors to interact with their Royal Malaysian Air Force (RMAF) counterparts.

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

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

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

1. It is a flagship program for voter education, spreading voter awareness and promoting voter literacy in India.
2. It was implemented by the Ministry of Parliamentary affairs.

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

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

10) *Putul Nautch* is a form of puppetry prevalent in which of the following states?

- Tamilnadu
- Maharashtra
- Haryana
- West Bengal

## Answers

1. a

### Israel and the Golan Heights

In the 1967 Six-Day War, Israel captured the West Bank and east Jerusalem from Jordan, Gaza and Sinai from Egypt and the Golan Heights from Syria.



2. c

- The Indian Statistical Institute (ISI), a unique institution devoted to the research, teaching and application of statistics, natural sciences and social sciences.
- Founded by Professor P.C. Mahalanobis in Kolkata on 17th December, 1931, the institute gained the status of an Institution of National Importance by an act of the Indian Parliament, the Indian Statistical Institute act, in 1959.

- ISI is completely funded by Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Government of India.
3. b
- WIPO is designed to promote the worldwide protection of both industrial property (inventions, trademarks, and designs) and copyrighted materials (literary, musical, photographic, and other artistic works).
  - HQ - Geneva, Switzerland
  - WIPO's predecessor was The United International Bureaux for the Protection of Intellectual Property (BIPRI).
  - BIPRI administered two conventions such as the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property and the Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works.
  - BIRPI is thus transformed to become WIPO.
4. c
5. c
- Holacracy is management without managers, where everybody is collectively participating in the job of management in their own way, instead of putting that burden on one person.
  - Holacracy turns everyone into a leader; it distributes authority and decision-making throughout an organisation and defines people not by hierarchy and titles but by roles.
  - Holacracy is gaining steam around the world in recent times.
  - It is being used by over 1,000 companies across industry verticals in Dubai, Shanghai, Amsterdam, Bengaluru, London, Las Vegas and Africa.
6. d
- The term **blizzard** describes a severe winter weather condition (violent snowstorm) characterized by strong winds, cold temperatures, and reduced visibility due to falling or blowing snow.
  - According to U.S. National Weather Service, 'blizzard' means the following conditions prevail:
    1. There is sustained wind or frequent gusts of 35 miles per hour or greater.
    2. There is falling and/or blowing snow, frequently reducing visibility to less than one-quarter of a mile.
    3. The conditions must persist for a minimum of three hours.
7. d
- Berne Convention is an international agreement governing copyright (for protection of literary and artistic works), which was first accepted in Berne, Switzerland, in 1886.
  - The Convention is open to all States and Instruments of ratification or accession must be deposited with the Director General of WIPO.
  - The Convention deals with the protection of works and the rights of their authors.
  - It is based on three basic principles
    1. principle of national treatment
    2. principle of automatic protection
    3. principle of independence of protection
  - It contains a series of provisions determining the minimum protection to be granted, as well as special provisions available to developing countries.
8. c
- Langkawi International Maritime Aero Expo (LIMA-2019) is planned in Langkawi, Malaysia from 26 March 2019 to 30 March 2019.
  - Indian Air Force is participating in the Maritime Aero Expo for the first time, during which it will showcase its indigenously developed LCA fighter aircraft.
  - Participation of IAF in LIMA-2019 will provide an opportunity to air-warriors to interact with their Royal Malaysian Air Force (RMAF) counterparts and foster close relationship between the two services.
  - This will serve as a foundation for any future interaction with the Malaysian Air Force.
  - It will also provide an opportunity to RMAF to assess the capabilities of LCA.
9. b
- Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation program, better known as SVEEP, is the flagship program of the **Election Commission of India** for voter education, spreading voter awareness and promoting voter literacy in India.



- Since 2009, we have been working towards preparing India's electors and equipping them with basic knowledge related to the electoral process.

10. d

- The traditional rod puppet form of West Bengal is known as Putul Nautch.
- They are carved from wood and follow the various artistic styles of a particular region.

**25-03-2019**

1) Recently, the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation organised a two day National Workshop on Management of Grey Water in Rural Areas in collaboration with Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras with support from UNICEF India. Which one of the following best describes the term *Grey Water*?

- It is the wastewater generated during the process of hydraulic fracturing
- It is the wastewater generated from bathroom, laundry and kitchen
- It is the agricultural runoff water consisting of nutrients like Nitrogen and Phosphorous
- None of the above

2) Consider the following statements with respect to *Nikshay Poshan Yojana (NPY)*

- It is a centrally sponsored scheme under National Health Mission (NHM).
- Only TB patients are beneficiaries of the scheme.
- It was launched by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.

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

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

3) Consider the following statements with respect to *Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)*

- It aims to create a network of ports, bridges and rail lines linking China with Africa and Europe.

- Italy is the first G7 country to sign up to work together with the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

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

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

4) *Duqm port* sometimes seen in the news recently is located on?

- Persian Gulf
- Red Sea
- Indian Ocean
- Arabian Sea

5) Consider the following statements with respect to *Green humphead parrotfish*

- They are the world's largest parrotfish.
- It inhibits coral growth by ramming its enormous green head against the corals to dislodge them.
- These are not legally protected in India though the IUCN categorises them as Vulnerable.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- 1 and 2 only
- 1 and 3 only
- 1, 2 and 3
- None of the above

6) *GRAPES-3 Muon Telescope* sometimes seen in the news recently was located in?

- Kerala
- Himachal Pradesh
- Jammu and Kashmir
- Tamilnadu

7) Consider the following statements with respect to *Cloud Structure*

1. Clouds have negative charges along their lower side and positive charges on the top of it.
2. Cumulus clouds look like fluffy, white cotton balls in the sky.

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

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

8) Which of the following are the main three sections of "Tripitaka"?

1. Vinaya Pitaka
2. Metta Sutta
3. Sutta Pitaka
4. Cariya Pitaka
5. Abhidhamma Pitaka

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

9) Ind AS sometimes seen in the news recently, was associated with which of the following?

- a. Aviation standard norms
- b. Accounting Standards
- c. Accelerated Share Repurchases norms
- d. None of the above

10) Rabha Tribes belongs to which of the following states?

- a. Assam
- b. Chhattisgarh
- c. Odisha
- d. Telangana

- On the occasion of World Water Day on 22nd March 2019, the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation organised a two day National Workshop on Management of Grey Water in Rural Areas and Arsenic and Fluoride Remediation (March 21, 22) in collaboration with Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras with support from UNICEF India.

2. d

- Nikshay Poshan Yojana was launched by the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**.
- The ministry announced the scheme for incentives for nutritional support to **TB patients**.
- **All notified TB patients are beneficiaries of the scheme.**
- The scheme is a centrally sponsored scheme under **National Health Mission (NHM)**.
- This scheme is implemented across all States and UTs in India.

3. c

4. d

- Oman has recently signed an agreement with the United States that allow American ships and warplanes to take advantage of her ports and airports.
- The agreement will allow the US forces to take advantage from the facilities offered at some of the Sultanate's ports and airports during visits of the US military vessels and aircraft, **particularly in the port of Duqm**.
- Duqm port is located in southern Oman **on the Arabian Sea** and around 500 kilometres from the Strait of Hormuz. At the mouth of the Gulf, the strait is crucial to global energy supplies.

5. b

- **Green humphead parrotfish**, *Bolbometopon muricatum*, is an important component of coral reef ecosystem, but is highly endangered globally.
- In India, they are found in **Andaman & Nicobar Islands**.
- They are **not legally protected in India** though the IUCN categorises them as **Vulnerable**.
- They are the **world's largest parrotfish**.

## Answers

1. b

- Ramming its enormous green head against corals to dislodge them, a single parrotfish can nibble up to five tonnes of coral every year.
- **Though seemingly destructive, this activity promotes coral growth** and keeps reef ecosystems healthy.
- However, numbers of these parrotfish have decreased worldwide.
- This fish is highly prized resource, but is threatened due to limited knowledge about its distribution and abundance in Indian waters.

6. d

- GRAPES-3 (Gamma Ray Astronomy PeV EnergieS phase -3) is designed to study cosmic rays with an array of air shower detectors and a large area muon detector.
- For the first time in the world, researchers at the GRAPES-3 muon telescope facility in **Ooty, Tamilnadu** have measured the electrical potential, size and height of a thundercloud that passed overhead on December 1, 2014.

7. c

8. a

- Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena has recently handed over a proposal seeking to declare the Theravada Tripitaka, the sacred scripture of Buddhists, as a UNESCO World Heritage.
- Buddha's teachings were initially propagated through word of mouth for generations till the Tripitaka was finally written down in Sri Lanka about 100 years BC.
- The teachings are contained in three volumes titled '**Sutta, Vinaya and Abhidhamma**'.

9. b

- Ind AS or **Indian Accounting Standards** govern the accounting and recording of financial transactions as well as the presentation of statements such as profit and loss account and balance sheet of a company.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has recently deferred the implementation of the new accounting norms, **Ind AS**, indefinitely, as necessary amendments to the relevant law are yet to be made.

10. a

- The Rabhas are one of nine Schedule Tribes from the districts on the plains of **Assam**.
- The biggest concentration of their population is on the south bank of the Brahmaputra in the districts of Goalpara, Kamrup and Darrang.

**26-03-2019****1) EMISAT sometimes seen in the news recently, is a**

- Satellite intended for electromagnetic spectrum measurement
- Database of emigrants developed by the International Organisation for Migration
- Radio emitting satellite telescope developed by NASA to detect Fast Radio Burst (FRBs)
- None of the above

**2) Nandan Nilakeni Committee sometimes seen in the news recently, was constituted for which of the following purposes?**

- To deepen digital payments
- To enhance financial inclusion through Fintech
- To recommend measures to promote IT sector in India
- Both a and b

**3) Consider the following statements with respect to SPARC Scheme**

- It aims at improving the research ecosystem of India's higher educational institutions by facilitating academic and research collaborations between Indian and foreign institutions.**
- The quality benchmark for SPARC is that only such Indian institutes can apply which are in top 100 NIRF ranking or top 100 NIRF subject ranking.**

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

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

4) Consider the following statements:

1. He was a great lover of democracy and a great diplomat.
2. He is credited as the 'pioneer of rocket technology' in India.
3. He planted the Tree of Liberty at Seringapatam.

Identify the personality who correctly matches with the above description:

- a. Tipu Sultan
- b. General Harris
- c. Babur
- d. Hyder Ali

5) Consider the following statements with respect to *IMPRESS Scheme*

1. The objective of this scheme is to identify and fund research proposals in social sciences with maximum impact on the governance and society
2. It comes under the Ministry of Human Resource and Development.

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

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

6) Which of the following borders the country *Croatia*?

- a. Adriatic Sea
- b. Mediterranean Sea
- c. Ionian Sea
- d. It is a landlocked country

7) India has recently inducted *Chinook* to its fleet. *Chinook* is a/an

- a. Attack Helicopter
- b. Ultra light Howitzers
- c. Heavy lift Helicopter
- d. Nuclear submarine

8) *Mueller report* sometimes seen in the news recently, was associated with which of the following?

- a. U.S Investigative report
- b. Two state solution
- c. Recognition of Golan Heights by USA
- d. None of the above

9) "A quantum leap for gender equality: For a better future of work for all" is a report released by which of the following agencies?

- a. World Economic Forum
- b. International Labour Organisation
- c. World Resource Institute
- d. United Nation Development Programme

10) *Bihu Dance* is a popular art form prevalent in which of the following states?

- a. Assam
- b. Gujarat
- c. Tripura
- d. None of the above

### Answers

1. a

- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) will launch 29 **satellites** including the primary payload EMISAT, on the first of April.
- EMISAT has been developed for monitoring radar network by India.
- An ISRO release says, EMISAT, weighing 436 kg, is intended for **electromagnetic spectrum measurement**.

2. d

- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has appointed a 5-member committee under the chairmanship of **Nandan Nilekani** to further **deepen digital payments and enhance financial inclusion through Fintech**.

3. c

- **SPARC Scheme** aims at improving the research ecosystem of India's higher educational institutions by facilitating academic and research collaborations between Indian and foreign institutions.

- The quality benchmark for SPARC is that only such Indian institutes can apply which are in top 100 NIRF ranking or top 100 NIRF subject ranking.
- For foreign universities the benchmark is either top 500 of QS ranking or top 200 of QS subject ranking.

4. a

- **Tipu Sultan** was a well educated man and could freely converse in Arabic, Persian, Kanarese and Urdu.
- He was a great warrior (he was known as the '**Tiger of Mysore**') and gave maximum care to the raising and maintenance of an efficient military force.
- Tipu was a patron of science and technology. He is credited as the '**pioneer of rocket technology**' in India.
- He wrote a military manual explaining the operation of rockets. He was also a pioneer in introducing sericulture to the Mysore State.
- Tipu was a great lover of democracy and a great diplomat. He gave his support to the French soldiers at Seringapatam in setting up a **Jacobin Club in 1797**.
- Tipu himself became a member of the Jacobin Club and allowed himself to be called Citizen Tipu.
- He planted the **Tree of Liberty at Seringapatam**.

5. d

- **Impactful Policy Research in Social Science (IMPRESS)** has been launched to promote policy research in social science.
- The objective is to identify and fund research proposals in social sciences with maximum impact on the governance and society.
- Under this, 1,500 research projects will be funded for 2 years.
- The Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) has been entrusted with the task of implementing and monitoring the scheme.
- Some of the identified domains under the scheme are - State and democracy, Urban transformation, Media culture and society, Employment skills and rural transformation, Governance innovation and public policy, innovation, Agriculture and rural

development, Social media and society, Politics law and economics.

6. a

7. c

- The Indian Air Force (IAF) has recently inducted the first four CH-47F (I) **Chinook heavy lift helicopters** into its fleet of aircraft at the Air Force Station, Chandigarh.

8. a

- U.S. Attorney General has recently released a summary of special counsel Robert Mueller's long-awaited report into allegations that **Donald Trump's campaign colluded with Russia in the 2016 presidential election**.
- Special counsel Robert Mueller did not find evidence that U.S. President Donald Trump's campaign "conspired or coordinated" with Russia to influence the 2016 presidential election but reached no conclusion on whether Mr. Trump obstructed justice.

9. b

10. a

**27-03-2019**

**1) Consider the following statements with respect to African Catfish**

1. The fish has the ability to survive in shallow mud for long period of time and high tolerance for poorly oxygenated water.
2. They are invasive in India and a threat to native fish species.
3. It was introduced in India without official sanction.

**Which of the statements given above are correct?**

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

**2) Consider the following statements with respect to Exercise Mitra Shakti**

1. It is a joint military exercise between India and Srilanka.

2. The exercise is an annual event held in the two participant countries alternatively.

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 *Simultaneous Elections in India*

- It refers to holding elections to Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha simultaneously, once in a five year.
- Simultaneous elections used to be held in India until 1967.

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

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

4) *Global Energy & CO<sub>2</sub> status report* sometimes seen in the news recently was published by which of the following agencies?

- International Energy Agency
- UN Environment Programme
- International Renewable Energy Agency
- UN Framework Convention on Climate Change

5) Consider the following statements with respect to *Drugs and Clinical Trials Rules, 2019*

- It reduces the time for approval of applications to 90 days for drugs manufactured in India and 30 days for those developed outside the country.
- The requirement of a local clinical trial may be waived for approval of a new drug if it is approved and marketed in any of the countries specified by the Drugs Controller General.

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

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

6) Which of the following is *not correct* with respect to *Bioacoustics*?

- It is the study of animal sound production, dispersion and reception.
- It is used to monitor threats to biodiversity as well as to study animal behaviour and diversity.
- The field of Bioacoustics is still in nascent stages in India.
- None of the above

7) Consider the following statements with respect to *National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC)*

- It was formerly called as the National Institute of Communicable Diseases (NICD).
- It functions under the administrative control of Ministry of Health and Family welfare.
- Its mandate broadly covers three areas viz. Services, Trained health manpower development and Research.

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

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

8) Arrange the following in West to East direction:

- Alps Mountain
- Mount Makalu
- Appalachian Mountain

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:



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

9) Consider the following pairs

**Places in News – Country**

- 1. Caracas – Jordan
- 2. Golan Heights – Mozambique
- 3. Kyushu Island – Japan

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

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

10) World Malaria Report 2018 was published by which of the following agencies?

- a. International Centre for Disease Control
- b. World Health Organisation
- c. Global Health Council
- d. International Centre for Bio-technology Information

**Answers**

1. c

- African catfish (*Clarias gariepinus*) is a carnivorous species introduced in India **without official sanction**.
- The species was found to thrive well in the freshwater lakes, rivers, swamps and urban sewage systems.
- The voracious predator feeds on living and dead animal matter, including fish.
- Its ability to survive in shallow mud for long periods of time, high tolerance to poorly oxygenated water and fast breeding gives it an edge over other native species.
- Despite a ban imposed by the union government in 2000, farming of catfish continues in India.

2. c

- The joint training exercise MITRASHAKTI - VI between **Indian and Sri Lanka Army** is being held from 26, March 2019 at Diyatalawa in **Sri Lanka**.
- The exercise is an **annual** event held in India and Sri Lanka **alternatively**.
- MITRASHAKTI is one of the largest bilateral armies to army exercises conducted in the region.

3. b

4. a

- India emitted 2,299 million tonnes of carbon dioxide in 2018, a 4.8% rise from last year, according to the **Global Energy & CO2 status report** by the **International Energy Agency (IEA)**.
- India's emissions growth this year was higher than that of the United States and China – the two biggest emitters in the world – and this was primarily due to a rise in coal consumption.
- China, the United States, and India together accounted for nearly 70% of the rise in energy demand.

5. b

- The Union Health Ministry has recently notified the Drugs and Clinical Trials Rules, 2019
- The rules will apply to all new drugs, investigational new drugs for human use, clinical trials, bio-equivalence studies and ethics committees.
- The highlights of the notification includes reduction in time for approving applications, which has now come down to **30 days for drugs manufactured in India and 90 days for those developed outside the country**.
- Also, in case of no communication from Drugs Controller General of India, the application will be deemed to have been approved.
- As per the new rule, the requirement of a **local clinical trial may be waived** for approval of a new drug if it is approved and marketed in any of the countries (EU, UK, Australia, Japan and US) specified by the Drugs Controller General **with the approval of the government**.

6. d  
7. c  
8. c
- First Indian Army Mountaineering Expedition to **Mt Makalu** (8485m) – the fifth highest mountain in the world was flagged off recently.
  - It is located in the Mahalangur Himalayas, southeast of Mount Everest, on the border between Nepal and Tibet, China.



9. a
- In Japan, an earthquake with a preliminary magnitude of 5.4 struck off Miyazaki Prefecture, on the southeast coast of Kyushu Island, **Japan**.
  - The Russian planes and military personnel arrived outside the Venezuelan capital Caracas recently.
  - The United States accused Russia of “reckless escalation” of the situation in **Venezuela** by deploying military planes and personnel to the crisis-stricken South American nation.
10. b

**28-03-2019**

1) Consider the following statements with respect to **Base erosion and profit shifting**

1. It refers to tax avoidance strategies that exploit gaps and mismatches in tax rules to artificially shift profits to low or no-tax locations.

2. **Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS) Action plan** was adopted by the **Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)** and **G-7 countries**.

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 **NOTAM**

1. It is a notice containing information concerning the establishment, condition or change in any aeronautical facility, service, procedure or hazard.
2. It is mandatory for a country to issue NOTAM before any missile test.

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) **Mission Shakti** sometimes seen in the news recently is associated with which of the following?

- a. Immunization Program
- b. India's fastest Super Computer
- c. Program against Stubble burning
- d. None of the above

4) Consider the following statements with respect to **None Of The Above (NOTA)** option used in Elections in India

1. The **NOTA** option was first used in 2013 Lok Sabha elections.
2. The **NOTA** symbol is of a ballot paper with a black cross mark.
3. Even if the maximum number of votes cast is for **NOTA**, the candidate getting

the most of the remaining votes would be declared the winner.

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

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

5) Consider the following statements with respect to *Anti Missile Satellite Test (ASAT)*

- It demonstrates ISRO's capability to hit and destroy satellites in space through missiles launched from the ground.
- India is the third country after U.S.A and Russia having demonstrated their ASAT capabilities.

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

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

6) In which of the following elections in India, *None Of The Above (NOTA)* option will be available?

- Lok Sabha
- Rajya Sabha
- State Legislative Assemblies
- State Legislative council

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

7) Consider the following statements with respect to *Low Earth Orbit*

- It is an Earth-centered orbit with an altitude of 2,000 km or less.

2. Most manmade objects in space are in Low Earth Orbit.

3. It is where the International Space Station (ISS) orbits the Earth and carries out its operations.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

8) Consider the following statements with respect to *World Food Programme (WFP)*

- World Food Programme is the UN agency focused on hunger alleviation and food security.
- It was formally established in 1963 by the FAO and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).
- Ministry of Agriculture is the nodal ministry for implementation of WFP in India.

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

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

9) *Global Energy Transition index 2019* was published by which of the following agencies?

- World Economic Forum
- International Energy Agency
- Sustainable Development Solutions Network
- None of the above

10) *Mankading* sometimes seen in the news recently was associated with which of the following?

- Space
- Sports
- Mining
- Energy

## Answers

1. a

- The **OECD/G20** Inclusive Framework on Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS) brings together over 125 countries and jurisdictions to collaborate on the implementation of the BEPS Package.
- **BEPS** refers to tax planning strategies that exploit gaps and mismatches in tax rules to artificially shift profits to low or no-tax locations where there is little or no economic activity.

2. c

- **NOTAM or Notice to Airmen** are notices distributed by means of telecommunication containing information concerning the establishment, condition or change in any aeronautical facility, service, procedure or hazard, the timely knowledge of which is essential to personnel concerned with flight operations.
- As is **mandatory for any missile test**, India did issue a Notice to Airmen (NOTAM) before the Mission Shakti (ASAT) to airline authorities across the world informing them about an impending missile test.

3. d

- Prime Minister has recently declared that the success of **Mission Shakti**, India's test of an **anti-satellite weapon** from the Odisha's APJ Abdul Kalam Island (earlier, known as Wheeler Island) launch complex.
- With this technological mission conducted by the DRDO, India becomes the **fourth country, after US, China and Russia**, with the capability to destroy a low-orbit satellite.

4. c

- NOTA is an option exercised by a voter to specify that he does not have confidence on any of the contesting candidates or the parties in fray.
- The NOTA option was first used in the **Assembly elections** held in four states -- Chhattisgarh, Mizoram, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh and the Union Territory, Delhi **in 2013**. (There was no Lok Sabha election in 2013)



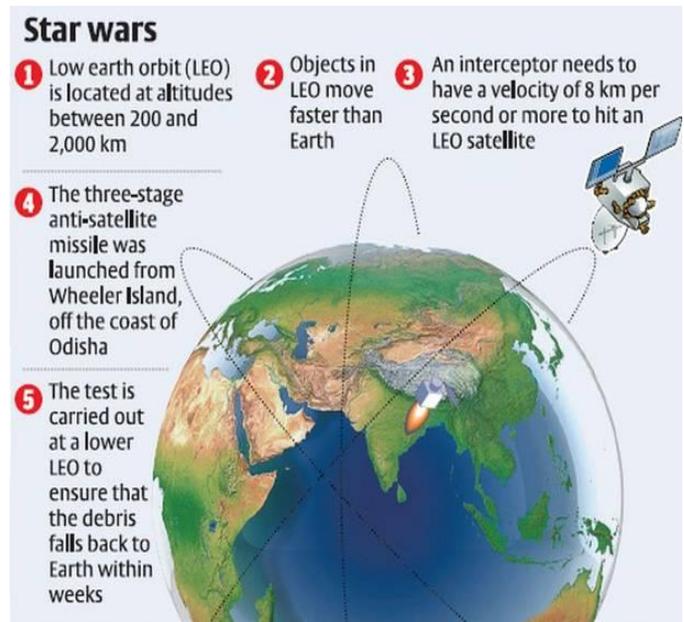
5. d

- Called ASAT in short, it is the technological capability to hit and destroy satellites in space through missiles launched from the ground.
- The technology is aimed at destroying, if necessary, satellites owned by enemy countries.
- With this technological mission conducted by the **DRDO**, India becomes the fourth country, after **US, China and Russia**, with the capability to destroy a low-orbit satellite.

6. a

- Implementing the Supreme Court order, the Election Commission of India (ECI) on September 2018 withdrew the provision of None Of The Above (NOTA) from elections to Rajya Sabha and legislative council in states.
- The option will now be available to the public only during **Lok Sabha and State Assembly Elections**.

7. d



8. b

- WFP is the food-assistance branch of **the United Nations** and the world's largest humanitarian organization addressing hunger and promoting food security.
- It was formally established in 1963 by the **FAO and the United Nations General Assembly**.
- HQ - Rome
- The operations are funded by voluntary donations from world governments, corporations and private donors.
- It strives to eradicate hunger and malnutrition, with the ultimate goal of eliminating the need for food aid itself.
- Its efforts focus on emergency assistance, relief and rehabilitation, development aid and special operations.
- In India, WFP has moved from providing direct food aid to providing technical assistance and capacity building services to the Government, with **Ministry of Agriculture being the nodal ministry**.

9. a

10. b

- Mankading is a kind of dismissal witnessed in the game of cricket.
- Mankading is the situation where a bowler runs out a non-striker by hitting the bails before bowling when the non-striker is outside the crease, with no warning.
- Even though it is a legal way of dismissing the batsmen, it is considered as unethical and against the spirit of the game.

**29-03-2019**

1) Consider the following statements with respect to **Exercise AUSINDEX**

1. It is a biennial bilateral naval exercise between India and Australia.
2. AUSINDEX 19 is the third edition in the series and would focus on anti-submarine warfare.

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) **Resolution 2462** sometimes seen in the news recently was associated with which of the following?

- a. Sanctions against N.Korea
- b. Terror Financing
- c. Phasing out of Plastics
- d. U.S Recognition of Golan Heights

3) Consider the following statements with respect to **Odissi dance**

1. It is one of the classical dances in India.
2. Odissi closely follows the tenets laid down by the Natya Shastra.
3. The techniques of movement are built around the two basic postures of the Chowk and the Tribhanga.

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

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

4) Which of the following borders the country **Bolivia**?

1. Chile
2. Brazil
3. Uruguay
4. Pacific Ocean

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

5) Through which of the following countries, **Tropic of Capricorn** passes through?

1. Brazil

2. Australia
3. Kenya
4. Gabon

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

6) Consider the following statements with respect to *Connect Karo 2019*

1. It is a part of a global series of events focused on sustainable rural development.
2. It was organised by the WRI India.

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

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

7) Under *Article 35A*, permanent residents of the State of Jammu and Kashmir are entitled to which of the following rights?

1. They are eligible to vote
2. They can work for the state government
3. They can own land, buy property
4. They can secure public employment and college admissions

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

8) Consider the following statements with respect to *UMANG App*

1. It was launched to improve accessibility of credit for the MSMEs.

2. It was developed and operated by National e-Governance Division of Ministry of Electronics & IT.

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

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

9) Consider the following statements with respect to *GOBAR-DHAN Yojana*

1. It is being implemented as part of the Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin).
2. It was implemented by the Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation.

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

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

10) Consider the following pairs

1. Soochipara waterfalls – Karnataka
2. Kuruva Islets – Kerala
3. Chembra Peak – Andhra Pradesh
4. Meenmutty waterfalls – Tamilnadu

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

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

## Answers

1. c

- *AUSINDEX 19* is the *third edition* of the *biennial, bilateral* exercise between *India and Australia*.

- AUSINDEX 19 would focus on anti-submarine warfare and would see Australia's largest defence force deployment in India.

2. b

- The UNSC has recently passed the Resolution 2462 on **Terrorism Financing**.
- The resolution stresses "the primary responsibility of Member States in countering terrorist acts and reiterating their obligation to prevent and suppress the financing of terrorist acts as well as its call upon all States to become party to the international counter-terrorism conventions and protocols as soon as possible".

3. d

- Odissi closely follows the tenets laid down by the **Natya Shastra**. Facial expressions, hand gestures and body movements are used to suggest a certain feeling, an emotion or one of the nine **rasas**.
- The techniques of movement are built around the two basic postures of the **Chowk** and the **Tribhanga**. The **chowk** is a position imitating a square – a very masculine stance with the weight of the body equally balanced.
- The **tribhanga** is a very feminine stance where the body is deflected at the neck, torso and the knees.

4. a



5. b

- Tropic of Capricorn passes through Argentina, Brazil, Chile Paraguay, Namibia, Botswana,

South Africa, Mozambique, Madagascar and Australia.

6. b

- **Connect Karo** is a part of a global series of events focused on sustainable **urban development**.
- It was organised by the WRI India. It is an annual event started in 2013.

7. d

Art 35A empowers J&K to define a class of persons as constituting "permanent residents" of the State, who

1. are eligible to vote
2. can work for the state government
3. can own land, buy property
4. can secure public employment and college admissions

8. b

- Unified Mobile Application for New-age Governance (UMANG) mobile app **allows citizens to access government services on a single platform**.
- The services live on the app include Aadhaar, DigiLocker, Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS) among others.
- It is expected to provide access to over 1,200 services of various government organisations in states and at the Centre as well as utility payments.
- Using the app, citizens will be able to access Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) services, apply for a new PAN, and can register under the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana.
- The app is developed and operated by **National e-Governance Division of MeitY**.
- GOBAR (Galvanizing Organic Bio-Agro Resources) - DHAN scheme was launched by the **Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation**.
- The scheme is being implemented as part of the Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin).
- The scheme would focus on managing and converting cattle dung and solid waste in farms to compost, biogas and bio-CNG.

- It will help in keeping the village clean while increasing the income of farmers and cattle herders.
- Under it, villagers will be mobilized to create self-help groups (SHGs) and creative societies that will help in clean energy and green jobs initiative.
- Under this scheme, one village in every district of the country would be selected for its implementation.
- Nearly 700 districts would be covered during the current fiscal.

10. a

- The entry of tourists to four major ecotourism centres under the South Wayanad Forest Division in Wayanad district, **Kerala** has been closed as per a directive of the Kerala High Court.
- The Soochipara waterfalls under the Meppadi forest range, Kuruva islets on the Kabani under the Chethalayath forest range, Chembra peak under the Meppadi forest range, and the Meenmutty waterfalls at Padinharethara, under the Kalpetta forest range, had been closed as per the court directive.

**30-03-2019**

1) Consider the following statements with respect to *Geographical Indication (GI) tag*

1. GI tag identifies a good as originating from a particular place whereas a trademark identifies a good or service as originating from a particular company.
2. GI tag will be granted to Plantation crops such as Tea and even Coffee.

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) Which of the following can detect Earth's Magnetic Field?

1. Turtles
2. Birds

3. Honeybees

4. Bacteria

5. Humans

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

3) Consider the following statements

1. The unborn offspring is an embryo from the day of fertilisation until the eighth week of pregnancy.
2. Import of embryo, ovum or sperm is totally prohibited in India, since 2015.

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

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

4) Consider the following statements with respect to *Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI)*

1. DRI is the apex anti-smuggling agency of India tasked with detecting and curbing of contraband, including illicit international trade in wildlife and environmentally sensitive items.
2. It works under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

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

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

5) Consider the following statements with respect to *Election deposits*

1. It is the sum of money that a candidate for an elected office is required to pay to

an electoral authority before he/she is permitted to stand for election.

2. If the candidate is not elected, and the valid votes polled by him/her do not exceed one-sixth of the total number of valid votes polled by all candidates, the deposit is forfeited.

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

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

6) Which of the following protected areas shelters or conserves the critically endangered *Great Indian Bustard* in India?

1. Desert National Park, Thar Desert, Rajasthan
2. Kutch Bustard Sanctuary, Gujarat
3. Great Indian Bustard Sanctuary, Maharashtra

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

7) Consider the following statements with respect to *Bio-digester*

1. The technology uses anaerobic microbial inoculums to convert faeces into biogas and water.
2. The technology used in Bio-digester was indigenously developed by the DRDO.

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

8) Consider the following statements with respect to *Coffee cultivation* in India

1. Coffee cultivation is mainly done in the southern states of India.
2. Karnataka is the top most producer of Coffee followed by Kerala and Tamilnadu.

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

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

9) *Mission Madhumeha* was implemented by which of the following ministries?

- a. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- b. Ministry of AYUSH
- c. Ministry of Electronics and IT
- d. Ministry of Defence

10) Which of the following states comprises the *non-traditional areas of Coffee production* in India?

1. Andhra Pradesh
2. Karnataka
3. Odisha
4. Tripura

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

### Answers

1. c

- The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, has recently awarded GI tag to — Coorg Arabica coffee from Karnataka, Wayanad Robusta coffee from Kerala, Chikmagalur Arabica from Karnataka,

Araku Valley Arabica from Andhra Pradesh, and Bababudangiris Arabica coffee from Karnataka.

2. d
- **Turtles, birds, honeybees and even bacteria** can sense the earth's magnetic field and use them for navigation.
  - A team of researchers from California Institute of Technology, U.S. and the University of Tokyo has shown that **humans** do indeed unconsciously respond to the changes in the earth's magnetic fields.
3. a
- In medical terms, the unborn offspring is an embryo from the day of fertilisation until the eighth week of pregnancy; after that, it is a foetus.
  - Import of embryo, ovum or sperm is prohibited in India **except for research purposes** since 2015.
  - An Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) guideline to permit regulated import is under consideration by the Union government.
4. a
- The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence is the apex anti-smuggling agency of India, working under the Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs, **Ministry of Finance**.
  - It is tasked with detecting and curbing smuggling of contraband, including drug trafficking and illicit international trade in **wildlife and environmentally sensitive items**, as well as combating commercial frauds related to international trade and evasion of Customs duty.
5. c
6. d
7. d
8. d
- Coffee cultivation is mainly done in the southern states of India including Karnataka, which accounts for 54 per cent of the total production.
  - It is followed by Kerala (19 per cent), Tamil Nadu (eight per cent).
9. b
- **Mission Madhumeha** was launched to provide cost-effective treatment and control of non-communicable disease of Diabetes through Ayurveda and is implemented through a specially designed National Treatment Protocol.
10. c
- Coffee cultivation is mainly done in the southern states of India including Karnataka, which accounts for 54 per cent of the total production. It is followed by Kerala (19 per cent), Tamil Nadu (eight per cent).
  - It is also grown in **non-traditional areas such as Andhra Pradesh and Odisha (17.2 per cent) and North East states (1.8 per cent)**.