



# IAS PARLIAMENT

*Information is a Blessing*

A Shankar IAS Academy Initiative

## MONTHLY PRESTORMING

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



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**01-08-2019**

**1) “Singapore Convention on Mediation” sometimes seen in the news recently is associated with which of the following?**

- New Delhi International Arbitration Centre (NDIAC)
- Permanent Court of International Justice (PCIJ)
- International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID)
- UN Convention on International Settlement Agreements (UNISA)

**2) Consider the following statements with respect to *International Astronautical Federation (IAF)***

- It is an international non-governmental non-profit organization based in Paris.
- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is one among the members of the organisation.
- Each year IAF organizes the International Astronautical Congress (IAC), the biggest annual Space event in the world.

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

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

**3) Consider the following statements with respect to “*Ghar Ghar Dastak Ghar Ghar Pustak Scheme*”**

- It aims to provide books to the citizens of Delhi, especially, the residents of slums, resettlement colonies and rural areas.
- It was launched by the Ministry of Human Resources and Development (MHRD).

**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 *Atal Community Innovation Centre (ACIC) Program***

- It aims to encourage the spirit of innovation through solution-driven design thinking to serve society.
- It was launched by NITI Aayog under the Atal Innovation Mission (AIM).
- It aims at spurring community innovation in underserved and unserved areas of the country.

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

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

**5) Consider the following statements with respect to *Delhi Public Library (DPL)***

- It was established in 1951 with the financial and technical assistance from the UNESCO.
- Its main objective is to provide a free public library and information services to the people across the country.
- It functions under the administrative control of the Ministry of Human Resources and Development (MHRD).

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

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



6) How Payments Banks differ from Small Finance Banks?

1. While payment banks are to provide payment solutions, Small Finance Banks are to provide basic banking services.
2. Small finance can accept deposits and lend money to customers, whereas payments banks cannot lend.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

7) Consider the following statements with respect to *Gyre*

1. A gyre is a large system of rotating ocean currents.
2. The ocean current movement in the north-Atlantic gyre, as well as north-Pacific gyre, is clockwise, while the gyres in the Southern hemisphere are anti-clockwise.

Which of 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 *Gambia*

1. It is located in the East Africa.
2. It is almost entirely surrounded by Senegal with the exception of its western coastline.

Which of 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 *Coalition of the Willing on Pollinators*

1. It was founded at the 13th session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD-13) in 2016.
2. India is a member to this coalition.

Which of 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) Union Cabinet has recently approved the setting up of *ISRO Technical Liaison Unit (ITLU)* at?

- a. Ottawa, Canada
- b. Paris, France
- c. Moscow, Russia
- d. Jakarta, Indonesia

## Answers

1. d

- Union Cabinet has recently **approved** the signing of the **United Nations Convention on International Settlement Agreements (UNISA)** resulting from mediation.

## Benefits

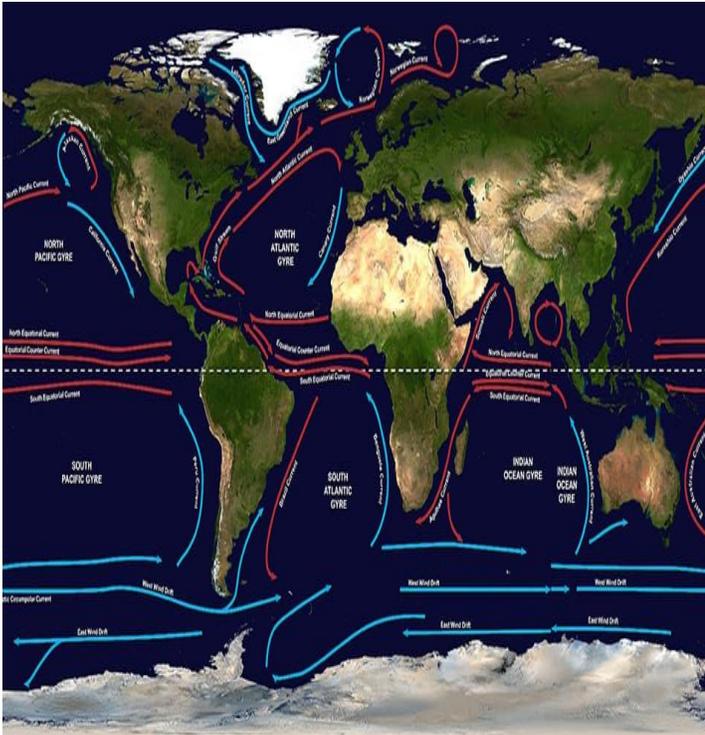
- Signing of the Convention will **boost the confidence of the investors** and shall provide a positive signal to foreign investors about India's commitment to adhere to international practice on Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR).

## UNISA

- The UNGA adopted the UNISA on 20th December 2018.
  - The UNGA authorized that the Convention will open for signature at a signing ceremony to be held on 7th August 2019 in Singapore and will be known as the "**Singapore Convention on Mediation**".
  - The Convention provides a uniform and efficient framework for the enforcement of international settlement agreements resulting from mediation and for allowing parties to invoke such agreements.
2. d
- **International Astronautical Federation (IAF)** is an **international** space advocacy and **non-governmental** organisation based in **Paris**.
  - IAF was established in 1951, to foster the dialogue between scientists around the world and support international cooperation in all space-related activities.
  - Astronautical Society of India, **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)**, Xovian Research & Technologies Pvt. Ltd are the members of IAF from India.
  - Each year IAF in collaboration with the International Academy of Astronautics (IAA) and the International Institute of Space Law (IISL) organize the **International Astronautical Congress (IAC)**.
  - The IAC is the biggest annual Space event in the world.
  - India has the experience of hosting IAC twice earlier, in 1988 at Bangalore and in 2007 at Hyderabad.
3. a
- **Union Culture Ministry** has recently launched the **Mobile Library Buses** under the **Ghar-GharDastakGharGharPustak** Scheme of the **Delhi Public Library**.
  - The Scheme aims to provide books to the **citizens of Delhi**, especially, the residents of slums, resettlement colonies and rural areas.
4. d
- The **Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)**, flagship initiative of **NITI Aayog**, has recently launched the **Atal Community Innovation Centre (ACIC) Program** to spur community Innovation in **underserved and unserved areas** of the country.
  - The new initiative aims to encourage the spirit of innovation in the country's specific areas that lack the required infrastructure and facilitating innovation ecosystem.
  - The purpose of ACIC is to enable establishment of socially inclusive innovation ecosystem as well as to encourage equitable distribution of necessary infrastructure for stimulating innovation across the country.
  - The new initiative offers opportunity to talented youth and researchers in Tier 2, Tier 3 cities, Smart cities, Aspirational Districts, North East, J&K, Rural and Tribal regions of India, unserved and underserved regions of Tier 1 / Metro cities.
  - The ACIC programme would focus in over 484 districts located in unserved/underserved regions of India.
5. a
- The **Delhi Public Library (DPL)** was established in 1951 by the then Ministry of Education with the financial and technical assistance from the **UNESCO**.
  - **At present**, the DPL is functioning under the administrative control of the **Ministry of Culture**.
  - DPL started with the objective of providing a free public library and information services to the **people of National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi**.
6. c
- The Postal Department has recently said that it has decided to convert the India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) into a small finance bank (SFB), enabling it to offer small loans to customers.
7. c
- A gyre is a large system of **rotating ocean currents**.
  - In general, currents in the northern hemisphere travel in the clockwise direction in

a gyre; while currents in southern hemisphere travel in the anti-clockwise direction (the only exception is the current direction in the Indian Ocean, which changes seasonally).

- The ocean current movement in the **north-Atlantic gyre, as well as north-Pacific gyre, is clockwise**, while the gyres in the **Southern hemisphere are anti-clockwise**.



8. b

- It is located in the **West Africa**.
- It is almost entirely surrounded by Senegal with the exception of its western coastline.
- It shares its borders with North Atlantic Ocean.



9. a

- The Coalition of the Willing on Pollinators was founded at the 13th session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD 13) in 2016.
- Nigeria became the fourth African country to join the Global Coalition of the Willing on Pollinators
- The coalition now has 28 signatories including 17 European countries, five from Latin America and the Caribbean and four from Africa.

10. c

- The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has recently approved the setting up of ISRO Technical Liaison Unit (ITLU) at **Moscow, Russia**.
- This will help ISRO to collaborate with Space agencies/industries in Russia and neighbouring countries for mutually synergetic outcomes.



**02-08-2019**

1) Consider the following statements with respect to *Controller General of Accounts (CGA)*

1. CGA is a constitutional body established under Article 150 of the Indian Constitution.
2. CGA is the head of the Indian audit & accounts department and chief Guardian of Public purse.
3. CGA is responsible for establishing and maintaining a technically sound Management Accounting System.

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

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

2) Consider the following statements with respect to *Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Bill 2019*

1. The bill provides for a time-bound settlement of disputes as well as accountability of the arbitrator.
2. It seeks to establish an independent body called the Arbitration Council of India (ACI).

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

3) *Thudumbattam* is a folk art form prevalent in which of the following states?

- a. Kerala
- b. Telangana
- c. Tamil Nadu

d. Andhra Pradesh

4) Consider the following statements with respect to *Adarsh Smarak Scheme*

1. It aims to promote basic tourist facilities in well-known historical sites.
2. It is an innovative scheme launched by Ministry of Tourism.

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

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

5) Consider the following statements with respect to *Collagen*

1. It is the single most abundant fat substances in the animal kingdom.
2. These act as supporting structures and anchor cells to each other and give the skin strength and elasticity.

Which of 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) With respect to *Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (Amendment) Bill, 2019*, consider the following statements:

1. It seeks to enhance punishment for sexual offences against children, with a provision of death penalty.
2. The bill, for the first time seeks to penalise persons who use children for pornographic 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

7) Consider the following statements with respect to *National Flag of India*

1. It was adopted in its present form during the meeting of Constituent Assembly held in July 1947.
2. Citizens of India can hoist the Indian flag over their homes, offices and factories on any day.

Which of 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) *Tiger Hills* sometimes seen in the news recently is located in which of the following states?

- a. Mizoram
- b. Karnataka
- c. Jharkhand
- d. Jammu and Kashmir

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

1. It is a landlocked country in West Africa.
2. It shares its borders with Senegal, Mali and Kenya.

Which of 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) In which of the following, India is *not* a member?

1. ASEAN
2. Mekong Ganga Cooperation
3. East Asia Summit

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

### Answers

1. a

- Controller General of Accounts (CGA), in the Department of Expenditure, **Ministry of Finance**, is the Principal Accounting Adviser to Government of India.
- He/She is responsible for establishing and maintaining a technically sound Management Accounting System.
- He /She exercises the powers of the President under Article 150 of the constitution.

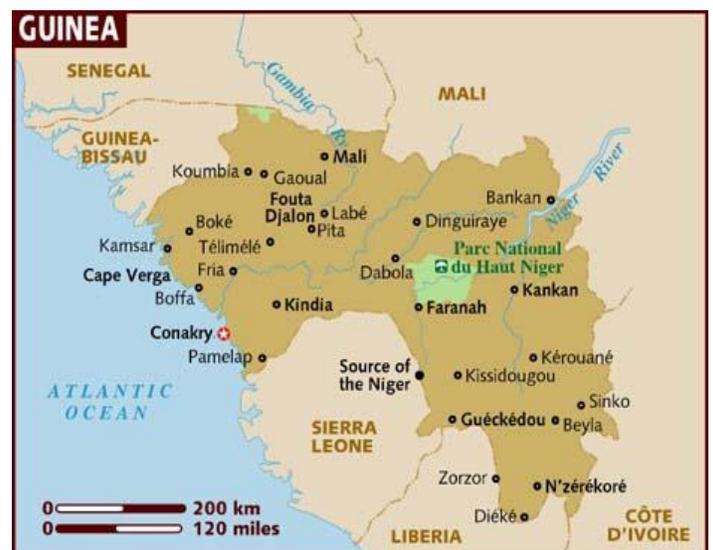
2. d

- The **Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Bill, 2019** provides for a time-bound settlement of disputes as well as accountability of the arbitrator.
- It also seeks to establish an independent body called the **Arbitration Council of India (ACI)** for the promotion of arbitration, mediation, conciliation and other alternative dispute redressal mechanisms.
- The Council would be mandated to frame policies for grading arbitral institutions and accrediting arbitrators.

3. c

- **Thudumbu** is a **percussion instrument** from the Kongu region (that includes Coimbatore, Erode, Tiruppur, Karur, Namakkal, and Salem districts.) of **Tamil Nadu**.

- **Thudumbattam**, the folk art form, is prevalent in villages around Karamadai, a small town from Coimbatore, **Tamil Nadu**.
4. a
- **Adarsh Smaarak** in an innovative scheme launched by **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), Ministry of Culture**.
  - It aims to promote basic tourist facilities in well-known historical sites.
5. b
- Collagen is a hard, insoluble, and fibrous **protein** that **makes up one-third of the protein** in the human body.
  - These act as supporting structures and anchor cells to each other. They give the skin strength and elasticity.
  - **U.S Scientists have successfully built functional heart parts out of collagen using a 3D bio-printer.**
6. a
- Under the **POCSO Act, 2012**, a person is guilty of using a child for pornographic purposes if he uses a child in any form of media for the purpose of sexual gratification.
  - The **Act also penalises** persons who use children for pornographic purposes resulting in sexual assault.
  - Now, the **POCSO Bill, 2019** defines child pornography as any visual depiction of sexually explicit conduct involving a child including photograph, video, digital or computer generated image indistinguishable from an actual child.
  - The Bill provides that those who use a child for pornographic purposes should be punished with imprisonment up to five years and fine.
  - However, in the event of second or subsequent conviction, the punishment would be up to seven years and fine.
7. c
- The National Flag of India was adopted **in its present form** during the meeting of Constituent Assembly held on the **22 July 1947**, a few days before India's independence from the British on 15 August, 1947.
- Section 2 of the Flag code accepts the right of all private citizens to fly the flag on their premises.
8. d
- Tiger Hills is located in **Jammu and Kashmir (J&K)**.
  - **Tiger Hill and Batalik Sector, which hit the headlines in 1999 following occupation of several peaks by Pakistani intruders, will be open to tourists now.**
9. d
- Guinea is a developing country in the tropical south-western part of West Africa at the Atlantic Ocean.





10. a

- India is not a member of ASEAN

**03-08-2019**

1) Consider the following statements with respect to *Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Bill, 2019*

1. It seeks to amend the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967.
2. The bill for the first time empowers the Central government to designate an individual as terrorist.
3. Under the bill, if the investigation is conducted by an officer of the National Investigation Agency (NIA), he/she only requires sanction from the Director General of NIA.

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

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

2) Consider the following statements with respect to *Code on Wages Bill, 2019*

1. Under the Code, the tripartite committee comprising representatives of Central government, State governments and Labour Commission would fix a floor wage for workers throughout the country.
2. No state government can fix the minimum wage below the minimum wage fixed by tripartite committee.

Which of 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 *Bharat Stage (BS) Norms*

1. These are based on European emission norms.
2. BS-VI norms will be implemented in India from April 1, 2020.
3. Armoured and Specialised Vehicles of Armed Forces were exempted from BS-VI Emission Norms.

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 *SANKALP Scheme*

1. It aims to implement the mandate of the National Skill Development Mission (NSDM).
2. It is an outcome-oriented project launched by the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE) and supported by the World Bank.
3. It focuses on the overall skilling ecosystem covering both Central & State agencies.

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

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

5) Consider the following statements with respect to *Institute of Eminence (IoE) Scheme*

1. IoE status will be granted only to public institutions.
2. The institutions selected under the scheme will have greater autonomy



compared to other higher educational institutions.

3. All institutions selected under the scheme will be granted Rs.1000 crore.

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

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

6) Consider the following statements with respect to *Ramon Magsaysay Award*

- It is the Asia's premier prize and highest honour.
- It will be awarded annually.
- Since its creation in 1957, no Indian has won this award.

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

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

7) *Changpa* is a tribal community inhabiting in which of the following states?

- Odisha
- Nagaland
- Mizoram
- Jammu and Kashmir

8) Consider the following statements with respect to *Pashmina*

- These are ultra-fine cashmere wool made up of wool from the Tibetan Antelope.
- The shawls made up of pashmina wool were promoted as an alternative to Shahtoosh shawl.

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 *Hyperloop technology* sometimes seen in the news recently

- It envisages pods or capsules travelling at high speeds through high-pressure tubes erected on columns or tunnelled underground.
- The vehicle uses magnetic levitation, and is propelled by a proprietary electric propulsion system.
- Motion of hyperloop does not involve contact, so the vehicle will be virtually noiseless.

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

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

10) Consider the following statements with respect to *Tarballs* sometimes seen in the news recently

- They are dark-coloured, sticky balls of oil that form when crude oil floats on the ocean surface.
- They are difficult to break down, and can therefore travel for hundreds of miles in the sea.
- It does not form naturally and the presence of tarballs indicates a severe oil spill.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- 1 and 2 only
- 2 and 3 only

- c. 1, 2 and 3  
d. None

## Answers

1. d

- The Bill seeks to **empower the central government** to designate an individual a “terrorist” if they are found committing, preparing for, promoting, or involved in an act of terror.
- A similar provision already exists in Part 4 and 6 of the legislation (UAPA 1967) for organisations that can be designated as a “terrorist organisation”.
- The existing UAPA law requires an investigating officer to take prior permission of the Director General of Police of a state for conducting raids, and seizing properties that are suspected to be linked to terrorist activities.
- The amendment Bill, however, **removes this requirement** if the investigation is conducted by an officer of the National Investigation Agency (NIA).
- The investigating officer, under the Bill, **only** requires sanction from the Director General of NIA.

2. b

- *Parliament has recently passed the Code on Wages Bill, 2019.*
- The Bill will subsume four labour laws which are Minimum Wages Act, Payment of Wages Act, Payment of Bonus Act and Equal Remuneration Act.
- The Code universalises the provisions of minimum wages and **timely payment of wages** to all employees **irrespective of the sector and wage ceiling.**
- At present, the provisions of both Minimum Wages Act and Payment of Wages Act apply on workers below a particular wage ceiling working in Scheduled Employments only.
- It has been ensured in the bill that employees getting monthly salary will get the salary by 7th of next month, those working on weekly basis

will get the salary on last day of the week and daily wagers should get it on the same day.

- Under the Code, the tripartite committee comprising representatives of **trade unions, employers and state governments** would fix a floor wage for workers throughout the country and **no state government can fix the minimum wage below it.**

3. d

- Bharat Stage (BS) norms are based on **European emission norms** which, for example, are referred to in a similar manner like ‘Euro 4’ and ‘Euro 6’.
- These emission standards were **set by the central government** to keep a check on the pollutant levels emitted by vehicles that use combustion engines.
- To bring them into force, the **Central Pollution Control Board** sets timelines and standards which have to be followed by automakers.
- Armoured and Specialised Vehicles of Armed/ Paramilitary Forces were exempted from BS-VI Emission Norms that will Come into Force in April 2020.

4. d

- **Skills Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion (SANKALP) project** aims to implement the mandate of the **National Skill Development Mission (NSDM)**, which was launched by the **Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship**, through its core sub-missions.
- SANKALP is an outcome oriented project **supported by World Bank.**
- The project will focus on the overall skilling ecosystem covering **both Central (MSDE, NSDA and NSDC) and State agencies**, and outcomes will be measured through Disbursement Linked Indicators (DLIs) agreed between MSDE and the Bank.

5. b

- This scheme aims to bring higher educational institutions selected as IoEs in top 500 of world ranking in the next 10 years and in top 100 eventually overtime.

- Each **Public Institution** selected as IoE will be provided financial assistance up to Rs. 1000 Crores over a period of five years.
  - There will be **no financial assistance to the private institutions.**
  - Institutions shall be selected as IoEs by the Empowered Expert Committee (EEC), constituted for this purpose.
6. b
- Established in 1957, the Ramon Magsaysay Award is **Asia's premier prize and highest honour.**
  - It is often regarded as the region's equivalent of the Nobel Prize.
  - It celebrates the memory and leadership example of the third Philippine President Ramon Magsaysay after whom the award is named.
  - It is given **every year** to individuals or organisations in Asia who manifest the same selfless service and transformative influence that ruled the life of the late and beloved Filipino leader.
  - *Indian journalist Ravish Kumar of NDTV news channel was chosen for 2019 Ramon Magsaysay Award.*
7. d
- The Changthangi goat grows a thick, warm undercoat which is the source of **Kashmir Pashmina wool** – the world's finest cashmere measuring between 12-15 microns in fiber thickness.
  - These goats are generally domesticated and reared by nomadic communities called the **Changpa** in the Changthang region of Greater Ladakh of **Jammu and Kashmir.**
8. b
- Pashmina (meaning made from wool) is made from the **Changthangi or Pashmina goat.**
  - The Changthangi goat grows a thick, warm undercoat which is the source of Kashmir Pashmina wool – the world's finest cashmere measuring between 12-15 microns in fiber thickness.
- These goats are generally domesticated and reared by nomadic communities called the **Changpa** in the Changthang region of Greater Ladakh.
  - Central government has granted Geographical Indication (GI) tag to Kashmir Pashmina in 2008.
  - *Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has recently published an Indian Standard for identification, marking and labelling of Pashmina products to certify its purity.*
  - *The certification will help curb the adulteration of Pashmina and also protect the interests of local artisans and nomads who are the producers of Pashmina raw material.*
  - *It will also assure the purity of Pashmina for customers.*
  - The Pashmina shawl was promoted as alternative to Shahtoosh shawl that is made from the wool of the **endangered Tibetan Antelope**, also known as **Chiru.**
  - This high-altitude dwelling animal is mainly found in China's Tibet region.
  - Although the Shahtoosh trade was banned in India, the illegal trade continued for a long time, threatening the existence of the Chiru.
9. c
- Hyperloop envisages pods or capsules travelling at high speeds through **low-pressure tubes** erected on columns or tunneled underground.
  - The system is fully autonomous and sealed, so no driver-related error is anticipated.
  - In a sealed environment with almost **no air resistance**, the pods are expected to **reach very high speeds.**
  - It uses **magnetic levitation**, and is propelled by a proprietary electric propulsion system.
  - Motion will not involve contact, so the vehicle will be **virtually noiseless.**
10. a
- Tarballs are **dark-coloured, sticky balls of oil** that form when crude oil floats on the ocean surface.

- They are formed by **weathering** of crude oil in marine environments.
- They are transported from the open sea to the shores by sea currents and waves.
- The presence of several tarballs indicates an oil spill. But, **Tarballs can also occur naturally** from fissures in the ocean floor, places where oil just gurgles up.
- They are difficult to break down, and can therefore **travel for hundreds of miles** in the sea.

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

**05-08-2019**

1) Consider the following statements with respect to **Quick Reaction Surface-to-Air Missiles (QRSAM)**

1. It uses liquid-fuel propellant and has a range of 25-30 km.
2. It has been developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) for the India Army.

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

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

2) Consider the following statements with respect to **National Agricultural Higher Education Project (NAHEP)**

1. It aims to attract talent and strengthen higher agricultural education in the country.
2. This project will be funded by the World Bank and the Indian Government on a 50:50 basis.
3. National Bank for Agricultural and Rural Development (NABARD) is the implementing body monitoring this project.

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

3) **Valkyrie** sometimes seen in the news recently is

- A volcanic mountain in Sicily, Italy
- A semi-autonomous robot designed by NASA
- Tribal god worshipped by the Kuki community of North-East India
- None of the above

4) Consider the following statements with respect to **Spodoptera frugiperda** sometimes seen in the news recently

1. It is an invasive and polyphagous pest, also called as Pink Ball Worm.
2. Its deep roots absorb water, leaving the ground almost dry.

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

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

5) **Meghdoot App** was recently launched for?

- To provide crop specific weather based agro advisories to farmers in local languages
- To promote vernacular literatures and to attract the younger generation to the habit of reading
- To commemorate the capture of Siachen Glacier in the Kashmir region by the Indian Armed Forces
- None of the above

6) **Area 51** sometimes seen in the news recently is located in?

- Antarctica



- b. Russia
- c. Greenland
- d. United States of America

7) It is the largest National Park of India and situated at a high altitude. The park is bounded on the north by the banks of the Indus River, and includes the catchments of Markha, Sumdah and Rumbak, and parts of the Zaskar Range. Moreover there is a Famous Tibetan Buddhist monastery within the park which has 400 year old history.

Which one of the following National Park is correctly referred in the given above passage?

- a. Great Himalayan National Park
- b. Hemis National Park
- c. Khangchendzonga National Park
- d. Namdhapa National Park

8) Consider the following pairs

1. Farsi Island – Persian Gulf
2. Idlib - Turkey

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

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

9) Consider the following statements with respect to *Strait of Hormuz* frequently seen in the news recently

1. It is a strait between Gulf of Aden and Gulf of Oman.
2. On its north lies Iran and on its south lies Saudi Arabia.

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

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

- d. Neither 1 nor 2

10) Consider the following pairs

1. Rushikulya River – Odisha
2. Bhatsa River – Maharashtra
3. Uihass River – Madhya Pradesh

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

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

### Answers

1. b

- India has recently test-fired a sophisticated **all-weather and all-terrain** Quick Reaction Surface-to-Air Missile (QRSAM) from a test range in Odisha.
- The state-of-the-art missile has been developed by the **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** for the India Army.
- The all-weather and all-terrain missile, which can be mounted on a truck and stored in a canister, is equipped with electronic counter measures against jamming by aircraft radars.
- It uses **solid-fuel propellant** and has a range of **25-30 km**.

2. b

- It aims to attract talent and strengthen higher agricultural education in the country.
- It was funded by the **World Bank** and the **Indian Government** on a 50:50 basis.
- **Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)** is the implementing body.

3. b

- Valkyrie is a **semi-autonomous robot** designed to operate in hostile environments has been developed by **NASA**.

- The robot is able to use human tools and can plot its own path safely across difficult terrain to a location picked by its operator.
- NASA hopes the robot might one day help build colonies on the Moon or Mars, but it could also be used on Earth in places which cannot be reached by humans.

4. d

- *Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare has recently launched a dedicated website to help farmers fight against the dreaded Fall Armyworm (FAW).*
- FAW (*Spodoptera frugiperda*) is an invasive and polyphagous (feeding on many foods) **pest**.
- It can attack cereals and forage grasses.
- The website will carry tips and useful information to prevent and control FAW.
- The website will carry information on pheromone traps and lures to detect FAW at a very early stage of infestation.

5. a

- The Ministries of Earth Sciences and Agriculture have launched a mobile application that will provide location, and crop and livestock-specific weather-based **agro advisories to farmers in local languages**.
- To begin with, the service would be available for 150 districts in different parts of the country.
- It will be extended to rest of the country in a phased manner over the next one year.
- It will provide forecast relating to temperature, rainfall, humidity, and wind speed and direction, which play critical roles in agricultural operations and advisories to the farmers on how to take care of their crops and livestock.
- It has been developed by experts from the India Meteorological Department and Indian Institute of Tropical meteorology and the Indian Council of Agricultural Research.

6. d

- Area 51 is located in **Southern Nevada, US**.

- It is officially known as the Nevada Test and Training Range.
- Area 51 is part of the Nellis Air Force Base and is used as a training centre for the US Air Force.
- Several Americans believed it was where the **government hid bodies of aliens** and UFOs, some believed it was where the government held “meetings” with extraterrestrials, and others speculated it was where the government developed “time travel” technology.

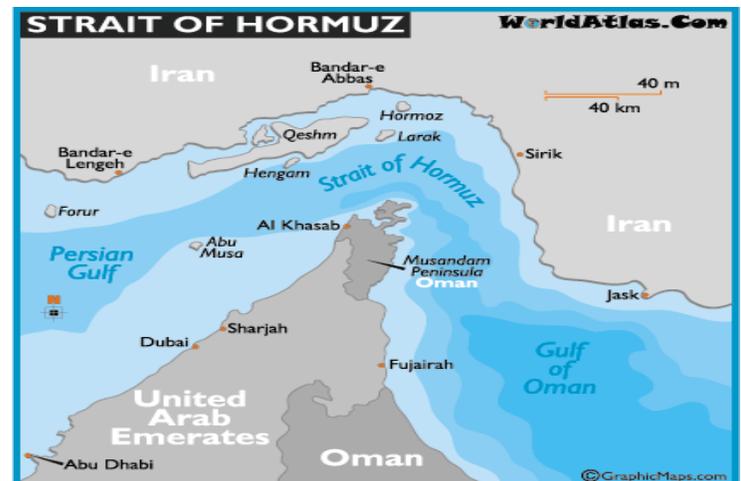
7. b

8. a

- Iran Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) had seized the fuel smuggling foreign tanker near **Farsi Island** in the Persian Gulf.



9. d





10. b

1. Bhatsa River – Maharashtra
2. Uihas River – Maharashtra
3. Rushikulya River – Odisha

**06-08-2019**

**1) Which one of the following best describes the term *Cyber Hygiene*?**

- a. It refers to a network of devices that has been infected with malicious software
- b. It relates to the practices and precautions users take to keep sensitive data safe from theft
- c. It refers to a cyber crime which has been done cautiously without any evidence
- d. None of the above

**2) Consider the following statements with respect to *Section 144 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC)***

1. The notification for Section 144 will be issued by the District Magistrate of the area.
2. State government has no power to extend the implementation of Sec.144 beyond two months.

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

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

**3) Consider the following statements with respect to *Pathamadai mat***

1. It is made of a special kind of grass called Korai.
2. They are made by Irulas, a tribal community native to Nilgris.
3. It was granted Geographical Indication (GI) tag for Tamil Nadu.

**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 *Lalit Kala Akademy***

1. It is the Government's apex cultural body in the field of performing arts in India.
2. It is an autonomous body, which is fully funded by 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

**5) Consider the following statements with respect to *Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill, 2019***

1. The Bill requires the central government to constitute a Motor Vehicle Accident Fund, to provide voluntary insurance cover to all road users in India.
2. The Bill provides for a National Road Safety Board, to be created by the central government.

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

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

**6) Consider the following statements with respect to *Australian Hay Fever***

1. It is a tick-borne viral haemorrhagic fever endemic to Australia.
2. There is no medicine for this disease and can cause even up to death.

Which of 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) Match the following:

Articles – States

1. 371 A – a. Sikkim
2. 371 C – b. Arunachal Pradesh
3. 371 F – c. Nagaland
4. 371 H – d. Manipur

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

8) Consider the following pairs

1. Mulshi Dam – Uttar Pradesh
2. Pavana Dam – Chhattisgarh
3. Lal Bahadur Shastri Dam – Karnataka

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

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

9) Consider the following statements with respect to *Bio Gas*

1. It is a type of biofuel that is naturally produced from the decomposition of organic waste.
2. Manure, food scraps and sewage are examples of organic matter that produce biogas.

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. Havana – Mexico
2. El Paso – Argentina

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

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

### Answers

1. b

- Cyber hygiene relates to the practices and precautions users take with the aim of keeping sensitive data organized, safe, and secure from theft and outside attacks.

2. a

- Section 144 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) is issued in urgent cases of security threat or riot and bars the assembly of five or more people in an area where it has been imposed.
- The notification is issued by the **District Magistrate of the area**.
- The section also empowers the authorities to block internet access.
- **No order** under this section (144) can remain in force **for more than two months**.

- However, if the state government considers it necessary for preventing danger to human life or for preventing a riot, it can extend the impositions under the sections for **not more than six months** from the date of issuance of the initial order.

3. c

- Pattamaadai mats are silk mats also called Pattu paai that originated in a small village in Thirunalveli district of **Tamil Nadu**.
- The art and craft of weaving and blending intricate designs of Pattamadai mats are considered unique to this region.
- Made of a special kind of grass called "Korai/Gorai"- it is also called is also called Korai or Gorai paai.
- It was made predominantly by the women from the **Muslim Lebbai community**.
- The conventional method of mat making is a lengthy process of drying, soaking, splitting and dyeing the grass.
- Pattamadai paais are made specially for wedding ceremonies.
- It is a token for making the occasion memorable and has the bride and the groom's names as well as the wedding date woven in it.
- It was granted GI tag.

4. b

- **Lalit Kala Akademi** is the Government's apex cultural body in the field of **Visual arts** in India.
- It is an autonomous body, which is fully funded by the Ministry of Culture.
- The Akademi is an independent organisation and functions at arm's length from the Government.
- **Sangeet Natak Akademi** is the government's apex cultural body in the field of Performing arts in India.

5. b

The Bill requires the central government to constitute a Motor Vehicle Accident Fund, to provide **compulsory** insurance cover to all road users in India.

It will be utilised for:

1. Treatment of persons injured in road accidents as per the golden hour scheme
2. Compensation to representatives of a person who died in a hit and run accident
3. Compensation to a person grievously hurt in a hit and run accident
4. Compensation to any other persons as prescribed by the central government

The Bill provides for a National Road Safety Board, to be created by the central government through a notification.

The Board will advise the central and state governments on all aspects of road safety and traffic management.

6. d

- Australian Hay Fever, also known as **Allergic rhinitis**, is one of the most common **allergic disorder** affecting one in every five people in Australia and New Zealand.
- Despite its given name, allergic rhinitis is neither caused by hay or result in a fever.
- It usually occurs after the nose or eyes of a person come in contact with **environmental allergens**, such as pollens, dust mite, moulds and animal hair.
- Pollens from grasses are also amongst the most common causes.
- The allergic conditions can result in a significant impact on sleep, concentration, learning and daily function.
- Its immediate symptoms include runny nose, sneezing, watery eyes, snoring, fatigue, headache and throat infection.
- Australian Hay Fever is commonly treated through medications that include antihistamines, decongestants, nasal sprays and Bronchodilators.
- The disorder most commonly affects people between 20-40 years of age.

7. c

- 371 - Special provision with respect to the states of Maharashtra and Gujarat

- 371A - Special provision with respect to the state of Nagaland
  - 371B - Special provision with respect to the state of Assam
  - 371C - Special provision with respect to the state of Manipur
  - 371D - Special provisions with respect to the state of Andhra Pradesh or the state of Telangana
  - 371E - Establishment of Central University in Andhra Pradesh
  - 371F - Special provisions with respect to the state of Sikkim
  - 371G - Special provision with respect to the state of Mizoram
  - 371H - Special provision with respect to the state of Arunachal Pradesh
  - 371-I - Special provision with respect to the state of Goa
  - 371J - Special provisions with respect to the state of Karnataka
8. a
1. Mulshi Dam – Maharashtra
  2. Pavana Dam – Maharashtra
  3. Lal Bahadur Shastri Dam – Karnataka
9. d
- Biogas is a type of biofuel that is naturally produced from the decomposition of organic waste.
  - When organic matter, such as food scraps and animal waste, break down in an anaerobic environment (an environment absent of oxygen) they release a blend of gases, primarily methane and carbon dioxide.
  - Because this decomposition happens in an anaerobic environment, the process of producing biogas is also known as **anaerobic digestion**.
10. d
1. El Paso – United States of America
  2. Havana – Cuba

**07-08-2019**

**1) With respect to the *Consumer Protection Bill, 2019*, consider the following statements:**

1. The bill proposes setting up of a Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) to promote, protect and enforce the rights of consumers as a class.
2. Under the bill, a manufacturer is now responsible for compensation for injury or damage caused by the defective product.

**Which of 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) With respect to *Mount Elbrus*, consider the following statements:**

1. It is the highest peak in the European Continent.
2. It is an inactive volcano located in the western Caucasus mountain range, Russia.

**Which of 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) How UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) differ from UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)?**

1. UNRWA deals specifically with Palestine refugees whereas UNHCR's mandate is to provide international protection to refugees worldwide.
2. UNHCR is responsible for Palestine refugees outside UNRWA's areas of operation.



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

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

4) Russia has recently signed a deal for the supply of uranium for *Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant (RNPP)*. The plant is located in?

- India
- Nepal
- Myanmar
- Bangladesh

5) *Aqueduct Water Risk Atlas Report* was released recently by which of the following?

- UN – Water
- World Bank
- World Resources Institute
- World Wildlife Fund for Nature

6) *Dixon Plan of 1950* is associated with which of the following?

- Naga Insurgency
- Reconstruction efforts after Second World War
- Presidential form of Government in India
- None of the above

7) Which of the following describes the infiltration plan of Pakistan forces to enter disputed *Jammu and Kashmir* territory in 1965 and instigate the locals in starting a rebellion against Indian sovereignty?

- Operation Polo
- Operation Felix
- Operation Reinhard
- Operation Gibraltar

8) Consider the following statements with respect to *Organic Field Effect Transistors (OFET)*

- These transistors work on the principle that charges in vicinity of channels of certain semiconductors can induce a current in them.
- It is similar to that of the Thin-Film Transistor (TFT).

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 *Canine Distemper Virus (CDV)*

- It can be transmitted from infected dogs
- Lions, tigers and leopards are vulnerable
- It attacks the respiratory, gastrointestinal and nervous systems

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

10) Consider the following statements about *Papikonda National Park*

- It is located in Andhra Pradesh & Telangana
- It is an Important Bird and Biodiversity Area

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

## Answers

1. c
- The Consumer Protection bill, 2019, among other things, proposes setting up of a **Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA)** to promote, protect and enforce the rights of consumers as a class.
  - The CCPA would make interventions to prevent consumer detriment arising from unfair trade practices.
  - The agency can also initiate class action, including enforcing recall, refund and return of products.
  - The Bill also envisages simplified dispute resolution process, has provision for Mediation and e-filing of cases.
  - **For the first time** there will be an exclusive law dealing with **Product Liability**.
  - A manufacturer or product service provider or product seller will now be responsible to compensate for injury or damage caused by defective product or deficiency in services.
2. c
- *Ministry of Defence has recently flagged off an Expedition Team of Himalayan Mountaineering Institute (Hmi), Darjeeling to Mt. Elbrus, the highest peak in European Continent.*
  - It is an inactive volcano located in the western Caucasus mountain range, near the Georgian border in Kabardino-Balkaria and Karachay-Cherkessia, **Russia**.
3. c
- The **UNRWA** has been providing health, education, relief and social services, as well as emergency humanitarian assistance, across its **five areas of operations** in Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, West Bank, and the Gaza Strip since 1950.
  - UNRWA deals **specifically with Palestine refugees** in its five areas of operation in Jordan, Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic, West Bank and the Gaza Strip.
- Its role encompasses assistance, protection and global advocacy for Palestine refugees.
  - **UNHCR's** mandate is to provide international protection to **refugees worldwide** whenever political conditions allow.
  - UNHCR is responsible for Palestine refugees outside UNRWA's areas of operation.
  - **UNRWA** also provides services to refugees and people displaced by the **Arab-Israeli conflict** of 1967 and subsequent hostilities.
4. d
- **Bangladesh** has recently signed a deal with **Russia** for the supply of uranium for its 2,400 MW Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant (RNPP).
  - The two countries have also signed '**spent fuel sent back**' agreement in 2017 for management of the nuclear waste of RNPP.
5. c
6. d
- **Owen Dixon**, an Australian jurist chosen by the United Nations to mediate between **India and Pakistan** on the **J&K issue**, in his report of September 1950, suggested a package, which did not find acceptance from India.
  - The Plan had assigned Ladakh to India and northern areas and Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir to Pakistan, besides splitting Jammu between the two.
  - It had proposed a plebiscite in the Kashmir valley.
7. d
- **Operation Gibraltar** was the codename given to the strategy of Pakistan to infiltrate Jammu and Kashmir, and instigate the locals in starting a rebellion against Indian sovereignty.
  - Pakistan specifically chose this name to draw a parallel to the Arab invasion of Spain that was launched from the port of Gibraltar.
8. c
9. d
10. b

- It is located in East and West Godavari districts of Andhra Pradesh.

**08-08-2019**

1) With respect to *The Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Bill, 2019*, which was passed recently in the Parliament, consider the following statements:

1. The Bill reorganises the state of Jammu and Kashmir into the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir with a legislature and the Union Territory of Ladakh without a legislature.
2. The High Court of Jammu and Kashmir will be the common High Court for the Union Territories of Ladakh, and 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

2) Consider the following statements with respect to *United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)*

1. It is one of the specialised agencies of U.N.
2. It promotes industrial development for poverty reduction, inclusive globalization and environmental sustainability.

Which of 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 *Vikram Sarabhai Journalism Award*

1. It was instituted by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).
2. It aims to recognize and reward journalists who have actively contributed towards the field of space science, applications, and research.

Which of 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) *UNSC Resolution 47* sometimes seen in the news recently is associated with which of the following?

- a. Jammu and Kashmir Dispute
- b. Israel – Palestine Issue
- c. Declaration of a person as Terrorist
- d. None of the above

5) Consider the following statements with respect to bilateral trade between *India and Pakistan*

1. India's top exports to Pakistan are vegetable fats and oils and minerals whereas Pakistan's top exports to India are chemicals and textiles.
2. Pakistan has recently revoked the Most Favoured Nation (MFN) status granted to India.

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

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

6) Who among the following were the kings of the *Kashmir Sultanate*?

1. Shah Mir

2. Jamshed
3. Sikandar
4. Zain-ul-Abidin
5. Fateh Khan

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

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

7) Consider the following statements with respect to *Emex australis Steinh* sometimes seen in the news recently

1. It is an invasive weed native only to Australia.
2. It prospers in conditions such as drought and unseasonal rain.
3. Climate change helps increase its numbers.

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

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

8) Consider the following statements with respect to *The Right to Information (Amendment) Bill, 2019*

1. It removes the term of Chief Information Commissioner (CIC) and the Information Commissioners (IC) and states that central government will notify the term of office.
2. The Bill states that the salaries, allowances, and other terms and conditions of service of the central and state CIC and ICs will be determined by the central government.

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

9) Consider the following statements with respect to *Quit India movement*

1. Failure of Cripps Mission is one of the major reasons for launching Quit India Movement by Gandhi.
2. Students, workers and peasants were the backbone of the movement while the upper classes and the bureaucracy remained largely loyal.

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 statements with respect to *Forest Survey of India (FSI)*

1. It is a premier national organization under the union Ministry of Environment and Forests.
2. Its one of the main objective is to prepare State of Forest Report biennially.

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. c
2. c

- UN-Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) is the specialized agency that promotes industrial development for poverty reduction, inclusive globalization and environmental sustainability.
  - The mission of UNIDO is to promote and accelerate inclusive and sustainable industrial development (ISID) in Member States.
  - UNIDO is perfectly positioned to assist developing countries and countries with economy in transition to shift from HFCs to ozone- and climate-friendly alternatives and to improve energy efficiency.
  - *An agreement was signed recently between the National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE) and the UNIDO to initiate a skill development programme for different levels of beneficiaries in the solar thermal energy sector.*
3. c
- *As part of centenary year celebrations of Dr. Vikram Sarabhai, father of Indian space programme, ISRO institutes two categories of awards in journalism.*
  - ISRO has announced its “Vikram Sarabhai Journalism Award in Space Science, Technology and Research” to recognize and reward journalists who have actively contributed towards the field of space science, applications, and research.
  - The nominations are open to all Indians who have a good experience in journalism.
4. a
- *UNSC Resolution 47 focuses on the complaint of the Government of India concerning the dispute over the State of **Jammu and Kashmir** that India took to the Security Council in January 1948.*
5. d
- India granted MFN status to Pakistan in 1996 and withdraws it in February 2019.
  - Pakistan is **not yet granted MFN status to India.**
  - India’s top exports to Pakistan are chemicals and textiles, accounting for almost 70 per cent of the bilateral trade. Pakistan’s top exports to India are vegetable fats and oils, and minerals,
6. d
7. c
- *Scientists have recently found **invasive weed Emex australis Steinh** that can potentially reduce productivity, in wheat fields at 25 villages of Faridabad and adjoining districts in **Haryana.***
  - The weed, of the family *Polygonaceae*, is native to **Australia and South Africa.**
  - It is commonly known as ‘**doublegee**’, ‘three corner jack’ or ‘spiny emex’.
  - This weed prospers in conditions such **as drought and unseasonal rain.**
  - **Climate change** helps **increase its numbers**, according to researchers.
8. c
- TERM OF OFFICE**
- The RTI Act states that the Chief Information Commissioner (CIC) and Information Commissioners (ICs) (appointed at the central and state level) will hold office for a **term of five years.**
  - The **Bill removes this provision** and states that the central government will notify the term of office for the CIC and the ICs.
- SALARY AND ALLOWANCES**
- The Act states that the salary of the CIC and ICs (at the central level) will be **equivalent to** the salary paid to the **Chief Election Commissioner** and Election Commissioners, respectively.
  - Similarly, the salary of the CIC and ICs (at the state level) will be equivalent to the salary paid to the Election Commissioners and the Chief Secretary to the state government, respectively.
  - The Bill seeks to amend these provisions to state that the salaries, allowances, and other terms and conditions of service of the central and state CIC and ICs will be determined by the **Central government.**
9. d
10. d

- **Forest Survey of India (FSI)** is a premier national organization under the union Ministry of Environment and Forests, responsible for assessment and monitoring of the forest resources of the country regularly.
- FSI succeeded the Pre-investment Survey of Forest Resources (**PISFR**), a project initiated in 1965 by Government of India with the sponsorship of **FAO and UNDP**.
- Its main objective is **to prepare State of Forest Report biennially**, providing assessment of latest forest cover in the country and monitoring changes in these.

**09-08-2019**

1) Consider the following statements with respect to **Bharat Ratna Awards**

1. It is not mandatory that Bharat Ratna be awarded every year.
2. It cannot be awarded posthumously.
3. The number of annual awards is restricted to a maximum of three in a particular year.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

2) Consider the following statements with respect to **World Biofuel Day**

1. It is observed every year to create awareness about the importance of non-fossil fuels as an alternative to conventional fossil fuels
2. The theme of the World Biofuel Day 2019 is "Production of Biodiesel from Used Cooking Oil (UCO)".

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

3) Consider the following statements with respect to **National Entrepreneurship Awards (NEA)**

1. It aims to recognise and honor outstanding young first generation Entrepreneurs and their Ecosystem Builders for their contribution in entrepreneurship development.
2. It was instituted by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE).

Which of 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 **Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP)**

1. It aims to promote and support aspiring as well as established women entrepreneurs in India.
2. It is an initiative of 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 **Pradhan Mantri Kisan Maan-Dhan Yojana (PM-KMY)**

1. It is a voluntary and contributory pension scheme for the farmers in the entry age group of 18 to 40 years.



2. Under the scheme, a monthly pension of 3,000 rupees will be provided to the eligible farmers with up to two acres of land-holding on attaining the age of 60 years.

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 pairs

- Tungareshwar Wildlife Sanctuary – Uttar Pradesh
- Kanjirankulam Bird Sanctuary – Kerala
- Vaduvvoor Bird Sanctuary – Tamil Nadu

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

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

7) Consider the following statements about Xenotransplants:

- It is the organ transplantation between different species.
- Hearts, lungs or livers can be transplanted from one species to the other
- It is the most common method used for anti-aging in humans.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

8) Which of the following actions can combat deflation?

- Increasing money supply
- Decreasing cash reserve ratio
- Increasing statutory liquidity ratio

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

9) Consider the following statements

- This type of rain is independent of relief or convection
- Basically it is due to the convergence of two different air masses
- This type of rain is also called as frontal rain.

Which of the following types of rainfall is correctly related to the above descriptions?

- Convictional rainfall
- Orographic rainfall
- Temperate Cyclonic rainfall
- Tropical Cyclonic rainfall

10) One could *not* navigate fully in most of the African rivers. It is mainly because of

- They form high and heavy waterfalls
- A large number of rivers flow through narrow rift valleys
- These rivers flow in the hard bedrocks
- The Rivers are mostly seasonal in Nature

## Answers

1. b

- The President of India has recently presented Bharat Ratna Awards to Shri **Nanaji Deshmukh** (posthumously),



Dr **Bhupendra Kumar**  
**Hazarika (posthumously)** and  
Shri **Pranab Mukherjee** at an Investiture  
Ceremony held at Rashtrapati Bhavan.

- 'Bharat Ratna', the highest civilian Award of the country, was instituted in the year 1954.
  - Any person without distinction of race, occupation, position or sex is eligible for these awards.
  - It is awarded in recognition of exceptional service/performance of the highest order in any field of human endeavour.
  - The recommendations for Bharat Ratna are made by the **Prime Minister himself to the President**.
  - No formal recommendations for this are necessary.
  - The number of annual awards is restricted to a **maximum of three** in a **particular year**.
  - It is also **not mandatory** that Bharat Ratna be awarded **every year**.
  - On conferment of the award, the recipient receives a Sanad (certificate) signed by the President and a medallion.
  - The Award **does not carry any monetary grant**.
  - In terms of Article 18 (1) of the Constitution, the award **cannot be used as a prefix or suffix** to the recipient's name.
  - However, should an award winner consider it necessary, he/she may use the following expression in their biodata to indicate that he/she is a recipient of the award:
    - 'Awarded Bharat Ratna by the President'
    - or
    - 'Recipient of Bharat Ratna Award'
2. d
- World Biofuel Day is observed **every year** on 10th of August to create awareness about the importance of non-fossil fuels as an alternative to conventional fossil fuels and highlight the various efforts made by Government in the biofuel sector.
3. c
- As an important step to catalyse a cultural shift in youth for entrepreneurship, the **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE)** has instituted the **National Entrepreneurship Awards (NEA)**.
  - It aims to recognise and honor outstanding young **first generation** Entrepreneurs and their Ecosystem Builders for their outstanding contribution in entrepreneurship development.
  - The National Entrepreneurship Awards (**NEA 2019**) is the **4th edition** in the NEA series.
  - The awards seek to instill and entrench the entrepreneurial attitude among the future generations and the Youth of India.
4. a
- The Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP) is a Government of India initiative by **NITI Aayog**
  - It aims to promote and support aspiring as well as established women entrepreneurs in India, assist and handhold them in their journey from starting to scaling up and expanding their ventures.
5. c
- Under the PM-KMY, a new Central Sector Scheme, a monthly pension of 3,000 rupees will be provided to the eligible farmers with up to two acres of land-holding on attaining the age of 60years.
  - It is a voluntary and contributory pension scheme for the farmers in the entry age group of 18 to 40 years.
  - The farmers will have to make a monthly contribution ranging from 55 to 200 rupees depending on their age of entry in the Pension Fund till they attain the age of 60 years.
6. a
- Tungareashwar Wildlife Sanctuary – Maharashtra
  - Kanjirankulam Bird Sanctuary – Tamil Nadu
  - Vaduvloor Bird Sanctuary – Tamil Nadu
7. a

- Xenotransplantation is the transplantation of living cells, tissues or organs from one species to another. Such cells, tissues or organs are called xenografts or xenotransplants. It is contrasted with allotransplantation (from other individual of same species), Syngeneic transplantation (Grafts transplanted between two genetically identical individuals of the same species) and Autotransplantation (from one part of the body to another in the same person) .
- Xenotransplantation of human tumor cells into immunocompromised mice is a research technique frequently used in pre-clinical oncology research. Human xenotransplantation offers a potential treatment for end-stage organ failure, a significant health problem in parts of the industrialized world. It also raises many novel medical, legal and ethical issues.
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8. a

9. c

- This type of rainfall is independent of relief or convection. It is purely associated with cyclonic activity whether in the temperate regions (depressions) or tropical regions (cyclones). Basically it is due to the convergence (meeting) of two different air masses with different temperatures and other physical properties. As cold air is denser, it tends to remain close to the ground. The warm

air is lighter and tends to rise over the cold air as shown in figure. In ascent, pressure decreases the air expands and cools, condensation takes place and light showers called cyclonic or frontal rain occur. The heavier and colder air masses eventually pushes up the warmer and lighter air and the sky is clear again

10. a

- Most rivers in Africa are not navigable due to waterfalls, weeds and being seasonal. Africa need to combine forces to utilise this rivers for irrigation, hydro electric power and combat the big problem of transport by overcoming weeds and waterfalls.

**10-08-2019**

**1) Consider the following statements with respect to Samagra Shiksha-Jal Suraksha Campaign**

1. It aims to promote water conservation activities for both rural and urban households through mobile phones.
2. It was launched by the Ministry of Jal Shakti.

**Which of 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) Shillong Declaration sometimes seen in the news recently is associated with which of the following?**

- a. e-governance
- b. Artificial Intelligence
- c. River Sharing Agreement
- d. None of the above

**3) Consider the following statements with respect to Women Transforming India (WTI) Awards**

1. Since its inception in 2016, it has been recognising and celebrating stories of exemplary women from across India.
2. The theme for WTI Awards 2019 is “Women and Entrepreneurship”.
3. It is a flagship initiative of NITI Aayog.

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

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

4) Consider the following statements

1. Diarrhoea was one of the biggest killers in children and Rotavirus was one of the most common causes of severe diarrhoea in children less than 2 years of age.
2. Rotavirus diarrhoea can be prevented through vaccination.

Which of 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) *Brunhes–Matuyama* refers to?

- a. Magnetic field flip
- b. CERN's Large hadron collider
- c. Sixth mass extinct event
- d. None of the above

6) Consider the following statements with respect to *Gogabeel Lake*

1. It is an ox-bow lake located in Jharkhand.
2. It is formed from the flow of the rivers Mahananda and Kankhar in the north and the Ganga in the south and east.

Which of 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 *National e-Governance Conference, 2019 (NCeG – 2019)*

1. It provides a platform for the delegates from across the country to share best practices for achieving effective governance and public service delivery.
2. It was jointly organized by the Ministry of Home Affairs in association with Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY).

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

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

8) *Pattachitra*, a style of painting is one of the oldest and most popular art forms of which of the following states?

- a. Odisha
- b. Tamil Nadu
- c. Maharashtra
- d. Andhra Pradesh

9) Consider the following statements with respect to *PM-KUSUM Scheme*

1. It is a new umbrella scheme aimed at ensuring remunerative prices to the farmers for their produce.
2. It is implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture.

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

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

10) Consider the following statements with respect to *Bhitarkanika National Park*

- It is located in the state of Odisha
- It consists of the Brahmani, Baitrani Delta.
- It was a designated Ramsar site.

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

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

## Answers

1. d

- The **Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Human Resources and Development (MHRD)** has launched the '**Samagra Shiksha-Jal Suraksha**' drive to promote water conservation activities for School Students, so that they can become competent, conscientious and committed water citizens of our nation.
- The Department has prepared a detailed outline to implement this programme in all the schools of the country.

### Five Major Objectives:

- To educate Students learn about conservation of water
- To sensitize Students about the impact of scarcity of water
- To empower Students to learn to protect the natural sources of water
- To help every Student to save at least one litre of water per day

- To encourage Students towards judicious use and minimum wastage of water at home and school level

2. a

- The Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances (DARPG), in association with Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) and the State Government of Meghalaya organized the 22nd National Conference on e-Governance (NCeG) 2019 on 8-9th August, 2019 at Shillong, Meghalaya.
- The theme of this Conference was "**Digital India: Success to Excellence**".
- At the valedictory session held recently, '**Shillong Declaration**' on e-Governance was adopted after intensive deliberations during the sessions held over two days.

3. d

- The WTI Awards, since its inception in 2016, has been recognising and celebrating stories of exemplary women from across India.
- The theme for WTI Awards 2019 is "**Women and Entrepreneurship**", in continuation with last edition's theme.
- WTI Awards is a flagship initiative of **NITI Aayog**.

4. c

- Union Health Ministry has recently decided to provide Rotavirus vaccine to every child across all States and Union Territories by September, 2019.
- Rotavirus vaccine was introduced in 2016 in a phased manner, beginning with 4 States initially and later expanded to 7 more States.
- The vaccine is now available in 28 States/Union Territories.
- It is expected to be available in all 36 States/Union Territories by September 2019.

5. a

- Earth's most recent **geomagnetic reversal** — a phenomenon where the planet's overall magnetic field flips — took at least 22,000 years to complete.

- This is more than twice than previously thought, according to a study by University of Wisconsin-Madison.
- The magnetic field, which protects the Earth from potentially dangerous solar radiation, last flipped some 770,000 years ago and is named **Matuyama-Brunhes** after the scientists who discovered it, according to the journal Science Advances.

6. b

- Gogabeel, an ox-bow lake in **Bihar's** Katihar district, has been declared as the state's first 'Community Reserve'.
- Gogabeel is formed from the flow of the rivers **Mahananda** and **Kankhar** in the north and the **Ganga** in the south and east.
- It is the fifteenth Protected Area (PA) in Bihar.

7. a

- The **Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances (DARPG), Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions**, in association with **Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY)** and the State Government of Meghalaya organized the 22nd National Conference on e-Governance (NCeG) 2019 on 8-9th August, 2019 at Shillong, Meghalaya.
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8. a

- Pattachitra style of painting is one of the oldest and most popular art forms of **Odisha**.

9. d

- **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.

10. d

**12-08-2019**

**1) Consider the following statements with respect to *Indian crested porcupine***

1. It is one of the largest diurnal rodent species.
2. Its adaptability towards changing environment helps it to survive in close proximity to human beings.

**Which of 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 *Oussudu Lake***

1. It is a manmade lake located in Puducherry and Tamilnadu.
2. The structure of the lake consist of water, wetland/marsh and mudflats.

**Which of 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 *Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill 2019***

1. The Bill prohibits commercial surrogacy, but allows altruistic surrogacy.
2. Under the bill, unmarried women is not eligible to become a surrogate mother.

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 *Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Bill, 2019*

- The Bill defines a transgender person as one whose gender does not match the gender assigned at birth.
- Under the bill, no government or private entity can discriminate against a transgender person in employment matters, including recruitment, and promotion.

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

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

5) *Almatti* is a major dam built across which of the following rivers?

- R. Cauvery
- R. Godavari
- R. Krishna
- R. Tungabhadra

6) Arrange the following states in ascending order based on the forest and tree cover (In terms of %):

- Haryana
- Punjab
- Rajasthan
- Arunachal Pradesh

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

7) Consider the following statements with respect to *Repurpose Cooking Oil (RUCO) Initiative*

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

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

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

8) Consider the following pairs

*Places in News – Country*

- Aden – Yemen
- Temple Mount – Italy

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

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

9) Consider the following statements with respect to *Jungle cat*

- This animal is quite unusual and is found in scrub jungles, dense forests, foot hills and grasslands.
- It has been listed under the Least Concern Category in the IUCN Red List.

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

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

10) Consider the following statements with respect to *Black-naped hare*

- This animal is restricted to India and Sri Lanka.
- In many places, they are considered pests because of the damage they can do to young trees and to crops.

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

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

## Answers

1. b

- One of the largest **nocturnal** rodent species, the **Indian crested porcupine** lives in burrows, caves and rock crevices during the day.
- The porcupine is known for the many spines on its body and when alarmed, it raises its spines and rattles those on its tail.
- The fact that they are able to adapt to changing environmental conditions and food habits helps this species survive in close proximity to human beings.

2. c

- The Ousteri Lake also referred to as **Oussudu Lake** is a **man-made lake** situated in **Puducherry and Tamil Nadu**.
- It is recognized as one of the important wetlands of Asia by the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN).
- The structure of the lake is complex consisting of **water, wetland and mudflats**.

- Lake acts as the single largest catchment of fresh water in Puducherry.
- The vegetation of the lake (ranges from small herbs to trees) supports migratory avifauna as well as native birds during summer and winter.

3. c

- The Bill prohibits commercial surrogacy, but allows altruistic surrogacy.
- Altruistic surrogacy involves no monetary compensation to the surrogate mother other than the medical expenses and insurance coverage during the pregnancy.
- Commercial surrogacy includes surrogacy or its related procedures undertaken for a monetary benefit or reward (in cash or kind) exceeding the basic medical expenses and insurance coverage.

### Eligibility criteria for surrogate mother

The surrogate mother has to be:

- A close relative of the intending couple
- A **married woman** having a child of her own
- 25 to 35 years old
- A surrogate only once in her lifetime
- Possess a certificate of medical and psychological fitness for surrogacy

4. d

- The Bill defines a transgender person as one **whose gender does not match the gender assigned at birth**.
- It includes transmen and trans-women, persons with intersex variations, gender-queers, and persons with socio-cultural identities, such as kinnar and hijra.
- Intersex variations is defined to mean a person who at birth shows variation in his or her primary sexual characteristics, external genitalia, chromosomes, or hormones from the normative standard of male or female body.
- No government or private entity can discriminate against a transgender person in employment matters, including recruitment, and promotion. Every establishment is required to designate a person to be a complaint officer to deal with complaints in relation to the Act.

5. c
- **Almatti**, a major dam on **Krishna River** that is located in Karnataka, close to the Maharashtra border.
6. a
- Assessment of forest and tree cover are done by the Forest Survey of India, whose findings are published in the India State of Forest Report (ISFR).
  - The last report was published in 2017.
  - A quarter of India's geographical area (**24.49 %**) is under forest and tree cover.
  - **Lowest forest and tree cover (In terms of %)**: The lowest forest and tree cover in the country is in **Haryana**, at 6.79 % of its geographical area.
  - **Punjab** follows with 6.87 %. **Rajasthan's** forest and tree cover is over 7.26 % of its geographical area while **Madhya Pradesh's** is 27.73 %.
  - **Highest forest and tree cover (In terms of %)**: At 97 %, the Union Territory of Lakshadweep is on top – its geographical area is only 30 square km.
  - Among the six states with the highest forest and tree cover, four are in the Northeast – Manipur, **Arunachal Pradesh**, Mizoram and Meghalaya.
  - Goa and Kerala are two other states with more than 50 % of their geographical area under forest and tree cover.
  - **Highest forest and tree cover (In terms of area)**: In terms of geographical area, the highest tree and forest cover is in Madhya Pradesh, with 85,487 sq km.
7. c
- The **Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)** has launched the **Repurpose Cooking Oil (RUCO) initiative** to collect and convert used cooking oil into bio-fuel.
8. a
- The **Temple Mount**, known to Muslims as the Haram esh-Sharif and the Al Aqsa Compound is a hill located in the **Old City of Jerusalem** that for thousands of years has been venerated as a holy site, in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam alike.
9. c
- This animal is quite unusual and is found in scrub jungles, dense forests, foot hills and grasslands.
  - It is an excellent ambush predator that hunts small rodents, ground dwelling birds, lizards and insects.
  - Its population, despite it being in the **Least Concern category** in the **IUCN Red List**, is declining.
10. c
- **Black naped hare (*L. nigricollis*)**, also known as the **Indian hare**, is restricted to **India and Sri Lanka**.
  - It is usually found in the scrubs, forests adjacent to farm lands and dry rocky habitats, feeding on young grass blades and other herbs depending upon their availability.
  - These creatures are known to live in burrows.
  - They come out during the night and early mornings for grazing.
  - In many places, *L. nigricollis* are considered pests because of the damage they can do to young trees and to crops.
- 13-08-2019**
- 1) Which of the following reasons are responsible for resurgence of infectious diseases like diphtheria and pertussis?
1. Low awareness of vaccination
  2. Loss of herd immunity
  3. Negligence due to misinformation about vaccination
- Select the correct answer using the codes given below:
- a. 2 only
  - b. 1 and 2 only
  - c. 2 and 3 only
  - d. 1, 2 and 3

2) Consider the following statements regarding *PRAAPTI portal*

1. It is launched by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.
2. It is developed to bring transparency in power purchase transaction between power generators and distribution companies.

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

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

3) Consider the following statements with respect to *Tardigrades*

1. They are also called as water bears, or moss piglets.
2. They are tiny animals that can survive extremes of temperature and pressure including the frigid vacuum of space.
3. They have been found everywhere, from mountain tops to the deep sea and mud volcanoes, from tropical rain forests to the Antarctic.

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

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

4) *Kajin Sara Lake* sometimes seen in the news recently is located in which of the following countries?

- a. China
- b. Japan
- c. Nepal
- d. Srilanka

5) The term '*Perseids*' often seen in news is related to

- a. Radio Galaxy
- b. Crater lake
- c. Meteor shower
- d. Tropical cyclone

6) Consider the following statements regarding *Minamata Convention*

1. It is a global treaty to protect human health and environment from the adverse effects of Mercury.
2. From 2025, the convention will ban the production, import and export of products that contain mercury.
3. Global Environment Facility (GEF) serves as the financial mechanism of the convention.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

7) Consider the following statements regarding *Measles*

1. It is a highly contagious bacterial disease.
2. Under the Global Vaccine Action Plan, measles and rubella are targeted for elimination by 2020.

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

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

8) *Article 130* of the Indian Constitution deals with which of the following?

- a. Appellate Jurisdiction

- b. Appointment of ad hoc Judges
- c. Seat of Supreme Court
- d. Original jurisdiction of the Supreme Court

9) Consider the following statements with regards to the *Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)*

1. It has permanent delegations from both the United Nations Organisation and the European Union.
2. Iran is a member of this organization
3. India is not a member of this organization.

Which of the given above statements are correct?

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

10) With reference to the *Transfer Pricing*, which of the following statements is correct?

- a. It refers to the method of transferring the subsidy for Farmers
- b. It refers to the rules and regulations of foreign remittances by the Individuals
- c. It refers to the rules and methods for pricing the transactions between enterprises under common ownership or control
- d. It refers the method of determining the corporate taxes by the Government on Domestic Companies

### Answers

1. d
2. a
  - PRAAPTI (Payment Ratification And Analysis in Power procurement for bringing Transparency in Invoicing of generators) portal is launched by the Ministry of Power.

- Recently, Central Electricity Authority has requested state distribution companies to list payment dues in the portal.

3. d

- Tardigrades are also known as water bears or moss piglets.
- They are a phylum of water-dwelling eight-legged segmented micro-animals.
- They have been found everywhere, from mountaintops to the deep sea and mud volcanoes, from tropical rain forests to the Antarctic.
- They are among the most resilient animals known, with individual species able to survive extreme conditions.
- They have survived exposure to outer space.
- They can survive extremes of temperature and pressure, including the frigid vacuum of space.
- *It has been recently revealed that the Beresheet mission was carrying a cargo of dehydrated microscopic lifeforms known as tardigrades.*

4. c

- The **Kajin Sara lake** in Manang district of Nepal was discovered about a few months ago by a team of mountaineers.
- This newly-discovered lake in **Nepal** is likely to set a new record of being the world's highest lake replacing **Tilicho**, which is situated at an altitude of 4,919 metres in the Himalayan nation and currently holding the title.

5. c

6. c

- The convention came into force in 2017.
- It will ban the production, import and export of production that contain mercury from **2020**.
- Recent report has asserted that climate change and the rising ocean temperatures means fish are more active and need more food to survive. Consuming more prey means consuming more mercury.

- Union Cabinet approved a proposal for ratification of the Minamata Convention in 2018.
7. d
- It is a highly contagious **viral** disease.
  - Under the plan, it targets **elimination of measles** and **controlling of Rubella** by 2020.
8. c
9. d
10. c

### 14-08-2019

1) *Injeti Srinivas Committee* sometimes seen in the news recently is associated with which of the following?

- a. Insolvency Bankruptcy Code
- b. Hague convention on Child Abduction
- c. Corporate Social Responsibility Reforms
- d. None of the above

2) *REGN-EB3* and *mAb114* sometimes seen in the news recently are?

- a. Drugs for Ebola Treatment
- b. Exo planets
- c. Bio-Molecular Scissors
- d. Asteroids found in Kuiper belt

3) *ULTRASAT* sometimes seen in the news recently is a microsatellite to record black holes to be launched by which of the following countries?

- a. Israel
- b. China
- c. Russia
- d. India

4) With respect to *Formosan Clouded Leopard*, consider the following statements

1. It is a subspecies of the clouded leopard that is also found in India.
2. Habitat destruction and overhunting for their skins are the major reasons for their decline.

Which of 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) With respect to *Noctilucent clouds*, consider the following statements

1. They are extremely rare very high clouds seen in the night sky, usually on cloudy, winter nights.
2. They occupy troposphere and are only seen at latitudes between 45°N and 80°N in the Northern Hemisphere, and equivalent latitudes in the southern hemisphere.

Which of 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 *Panchamirtham of Palani Temple*

1. It is a combination of five natural substances – banana, jaggery, cow ghee, honey and cardamom.
2. Not even a single drop of water is added during the preparation of the panchamirtham.
3. It has been recently granted the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.

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

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

1. It is a statutory body established through Central Vigilance Commission Act, 2003.
2. The superintendence of CBI lies solely with the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC).

Which of 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) *Swachh Nagar App* which was launched recently for which of the following purposes?

- a. Waste Collection
- b. Grievance Redressal
- c. Sweeper Alert Scheme
- d. None of the above

9) *Usha Thorat Committee* sometimes seen in the news recently is associated with which of the following?

- a. Shareholder Norms
- b. Corporate Governance
- c. Offshore Rupee Markets
- d. Economic Capital Framework

10) Consider the following statements with respect to *Special Purpose Trust Fund (SPTF)*

1. It is a specific fund housed within the UN Secretariat.

2. It was established to receive, consolidate, manage all contributions towards disaster management around 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

## Answers

1. c

- The High Level Committee on **Corporate Social Responsibility** (CSR) headed by Corporate Affairs Secretary **Injeti Srinivas** has recommended making CSR expenditure tax deductible and that compliance violations be treated as a civil offence that attracts penalties.

2. a

- The drugs, named **REGN-EB3** and **mAb114**, work by attacking the **Ebola virus** with antibodies, neutralising its impact on human cells.
- They are the "first drugs that, in a scientifically sound study, have clearly shown a significant diminution in mortality" for Ebola patients.

3. a

- The satellite, known as **ULTRASAT**, will carry a telescope designed to observe the Universe as never seen before and will operate in the ultraviolet range of light that is normally invisible to humans.
- **Israel** plans to launch into space in 2023 an "innovative" scientific satellite with a unique space telescope that will investigate and record cosmic explosions and black holes.
- The project will be led by Weizmann Institute of Science (WIS) and the Israel Space Agency (ISA) at the state's Ministry of Science and Technology.

4. c

5. d

- Noctilucent clouds are extremely rare **very high clouds** seen in the night sky, usually on **clear, summer nights**.
- Noctilucent clouds are extremely rare collections of ice crystals, occasionally appearing in late clear summer evenings after sunset, but before it gets completely dark.
- They become visible about the same time as the brightest stars appear and often stay visible after dark because they are still reflecting sunlight due to their great height.
- They are higher up than any other clouds, occupying the layer of atmosphere known as the **Mesosphere**, and are only seen at latitudes between 45°N and 80°N in the Northern Hemisphere, and equivalent latitudes in the southern hemisphere.
- They are seen less often in the southern hemisphere as there is very little land and very few people there.
- Only the southern tip of Argentina and Chile, and the Antarctic are at the correct latitude.

6. d

7. d

- CBI **derives power** to investigate from the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946.
- The superintendence of CBI **related to** investigation of offences under the **Prevention of Corruption Act**, 1988 lies with the **Central Vigilance Commission (CVC)** and in **other matters** with the **Department of Personnel & Training (DOPT)** in the Ministry of Personnel, Pension & Grievances of the Government of India.

8. a

- Swachh Nagar app that will allow users to have **waste** – solid, wet or construction and demolition (C&D) – **collected** by their urban local bodies was launched recently by the Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry.

9. c

- The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) task force, chaired by **Usha Thorat**, set up to examine the issues relating to the **offshore rupee markets** has submitted its report to the governor recently.

10. a

- *India has contributed one million US Dollars to the United Nations Special Purpose Trust Fund for the Resident Coordinator System.*
- According to the UN information, Special Purpose Trust Fund (SPTF) is a specific fund housed within the UN **Secretariat**, established to receive, consolidate, manage all contributions and financial transactions of the new Resident Coordinator system in a transparent and effective way.
- SPTF web portal, displays in real time all commitments, contributions and expenditures recorded for the fund.
- Funding sources include voluntary contributions from the Member States, the doubling of cost-sharing amounts from the UN entities who are members of the United Nations development system and a one per cent levy applied to contributions for UN development related activities earmarked to a single agency, single programme or project.

**16-08-2019**

**1) Consider the following statements with respect to World Trade Organisation (WTO)**

- 1. WTO has defined the criteria for a member country to be classified as developed or developing.**
- 2. WTO allows member countries to classify themselves as developed or developing or least developed countries.**
- 3. No WTO member can challenge the decision of a member country to be classified as developing.**

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

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

**2) Consider the following statements with respect to Vir Chakra Award**



1. It is the third highest gallantry award awarded for acts of bravery in the in the presence of the enemy.
2. The Medal cannot be awarded posthumously.
3. Officers and men and women of all ranks of the Naval, Military and Air Forces are eligible for this award.

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

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

3) *Tricalcium Phosphate* is commonly used for which of the following purposes?

- a. Weedicide
- b. Fire extinguisher
- c. Bone substitution
- d. Manufacture of crackers

4) Consider the following statements with respect to *Foreign Trade Act (FTA), 1992*

1. Its main objective is to provide a frame work for development and regulation of foreign trade by facilitating imports into the country.
2. According to FTA, Gift items of value up to Rs.5,00,000 received from foreign countries to people residing in India are exempted from customs duty.

Which of 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 *Parliamentary Committee*

1. It is a panel that is formed for a specific period of time by the house or the speaker of the house.
2. Consultative committees are also a part of the parliamentary committees.

Which of 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 *Purse seine*

1. It is a fishing method in which large weighted nets are dragged across the ocean floor.
2. It is mainly used to catch fish species that swim in large schools near the ocean surface.

Which of 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 *Varadharaja Perumal Temple*

1. It is a temple dedicated to Lord Shiva.
2. It is located in Kancheepuram, Tamil Nadu.
3. It is one among the 108 Divya Desams.

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

8) Consider the following statements with respect to *SAMRATH Scheme*

1. It is a scheme for capacity building and skilling in the sunrise sector.
2. Under the scheme, preference will be given to various social groups, SC, ST, differently abled, minorities and other vulnerable groups.

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

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

9) Which of the following countries is/are recognised by WTO as “Developed Countries”?

1. China
2. Russia
3. Japan
4. Australia

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

10) Consider the following statements with respect to *Iceland*

1. It is a volcanic Island located in the middle of the North Atlantic Ocean.
2. Iceland is in many ways reminiscent of the surface of Mars.

Which of 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. d

- There are **no WTO definitions** of “developed” and “developing” countries.
- WTO allows member countries to **classify themselves** as “developed” or “developing”.
- However, **other members can challenge** the decision of a country to be classified as “developing”.
- Only the “**least-developed countries**” status is designated by **the UN**.
- (i.e) WTO recognizes as least-developed countries (LDCs) those countries which have been designated as such by the United Nations.

2. c

- The **Vir Chakra** is awarded for acts of gallantry in the **presence of the enemy**, whether on land or at sea or in the air.
- The Medal may be awarded **posthumously**.

Following categories of persons are eligible for the Vir Chakra:

1. Officers and men and women of all ranks of the Naval, Military and Air Forces, of any of the Reserve Forces, of the Territorial Army, Militia and of any other lawfully constituted Armed Forces.
2. Matrons, Sisters, Nurses and the Staff of the Nursing Services and other Services pertaining to Hospitals and Nursing, and Civilians of either sex serving regularly or temporarily under the orders, directions or supervision of any of the above-mentioned Forces.

3. c

- **Tricalcium Phosphate** is a commonly used **bone substitute material** from natural sources.

4. a

- The basic objective of **Foreign Trade Development and Regulation (FTDR) Act 1992** is to provide a frame work for development and regulation of foreign trade by facilitating imports into the country, as well as,

taking measures to increase exports from India and any other related matters.

- According to According to the Foreign Trade Act, gift items of a value of up to **Rs. 5,000** received from foreign countries to people residing in India are **exempted from customs duty**.
- Domestic industry players brought to the notice of the Customs Department that several e-commerce companies, especially from China, were delivering orders to their India-resident customers by disguising their products as gifts so as to evade the Customs duty that would normally be applicable on the products.

5. a

A parliamentary committee means a committee that:

1. Is appointed or elected by the House or nominated by the Speaker /Chairman.
2. Works under the direction of the Speaker / Chairman.
3. Presents its report to the House or to the Speaker / Chairman.
4. Has a secretariat provided by the Lok Sabha / Rajya Sabha.

The consultative committees, which also consist of members of Parliament, are not parliamentary committees as they do not fulfill above four conditions.

6. b

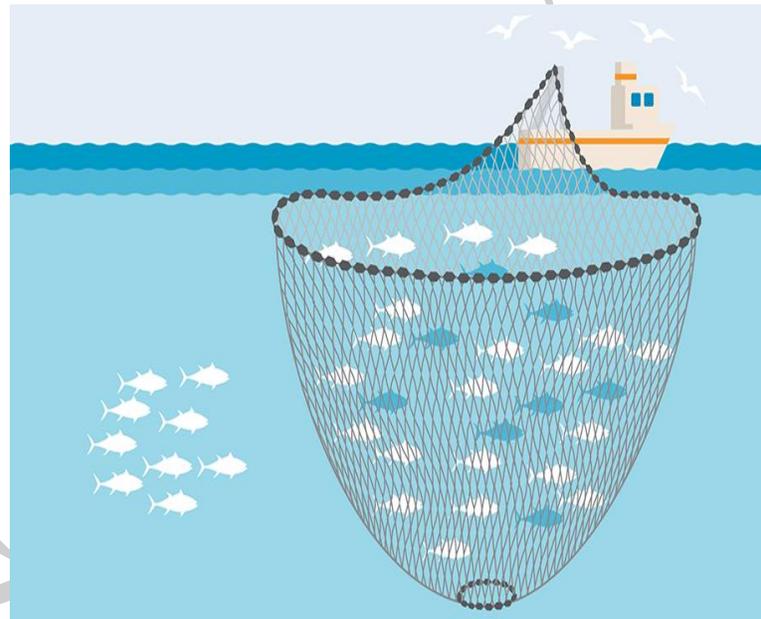
### **Purse seine fishing**

- It is mainly used to catch fish species that swim in large schools near the ocean surface.
- The main species fished with purse seine gear are southern bluefin tuna, Australian sardine, blue mackerel and jack mackerel.

### **Working**

- In a purse seine the top of the net is floated at the ocean's surface and the bottom of the net has weights attached that pull the walls of the net downwards.
- The bottom of the net has a wire threaded through it which is pulled and tightens the net like a purse trapping the fish inside.
- The net is then pulled in toward the boat and the catch is either pumped or lifted out with small nets or the whole net is brought aboard.

- The size of purse seine nets can be varied, depending on what species is being targeted.
- It is not only **depriving traditional fishermen of catch** but **threatening the marine ecosystem** as a whole in the region.



7. c

- Varadharaja Perumal Temple is a Hindu temple dedicated to **Lord Vishnu** located in the holy city of **Kanchipuram, Tamil Nadu**.
- It is one of the Divya Desams, the 108 temples of Vishnu believed to have been visited by the 12 poet saints, or Alwars.

8. b

- The 'Scheme for Capacity Building in Textile Sector (SCBTS)' shall be known by the name **Samarth**, signifying the broad objective of the scheme to skill the youth for gainful and sustainable employment in the **textile sector**.
- Its objective is to provide demand driven, placement oriented **National Skills Qualifications Framework** (NSQF) compliant skilling programmes to incentivize and supplement the efforts of the industry in creating jobs in the organized textile and related sectors, covering the entire value chain of textile, excluding Spinning and Weaving.

9. b



## Matter of choice

WTO allows member countries to classify themselves as "developed" or "developing". However, other members can challenge the decision of a country to be classified as "developing". Only the "least-developed countries" status is designated by the UN. Countries in the three lists:

Developing	Developed	Least-developed countries
India	U.S.	Afghanistan
China	European Union	Bangladesh
Russia	Japan	Bhutan
Brazil	Canada	Myanmar
South Africa	Australia	Nepal
South Korea	New Zealand	South Sudan

10. c

- **Iceland**, a volcanic island in the middle of the North Atlantic, is in many ways **reminiscent of Mars**.
- To prepare for the next mission to Mars in 2020, NASA has taken to the lava fields of Iceland to get its new robotic space explorer ready for the job.
- With its black basalt sand, wind-swept dunes and craggy peaks, the Lambahraun lava field at the foot of Iceland's second biggest glacier, Langjokull, was chosen as a stand-in for the Red Planet's surface.

**17-08-2019**

1) Consider the following statements with respect to **Tawlhlohpuan**

1. It is a medium to heavy, compactly woven, good quality fabric from the state of Assam.
2. It has been recently granted GI tag.

Which of 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 **Chief of Defence Staff (CDS)**

1. CDS is meant to be a single-point military advisor to the government on important defence and strategic issues.
2. It is a high military office that oversees and coordinates the working of the three Services.
3. Before the establishment of the post of CDS, National Security Adviser (NSA) advises India's Prime Minister on military matters.

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

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

3) Consider the following statements with respect to **Tirur betel vine**

1. It is mainly cultivated in the state of Tamil Nadu.
2. Its juice is used to heal bone fracture.
3. It is primarily used for food packaging.

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

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

4) Consider the following statements

1. It is a shawl/textile from Mizoram.
2. It is an important marriage outfit in the state.
3. It was granted GI tag recently.

Identify the product that correctly matches with the above description:



- Feni
- Puanchei
- Kullu Shawl
- Pashmina shawl

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

5) Consider the following statements with respect to *Shimla Conference of 1945*

- It was held between Viceroy Lord Linlithgow and major political leaders in British India.
- The meeting was convened to seek approval of Indian leaders for the Wavell Plan aimed to usher in Indian self-rule.

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 pairs

- Operation Pawan – IPKF In Sri Lanka
- Operation Rakshak – Jammu and Kashmir
- Operation Rhino – Assam

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

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

7) Consider the following pairs with respect to *Gulf of Guinea*

- Its coastline stretches in a huge arc from Liberia to Gabon.
- It is located on the West African coast.

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

8) Which of the following features are envisaged as the bulwarks of the Indian Constitution?

- Election Commission of India
- Comptroller and Auditor-General of India
- Union Public Service Commission
- State Public Service Commission

Select the correct answer using the codes given below.

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

9) The Traditional Drum named as “KA BOM”, is associated with which one of the following North-East Indian tribal community?

- Aptanis
- Hajong
- Angami
- Khasis

10) Consider the following pairs

*Places in News – Country*

- Sanaa – Oman
- Gibraltar – Overseas territory of Spain

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

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

## Answers

1. b
- Tawlhlohpuan, a medium to heavy, compactly woven, good quality fabric from Mizoram is known for warp yarns, warping, weaving & intricate designs that are made by hand.
  - Tawlhloh, in Mizo language, means 'to stand firm or not to move backward'.
  - Tawlhlohpuan, which holds high significance in the Mizo society, is produced throughout the state of Mizoram, Aizawl and Thenzawl town being the main centre of production.
  - *The Geographical Indication (GI) under the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade has recently granted GI tag for PalaniPanchamirtham from Palani Town of Tamil Nadu, Tawlhlohpuan and Mizo Puanchei from the state of Mizoram, Tirur Betel leaf from Kerala.*
2. d
- The CDS is a high military office that oversees and coordinates the working of the **three Services**.
  - It offers seamless tri-service views and **single-point advice** to the Executive (in India's case, to the Prime Minister) on long-term defence planning and management, including manpower, equipment and strategy, and above all, "**jointsmanship**" in operations.
  - India has had a feeble equivalent known as the **Chairman, Chiefs of Staff Committee (CoSC)**; but this is a toothless office, given the manner in which it is structured.
  - At present, it is the **National Security Adviser (NSA)** who advises India's Prime Minister on military matters.
3. d
- Tirur betel vine **from Kerala**, which is mainly cultivated in Tirur, Tanur, Tirurangadi, Kuttippuram, Malappuram and Vengara block panchayaths of Malappuram District.
  - It is valued both for its **mild stimulant action** and **medicinal properties**.
- Even though it is **commonly used for making pan masala for chewing**, it has many medicinal, industrial and cultural usages.
  - It is considered as a remedy for **bad breath and digestive disorders**.
  - *The Geographical Indication (GI) under the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade has recently granted GI tag for PalaniPanchamirtham from Palani Town of Tamil Nadu, Tawlhlohpuan and Mizo Puanchei from the state of Mizoram, Tirur Betel leaf from Kerala.*
4. b
- **Mizo Puanchei**, a colourful Mizo shawl/textile, from Mizoram, is considered as the most colourful among the Mizo textiles.
  - It is an essential possession for every Mizo lady and an important marriage outfit in the state.
  - It is also the most commonly used costume in Mizo festive dances and official ceremonies.
  - The weavers insert the designs and motifs by using supplementary yarns while weaving to create this beautiful and alluring textile.
  - *The Geographical Indication (GI) under the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade has recently granted GI tag for PalaniPanchamirtham from Palani Town of Tamil Nadu, Tawlhlohpuan and Mizo Puanchei from the state of Mizoram, Tirur Betel leaf from Kerala.*
5. b
- 1945 Simla Conference was held between **Viceroy Lord Wavell** and major political leaders in British India.
  - The meeting was convened to seek approval of Indian leaders for the Wavell Plan aimed to usher in Indian self-rule.
6. d
7. c
8. d
9. d
10. d



- sanaa - Yemen
- Gibraltar - British Overseas Territory



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

3) *Gond Art* is a form of painting that is practiced in which of the following states?

- a. Nagaland
- b. Tamil Nadu
- c. Madhya Pradesh
- d. Jammu and Kashmir

4) Which of the following countries borders *Baltic Sea*?

1. Lithuania
2. Latvia
3. Estonia

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

5) *Okjokull glacier* sometimes seen in the news recently is located in?

- a. Tibet
- b. Greenland
- c. Antarctica
- d. Iceland

6) Which of the following countries is/are members of BASIC Grouping?

1. China
2. India
3. Brazil
4. Russia

19-08-2019

1) Consider the following statements with respect to *Aadi Mahotsav 2019*

1. It is a joint initiative of Ministry of Tribal Affairs and Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED).
2. The theme for the festival is “A celebration of the spirit of Tribal Craft, Culture and Commerce”.

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

2) Consider the following pairs

1. Jabro Dance – Manipur
2. Spawo dance – Mizoram

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

5. Sri Lanka  
6. South America

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

7) Consider the following statements with respect to NASA's Parker Solar Probe

1. It is part of NASA's Living with a Star programme that explores different aspects of the Sun-Earth system.
2. The mission's central aim is to trace how energy and heat move through the Sun's corona and to study the source of the solar wind's acceleration.

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

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

8) Consider the following statements

1. Article 71 of the Constitution provides for the option of a state to have a Legislative Council in addition to its Legislative Assembly.
2. As in Rajya Sabha, members of a Legislative Council are also directly elected by voters.

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

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

9) *Kurki* is a practice banned in Punjab. It refers to?

- a. It is the distribution of cannabis in religious occasions  
b. It is a form of shifting cultivation practiced in North Western India  
c. It is the attachment of farmers' land by banks or traders in the event of non-payment of loan or debt.  
d. None of the above

10) Which of the following offices are the Constitutional posts in India?

1. Special Officer for Linguistic Minorities
2. Advocate General of State
3. Additional Solicitor General of India

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

### Answers

1. d

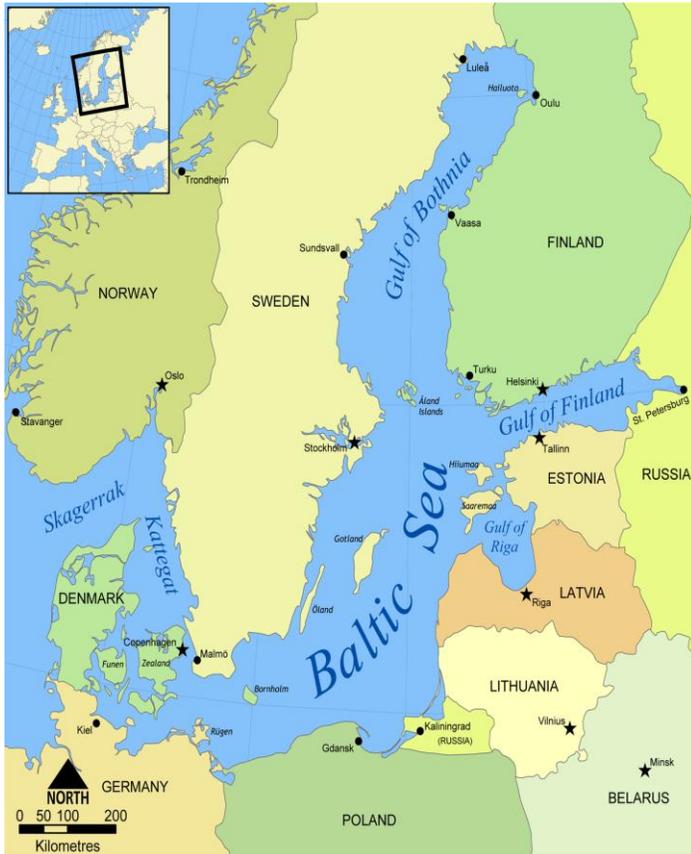
- **Adi Mahotsav** is jointly organized by Tribal Affairs Ministry and TRIFED with a theme of **A celebration of the spirit of Tribal Craft, Culture and Commerce**.

2. d

- The inaugural event of Aadi Mahotsav (National Tribal Festival) that held recently had two reputed local cultural troupes presenting **Ladakhi folk dances**.
- The troupes performed **Jabro Dance** – a nomadic dance and song of people inhabiting eastern Ladakh and **Spawo dance**, a heroic song and dance associated with a legendary hero of Himalayan region called K'sar.

3. c

4. c



5. d

- In **Iceland**, people gather to commemorate the loss of the glacier **Okjokull**, which was officially **declared dead in 2014** at the age of 700.
- The glacier was officially declared dead by the Icelandic Meteorological Office when it was **no longer thick enough to move**.
- What once was glacier has been reduced to a small patch of ice atop a volcano.
- Iceland loses about 11 billion tonnes of ice per year, and scientists fear that all of the island country's 400-plus glaciers will be gone by 2200.

6. a

- The BASIC countries are a grouping of **Brazil, South Africa, India** and **China**.

7. c

- On August 12, NASA's Parker Solar Probe completed a year in service.

8. d

- **Article 169** empowers Parliament to provide by law for the abolition or creation of the Legislative Councils in States.
- As in Rajya Sabha, members of a Legislative Council are **not directly elected** by voters.

9. c

- Two years after Punjab government notified a ban on **kurkis or attachment of farmers' land by banks** in the event of their defaulting on loan payments, several such cases are taking place daily across districts in the state's Malwa region.
- **Kurki** is attachment of farmers' land by banks or arhtiyas/sahukars/traders (commission agents and private money lenders) in the event of non-payment of loan or debt.

10. a

**20-08-2019**

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

1. It was proposed by India in the United Nations (UN) in 1996.
2. It was ratified by U.N countries and came in to force since 2014.

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

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

**2) Which of the following agencies is responsible for command, control and operational decisions regarding India's nuclear weapons programme?**

- a. Strategic Forces Command
- b. Nuclear Command Authority
- c. National Security Adviser
- d. Department of Atomic Energy

3) **KONKAN** is a bilateral exercise held between?

- India and Russia
- India and USA
- India and UK
- India and Japan

4) Consider the following statements with respect to *National Maritime Domain Awareness (NMDA) Project*

- It was launched in accordance with the objective of Project Mausam.
- It was partially funded by World Bank.

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 *Biosimilarity* sometimes seen in the news recently

- They are identical versions of their innovative biological medicine of reference whose patents have expired.
- The practice of Biosimilarity is banned in India since 2010.

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

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

6) "*Global SO<sub>2</sub> emission hotspot database*" was recently published by which of the following?

- NASA

- Greenpeace
- UN Environment
- Centre for Science and Environment

7) *Ansupa Lake* is located in which of the following states?

- Odisha
- Sikkim
- Nagaland
- Andhra Pradesh

8) With respect to *Lithuania*, consider the following statements

- It is a landlocked country located in the Baltic region.
- It does not share its borders with Russia.

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

- Riga – Poland
- Vilnius – Italy

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

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

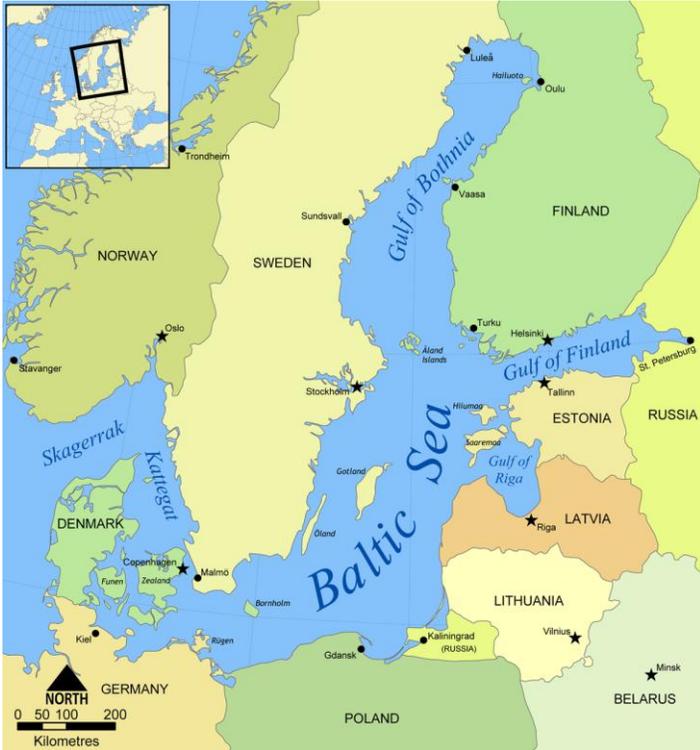
10) Which one of the following is *not* headed by the Prime Minister of India?

- Interstate council
- Nuclear Command Authority

- c. National Ganga River Basin Authority
- d. Zonal council

## Answers

1. a
- Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism (CCIT) is a draft proposed by **India in 1996** that has **yet to be adopted** by the UN General Assembly.
2. b
- **Nuclear Command Authority (NCA)** is India's nodal authority responsible for command, control and operational decisions regarding India's nuclear weapons programme.
  - It has Executive Council and Political Council.
  - The NCA's directives are executed by the **Strategic Forces Command**.
  - The Executive Council is chaired by the **National Security Adviser (NSA)**.
  - It gives inputs to the Political Council, which authorizes a nuclear attack if need be.
  - The Political Council is chaired by **the Prime Minister** and is advised by the Executive Council.
3. c
- It is an annual bilateral exercises between **Indian Navy and Royal Navy of Britain**.
  - It is currently underway off the South Coast of UK.
  - It aims to promote mutual understanding, provide exposure to operating procedures, communication measures and best practices.
4. d
- The National Maritime Domain Awareness (NMDA) Project was launched in accordance with the vision of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on SAGAR (Security And Growth for All in the Region).
5. d
- Biosimilarity means "highly similar" to the referenced innovator product notwithstanding
- minor differences in clinically inactive components; and where there are no clinically meaningful differences between the biological product and the referenced product in terms of safety, purity and potency.
- Biosimilars are "**similar**" **but not identical** versions of their innovative biological medicine of reference whose patents have expired.
  - *Dr. Reddy's Laboratories has recently launched in India Versavo (bevacizumab), a biosimilar of Roche's Avastin for the treatment of cancers.*
6. b
- India is the largest emitter of sulphur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) in the world, contributing more than 15 per cent of global anthropogenic emissions, according to a new report: **Global SO<sub>2</sub> emission hotspot database** by **Greenpeace** released recently.
  - The primary reason for India's high emission output is the expansion of coal-based electricity generation over the past decade, the report added.
  - The analysis is based on hotspots detected by **NASA Ozone Monitoring Instrument (OMI)** satellite data that captured more than 500 major source points of SO<sub>2</sub> emissions across the globe including natural sources such as volcanoes.
  - However, the analysis excluded all natural sources and only anthropogenic sources of SO<sub>2</sub> were investigated.
7. a
- The Odisha Wetland Authority has recently approved implementation of an integrated management plan for **Chilika**, country's largest brackish water lagoon, and **Ansupa**, State's largest freshwater lake, at an estimated investment of Rs.180 crore.
8. d



9. d

- Riga – Latvia
- Vilnius – Lithuania

10. d

**21-08-2019**

1) Consider the following statements with respect to *Incredible India Tourist Facilitator Certification (IITFC) Programme*

1. It is an online programme where one can learn about tourism at their own time, space, path and pace.
2. It is a digital initiative of Ministry of Tourism.

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

2) Consider the following statements with respect to *National Real Estate Development Council (NAREDCO)*

1. It was established as an autonomous self-regulatory body in 1998 under the aegis of Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
2. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) contributed the entire paid-up capital.

Which of 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) *NISHTHA* is an initiative launched recently by which of the following ministries?

- a. Ministry of Corporate Affairs
- b. Ministry of Science and Technology
- c. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- d. Ministry of Human Resources and Development

4) Consider the following statements with respect to *Sericin*

1. It is a protein known to possess anti-oxidant and other medicinal properties.
2. It can help make beauty and skincare products.

Which of 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 *Anaemia of Inflammation*

1. It is mainly caused due to iron deficiency.

2. It occurs due to shorter life span of red blood cells in body.

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

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

6) *Tinospora cardifolia* commonly known as gudduchi is a traditional herb used for treating?

- Inflammatory diseases
- Neurological disorders
- Pancreatic Cancer
- Tuberculosis

7) Consider the following statements with respect to *Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award*

- It is the highest sporting honour of the Republic of India.
- It is awarded annually by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.

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

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

8) Consider the following pairs

*Places in News – Country*

- San Nicolas Island – USA
- Sanliurfa – Turkey
- Surabaya – Singapore

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

- 3 only
- 1 and 2 only

- 2 and 3 only
- 1, 2 and 3

9) *Bhakra Dam* is built across which of the following?

- River Ganges
- River Indus
- River Sutlej
- River Chenab

10) *Asola Bhati Wildlife Sanctuary* is located in which of the following?

- Delhi
- Dadra & Nagar Haveli
- Puducherry
- Lakshadweep

### Answers

1. d

- The Incredible India Tourist Facilitator Certification (IITFC) Programme is a digital initiative of **Ministry of Tourism**, Government of India for the citizens of India to become a part of the booming Tourism Industry.
- It is an **online programme** where one can learn about tourism at their own time, space, path and pace.
- The successful completion of this programme would enable the learner to become a Certified Tourist Facilitator of Ministry of Tourism, Government of India.

2. a

- National Real Estate Development Council (NAREDCO)** was established as an autonomous self-regulatory body in 1998 under the aegis of **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs**, Govt. of India.
- It is the apex national body for the real estate industry and visualized it as a single platform where Government, industry and public would discuss various problems and opportunities

face to face which would result in speedy resolution of issues.

3. d
- Union Ministry for **Human Resources Development** has recently launched the Integrated Teachers Training Programme, **NISHTHA National Initiative for School Head's and Teachers' Holistic Advancement**, in New Delhi.
  - This integrated programme aims to build the capacities of around 42 lakh participants covering all teachers and Heads of the school at the elementary level in all government school, faculty members of states councils of Educational Research and Training and other educational departments.
  - The integrated training will motivate and equip teachers to encourage and foster critical thinking in students, handle diverse situations and act as first-level counsellors.
4. c
- The protein, Sericin, is known to possess anti-oxidant and other medicinal properties.
  - These properties depend on amino acid composition and secondary metabolites (polyphenols and flavonoids) of sericin.
  - It can be used to develop a range of beauty and skincare products.
5. b
- Anaemia is normally caused due to iron deficiency, but cancers, autoimmune diseases, infections and chronic kidney diseases may also lead to anaemia.
  - This is known as **anaemia of inflammation**.
  - The inflammation-induced anaemia occurs due to **shorter life span of red blood cells** in body and also suppression in formation of new red blood cells.
  - The currently available treatments for this type of anaemia have several side effects. So scientists have been looking for safer medications.
  - Scientists in Pune have found that a traditional herb *Tinospora cardifolia* commonly known as **gudduchi or giloy** could be useful in treating inflammation-induced anaemia.
6. a
- *Tinospora* has been traditionally used for **inflammatory diseases** but its mechanism of action was not known which restricted its use.
  - Scientists in Pune have found that a traditional herb *Tinospora cardifolia* commonly known as **gudduchi or giloy** could be useful in treating **inflammation-induced anaemia**.
7. c
8. b
- The U.S. military conducted a flight test of a conventionally-configured ground-launched cruise missile recently in **San Nicolas Island, USA**.
  - **Sanliurfa, Turkey** is a planned U.S-Turkey Joint headquarters to administer safe zone on the Syria-Turkey border.
  - **Surabaya – Indonesia**
9. c
- Bhakra Dam is a concrete gravity dam on the **Sutlej River** in Bilaspur, Himachal Pradesh in northern India.
  - The dam forms the Gobind Sagar reservoir.
10. a

**22-08-2019**

1) A report titled '**Skin and Bones Unresolved: An Analysis of Tiger Seizures from 2000-2018**' was published recently by?

- TRAFFIC
- UN Environment
- Global Tiger Forum
- National Tiger Conservation Authority

2) Consider the following statements with respect to **South Atlantic Anomaly (SAA)**

1. It is a region above the South Atlantic Ocean where there are a large number of charged particles.
2. It damages sensitive instruments; hence all space telescopes are shut down when they pass through the SAA.

Which of 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 *Van Allen Radiation belt*

1. These are donut-shaped rings surrounding our planet Earth.
2. It is held by the planet's magnetic field around the planet.
3. Van Allen belts are not a part of our atmosphere.

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) Consider the following statements with respect to *State Rooftop Solar Attractiveness Index-SARAL*

1. It evaluates Indian states based on their attractiveness for rooftop development.
2. Andhra Pradesh tops the Index followed by Telangana.

Which of 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) With respect to *Citizenship of India*, consider the following statements

1. Indian Constitution does not define the term 'citizen'.
2. Citizenship is under the exclusive jurisdiction 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

6) *Quality Unknown: The Invisible Water Crisis* is a report released recently by which of the following?

- a. World Bank
- b. UN Water
- c. UN Development Programme
- d. World Health Organisation

7) Arrange the following epoch in chronological order

1. Miocene
2. Pliocene
3. Pleistocene
4. Holocene

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

8) Consider the following statements with respect to *TRAFFIC*

1. It is a non-governmental organisation working globally on trade in wild animals and plants.



2. It is headquartered in the United Kingdom.

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 *CITES*

- It is an UN agreement adopted in 1965.
- Its aim is to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival.
- It is legally binding on its parties.

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

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

10) Consider the following pairs

*Telescope – Country*

- GROWTH – India
- Kepler – USA

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

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

## Answers

1. a

- India is the country with the highest overall number of seizures, says a study on wildlife trade

- India, with the world's largest wild tiger population, topped in the trafficking of tigers and tiger body parts over 19 years since 2000, a new **TRAFFIC** analysis from Geneva has revealed.
- The report titled '**Skin and Bones Unresolved: An Analysis of Tiger Seizures from 2000-2018**' was the fourth in a series on tiger trade by TRAFFIC, a wildlife trade monitoring network headquartered in the United Kingdom.

2. c

- The Earth is surrounded by a pair of concentric donut-shaped clouds called the **Van Allen radiation belts** which, like magnetic bottle, store and trap charged particles from the solar wind.
- They are aligned with the magnetic axis of the Earth, which is tilted by 11 degrees from the rotation axis of the Earth, and are not symmetrically placed with respect to the Earth's surface.
- Above South America, about 200 - 300 kilometers off the coast of Brazil, and extending over much of South America, the nearby portion of the Van Allen Belt forms what is called the **South Atlantic Anomaly**.
- Satellites and other spacecraft passing through this region of space actually enter the Van Allen radiation belt and are bombarded by protons.
- This can produce 'glitches' in astronomical data, problems with the operation of on-board electronic systems, and premature aging of computer, detector and other spacecraft components.
- All space telescopes are shut down when they pass through the SAA.*

3. d

- The Van Allen belts are **not a part of our atmosphere**.
- They're well beyond it, extending hundreds of miles outwards into space.
- A radiation belt refers to a layer of charged and energetic particles which is held by the planet's magnetic field around the planet.

- There are two, both **donut-shaped rings** surrounding our planet.
  - The main constituents of the belts are believed to come from solar wind and cosmic rays.
  - The belt is divided into two belts - outer and inner.
  - The outer belt of the radiation belt is formed by the energetic and charged electrons and the inner belt contains a combination of protons and electrons and is formed as a result of cosmic ray collisions in the upper atmosphere.
  - These particles do not have enough energy to escape into space.
4. a
- The Union Minister of State for Power and New & Renewable Energy (IC) and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship has recently launched the **State Rooftop Solar Attractiveness Index-SARAL**.
  - The State of **Karnataka** has been placed at the first rank in the Index that evaluates Indian states based on their attractiveness for rooftop development.
  - Telangana ranks second in the index.
5. c
- Citizenship is in the Union List under the Constitution and thus under the **exclusive jurisdiction of Parliament**.
  - The Constitution **does not define the term 'citizen'** but gives, in Articles 5 to 11, details of various categories of persons who are entitled to citizenship.
  - Unlike other provisions of the Constitution, which came into being on January 26, 1950, these articles were enforced on November 26, 1949 itself, when the Constitution was adopted.
6. a
7. d
8. c
9. c
- CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and

Flora) is an **international agreement** between governments.

- Its aim is to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival.
- Although CITES is **legally binding** on the Parties – in other words they have to implement the Convention – it does not take the place of national laws.
- Rather it provides a framework to be respected by each Party, which has to adopt its own domestic legislation to ensure that CITES is implemented at the national level.

10. c

1. GROWTH – India
2. Kepler – USA

**23-08-2019**

**1) Starting from the pretty hamlet of Sarbal, one has to hike up to the Durinar meadows to reach the Durinar lake – a crystal clear blue lake that is safely concealed among giant granite spires. The Nilnag lake lies further up in the Thejwas range. From here on, trudging over steep snowy slopes and ice fields of the Kolohai glacier one would reach Barafsar (frozen lake). From this vantage point one can see the fascinating 5,425 m tallest peak, Mt. Kolohai (Gwash Brari or the Goddess of light).**

**Which of the following States has been depicted in the above paragraph?**

- a. Sikkim
- b. Himachal Pradesh
- c. Arunachal Pradesh
- d. Jammu and Kashmir

**2) Consider the following statements with respect to Fedor (Final Experimental Demonstration Object Research)**

1. It is an airborne observatory that aims to integrate and improve the level of education in various sectors dealing with science and technology.

2. It is an initiative of National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

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 *Sabka Vishwas (Legacy Dispute Resolution) Scheme*

- The Scheme is especially tailored to free the large number of small taxpayers of their pending disputes with the tax administration.
- The two main components of the Scheme are dispute resolution and amnesty.

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

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

4) *HR Khan Committee* sometimes seen in the news recently is associated with which of the following?

- Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPI) norms
- National Coal Mine Policy
- New direct tax legislation
- None of the above

5) Consider the following statements with respect to *Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPI) norms* which was relaxed recently

- SEBI has recently simplified the registration process for FPIs by doing away with the broad-based eligibility criteria.

- Central banks that are not members of the Bank of International Settlements are not allowed to register as FPIs and invest in India under the new norms.

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 *Battle of Adyar*

- It was fought between the French East India Company men and Nawab of Arcot forces over the St. George Fort.
- It was part of the Second Carnatic War between the English and the French.

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

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

7) Consider the following statements with respect to *National Archives of India*

- It is a repository of non-current records of government of India and holds them in trust for the use of administration.
- It is an attached office under the Ministry of Culture.

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 *Project SURE*

1. It aims to identify, recognise and connect lost children with their family.
2. It was launched by the Ministry of Home Affairs.

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

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

9) The second round of Composite Water Management Index 2.0 will be released by which of the following?

- a. NITI Aayog
- b. Ministry of Jal Sakthi
- c. Ministry of Urban development
- d. Ministry of Rural development

10) Baltal-Thajwas Wildlife Sanctuary is located in which of the following states?

- a. Jammu and Kashmir
- b. Arunachal Pradesh
- c. Manipur
- d. Madhya Pradesh

## Answers

1. d
2. d

- Russia has recently launched an unmanned rocket carrying a life-size humanoid robot that will spend 10 days learning to assist astronauts on the International Space Station.
- Named **Fedor**, short for **Final Experimental Demonstration Object Research**, the robot is the first ever sent up by Russia.
- Fedor is also known as **Skybot F850**.

3. c

- In the Union Budget 2019-20, Union Finance Minister announced the **Sabka Vishwas-Legacy Dispute Resolution Scheme**, 2019.
- The two main components of the Scheme are **dispute resolution and amnesty**.
- The Scheme is especially tailored to free the large number of small taxpayers of their pending disputes with the tax administration.

4. a

- SEBI had constituted a working committee under the chairmanship of **HR Khan**, retired deputy governor, Reserve Bank of India, which was entrusted with the task of reviewing the current Securities and Exchange Board of India (Foreign Portfolio Investors) Regulations, 2014 and recommending any amendments that may be required for rationalising and simplifying the SEBI **FPI regulations**.

5. a

- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), based on the recommendations of the H.R. Khan committee, eased several regulatory restrictions.
- Among a slew of measures, the financial markets regulator has simplified the registration process for FPIs by doing away with the **broad-based eligibility criteria**, which required a minimum of at least 20 investors in a foreign fund, and certain documentary requirements.
- Central banks that are not members of the Bank of International Settlements **are also allowed** to register as FPIs and invest in the country under the new norms.

6. a

- The Battle of Adyar took place on 24 October 1746.
- The battle was between the **French East India Company** men and **Nawab of Arcot forces** over the St. George Fort, which was held by the French.
- It was part of the **First Carnatic War** between the English and the French.

7. c

8. d

- The SU.RE project is a commitment by India's apparel industry to set a sustainable pathway for the Indian fashion industry.
- It was launched by the **Ministry of Textiles**.
- SU.RE stands for '**Sustainable Resolution**' – a firm commitment from the industry **to move towards fashion that contributes to a clean environment**.

9. a

10. a

### 24-08-2019

1) Consider the following statements with respect to **Report on the Composite Water Management Index 2.0**

1. It ranks various states for the reference year 2017-18 as against the base year 2016-17.
2. Gujarat tops the index in the Non-Himalayan states category followed by Andhra Pradesh.
3. It was prepared by NITI Aayog in association with Ministry of Jal Shakti and Ministry of Rural Development.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

2) Consider the following statements with respect to **Fortification of Rice and its Distribution under Public Distribution System Scheme**

1. Under the scheme rice is fortified with Iron, Folic Acid and Vitamin B-12.
2. It is a centrally sponsored scheme launched by the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution across the country.

Which of 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) **Anubhav**' portal sometimes seen in the news recently was established under which of the following ministries?

- a. Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
- b. Ministry of Personnel, Public grievances and Pensions
- c. Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
- d. Ministry of Human Resources and Development

4) **Mission Reach Out** sometimes seen in the news recently is associated with which of the following regions?

- a. Kerala
- b. Odisha
- c. Maharashtra
- d. Jammu and Kashmir

5) **Zayed Medal** is the top civilian honour of?

- a. Qatar
- b. Pakistan
- c. Saudi Arabia
- d. United Arab Emirates

6) Consider the following statements with respect to '**San-Sadhan**' Hackathon Initiative

1. It is an initiative to ease lives of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) by making toilets smarter, more accessible, and easier to use.
2. It is being organized jointly by the Ministry of Jal Shakti and the

**Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities.**

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

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

7) Consider the following statements with respect to *Zonal Councils*

- Zonal Councils are statutory bodies established by an Act of the Parliament.
- Its one of the main objective is to achieve an emotional integration of the country.

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/are various forms of *Ocean Energy*?

- Wave Energy
- Tidal Energy
- Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion
- Ocean Current Energy

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

9) Consider the following statements regarding *Tribes Advisory Council*

- These councils are setup for the welfare of tribes only in the states under the Fifth and Sixth Schedule areas
- These councils are setup by the order of the President

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

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

10) Which of the following reports/indices are prepared by the *United Nation Organization*?

- Gender Inequality Index
- World Happiness Report
- Global Environment Outlook

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

### Answers

- c
- a

- Government of India has approved the **Centrally Sponsored** Pilot Scheme on "Fortification of Rice and its Distribution under Public Distribution System" on 14.02.2019 - rice to be fortified with **Iron, Folic Acid and Vitamin B-12**.
- The **Pilot Scheme** has been approved for a period of three year beginning 2019-20.
- The Pilot Scheme at present **focuses on 15 districts** during the initial phase of implementation.
- The operational responsibilities for implementation of the Pilot Scheme lie with the States/UTs.

3. b
- It is a platform for retirees to share experience of working with the Government.
  - This facility provides a sense of fulfilment and satisfaction to the retirees and also creates a data base of useful suggestion and information.
  - An annual award scheme has been instituted to encourage the retiree to submit his valuable experience/ suggestions through write-ups.
  - Union Minister for Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions has recently presented the **ANUBHAV awards, 2019**.
4. d
- The Indian Army has launched "**Mission Reach Out**" in Jammu to ensure basic necessities and essential services are available in the region post the abrogation of the provisions of Article 370 and reorganisation of **Jammu and Kashmir**.
5. d
- **Indian Prime Minister** Narendra Modi was recently awarded the **United Arab Emirate's (UAE)** highest civilian honour **Zayed medal**.
6. c
- The government calls for applications for its latest initiative **under the Swachh Bharat Mission**, called the 'San-Sadhan' Hackathon, an initiative **to ease lives of Persons with Disabilities** (Divyangjan) by making toilets smarter, more accessible, and easier to use.
  - In this hackathon, the government is looking for smart, scalable and innovative solutions for economical toilets for individual and community use in rural and urban contexts.
  - The initiative is being organized jointly by the **Ministry of Jal Shakti** and the **Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities**, in collaboration with **Atal Innovation Mission**, NITI Aayog, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and 91springboard.
7. c
8. d
9. d
- Tribal Advisory councils are **not associated** with Sixth Schedule areas.
  - These councils are set up by the order of the **Governor**.
10. d
- 26-08-2019**
- 1) Microplastics in drinking water Report was recently published by which of the following?**
- a. World Health Organisation
  - b. UN Water
  - c. UN Environment
  - d. Greenpeace International
- 2) Consider the following statements with respect to Special Protection Group (SPG)**
1. It was raised with the intention to provide proximate security cover to the Prime Minister, former Prime Ministers and their immediate family members.
  2. It works under the Ministry of Defence.
- Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?**
- a. 1 only
  - b. 2 only
  - c. Both 1 and 2
  - d. Neither 1 nor 2
- 3) Consider the following statements with respect to ASRAAM sometimes seen in the news recently**
1. It is an advanced short-range air-to-air missile.
  2. It is widely used as a Within Visual Range (WVR) air dominance missile with a range of over 25km.
  3. It will be the first wing-launched missile in the Indian Air Force inventory.
- Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?**
- a. 3 only



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

4) **Annual Observance Report of the Special Data Dissemination Standard for 2018** was released recently by?

- a. World Bank
- b. UN Statistics Division
- c. World Economic Forum
- d. International Monetary Fund

5) Consider the following statements with respect to **Advisory Board for Banking Frauds (ABBF)**

1. It was constituted by the Ministry of Finance in consultation with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
2. It was mandated to examine bank fraud of over Rs. 50 crore and recommend action.
3. It would function as the last level of examination of all large fraud cases before recommendation.

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

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

6) **Air quality monitoring instruments in India** will be certified by which of the following agencies?

- a. Bureau of Indian Standards
- b. Indian Standards Institute
- c. CSIR – National Physical Laboratory
- d. None of the above

7) Consider the following statements with respect to **Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS)**

1. It is an initiative launched by the International Monetary Fund (IMF).
2. It is mandatory for all IMF members.
3. India subscribed to the SDDS in 1996.

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

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

8) Consider the following statements with respect to **Press Council of India (PCI)**

1. It is an autonomous, statutory, quasi-judicial body which acts as the watchdog of the press.
2. It is headed by a Chairman, who has by convention, been a retired judge of the Supreme Court of India.

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

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

9) Consider the following pairs

**Places in News - Region**

1. Tsuen Wan – Hong Kong
2. Porto Velho – Chile

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

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

10) Which one among the following was the first country to declare 'Climate Emergency'?

- Sweden
- Ireland
- New Zealand
- United Kingdom

### Answers

1. a

2. a

- It works under the **Cabinet Secretariat**.

3. d

- Advanced Short-range Air-to-Air Missile (ASRAAM)**
- The ASRAAM is widely used as a within visual range (WVR) air-dominance missile with a range of **over 25 km**.
- It will be the **first wing-launched missile** in the IAF inventory.
- All missiles are now fired from under the wing.
- The IAF is looking to adopt the ASRAAM on its Su-30MKIs and the indigenous light combat aircraft.

4. d

5. a

- The **Central Vigilance Commission (CVC)** has recently constituted an **Advisory Board for Banking Frauds (ABBF)** headed by former Vigilance Commissioner T.M. Bhasin to examine bank fraud of over Rs. 50 crore and recommend action.
- The panel in its previous avatar was called the **Advisory Board on Bank, Commercial and Financial Frauds**.
- The ABBF, formed **in consultation with the RBI**, would function as the **first level of examination** of all large fraud cases before recommendations or references are made to the investigative agencies by the respective public sector banks (PSBs).

6. c

- The **Union Environment Ministry** has recently tasked the **Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR)-National Physical Laboratory (NPL)** with certifying air quality monitoring instruments.

7. c

- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) launched the **Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS)** initiative in 1996 to guide members to enhance data transparency and help financial market participants with adequate information to assess the economic situations of individual countries.
- India** subscribed to the SDDS on December 27, 1996.
- SDDS is a practice **mandatory for all IMF members**.
- It was launched to guide members to enhance data transparency and help financial market participants with adequate information to assess the economic situations of individual countries.

8. c

9. a

- Tsuen Wan – Hong Kong
- Porto Velho – Brazil

10. d

**27-08-2019**

1) Consider the following statements with respect to **C-Sat-Fi technology**

- It is based on the optimal utilization of wireless and satellite communication to extend connectivity to the unserved areas.
- It does not require Satellite Phones and can work on any WiFi enabled phone.

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

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2



d. Neither 1 nor 2

2) Consider the following statements with respect to *Group of Seven (G7)*

1. It is an intergovernmental organisation formed as an informal forum to discuss pressing world issues.
2. The G7 nations meet at annual Summits that are presided over by leaders of member countries on a rotational basis.
3. India participated in the 45th annual summit of G7 held in Biarritz, France.

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

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

3) Consider the following statements with respect to *Smooth-coated Otter*

1. It is distributed throughout south Asia and south-east Asia.
2. It has been listed as vulnerable under the IUCN Red list.

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

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

4) Match the following with respect to *CITES Agreement*

1. Appendix I – a. Species not necessarily threatened with extinction
2. Appendix II – b. Species that are protected in at least one country
3. Appendix III – c. Species threatened with extinction

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

5) Consider the following statements with respect to *Tokay gecko*

1. They are nocturnal lizards.
2. They are recently included for the first time under Appendix II of CITES.
3. It was listed as least concern under the IUCN Red list.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

6) *Mitra Crater* sometimes seen in the news recently is associated with which of the following?

- a. Jupiter
- b. Mars
- c. Antarctica
- d. None of the above

7) Consider the following statements with respect to *Gravitational Lensing*

1. It occurs when a huge amount of matter creates a gravitational field that distorts and magnifies the light from objects behind it.
2. It is useful to cosmologists because it is directly sensitive to the amount and distribution of dark matter.

Which of 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 *Chippiparai dogs*

1. It is an ace runner and hunter.
2. It is the native breed of Southern Kerala.

Which of 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) *Open Acreage Licensing* is associated with which of the following sector?

- a. Polymetallic nodules
- b. Hydrocarbon exploration
- c. Highway Construction
- d. None of the above

10) Which one of the following region has the highest annual range of temperature?

- a. Savannah climate
- b. Siberian climate
- c. China climate
- d. Hot Desert climate

## Answers

1. c

- **C-Sat-Fi (C-DOT Satellite WiFi)** is based on the optimal utilization of wireless and satellite communication to extend connectivity to the unserved areas including the remote islands and difficult terrains.
- Besides offering the ease of deployment, the solution is ideally suited to addressing

disasters and emergencies when no other means of communication are available, he added.

- This cost-effective solution **does not require the expensive Satellite Phones** and can work on any WiFi enabled phone.

2. d

- The G7 or 'Group of Seven' are Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United States.
- It is an intergovernmental organisation that was formed in 1975 by the top economies of the time as an informal forum to discuss pressing world issues.
- The G7 nations meet at annual Summits that are presided over by leaders of member countries on a rotational basis.
- The current G7 Summit being held in **France** is the **45th**, and the next one will be held in the United States in 2020.
- The host country typically gets to invite dignitaries from outside the G7 to attend the Summit.
- India was invited to attend the Summit as a special guest of French President Emmanuel Macron.

3. c

- The Smooth-coated Otter is distributed throughout **south Asia and south-east Asia**.
- Its distribution is continuous from Indonesia, through south-east Asia, and westwards from southern China to India and Pakistan, with an isolated subpopulation in Iraq.
- Members at the CITES CoP 18 Conference have voted to move the **smooth-coated otter** (*Lutrogale perspicillata*) from CITES Appendix II to CITES Appendix I "because it is considered to be facing a high risk of extinction and is detrimentally affected by international trade, as well as habitat loss and degradation and persecution associated with conflict with people (and fisheries)".

4. a

- Members at the CITES CoP 18 Conference have voted to move the **smooth-coated**

**otter** (*Lutrogale perspicillata*) from CITES Appendix II to CITES Appendix I “because it is considered to be facing a high risk of extinction and is detrimentally affected by international trade, as well as habitat loss and degradation and persecution associated with conflict with people (and fisheries)”.

- The other proposal that was passed was to include the **Tokay gecko** (*Gekko gekko*) in CITES Appendix II.

#### Appendix of CITES

- **Appendix I** includes species “**threatened with extinction**”; according to the CITES website, “trade in specimens of these species is permitted only in exceptional circumstances”.
  - **Appendix II** provides a **lower level of protection**.
  - There is also an **Appendix III**, which “**contains species that are protected in at least one country**, which has asked other CITES Parties for assistance in controlling the trade”.
5. c
- Tokay gecko (*Gekko gekko*) is **nocturnal lizards**.
  - They are included for the first time under **Appendix II**.
  - It was listed as **least concern** under the IUCN Red list.
  - They are used in Chinese traditional medicine and traded throughout south-east Asia in dried form or preserved in alcohol.
6. d
- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has recently released the images of the lunar surface captured from the Chandrayaan-2 spacecraft orbiting the **Moon**.
  - The images clicked from an altitude of 4,375 Km also shows a crater – Mitra, which was named after Professor Sisir Kumar Mitra, an Indian physicist and Padma Bhushan recipient who was known for his pioneering work in the field of ionosphere and Radiophysics.
7. c

- The phenomenon occurs when a huge amount of matter, such as a massive galaxy or cluster of galaxies, creates a gravitational field that distorts and magnifies the light from objects behind it, but in the same line of sight.
- Gravitational lensing is useful to cosmologists because it is directly sensitive to the amount and distribution of dark matter.
- This is because the amount of light bending is sensitive only to the strength of the gravitational field it passes through, which is mostly generated by the mass of the dark matter in the Universe.

8. a

- The **Chippiparai breed of dogs** belongs to the **Tamil Nadu** region of South India.
- A few of them also reside in Kerela, around Periyar Lake.
- Chippiparai dogs are an **ace runner and hunter**.

9. b

10. b

- The annual range is defined as the difference between the hottest and coldest months, taking monthly mean temperatures in each case.
- The climate of Siberia varies dramatically, but all of it basically has short summers and long and extremely cold winters.

**28-08-2019**

1) Consider the following statements with respect to **Bonn Challenge**

1. It is a global effort to bring 150 million hectares of the world’s deforested and degraded land into restoration by 2030, and 350 million hectares by 2040.
2. At the UNFCCC Conference of the Parties (COP) 2015 in Paris, India joined the voluntary Bonn Challenge.

Which of 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 *National Monuments Authority (NMA)*

1. It is a statutory body established by an Act of Parliament.
2. It is the premier organization for the protection of the cultural heritage of the nation and archaeological researches.
3. It works under the Ministry of Culture.

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

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

3) Arrange the following in correct sequence with respect to *Hurricane formation*

1. When storm passes over the land, supply of moisture and heat is cut off and storm gradually dissipates
2. Clouds form in the upper atmosphere as the warm air condenses
3. Wind spirals upwards and outwards and a low pressure system forms over ocean surface
4. Entire storm system starts to spin, anticlockwise in the southern part of the globe
5. Warm water evaporates, moisture rises forming thunderstorms

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- a. 5-2-3-4-1  
b. 2-5-4-1-3  
c. 5-3-2-4-1  
d. 5-3-4-2-1

4) Consider the following statements with respect to *United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)*

1. It is one among the three Rio Conventions that resulted in the Earth Summit, 1992.
2. India is a signatory to UNCCD which is the only legally binding international agreement linking environment and development issues to the land agenda.
3. 14th session of the Conference of Parties (COP-14) of the UNCCD will be hosted by Kenya in Nairobi.

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

5) *Keezhadi* often seen in the news recently is a major archaeological site located in the state of?

- a. Kerala  
b. Odisha  
c. Tamil Nadu  
d. None of the above

6) Consider the following statements with respect to *Cyber Swachhta Kendra*

1. Its objective is to enhance the cyber security of Digital India's IT infrastructure by providing information on botnet/malware threats and suggesting remedial measures.
2. It was launched by the Ministry of Home Affairs.

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

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

d. Neither 1 nor 2

7) Consider the following statements with respect to *Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre (I4C) Scheme*

1. The Scheme acts as a nodal point in the fight against cybercrime and was proposed only for two years (2018-2020).
2. It was launched by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).

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

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

8) Consider the following statements with respect to *WorldSkills Competition*

1. WorldSkills hosts the worldskills competition for every two years.
2. The 45th worldskills competition was recently held in Aix-en-Provence, France.
3. India participated in the event and finished 13th out of 63 countries.

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

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

9) *Tenzing Norgay Awards* are given every year to recognize the achievements of persons in the fields of?

- a. Adventure
- b. Literature
- c. Sports

d. Scientific Research

10) Consider the following pairs

*Places in News – Country*

1. Brasilia – Brazil
2. Kazan – Afghanistan

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

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

**Answers**

1. b

- The Bonn Challenge is a global effort to bring 150 million hectares of the world's deforested and degraded land into restoration by **2020**, and 350 million hectares by **2030**.
- At the UNFCCC Conference of the Parties (COP) 2015 in Paris, India also joined the voluntary Bonn Challenge pledge to bring into restoration 13 million hectares of degraded and deforested land by the year 2020, and additional 8 million hectares by 2030.
- India's pledge is one of the largest in Asia.

2. b

- The *Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)*, under the Ministry of Culture, is the premier organization for the **archaeological researches** and protection of the cultural heritage of the nation.

3. c

**How a Hurricane Forms?**

1. Warm water evaporates, moisture rises forming thunderstorms
2. Wind spirals upwards and outwards and a low pressure system forms over ocean surface
3. Clouds form in the upper atmosphere as the warm air condenses

4. Entire storm system starts to spin, anticlockwise in the southern part of the globe
5. When storm passes over the land, supply of moisture and heat is cut off and storm gradually dissipates
4. b
- Established in 1994, the Convention entered into force in December 1996.
  - It is **one of the three Rio Conventions** along with United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).
  - UNCCD is the only legally binding international agreement linking environment and development issues to the land agenda.
  - India became a signatory to UNCCD on 14th October 1994 and ratified it on 17th December 1996.
  - The main objective of the convention is to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought in countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, involving long-term integrated strategies that focus simultaneously, in affected areas, on improved productivity of land, and the rehabilitation, conservation and sustainable management of land and water resources, leading to improved living conditions, in particular at the community level.
  - India for the first time** will host the 14th session of the Conference of Parties (COP-14) of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) in September 2019.
5. c
- After wall structures and ring well, the State Department of Archaeology has found a tank-like brick structure and terracotta pipelines during the excavation at Keezhadi.
  - Keezhadi** is a major archaeological site located in the state of **Tamil Nadu**.
6. a
- Cyber Swachhta Kendra** is a part of the Government of India's Digital India initiative under the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)**.
  - The **"Cyber Swachhta Kendra"** (Botnet Cleaning and Malware Analysis Centre) is a part of the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In).
  - It has been set up for analyzing BOTs/malware characteristics and providing information and enabling citizens for removal of BOTs/malware.
  - In addition, "Cyber Swachhta Kendra" will strive to create awareness among citizens to secure their data, computers, mobile phones and devices such as home routers.
7. a
- Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** has rolled out a scheme 'Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C)' for the period **2018-2020**, to combat cyber crime in the country, in a coordinated and effective manner.
- I4C Scheme**
- To act as a nodal point in the fight against cybercrime
  - Identify the research problems/needs of LEAs and take up R&D activities in developing new technologies and forensic tools in collaboration with academia / research institutes within India and abroad
  - The scheme is proposed with an outlay of Rs. 415.86 Crore and will run for two years
  - To prevent misuse of cyber space for furthering the cause of extremist and terrorist groups
  - Suggest amendments, if required, in cyber laws to keep pace with fast changing technologies and International cooperation
  - To coordinate all activities related to implementation of Mutual Legal Assistance Treaties (MLAT) with other countries related to cybercrimes in consultation with the concerned nodal authority in MHA
- Components of the scheme:**
- National Cybercrime Threat Analytics Unit.
  - National Cybercrime Reporting Portal.
  - Platform for Joint Cybercrime Investigation Team.

4. National Cybercrime Forensic Laboratory Ecosystem.
  5. National Cybercrime Training Centre.
  6. Cybercrime Ecosystem Management Unit.
  7. National Cyber Research and Innovation Centre.
8. c
- Every two years WorldSkills hosts the world skills competition which attracts more than 1,300 Competitors from more than 60 countries.
  - The 45th worldskills competition was recently held in **Kazan, Russia**.
  - India participated in the event and finished 13th out of 63 countries.
9. a
- Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Awards are given every year to recognize the achievements of persons in the fields of adventure, to encourage young people to develop the spirit of endurance, risk-taking, cooperative teamwork and quick, ready and effective reflexes in challenging situations and to provide incentive to the young people for getting exposed to the adventure activities.
  - The award is given in four categories namely, Land Adventure, Water Adventure, Air Adventure and Life Time Achievement.
10. a
1. Brasilia – Brazil
  2. Kazan – Russia

**29-08-2019**

**1) Consider the following statements with respect to *Biometric Seafarer Identity Document (BSID)***

- 1. It will give a foolproof identification to seafarers which will facilitate their movement, provide ease of getting jobs and help in identifying them from any location in the world.**
- 2. India is the first country in the world to issue Biometric Seafarer Identity Document (BSID).**

**Which of 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) “*Status of Policing in India Report 2019*” was recently published by which of the following?**

- a. NITI Aayog
- b. Common Cause
- c. Ministry of Home Affairs
- d. None of the above

**3) With respect to *Shagun*, consider the following statements**

- 1. It aims to improve school education system by creating a junction for all online portals and websites relating to various activities of the Department of School Education and Literacy in the Government of India and all States and Union Territories.**
- 2. It was launched by the Ministry of Human Resources and Development.**

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

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

**4) *Convention No. 185* of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) deals with?**

- a. Poisoning Arising from Benzene
- b. Equality of Treatment (Social Security)
- c. Seafarer Identity Document
- d. Protection of Workers against Ionising Radiations

5) **World Investment Report** is published by which of the following organization?

- World Bank
- World Economic Forum
- International Monetary Fund
- UN Conference on Trade and Development

### Answers

1. c

- India has become the first country in the world to issue **Biometric Seafarer Identity Document (BSID)**, capturing the facial biometric data of seafarers.
- The new document will give a foolproof identification to our seafarers which will facilitate their movement, provide ease of getting jobs and help in identifying them from any location in the world.
- The BSID introduces modern security features. It will have a biometric chip embedded in it.
- A record of each SID issued will be maintained in a national database and its related information will be internationally accessible.
- In India the BSID project has been taken up in collaboration with Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (CDAC), Mumbai.

2. b

- The **Status of Policing in India Report, 2019** on police adequacy and working conditions was prepared by the **NGO Common Cause** and Lokniti programme of the **Centre for the Study of Developing Societies**.
- According to the report, one in two police personnel surveyed feel that Muslims are likely to be “naturally prone” to committing crimes.

3. c

- School Education Shagun** is an overarching initiative to improve school education system by creating a junction for all online portals and websites relating to various activities of the Department of School

Education and Literacy in the Government of India and all States and Union Territories.

- This online junction of different websites and portals into a single platform will enhance the accessibility of information relating to schools and will ensure a holistic approach to transform education sector.

4. c

- India has become the first country in the world to issue **Biometric Seafarer Identity Document (BSID)**, capturing the facial biometric data of seafarers.
- The new card is in confirmation of the **Convention No. 185 of the International Labour Organisation on BSID**.
- India ratified the Convention** in October 2015.

5. d

**30-08-2019**

1) Consider the following statements with respect to “Fit India Movement”

- It aims to encourage people to inculcate physical activity and sports in their everyday lives.
- It was launched on the event of World Health Day, 2019.

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

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

2) Consider the following statements with respect to **Indian Star Tortoise**

- It was found in the dry and arid forests of both Indian and Sri Lanka.
- It has been listed as vulnerable under the IUCN Red list.

3. It has been recently listed under the Appendix I of CITES and will now enjoy the highest degree of protection.

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

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

3) Consider the following statements with respect to *PAiSA Portal*

- It is a centralized IT platform which simplifies and streamlines release of interest subvention under the Rashtriya Uchchar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA).
- The web platform has been designed and developed by Ministry of Human Resources and Development (MHRD).

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 *Hurricanes*

- A hurricane is a type of storm called a tropical cyclone, which forms over tropical or subtropical waters.
- To qualify as a hurricane, a storm must have sustained winds of 74 kmph or more.

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

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

- 5) Kodavas are a small martial community inhabited in which following states?

- Goa
- Kerala
- Karnataka
- Tamil Nadu

6) *Coprolites* sometimes seen in the news recently, refers to?

- Extinct culture
- Fossilised faeces
- A Period in Iron age
- A hard variety of coal

7) Consider the following statements with respect to *Himmat Plus app*

- It aims to ensure the safety of amaranth pilgrims in the Himalayan region.
- It was launched by Ministry of Home affairs.

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

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

8) *Saffir–Simpson scale* is associated with which of the following?

- Hurricane
- Earthquake
- Heat waves
- Volcanic eruption

9) *Gundla Brahmeswaram Wildlife Sanctuary* is located in which of the following states?

- Odisha
- Karnataka

- c. Andhra Pradesh
- d. Himachal Pradesh

**10) Consider the following pairs**

**Places in News – Country**

1. East Kalimantan – Indonesia
2. Puerto Rico – United States of America

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

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

**Answers**

1. a

- Indian Prime Minister has recently launched a nation-wide **Fit India Movement** from New Delhi on the occasion of **National Sports Day** celebrated on August 29, 2019.
- It is aimed at encouraging people to inculcate physical activity and sports in their day to day life.

2. d

3. d

- **Deendayan Antyodaya Yojana – National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM)**, a flagship mission under the **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs** has been conferred the prestigious SKOCH Governance Gold Award for its **Portal for Affordable Credit and Interest Subvention Access (PAiSA)**.
- Launched in November 2018, PAiSA is a centralized IT platform which simplifies and streamlines release of interest subvention under the Mission.
- It offers end to end online solution for processing, payment, monitoring and tracking of interest subvention claims from banks on a monthly basis.

4. a

- A tropical cyclone is a rotating low-pressure weather system that has organized thunderstorms but no fronts (a boundary separating two air masses of different densities).
- Tropical cyclones with maximum sustained surface winds of less than **39 miles per hour** (mph) are called tropical depressions.
- Those with maximum sustained winds of 39 mph or higher are called tropical storms.
- When a storm's maximum sustained winds reach **74 mph**, it is called a **hurricane**.
- The Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale is a 1 to 5 rating, or category, based on a hurricane's maximum sustained winds. The higher the category, the greater the hurricane's potential for property damage.
- *Hurricane Dorian forecast to reach Florida as a Category 4 storm.*

5. c

- The special privilege to own firearms without a license was granted to the **Kodavas, a small martial community in Kodagu (Coorg) District in Karnataka**, by the British in recognition of their martial traditions.
- Kodavas, an ethno-linguistic tribe, consider themselves the original inhabitants of Kodagu district and are known for their martial culture.
- The community have its rituals around guns and weapons like swords.
- *The Kodava community's special privilege to own firearms without a license has come under the spotlight after a writ petition was filed in the Karnataka High Court questioning the exemption granted to the community under the provisions of the Arms Act, 1959.*

6. b

- **Coprolites** are **fossilised faeces** belonging to animals that lived millions of years ago.

7. d

- Delhi Lieutenant Governor has recently launched the **"QR Code" scheme**, which will be delivered through Delhi Police's **"Himmat Plus" app** meant to ensure the safety of women.



- The QR codes will be put on public transport vehicles such as auto-rickshaws and non-app (black-and-yellow) cabs; passengers, especially women, will be able to verify the details of drivers, and send a distress signal in an emergency.
- The **Himmat Plus app** was launched by **Delhi Police** in 2015 to allow users to make a distress call or send an emergency message to Delhi Police and the emergency contact.

8. a

- The **Saffir–Simpson hurricane wind scale (SSHWS)** classifies hurricanes that exceed the intensities of tropical depressions and tropical storms – into **five categories** distinguished by the intensities of their sustained winds.

9. c

10. c

- Indonesia's President Joko Widodo had recently announced that the capital of the country, which is **Jakarta** at present, will be relocated to the province of **East Kalimantan** on the lesser populated **island of Borneo**.

### 31-08-2019

1) Consider the following statements with respect to **State of World Population Report 2019**

1. It is the flagship report of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).
2. The report includes, for the first time, data on women's ability to make decisions over three key areas – sexual intercourse with their partner, contraception use and health care.

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

2) Consider the following statements with respect to **Mount Kun**

1. It is the second highest peak in the Indian side of Himalayas.
2. It is located in Karakoram Range in Ladakh.

Which of 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 **Ek Bharat, Vijayi Bharat**

1. It is a year-long nation-wide contact programme to spread the messages of Mahatma Gandhi.
2. It coincides with the 150th foundation year of Mahatma Gandhi memorial in Kanyakumari, Tamil Nadu.

Which of 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 **Vivekananda rock memorial**

1. It is located at the Tri-junction of Indian Ocean, Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea in Kanyakumari.
2. It was built in the year 1970, to commemorate the visit of Swami Vivekananda to Shripada Parai in 1892 for deep meditation and enlightenment.

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

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

d. Neither 1 nor 2

5) The *e-course on Vulnerability Atlas* was recently launched by which of the following ministries?

- NITI Aayog
- Ministry of Earth Sciences
- Ministry of Science and Technology
- Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs

6) Consider the following pairs with respect to *GI Tag*

- Dindigul lock – Telangana
- Kandangi saree – Tamil Nadu

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

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

7) Consider the following statements with respect to *Damaram*

- It is a set of drums, made up of wood, conical in shape, resembling flower pots.
- It belongs to the category of *Tata Vadyas*.

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 *International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO)*

- It is one of the specialized agencies of the United Nations (UN).

2. It promotes sustainable management and conservation of tropical forests.

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

- Kunduz – Afghanistan
- N'Djamena – Chad

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

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

10) With the reference to the Ancient Indian history, the term '*cire perdue*' process was used for making of the?

- Cave Paintings
- Metal sculptures
- Coin mintings
- Branding of Horses

## Answers

1. d

- India accounts for over one-sixth of the world's population in 2019 (1.37 billion out of 7.71 billion) and has grown at an rate (1.2% per year between 2010 and 2019) that is just over the world growth rate (1.2%), according to *State of the World Population 2019*, the flagship report of the *United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)*.
- The report includes, for the first time, data on women's ability to make decisions over three key areas – sexual intercourse with their partner, contraception use and health care.

2. d

- Mt. Kun (7077M), the **second highest peak of the Nun Kun massif** is located in the upper Suru Valley.
- Being one of the highest peaks in the **Zaskar Range** and on the Indian side of the Line of Control, the twin peaks of Nun (7135M) and Kun are separated by a 4km long snow plateau.

3. d

- Kanyakumari-based Vivekanand Kendra and its state units will launch a year-long nationwide contact programme to spread the messages of Swami Vivekananda.
- The mass contact programme, titled "**Ek Bharat Vijayi Bharat**", coincides with the 50th foundation year of **Vivekanand Rock Memorial** in Kanyakumari and will be launched on September 1, 2019.

4. c

- Vivekanand rock memorial has been an iconic landmark at the Tri-junction of **Indian Ocean, Bay of Bengal** and **Arabian Sea** in Kanyakumari.
- As its name implies, it is essentially a sacred monument, built by the Vivekananda Rock Memorial Committee to commemorate the visit of Swamy Vivekananda to "Shripada Parai" during 24th, 25th and 26th December 1892 for deep meditation and enlightenment.

5. d

- The **Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs** in collaboration of School of Planning & Architecture (SPA), New Delhi and Building Materials & Technology Promotion Council (BMTPC).
- It is a unique course that offers awareness and understanding about natural hazards, helps identify regions with high vulnerability with respect to various hazards (earthquakes, cyclones, landslides, floods, etc.) and specifies district-wise level of damage risks to the existing housing stock.

6. a

- Two well-known products from **Tamil Nadu** – **Dindigul lock** and **Kandangai saree** – have been recently given the

Geographical Indication (GI) tag by The Geographical Indications Registry in Chennai.

7. a

- Damaram, made of wood, is a set of drums, conical in shape, resembling flower pots.
- It belongs to the category of **Avanaddha Vadyas**.
- One face of the instrument is covered with cow hide while the other, with that of the goat.
- Two sticks, made from **Arali kuchi**, are used for playing this instrument. One stick is straight while the other is a bit curved.

8. b

- The **International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO)** is an **intergovernmental organization** promoting the sustainable management and conservation of tropical forests and the expansion and diversification of international trade in tropical timber from sustainably managed and legally harvested forests.

9. c

10. b