1) Consider the following statements with respect to PhotoDNA Technology

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

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

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

Answer: b

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

2) Consider the following statements with respect to Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA)

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

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?
The Centre had recently extended the Armed Forces Special Powers Act in Nagaland for six more months, contending that the whole state is in such “disturbed and dangerous condition” that the use of armed forces in aid of civil power is necessary.

Under AFSPA, security forces have the powers to conduct operations anywhere and arrest anyone without any prior notice.

3) Consider the following statements

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

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

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

Answer: b

According to the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958, an “Ancient Monument means any structure, erection or monument, or any tumulus or place of interment, or any cave, rock-sculpture, inscription or monolith which is of historical, archaeological or artistic interest and which has been in existence for not less than 100 years.”

Monuments are declared protected and of national importance by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI).
• In 2016 and 2017, no new monument was included in the list of sites of national importance.
• The last monument to be included in the list, in 2015, was the Vishnu Temple in Nadavayal in Kerala's Wayanad district.
• In 2018, ASI declared 6 monuments to be of national importance.

4) Consider the following statements with respect to Ujjwala Sanitary Napkins initiative

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

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

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

Answer: d

• The Ujjwala Sanitary Napkins initiative has been launched by three oil marketing companies (OMCs) – IOCL, BPCL and HPCL.
• The mission, which forms part of the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative of OMCs in Odisha.
• The three companies will set up 100 manufacturing units at the Common Service Centres (CSCs).

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

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

Answer: b

• With more than half the engineering seats falling vacant every year, a government committee, headed by IIT-Hyderabad chairman B V R Mohan Reddy, has advised the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) to stop setting up new colleges from 2020 and review the creation of new capacity every two years after that.
• The committee was asked to come up with a medium and short-term perspective plan for expansion in engineering education.

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

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

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

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

Answer: b

• It was the last of the Anglo-Maratha battle that took place on 1 January 1818 in Bhima, Koregaon between the troops of Maratha Ruler Baji Rao Peshwa II and the British East India Company (EIC).
• The Mahars, though untouchables, had been valued for their military skills for centuries and formed a significant portion of Shivaji’s army.
• However under the Peshwas they were ill-treated and lost their military glory.
• In the battle, the EIC represented by majority of Mahar soldiers successfully resisted Peshwa troops in which Peshwa lost 600 of his soldiers after which he withdrew and gave up plans to attack Pune.
• British constructed a tower to commemorate this victory.
7) “Velakali” is a traditional martial dance form performed in which of the following states?

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

Answer: b

- Velakali, a stylised, martial dance of Kerala, blends movements and postures of Kathakali and Kalaripayattu, was originated in Ambalappuzha.

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

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

Answer: c

- The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (AMASR) Act, 1958 authorised the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) to declare a monument to be of national importance by issuing a notification in the Gazette of India.
- Thereafter, activities relating to preservation and conservation of monuments were to be undertaken.
- National Monument Authority (NMA) does not have any provision to declare monument/site as of national importance.

9) Consider the following statements with respect to Rhesus Macaque

1. It is endemic to Eastern Himalayas.
2. It has been listed under critically endangered category of IUCN Red List.
list.
Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: d

- It has been found in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Thailand, Viet Nam.
- It has been listed under Least Concern Category of IUCN Red list.

10) Consider the following statements with respect to Rheum

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

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

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

Answer: a

- Rheum is a thin, watery mucus that is discharged from the nose, eyes or mouth.
- Rheum discharged from the eyes is called ‘gound’.
- Gound has a very important job — it gathers foreign particles like dust, pollen, blood cells, skin cells, etc., which have entered the eye and escorts them out.
- When a person is awake, blinking causes the gound to be carried away with the moisture produced by the tear glands in the eyes.
• However, in the absence of blinking during sleep, gound dries up and accumulates in the corners of the eyes, forming ‘crusties’.
• ‘Crusties’, ‘sleep boogers’ or ‘sandman’s dust’ are the many names given to the dry, flakey matter that we find in the corners of our eyes when we wake up in the morning.
• They are the dried-up form of what is scientifically known as ‘rheum’.